




**A Section of District 9 of the
Institute of Transportation Engineers**
Annual Section Report – January through December 2011

SECTION HISTORY

The South Texas ITE Section (STITE) is a sub-area of District 9 of the Texas District of ITE (a.k.a. TexlTE). The section was formed in 1997 and includes 46 counties in the area that stretches from Del Rio to San Antonio to Victoria and south to the Rio Grande Valley (more land than some states!). STITE boundaries include McAllen, Laredo, Corpus Christi, South Padre Island, Kingsville, Harlingen and Brownsville. There have been few opportunities in South Texas for people in the transportation industry to network with their peers, enhance technical skills or learn new methods of controlling and planning for traffic.

SECTION LEADERSHIP

2012 LEADERSHIP

Office	President	Vice President	Secretary/ Treasurer	Section Representative
Name	 Oscar Michael Garza	 Amy Lewis	 Derek Mueller	 Kerri Collins
Affiliation	<i>Pate Engineers</i>	<i>Kimley-Horn and Associates</i>	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>

2011 LEADERSHIP

Office	President	Vice President	Secretary/ Treasurer	Section Representative
Name	 Rob Belarmino	 Oscar Michael Garza	 Amy Lewis	 Kerri Collins
Affiliation	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>	<i>Pate Engineers</i>	<i>Kimley-Horn and Associates</i>	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>

2011 & 2012 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	2012 Committee Chairs		2011 Committee Chairs	
	Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Website Manager	Bo Zhou	Pape-Dawson Engineers	Garry Ford	City of San Antonio
Student Chapter Liaison	Oscar Michael Garza	Pate Engineers	Oscar Michael Garza	Pate Engineers
Membership Committee	Amy Lewis	Kimley-Horn and Associates	Oscar Michael Garza	Pate Engineers
Nominations Committee	Miguel Sanchez	Arcadis	Rene Arredondo	AC-Group
Newsletter Editor	Derek Mueller	Pape-Dawson Engineers	Derek Mueller	Pape-Dawson Engineers
Section Representative	Kerri Collins	Pape-Dawson Engineers	Kerri Collins	Pape-Dawson Engineers
Scholarship Committee	Oscar Michael Garza	Pate Engineers	Oscar Michael Garza	Pate Engineers
Regional Conf. Committee	TBD	TBD	America Garza	TxDOT-Corpus Christi
Holiday Banquet Committee	Sascha Van der Aa	GKW, Inc.	Amy Lewis	Kimley-Horn and Associates

FINANCES

The STITE bank account balance as of 12/30/2011 was **\$6,818.94**

MEMBERSHIP

The South Texas Section had 88 local members who paid 2011 dues. As of December 31, 2011, there were 77 International ITE members within the Section boundaries, as listed by the ITE website (www.ite.org). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the membership grade of these international members.

Table 1. Membership Grade of International Members in the South Texas Region			
Membership Grade	2011	2010	% Change
Student	15	9	+67%
Total Local Member Only	11	11	0
Institute Affiliate	1	1	0
Fellow	13	13	0
Members	46	46	0
TOTAL ITE SECTION MEMBERS*	77	69	+11%

* Does not include members of Section who are not full ITE members

ACTIVITIES

General Technical

The South Texas Section holds its regular monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each Month. One of the highlights of the year, the STITE Regional Conference (see photos), was held in early October in Corpus Christi, Texas. No meetings were held in March or September in order to avoid a conflict with the Spring/Fall TexITE Meetings; and no meeting was held in November due to the Thanksgiving Break. The meeting dates, topics, speakers, and attendance are shown in Table 2 below:

