

**VOLUME 2
MAY
2009**



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Section

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Committee Chairs:

Membership: Rob Belarmino,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Website: Garry Ford,
City of San Antonio

Nominations: Rene Arredondo,
CEC Civil Engineering Consultants

Newsletter: Kerri Collins,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Student Liaison & Scholarship:
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers

Section News...

STITE Launches Updated Website!

Garry Ford, STITE Vice President and Website Committee Chair, has updated the Section website by adding new features and improvements. The website features the logos of our current Section sponsors as well as links to past newsletter editions for viewing and downloading. Upcoming meeting announcements are displayed with links to maps and info. Photos and information from past meetings are included. Most importantly, members can now register for events online through the website. Garry is working on incorporating online membership registration and installation of an email list manager on the web server to manage the membership list and send out Section emails. Check out the Section's new and improved website at www.stite.org.

UPCOMING SECTION MEETINGS!!!

MAY JOINT MEETING – San Marcos!

The May STITE Section meeting will be a joint meeting with the Capital Area Section from Austin. The meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, 2009, at the City of San Marcos Activity Center, Room 1, 501 East Hopkins Street from 11 AM to 1 PM.

This meeting will feature two speakers:

John A. Barton, PE - TxDOT “The Transportation Economy in Texas”

John Barton is the Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations. He is responsible for management of the Divisions of Aviation, Bridge, Construction, Design, Environmental, Maintenance, Right of Way, and Traffic Operations, as well as the Research and Technology Implementation Office. Mr. Barton has over 23 years of experience with TxDOT.

In this issue

UPDATED STITE WEBSITE

PAST MEETINGS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gary A. Gordon, PE - Transportation Security Administration

“TSA’s Surface Program and the New Regulations – 49 CFR 1580 and 9/11 Bill”

Gary Gordon is Assistant Federal Security Director-Surface for the Transportation Security Administration’s Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program’s five-state South Central Region headquartered in Houston, TX. Mr. Gordon has over 35 years of hands-on experience in the railroad and transportation industry.

JUNE MEETING - TransGuide

The June STITE Section meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at the TransGuide Training Room, 3500 NW Loop 410, City of San Antonio.

Our featured speaker will be **Helen Valkavich, City of San Antonio** who will be leading a training session on Ethics.

More information on all of these meetings will be available on the STITE website.

STITE Member News!!!

Josue Ortiz recently joined AIA Engineers, Ltd. as Staff Engineer in the San Antonio Office. Josue will be under the supervision of Teri Castro, P.E. He can be reached at joritz@aiainc.com.



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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STITE MARCH LUNCH MEETING

FEATURED SPEAKER:



HEIDI ROSS, PE,
HDR Engineering, Inc.

FREDERICKSBURG ROAD CORRIDOR MICROSIMULATION BRT MODELING STUDY

March 25, 2009

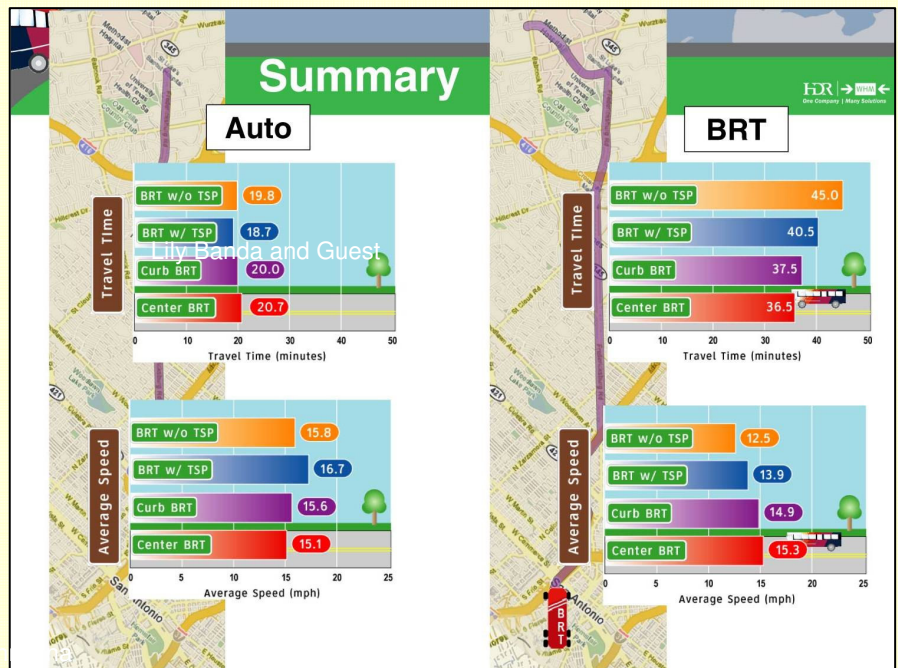
The March 25th STITE meeting was held at TransGuide. The meeting was attended by 32 members, 3 of which were students. Section business was discussed at the start of the meeting. **Marc Jacobson**, Section Representative informed everyone that the District has decided to increase dues to \$50.00 effective year 2010. The increase is needed since revenue from meetings has decreased. Marc also stated that the voting issue has been resolved. Section members who are not members of the District or ITE International, maintain the right to vote for the Section candidates including the Section Representative. The Section will host online voting locally for the next Section election. **Gilmer Gaston**, current TextITE District Vice President, pointed out that two candidates are currently running for the office of International Vice President and one of the candidates, Robert Wunderlich, is from District 9 (Texas). Gilmer stated that the election will be in June and he encouraged everyone to vote.

