

**VOLUME 1  
MARCH  
2010**

**2010 STITE  
Officers:**

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Garry Ford, P.E., PTOE  
City of San Antonio  
garry.ford@sanantonio.gov

**Vice President**

Rob Belarmino, P.E.  
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.  
rbelarmino@pape-dawson.com

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Mike Garza, P.E.  
Pate Engineers  
OMGarza@PateEng.Com

**Section Representative**

Marc Jacobson, P.E., PTOE  
City of San Antonio  
marc.jacobson@sanantonio.gov

**Immediate Past  
President**

Eduardo Mendez, P.E., PTOE  
City of McAllen  
edmendoza@mcallen.net

**Committee Chairs:**

**Membership:** Mike Garza,  
Pate Engineers.

**Website:** Garry Ford,  
City of San Antonio

**Nominations:** Rene Arredondo,  
AC Group LLC

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

**Student Liaison & Scholarship:**  
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers



**South Texas Section**  
Institute of Transportation Engineers

**Section News...**

**A Message from 2010 STITE  
President Garry Ford...**



**South Texas ITE  
Section Members  
and Friends,**

Welcome to the first edition of the 2010 South Texas Section Newsletter! It is an honor and with much appreciation to serve as the 2010 South Texas Section President. I hope to continue the

success the Section has had over the past few years. I would like to thank the past presidents, **Eduardo Mendoza and Marc Jacobson**, for their outstanding leadership and getting the Section back on track.

Last year was a very successful year! We had a 24% increase in membership and held eight well-attended meetings, including the joint meeting with the Capital Area Section, the first meeting with the UTSA Student Chapter and an outstanding Holiday Banquet. With the leadership of **Mike Garza**, we formed a Scholarship Committee and awarded the Section's first scholarship (\$1,500) to **Mr. Husain Ezzi**, a UTSA Civil Engineering student. We published four section newsletters and obtained business card ad sponsors. I want to thank **Kerri Collins** for the hard work and initiative in putting the newsletters together. I would also like to thank the newsletter and Holiday Banquet sponsors who are the primary reason for the financial success of the Section. Finally, I would like to thank **Rob Belarmino** for doing a great job on the finances and putting together the Annual Report.

This year, I want to continue having well-attended section meetings on relevant topics. The meetings provide opportunities for professional

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SECTION NEWS  
PAST MEETINGS  
HOLIDAY BANQUET PHOTOS

development hours, networking and active discussion on important transportation topics in our area. We plan to continue the successful joint meeting with the Capital Area Section and are actively working on topics and a date. We also plan section-sponsored ITE Web Seminars with the first one scheduled for March 9th on the General Overview of the 2009 MUTCD. We are also thinking about having a "family friendly" section meeting in South Padre in September.

I would also like to continue our support of the UTSA Student Chapter and reach out to the Texas A&M Kingsville Student Chapter. The future transportation engineers and ITE members for this area are in these programs. We are currently exploring fundraising ideas to support section/district meeting attendance and provide additional scholarships.

Lastly, I want to challenge you to be more involved in your section. We are looking for volunteers to chair committees, help out on the section/district newsletters and website, and make section/student chapter meeting presentations. We are a relatively small organization and everyone's involvement is important. Please contact any officer if you are interested.

I look forward to serving you as President and I'm excited about this year. See you at the next section meeting!

**Garry Ford, Jr., P.E., PTOE**  
**President, South Texas ITE Section**



**South Texas Section**  
Institute of Transportation Engineers

PO BOX 790891  
San Antonio, TX  
78279-0891

# Annual Holiday Banquet



Thank you to our 2009 Holiday Banquet Sponsors:



## STITE JANUARY LUNCH MEETING

January 20, 2010

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Dan Thoma, P.E.  
Project Manager,  
Pape-Dawson Engineers,  
Inc.