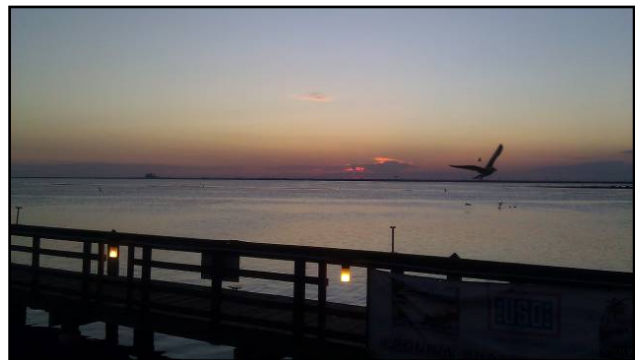


Table 2. 2011 Meeting Summary

Date	Topic/Event	Speaker	Attendance
Jan 26	2012 Bond Program	Mike Frisbie, P.E. Director of Capital Improvement Management Services City of San Antonio	67
Feb 23	Bexar County Infrastructure Services Capital Projects	Bexar County	40
March - No meeting due to Spring TextITE Meeting			
April 26	Meeting with UTSA Student Chapter Latest 2030 Committee Report	Mauli Agrawal, Phd., Dean UTSA Jose Weissmann, Phd., P.E., Professor – Civil Engineering, UTSA	11:9 Prof:Student
May 26	STITE/Capital Area Joint Meeting 1. Building the Roads Ahead in San Antonio/Bexar County Area 2. The Toll Reality in Central Texas	Leroy Alloway, Alamo RMA Steve Pustelnyk, Central Texas RMA	47 Total 32 STITE 15 Capital Area
June 29	Update on the US 281 & Loop 1604 Interchange Design/Build Project	Brett Altman, P.E., Jacobs Engineering James Kratz, P.E., Jacobs Engineering Angel Gonzales, P.E., GKW	45
July 27	What's New at Trafficware (Synchro Version 8)	Michael TruLeblood, P.E., PTOE, Trafficware	31
Aug. 12	Women's Transportation Seminar Joint Event ADA Accessibility & Public Rights-of-Way Training Workshop 8:30 AM to 4 PM	Scott Lewendon, FHWA Certified Instructor; Contributor to US Access 1999 Design Guide for Accessible Rights of Way Janet Barlow, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Representative US Access Board Public Rights-of-Way Advisory Committee, 1999-2007	65
September - No meeting due to Fall TextITE Meeting			
Oct. 1	Second Annual Regional Conference, Corpus Christi	Troy Walden, TTI Ismael Soto, TxDOT Peter Harrison, HNTB Gary Schatz, Austin	85

Table 2. 2011 Meeting Summary – Con't

Date	Topic/Event	Speaker	Attendance
Nov	No meeting		
Dec. 2	Annual Holiday Banquet	Officer Installations; White Elephant Gift Exchange	51



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee Chair is Mike Garza. The 3rd Annual STITE-UTSA Scholarship (\$1,500) was awarded to Jose Robles at the Holiday Banquet.



COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter

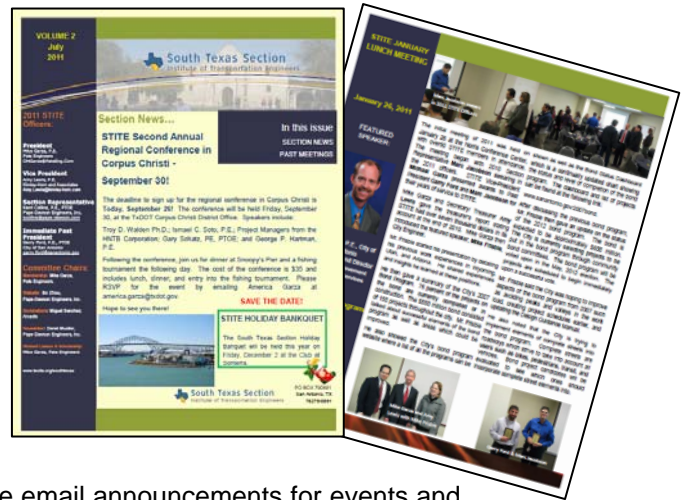
The Section has published one newsletter since the last Section Report in Sept. 2011. Derek Mueller is the current Newsletter Editor. The Section has currently sold advertising space for thirteen business card size ads from consultants and vendors for the newsletter.

Website

The Section website is consistently updated with the latest meeting and conference information, previously published newsletters, and meeting presentations.

Additional Communication Initiatives

The Section has begun using Constant Contact to create email announcements for events and meetings and manage the guest lists. This service facilitates the creation of online event flyers with links to register and pay online. The Officers can also use it to track the number of registered guests for an event. The Section hopes to also transition its newsletter to an online Constant Contact format for easier online viewing. The Officers are also working to create a South Texas Section Facebook page for the 2012 year.



