

**VOLUME 4
November
2010**



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

Section News...

Register for the STITE Holiday Banquet!

The STITE Holiday Banquet will be held Friday, December 3rd at the Canyon Springs Golf Club in San Antonio. The cost to attend the banquet is \$30 per person or \$20 for students.

The doors open at 6:30 for a cash bar social, and the dinner begins at 7:30. The White Elephant gift exchange tradition continues this year, and all are welcome to bring a wrapped gift of up to \$15 in value for the exchange.

The online registration on the STITE website runs through **Noon, December 1** (next Wednesday) so please register now before it's too late! We hope to see everyone here for a fun evening with your fellow STITE members!

If you have any questions or need any additional information about the banquet, please contact Amy Lewis at Amy.Lewis@kimley-horn.com.



In this issue

HOLIDAY BANQUET

SECTION NEWS

PAST MEETINGS

STITE Elections

Remember to vote in the STITE elections! STITE members should have received an email with instructions on accessing the online voting. The voting will remain open until December 3rd. The following positions can be voted on in the election:

Vice President / President Elect
Mike Garza

Secretary – Treasurer
Amy Lewis
Julio Ramos

Section Representative
Kerri Collins

Business Card Renewal Reminder

This is the final 2010 newsletter. We would like to thank all our newsletter sponsors for their support and encourage them to renew their business card ads for 2011. The ads are a great way to advertise your business to the transportation engineering community while supporting STITE programs such as the scholarship fund. Please contact Derek Mueller at dmueller@pape-dawson.com for details.

2010 STITE Officers:

President

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, EIT
Pate Engineers
OMGarza@PateEng.Com

Section Representative

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

Immediate Past President

Eduardo Mendoza, 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.
Derek Mueller,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Student Liaison & Scholarship:
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers

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South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

PO BOX 790891
San Antonio, TX
78279-0891

FIRST ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN CORPUS CHRISTI

September 17, 2010

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Patrizia Longoria, Deputy Director of Traffic Operations, City of McAllen



Alberto Aldape, ITS Analyst, TxDOT Laredo District



Tom Niskala, Transportation Planning Director, Corpus Christi MPO



Lance S. Kinney, PE, Executive Director, Texas Board of Professional Engineers



Patrizia Longoria, Alberto Aldape, and Lance S. Kinney with Mike Garza and Rob Belarmino

The South Texas Section held the First Annual Regional Conference in Corpus Christi on Friday, September 17, 2010. The conference was held at the TxDOT Corpus Christi District Offices. The well-attended meeting, which attracted members from all over south Texas, began with a kickoff lunch in the District Conference room.

After lunch, STITE Vice President **Rob Belarmino** introduced the first speaker, **Patrizia Longoria**, with the City of McAllen. Ms Longoria gave a presentation on hurricane response plans developed for Hurricane Dean in 2007. To handle the response and evacuation plans, a Multi Agency Coordination Committee (MACC) was developed to pool information and resources from agencies within the area. Although no one was evacuated during Hurricane Dean, the response plan was successful and can be used for future evacuations.

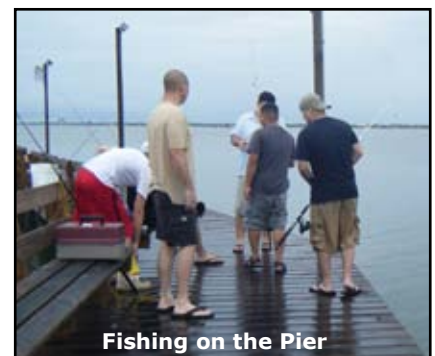
Alberto Aldape from the TxDOT Laredo District then presented on ITS and Traffic Signal Integration. Specifically, he talked about the South Texas Regional Advanced Transportation Informational System, which is an ITS system in Laredo. Mr. Aldape gave an overview of the System and showed examples of how the ITS system

allowed for more efficient and responsive operation of the traffic signals in Laredo.

Tom Niskala from the Corpus Christi MPO gave a presentation on transit and sustainable development. Mr. Niskala highlighted the importance of coordinating transit improvements with upcoming developments to provide better integration. He also gave examples of ways transit could be employed to enhance developments.

Lance S. Kinney, PE, Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers gave an ethics presentation. Mr. Kinney gave an update on news from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and talked about upcoming rule changes. His ethics presentation focused on actual case files from around Texas to illustrate ethical issues facing engineers. The conference also included a vendor session.

Following the conference, STITE members enjoyed a dinner on the Bay at Snoopy's. The following day STITE held their First Annual Fishing Tournament, where members and their families enjoyed a day of fishing on the pier! We would like to thank the event sponsors for their support and the TxDOT Corpus Christi District for providing the meeting place.



Fishing on the Pier

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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.