Garry Ford, STITE Vice President, introduced the speaker, **Heidi Ross, of HDR Engineering, Inc.** Heidi provided a presentation on the results of the Fredericksburg Road Corridor Microsimulation BRT Modeling Study performed for the San Antonio-Bexar County MPO. The purpose of the study was to evaluate existing, no-build and BRT alternatives for future years 2012 and 2032 and to develop a VISSIM microscopic simulation model. A total of 33 models with 40 signalized and 30

unsignalized intersections were developed to evaluate a number of scenarios for each year and time period. The corridor was 9 miles in length and included 10 BRT stations.

HDR analyzed four BRT alternatives - BRT with and without traffic signal priority (TSP) and Curb-running BRT and Center-running BRT. Some of the criteria that were applied were the following:

- Signal priority was given by implementing an “early green” or by “extending the green”.
- A maximum of 20% reduction in green time for the side streets.
- Only the BRT vehicles receive priority.
- BRT priority calls cannot impact coordinated signal phasing.



The analysis results showed the greatest travel time savings is associated with the Center-running BRT, which is slightly better than the Curb-running BRT. However, these two options showed the highest travel times for automobiles in the corridor. The lowest auto travel time and highest speed occurred with the BRT with TSP alternative. The largest reduction in travel time occurred along the south end of the corridor.

STITE APRIL LUNCH MEETING

FEATURED SPEAKER:



JIM DALE, PE

PTV America, Inc.

ANALYZING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM – What's Possible with Simulation?

April 28, 2009



The April 28th STITE meeting was held in the evening on the UTSA Campus in order to allow students to attend. PTV America, Inc and Pate Engineers sponsored the students. Section business was discussed at the start of the meeting.

Garry Ford, STITE Vice President, announced that a new Committee was being formed. **Mick Garza** will be serving as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Mike is seeking committee members to assist with establishing the Sections' Scholarship program. **Rob Belarmino, STITE**

Treasurer/Secretary, announced that the Section currently has over \$4,000.00 in the account.

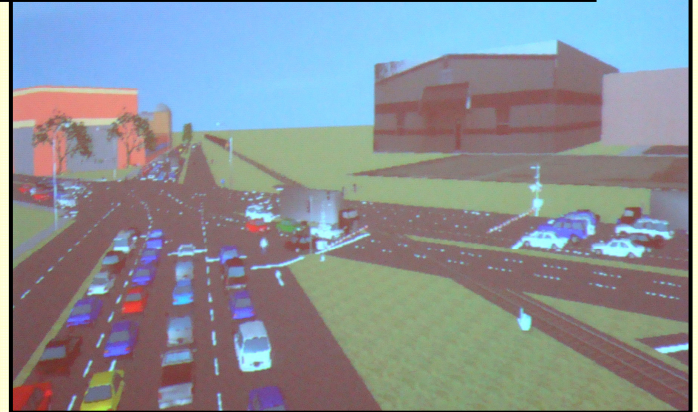
Following Section Business, Garry Ford introduced **Jim Dale, Vice President of PTV America, Inc.** Jim recommended the use of microscopic simulation, such as VISSIM and VISUM, for projects with atypical roadway designs, for advanced signal operations, for multi-modal applications, and when a project requires significant public involvement. Jim's presentation included examples of projects involving unique design elements. For instance, the software can be used to examine the operational effects of different

configurations of parking such as diagonal head-in and back-in parking as well as 90 degree parking.

In addition, projects with Active Traffic



Jim Dale with STITE Officers, Garry Ford, Marc Jacobson, and Rob Belarmino



Management elements, such as, temporary shoulders, ramp metering and speed harmonization can be simulated.

Other applications for the software include toll facilities, Bus Rapid Transit, Transit Signal Priority, and pedestrian flow.

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Interested in placing your business card ad here? The cost is \$100.00 per year for a business card ad size space and includes your logo posted on the Section website. Funds help support Section activities. For more information contact Kerri Collins at kcollins@pape-dawson.com.

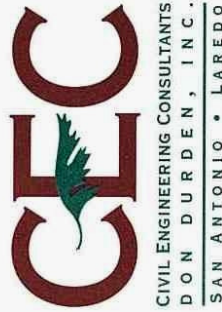
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TexITE District News:

Upcoming District Meetings

2009 Summer Meeting

San Antonio
August 9-12, 2009

Joint meeting w/ ITE Annual Meeting
TexITE Coordinator: John Friebele

2010 Winter Meeting

Frisco

January 28-30, 2010

Co-chairs: Brian Moen and Dharmesh Shah

2010 Summer Meeting

Houston Area

Dates to be determined

Upcoming ITE Events:

ITE 2009 Annual Meeting and Exhibit

August 9-12

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center



Some highlights from the Annual Meeting and Exhibit include:

- If your company registers three or more people for the meeting you will receive a 20 percent discount.
- Positions available/wanted booklets to assist members in hiring the best and the brightest and to find employment
- An exhibit catered to making the most of your limited time and resources.
- 52 technical sessions ranging from roundabouts and pedestrian bike issues to new trends in parking and emerging green technologies.
- Discussion on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and its impact on our community.
- Student poster sessions where you can meet the next generation of transportation professionals.

For information about these opportunities and a complete list of technical and special sessions, tours and exhibit information, visit <http://www.ite.org/annualmeeting/>