SECTION STUDENT CHAPTERS

The Section has stayed in close contact with the UTSA Student Chapter throughout the year. Highlighted activities include the Annual Joint Student/Professional April meeting held at UTSA, participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program with the student chapter (see photo), finding various speakers/volunteers for different student chapter events/meetings, and offering discounted rates at meetings in an effort to attract more student chapter members to experience the professional chapter atmosphere.



University of Texas, San Antonio

The current UTSA Student Chapter Officers are listed below:

- President: **Chris Reyes**
- Vice President: **Ahmed Zaidi**
- Treasurer: **Eduardo Villalon**
- Secretary: **Ahmed Zaidi**
- Webmaster: **Miguel Saucedo**

The UTSA STITE Student Chapter is planning for 6 general meetings over the spring semester with an anticipated participation of around 60 students! The Chapter is proudly representing themselves with both t-shirts and polo shirts. Multiple fundraisers are planned both on and off campus as well as the annual “Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up” twice during the semester. The UTSA Student Chapter has established networking relationships with other organizations such as ASCE and ACI to share ideas and work towards greater achievements.



Texas A & M University, Kingsville

At the time of submission of this report, no information was received.

GOALS FOR 2012

- a. Seek Non-Profit Corporation status.
- b. Increase membership in the section and participation in leadership roles.
- c. Submit STITE Newsletter for ITE District and Section Award.
- d. Increase section revenues through Business Card Advertisement and social events.
- e. Continue to offer program meetings with informative topics and prominent speakers.
- f. Increase scholarships awarded within the section.
- g. Offer at least one valuable professional development program/workshop

AWARDS/HONORS

The STITE Section was selected as the 2nd Place winner of the TexITE Section Activities Award for 2011. The award was presented to Amy Lewis, current Section Vice President, at the TexITE District Meeting in Garland, Texas in June 2011.

Jose Robles of the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) was recognized as the 2011 STITE Scholarship recipient.

The Section presented a plaque to **Rob Belarmino**, former Section President, recognizing his contribution and support during his term as President and also during his terms as Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.



OTHER***Non-Profit Status***

The STITE Section Leaders are pursuing articles of incorporation and other requirements to secure status as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.

Election Results

The STITE Section held elections for 2012 officers. The four officers were sworn in by Gilmer Gaston, Texas Representative to the ITE International Board of Directors, at the Holiday Banquet on December 2, 2011. Mike Garza will serve as President, Amy Lewis as Vice President, and Derek Mueller is the new Secretary/Treasurer.



- END REPORT -

Attachments:

- STITE 2011 Regional Conference Flyer
- ADA Accessibility and Public Rights-of-Way Workshop Flyer
- 2011 Section Newsletters



FUN IN THE SUN

THE SECOND ANNUAL STITE FISHING TOURNAMENT IS SURE TO BE A FUN-FILLED DAY IN THE SUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! WE HAVE CHECKED WITH OUR LOCAL CONTACTS AND THEY'VE ASSURED US THAT THE FORECAST IS A PERFECT 75°F---GUARANTEED!

THE SECOND ANNUAL STITE FISHING TOURNAMENT IS BACK!

STITE IS EXCITED TO PROVIDE MEMBERSHIP WITH THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIALIZE WITH EACH OTHER (AND FAMILY MEMBERS) WHILE REELING IN A KEEPER!!!

THE FISHING TOURNAMENT WILL BE SPONSORED BY VENDORS; THE COMPETITION WILL INCLUDE:

1. WEIGHT
2. LENGTH
3. # CAUGHT
4. PRETTIEST
5. UGLIEST

GREAT PRIZES AVAILABLE!!!



Troy D. Walden, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist
Texas Transportation Institute
**"Evaluation of Photographic
Traffic Signal Enforcement
Systems in Texas"**

Mr. Walden is the author of the recent study entitled "Evaluation of Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Systems in Texas". This study, which was conducted within the Center for Transportation Safety of the Texas Transportation Institute, examined more than 11,000 crash records at 275 Texas intersections where cameras were in place. It compared crash frequencies in each of the three years before and after the installation of the red light safety cameras. The study is one of the most extensive thus far in the nation.