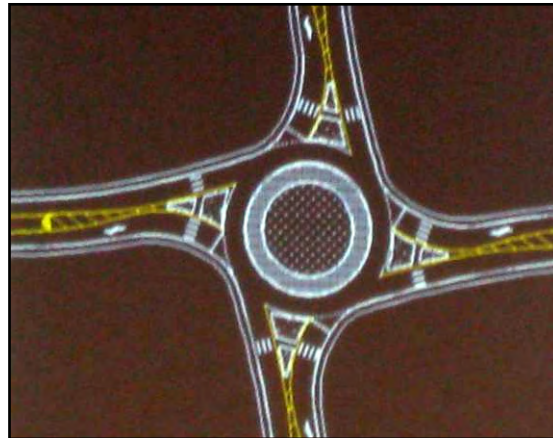
## ROUNDBABOUTS IN SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY



Dan Thoma  
Pape-Dawson Engineers

The January 20<sup>th</sup> STITE meeting was held at TransGuide in the City of San Antonio. The meeting was attended by 40 members and non-members. **2010 Section President Garry Ford, City of San Antonio**, began the meeting with Section Business. He welcomed everyone and introduced the 2010 officers - STITE Vice President **Rob Belarmino**, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc., and Secretary/Treasurer, **Mike Garza**, Pate Engineers. **Rob Belarmino** provided his final Treasurer's Report for 2009 showing an ending balance with over \$1,000.00. **Mike Garza** announced that the Section was considering a South Padre Island meeting and was starting a committee for planning the family-friendly event. All those interested in serving on the committee

should contact him. **Marc Jacobsen**, City of San Antonio, and current Section Representative, reminded everyone of the excellent program set up for the Frisco District Meeting. **Gilmer Gaston**, Pape-Dawson Engineers and current TextITE President announced that a FHWA Pedestrian Safety Workshop was being offered at the Frisco Meeting.



**Garry Ford** introduced the speaker, **Dan Thoma, P.E., Project Manager, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.** Dan presented information about the history of roundabout design and the current proper design of roundabouts. Dan stated that in 1963 the UK changed operation of roundabouts to "yield-on-entry". Roundabouts came to the U.S. in the 90's and the earliest versions were rotaries and traffic circles.

Dan provided examples of three roundabouts that he designed that have been constructed in the San Antonio area. One is located in the Medical Center, another in the UTSA campus and the third is located in the Tesoro Campus. Dan pointed out that the latest design guidelines focus on the deflection angle which is critical for the proper operation of a roundabout. The typical single lane roundabout reduces conflict points from 32 to 8. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety performed a study of twenty three intersections that were converted to roundabouts. The results of the study found that accidents were reduced by 40% after the intersections were changed to roundabouts. A typical single-lane roundabout requires a 120 foot diameter area. Roundabouts also provide environmental benefits by reducing delay and emissions.

## STITE FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING

FEATURED  
SPEAKER:



Russell H. Henk, P.E.  
Program Manager,  
Texas Transportation  
Institute

### TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT



*"About 6,000 teens  
per year are killed in  
traffic crashes"*

Photos and text from  
this meeting were  
provided by  
Derek Mueller



Speaker Russell Henk with STITE President Garry Ford, Vice President Rob Belarmino and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Garza

Russell Henk discusses  
Teens in The Driver Seat

The February 24th STITE meeting was held at Grady's BBQ. Section President Garry Ford began the meeting with section business and upcoming events, which include the June 17-18 District Meeting in Sugarland. Section Vice President Rob Belarmino discussed the upcoming Section Meeting in South Padre. No official date has been set yet, but it will likely occur towards the end of summer. The meeting and training sessions will be held on a Friday, so members and their families can enjoy a weekend at the beach. The next STITE meeting will be held on March 31, when Judy Babbitt will give a presentation on accessibility.

Garry Ford introduced the speaker, Russell Henk of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). Russell gave a presentation on the Teens in the Driver Seat program, which is aimed at making teens safer drivers. This program has received several national awards,

including a USDOT Best Practice Award in November, 2009. TTI provides material and resources to teen groups, who are responsible for implementing the program at their high schools. The high level of teen involvement is a key feature of this innovative program.