SINGLE POINT URBAN INTERCHANGES

August 25, 2010

FEATURED
SPEAKER:



Federico Mendoza PE,
PTOE, Director of Traffic
Engineering,
Brown & Gay Engineers



Federico Mendoza with STITE
Officers Rob Belarmino, Garry Ford,
Marc Jacobson, and Mike Garza

The August meeting was held on August 25, 2010 at Anne Marie's. STITE President **Garry Ford** and Vice President **Rob Belarmino** started the meeting and announced section news. They then introduced speaker **Federico Mendoza** from Brown & Gay Engineers.

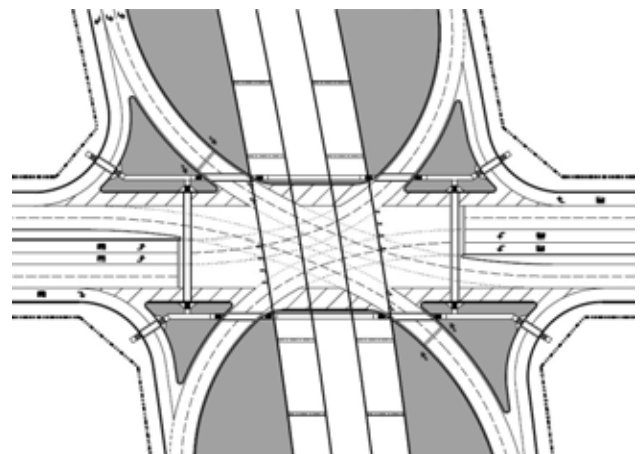
Mr. Mendoza gave a presentation on SPUI design for the Grand Parkway in Harris County. SPUI, which stands for Single Point Urban Interchange, is an alternative to a diamond interchange where all turning movements take place at one intersection.

Mr. Mendoza first gave an overview of the Grand Parkway, which is a proposed outer loop roadway around Houston. SPUIs were considered for a stretch of the Parkway between Interstate 10 and US Highway 290. This stretch contains 11 grade separated locations which would be candidates for a SPUI. Of

these, five were shown to be viable locations for the installation of a SPUI.

Analysis of the interchanges showed the SPUI to have less delay than a standard diamond interchange. For example, Mr. Mendoza showed the level of service at FM 529 could be increased from E to C by implementing a SPUI instead of a standard diamond interchange.

Mr. Mendoza then discussed some the design aspects of the SPUI such as design speed, pedestrian considerations, left turn geometry, and bridge span design. Because the SPUI uses long, sweeping left turn maneuvers to turn traffic across the main lanes, the design considerations are different from a standard intersection. Mr. Mendoza said a 25 to 35 mph design speed is recommended to reduce the length of bridge spans by allowing tighter turns through the interchange.



RIVER NORTH – CITY OF SAN ANTONIO FORM BASE CODE

October 27, 2010

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Christina De La Cruz PE,
Traffic Engineering and
Planning Manager, City of
San Antonio



Derek Mueller,
Pape-Dawson Engineers



The August meeting was held on October 27, 2010 at Anne Marie's. STITE President **Garry Ford** started the meeting and announced section news. Vice President **Rob Belarmino** introduced the first speaker **Christina De la Cruz**, with the City of San Antonio.

Ms De La Cruz gave a presentation on the Form Base Code in San Antonio, using the River North area as an example. Form base code allows for mixed use developments in an area while controlling physical form and development density. This can promote more livable communities and encourage alternative modes of transportation. The River North area is directly north of downtown and is bounded by IH 35 and IH 37.

Ms De La Cruz noted that form base code is a new concept in San Antonio and is a significant shift away from traditional zoning practices which typically regulate land use. She said the goal of the River North redevelopment was to add a mixture of commercial and residential developments to the area which could support economic growth.

In addition to the redevelopment, a proposed VIA streetcar will also travel between River North and downtown along Broadway. Various roadway improvements will also be implemented such as bike lanes and wider sidewalks.

Derek Mueller from Pape-Dawson Engineers then spoke about the traffic study they had completed to identify any traffic impacts from the redevelopment of the River North area. Because traffic impact analyses will not be required in the River North area, the study serves to recommend improvements that may be needed to improve traffic once the area is redeveloped.

Mr. Mueller said they expanded the existing traffic in the area based on the projected types and intensities of developments identified in the River North Master Plan prepared by the City. The River North street network was analyzed in Synchro.

Mr. Mueller said the analysis results showed there would not be significant traffic impacts because of the developments, primarily due to the underutilized existing street network, and the land uses which could be expected because of the form base code. He cautioned that if this code wasn't followed and non-compatible land uses were constructed, there would likely be significant congestion in the area.

Christina De La Cruz then spoke about the proposed Verano Development near the Texas A&M San Antonio campus, which used a similar form base code to focus on alternative modes of transportation. She noted this will likely become a more common practice in San Antonio in the future.