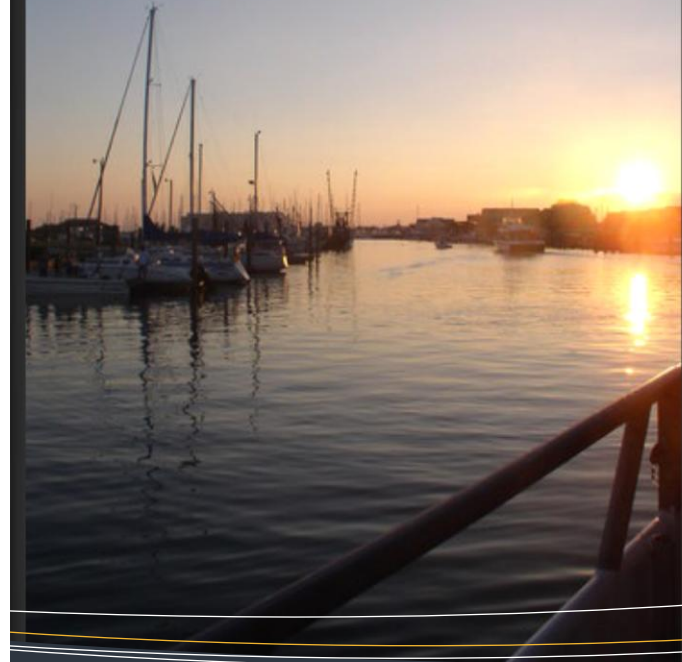


Ismael C. Soto, P.E.
Director of Traffic Operations
TxDOT - Corpus Christi District
**"Potential Impacts of the 2011
Texas MUTCD"**

Mr. Soto graduated from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and has 15 years of traffic engineering experience with TxDOT (1 year with Cal-Trans). He helped develop the traffic simulation model for the busiest freeway in Corpus Christi that led to the project that eliminated morning stop and go traffic that had plagued the freeway for 30+ years. Mr. Soto will be discussing potential impacts of the 2011 TxMUTCD on the engineering community.

HNTB Corporation
HNTB "Recovering from Disaster -
Texas' Approach to Recovering
from Hurricanes Dolly and Ike"

In 2008 hurricanes Dolly and Ike came ashore and created an estimated \$29 billion in damage to infrastructure within the State of Texas. In 2010, HNTB was awarded a \$69.5 million contract that includes tracking the progress of 3,000+ projects that will rebuild water/wastewater facilities, roads, bridges and some public buildings in the 63-county affected area. Key Project Managers from HNTB will be updating attendees on the progress of the project and what has been accomplished thus far.



Institute of Transportation Engineers South Texas Section

2nd Annual Regional Conference Corpus Christi, TX

September 30 - October 1, 2011

REACHING OUT TO THE SOUTH TEXAS REGION

WITH MULTIPLE SPEAKERS, AN ETHICS PRESENTATION, VENDOR EXHIBITS,
A SOCIAL GATHERING, AND A FISHING TOURNAMENT



MEETING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY - September 30, 2010

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 12:00 - 1:00 | Kick-Off Luncheon |
| 12:45 - 1:00 | Section Business |
| 1:00 - 1:20 | Speaker #1 – Troy D. Walden, Ph.D. (TTI)
<i>“Evaluation of Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Systems in Texas”</i> |
| 1:20 - 1:40 | Speaker #2 – Ismael C. Soto, P.E. (TxDOT – Corpus Christi)
<i>“Potential Impacts of the 2011 Texas MUTCD”</i> |
| 1:40 - 2:00 | Speaker(s) #3 – Multiple Project Managers from HNTB
<i>“Recovering from Disaster – Texas’ Approach to Recovering from Hurricanes Dolly and Ike”</i> |
| 2:00 - 2:20 | Speaker(s) #4 – Gary W. Schatz, P.E., PTOE (City of Austin)
<i>“Providing for All Roadway Users - Innovative Tools and Strategies”</i> |
| 2:20 - 2:30 | Question & Answer Session |
| 2:30 - 3:30 | Vendor Session w/Snacks & Refreshments |
| 3:30 - 4:30 | Ethics Presentation – George P. Hartmann, P.E. (TBPE) |
| 4:30 - 7:00 | Break (Hotel Check-In) |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | Dinner at “Snoopy’s Pier” (Bring the Family) |