The program has been a tremendous success, and Russell said that teen fatalities have dropped by 20 percent in Texas since the Teens in the Driver Seat Programs was implemented. The program has had great success reaching teens, and Russell said that it has been implemented at over 300 high schools and the program has reached 300,000 teens to date. Currently, a junior school program is being started to increase awareness of driver safety issues before teens begin driving. Additional information on Teens in the Driver Seat can be found at [www.t-driver.com](http://www.t-driver.com).

### "General Overview of the 2009 MUTCD" WEB BRIEFING

MARCH 9, 2010

The South Texas ITE Section will be hosting ITE's "General Overview of the 2009 MUTCD" web briefing on **Tuesday, March 9, 2010**. The Federal Highway Administration released a comprehensive update to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) on December 16, 2009. The MUTCD is the national standard for all traffic control devices, including traffic signs, pavement markings, signals and any other devices used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. The web seminar will provide one professional development hour (PDH).

The meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Pape-Dawson Conference Center located at 506 E. Ramsey in San Antonio. Directions and parking information will be provided on the website.

The web briefing is free to Section members and students, and \$5 for nonmembers (includes Section membership). Snacks will be provided. **This event is limited to 50 attendees and online registration is now open at <http://texite.org/southtexas> through Monday, March 8, 2010.**

Please contact us at [sotexite@gmail.com](mailto:sotexite@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need assistance with registration.

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**Interested in or 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, and at meetings. Funds help support Section activities including the STITE Scholarship.  
For more information contact Kerri Collins, Newsletter Editor, at [kcollins@pape-dawson.com](mailto:kcollins@pape-dawson.com).

## SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### STITE Scholarship Winner!!!



**Congratulations to 2010 STITE Scholarship Winner... Husain Ezzi**, a UTSA Civil Engineering Student was awarded the first Annual STITE Scholarship!!! Husain received an award of \$1,500.00 from the Section.

### STITE MEMBER ON THE MOVE....



**Chris Georges, P.E.** and owner of PT Data, LLC. has announced that he has accepted a position with Albeck Gerken, Inc / Naztec ITS and will begin full time employment this summer. STITE wishes Chris and his family all the best.

## TexITE District News:

### Upcoming District Meetings

**2010 Summer Meeting**  
Sugar Land  
June 17-19, 2010

**2011 Winter Meeting**  
Fort Worth  
February 2011

### Transportation Engineer and Younger Member Nominations

TexITE announces its call for nominations for the 2010 **Transportation Engineer of the Year** and **Younger Member of the Year**. Nominations for these prestigious awards are due on May 15. Please see the awards nomination page at [www.texite.org](http://www.texite.org) for more details and to download the nomination form.

## ITE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE:



### ITE 2010 TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT

**March 14-17, 2010**

Savannah International Trade & Convention Center  
Savannah, Georgia, USA



Photo courtesy of the Savannah Area CVB.

## WTS – SAN ANTONIO REGION:



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
San Antonio Region

### Status of the Lone Star Rail Project

WTS – San Antonio Region is pleased to announce that **Ross Milloy, President of The Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council** and **Interim Executive Director of the Lone Star Rail District** will be the featured speaker at the monthly lunch meeting on **March 30, 2010** at the Plaza Club.

Registration: 11:30 AM  
Program: 12 to 1:00 PM

Members: \$25.00  
Non-Members: \$35.00  
Government Agency Rate: \$20.00

For more information, contact Valerie Collins at [vcollins@pape-dawson.com](mailto:vcollins@pape-dawson.com) or Anne Whittington at [anne@cectexas.org](mailto:anne@cectexas.org)  
To **RSVP**, email Elaine Perez at [eperez@pape-dawson.com](mailto:eperez@pape-dawson.com)  
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