MEETING LOCATION:

TxDOT District Office - Corpus Christi
1701 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78416

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Hilton Garden Inn Corpus Christi
6717 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
(361) 991-8200

*** STITE Special Rate of \$90/Night ***

*** Reserve Room by 09/23/11 ***

*** 24 Hr Notice for Cancellations ***

SPEAKER #4:



Gary W. Schatz, PE, PTOE
Assistant Director
Traffic Management
City of Austin

**“Providing for All Roadway Users -
Innovative Tools and Strategies”**

Mr. Shatz has over 22 years of transportation engineering experience in both the public and private sector. A nationally recognized expert on alternative geometric design, his focus is on context-sensitive solutions which provide safe and efficient mobility options for all roadway users. Gary has extensive experience with planning, designing, and implementing modern roundabouts and currently serves as vice chair for the ITE Roundabout Committee.

ETHICS PRESENTER:

George P. Hartmann, P.E.
Texas Board of Professional Engineers

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00

***INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACKS/REFRESHMENTS, DINNER ON THE PIER,
& ENTRY INTO THE FISHING TOURNAMENT***

!!!!PDH CERTIFICATES WILL BE PROVIDED!!!!



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers



Advancing Women in Transportation
San Antonio Region

ADA Accessibility and Public Rights-of-Way

Workshop to learn about the legal, technical, and practical issues regarding the proposed new federal rules from the US Access Board in 2011

Friday, August 12, 2011

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Morgan's Wonderland Conference Center

Topics:

- *Introduction to the proposed new federal guidelines*
- *How Texas may implement the new guidelines*
- *Legal requirements, standards, and guidelines*
- *Understanding the challenges of users with disabilities*
- *Pedestrian Signs and Signals*
- *Crossings and Intersection Design*
- *Curb ramp types and design solutions*
- *On-Street Parking*
- *Pedestrian Corridor and other linear facilities*

Registration Required at :

www.wtsevents.org/chapter/SanAntonio

\$85.00 for WTS or ITE Full Members

\$100.00 for Non-members

*** Includes Lunch**

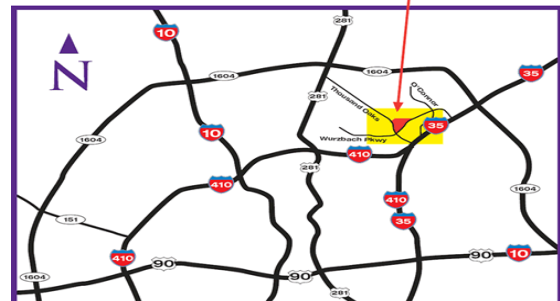
Please RSVP by Friday, August 5, 2011

Space is Limited!

Questions ?

Trish Wallace 207-0217, trish.wallace@sanantonio.gov or

Mike Garza, 308-4014, omgarza@pateeng.com



Morgan's Wonderland*
5223 David Edwards Drive



VIA Bus Route #502

Instructors:

Scott Lewendon

FHWA Certified Instructor for Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility; Contributor to US Access 1999 Design Guide for Accessible Rights-of-Way.

Janet Barlow

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist specialize in needs of the visually impaired; Representative US Access Board Public Rights-of-Way Advisory Committee 1999-2007

**Morgan's Wonderland is accessible to people with disabilities.
For Special Accommodations please contact Trish Wallace by July 28, 2011*

VOLUME 1
March
2011



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

**2011 STITE
Officers:**

President

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

Vice President

Mike Garza, EIT
Pate Engineers
OMGarza@PateEng.Com

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Lewis, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates
Amy.Lewis@kimley-horn.com

Section Representative

Kerri Collins, P.E., PTOE
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
kcollins@pape-dawson.com

**Immediate Past
President**

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

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Mike Garza,
Pate Engineers.

Website: Garry Ford,
City of San Antonio

Nominations: Rene Arredondo,
AC Group LLC

Newsletter: Derek Mueller,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Student Liaison & Scholarship:
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers

www.texite.org/southtexas

Section News...

**A Message from 2011 STITE
President Rob Belarmino**

Dear South Texas ITE Members,



I am honored and privileged to be serving as this years' Section President. Our Section accomplished a variety of target goals last year, which has set a benchmark for this

year. The Board plans to accomplish many of the goals that were established last year and will continue to deliver great speakers and meetings that delve into areas outside our typical focus.

The unprecedented level of sponsorship that we received last year has enabled us to award our second educational scholarship to UTSA student David Russell, III. We would like to extend the success of this endowment to the student chapter at Texas A&M Kingsville (TAMUK) as early as next year and increase their participation within our section.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TexITE Spring Meeting
March 24-26, Fort Worth

In this issue
SECTION NEWS
PAST MEETINGS
HOLIDAY BANQUET PHOTOS

I want to welcome our newest board members Amy Lewis and Kerri Collins, their leadership experience will further shape and strengthen our Section. I would also like to welcome the appointment of Derek Mueller as the new Section Newsletter Chair; please don't hesitate to contact him regarding any articles and postings that you would like to have included in our newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank Garry Ford and Marc Jacobson for their leadership and direction, the success of our Section, especially over the past two years, could not have been realized without their contributions.

Sincerely,

Rob Belarmino, P.E.

South Texas ITE Section President

**Congratulations to
David Russell III,
2011 STITE
Scholarship winner!**



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

PO BOX 790891
San Antonio, TX
78279-0891

STITE JANUARY LUNCH MEETING

January 26, 2011

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Mike Frisbie, P.E., City of San Antonio
City Engineer and Director of Capital Improvement Management Services (CIMS)

2012 Bond Program



Marc Jacobson swears in 2011 STITE Officers

The initial meeting of 2011 was held on January 26 at the Norris Conference Center, with over 60 STITE members in attendance. The meeting began with 2010 Section Representative **Marc Jacobson** swearing in the 2011 officers. STITE Vice-President **Michael Garza** presented awards to Past President **Garry Ford** and **Marc Jacobson** for their years of service to STITE.

Mike Garza and Secretary/ Treasurer **Amy Lewis** gave the treasurer's report stating STITE had over seven thousand dollars in its account at the end of 2010. Mike Garza then introduced the featured speaker, **Mike Frisbie**, City Engineer.

Mr. Frisbie started his presentation by detailing his previous work experiences in Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona. He shared experiences and insights he learned at these positions.

He then gave a summary of the City's 2007 Bond Program. 76 percent of the projects on the bond are currently completed or in construction. The \$550 million bond consisted of 150 projects throughout the city. Mr. Frisbie talked about successful elements of the bond program as well as areas which could be improved.

He also showed the City's bond program website where a list of all the programs can be

shown as well as the Bond Status Dashboard which is a continually updated chart showing the status and level of completion of the bond program. The dashboard and list of projects can be found at the following link:

www.sanantonio.gov/2007bond.

After discussing the previous bond program, Mr. Frisbie then gave an update on the status of the 2012 bond program. The bond is expected to be approximately \$600 million. The City is currently selecting projects to be put in the bond program through community bond committees. The bond program will be voted upon in the May, 2012 election. The projects are scheduled to begin immediately upon a successful vote.

Mr. Frisbie said the City was hoping to improve aspects of the bond program from 2007 such as avoiding peaks and valleys in the work load, creating project schedules earlier, and updating the Design Guidance Manual.

He also noted that the City is trying to implement elements of complete streets into the bond program. Complete streets are roadways which strive to take into account all users such as bikes, pedestrians, transit, and vehicles. Bond project candidates will be evaluated to see which ones should incorporate complete street elements into.



Mike Garza and Amy Lewis with Mike Frisbie



Garry Ford & Marc Jacobson

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email bkidd@paradigmtraffic.com
www.paradigmtraffic.com

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 Derek Mueller, Newsletter Editor, at dmueller@pape-dawson.com.

STITE FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING

February 23, 2011

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Renee Green, P.E.,
Bexar County
County Engineer

Bexar County Infrastructure Services Capital Projects



Renee Green with STITE Officers Rob Belarmino, Amy Lewis, and Mike Garza.

The February STITE meeting was held at the Sonterra Country Club. STITE President **Rob Belarmino** initiated the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Vice President **Mike Garza** announced Section news such as the upcoming TextITE meeting in March at Fort Worth and the next STITE meeting at UTSA. Secretary / Treasurer **Amy Lewis** gave the Treasurer's report stating the current account balances and projected budget. Mike Garza then introduced the speaker **Renee Green**, County Engineer.

Ms. Green started her presentation by discussing ongoing Capital Projects. The County currently has 17 projects under construction and 15 projects under design.

Ms. Green then talked about upcoming County projects. Bexar County will have five new construction projects for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Additionally, there will be three TxDOT pass-thru projects. Construction management contracts will also be awarded for each of the pass-thru projects.

To improve the management and efficiency of the capital improvement projects more efficient, the County is using technology to streamline the process. Ms. Green gave an overview of the CivCast Plan Room, which is a

virtual plan room. It provides digital access to components of a project such as the plans, plan revisions, bid documents, addendums, and bid tabulations. Users are notified via email when information in the construction room is updated.

In addition to the capital improvement projects, Ms. Green outlined other County projects and initiatives. She said the County is currently preparing for a possible bond program in 2012. Additionally, the County has a subdivision maintenance bond program it is coordinating with the City of San Antonio, and a regional habitat conservation program stemming from a US Fish and Wildlife grant. The County also has the "YourGov" internet link and iphone app. This allows citizens to report and track non-emergency issues to the county.



UPCOMING WTS-SAR EVENTS:

March 29, Awards Luncheon Honoring Recipients:

Renee Green, HNTB Corporation, RJ Rivera, US 281 Superstreet (Pape-Dawson and Alamo RMA)

2010 HOLIDAY BANQUET



VOLUME 2

**July
2011**



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

**2011 STITE
Officers:**

President

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

Vice President

Amy Lewis, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates
Amy.Lewis@kimley-horn.com

Section Representative

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Pate Engineers.

Website: Bo Zhou,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Nominations: Miguel Sanchez,
Arcadis

Newsletter: Derek Mueller,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Student Liaison & Scholarship:
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers

www.texite.org/southtexas

Section News...

**STITE Second Annual
Regional Conference in
Corpus Christi -
September 30!**

The deadline to sign up for the regional conference in Corpus Christi is **Today, September 26!** The conference will be held Friday, September 30, at the TxDOT Corpus Christi District Office. Speakers include:

Troy D. Walden Ph.D.; Ismael C. Soto, P.E.; Project Managers from the HNTB Corporation; Gary Schatz, PE, PTOE; and George P. Hartman, P.E.

Following the conference, join us for dinner at Snoopy's Pier and a fishing tournament the following day. The cost of the conference is \$35 and includes lunch, dinner, and entry into the fishing tournament. Please RSVP for the event by emailing America Garza at america.garza@txdot.gov.

Hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE!

STITE HOLIDAY BANQUET

The South Texas Section Holiday Banquet will be held this year on Friday, December 2 at the Club at Sonterra.



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

PO BOX 790891
San Antonio, TX
78279-0891

STITE JUNE MEETING

June 29, 2011

FEATURED

SPEAKERS:



Brett Altman, P.E.
Jacobs Engineering



James Kratz, P.E.
Jacobs Engineering



Angel Gonzalez
GKW

US 281 & Lp 1604 Interchange Design/Build



STITE Officers with Brett Altman, James Kratz, and Angel Gonzalez

Rob Belarmino opens the meeting

The June 2011 lunch meeting was held June 29, 2011 at the Club at Sonterra.

President **Rob Belarmino** opened the meeting and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming ADA workshop and TexITE meeting in Garland. Vice President **Mike Garza** gave an update on Section news and Secretary/Treasurer **Amy Lewis** presented the current account balance for the Section. Rob then introduced the first speaker, **Brett Altman** of Jacobs Engineering.

Mr. Altman gave an overview of the US 281 and Loop 1604 interchange project, which is currently under construction. The interchange is managed by the Alamo RMA and is a design/ build project with William Brothers Construction and Jacobs Engineering. Mr. Altman gave details about the project and shared some of his experiences working on the project. The total cost of the project is \$190 million and will construct the four direct connectors south of Loop 1604. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2013.

The next speaker, James Kratz of Jacobs Engineering spoke in more detail about the

traffic engineering aspects of the project. One aspect of the design is the left exit on northbound US 281 for the direct connects to Loop 1604. Mr. Kratz discussed the analysis and design of this exit to minimize operational problems. He also discussed how the design process for design/build projects differed from conventional projects. Because the construction contractor had input in all stages of the design process, they were able to be more actively involved in the traffic control plan design. This allowed them to develop a more efficient construction sequence.

Angel Gonzales of GKW then gave further insight into the traffic engineering and analysis for the project. He showed animations from the VISSIM traffic simulation model of the proposed interchange. The modeling of the left exit was used to determine the placement of the advanced warning signs for the exit. In addition to the direct connects, Mr. Gonzalez also said pedestrian bridges would be constructed across US 281 on both sides of Loop 1604 to provide better pedestrian access to the businesses on either side of US 281.



Interchange Schematic

Source: Alamo RMA

STITE JULY MEETING, July 27, 2011

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Michael Trueblood,
P.E., PTOE,
Trafficware

What's New at Trafficware



Michael Trueblood with STITE Officers

The July STITE lunch meeting was held July 27 at the Club at Sonterra. STITE President **Rob Belarmino**, Vice President **Mike Garza**, and Secretary/Treasurer **Amy Lewis** opened the meeting with section news. Rob Belarmino then introduced the first speaker, Michael Trueblood, Senior Traffic Engineer at Trafficware.

Mr. Trueblood discussed new software and programs offered by Trafficware. He first discussed *Synchro 8*, the newest version of the Synchro Traffic analysis software. Mr. Trueblood discussed how *Synchro 8* incorporates the *Highway Capacity 2010* methodologies into its analysis. This includes the ability to analyze multi-lane roundabouts as well as multi-modal analysis at signalized intersections to analyze the operation of bicycles and pedestrians.

Additionally, Mr. Trueblood gave an overview of other aspects of the new version such as an updated user interface and the ability to record video files of the *SimTraffic* simulations. Additional simulation parameters were also added to aid in the modeling of certain features such as ramp meters or rail crossings. The new version also incorporates a more streamlined method of importing aerial backgrounds into the model.

Mr. Trueblood also discussed Trafficware University, which is a collection of traffic engineering courses and technical papers offered by Trafficware. Trafficware University

offers a wide variety of topics, ranging from general overviews of traffic engineering concepts to instruction courses on Trafficware software such as *Synchro*.

Mr. Trueblood gave an overview of SynchroGreen, which is a new adaptive traffic signal control package. The adaptive control uses real-time traffic data to adjust the traffic signals in real-time. Mr. Trueblood said one advantage of SynchroGreen is that it has the ability to be modeled in Trafficware's microscopic simulation software *SimTraffic*, so its operation can be analyzed prior to implementation of the system in the field.



Michael Trueblood shows updates to Synchro.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY AND PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

August 12, 2011

Joint Workshop with WTS - San Antonio

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Janet Barlow
Certified Orientation and
Mobility Specialist



Scott Lewendon
FHWA Certified
Instructor for Designing
Pedestrian Facilities for

The ADA and Public Rights-of-Way Workshop was held August 12 at Morgan's Wonderland. The workshop was jointly held by STITE and WTS - San Antonio Region. The workshop featured sessions by **Janet Barlow** and **Scott Lewendon**.

Janet Barlow, a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, discussed accessible design for the blind. Ms. Barlow specializes in the needs of the visually impaired and has served as a representative on the US Access Board Public Rights-of-Way Advisory Committee from 1999-2007.

Ms. Barlow gave an overview of types of visual impairments and various techniques used by people with visual impairments such as guide dogs and canes. She also described cues visually impaired pedestrians use such as changes in surface texture and the sounds of traffic. Ms. Barlow stressed the importance of clearly defined walkways to provide a path that is easy to follow.

A variety of tasks are involved in safely crossing a street. Visually impaired pedestrians must identify the edge of the street, determine the direction and alignment to cross, and decide when to begin crossing the street. To assist with this, it is important to provide a tactile warning at the street edge and design the pedestrian ramps to properly align the pedestrians to crosswalk.

Ms. Barlow also discussed the location of pedestrian pushbuttons and the importance of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) for the visually impaired. For midblock locations, pedestrian beacons such as the HAWK can

be used to provide protected crossings for pedestrians

Ms. Barlow described the proper treatments for pedestrian crossings at roundabouts to provide a more clear path for the visually impaired.

Scott Lewendon is a FHWA Certified Instructor for designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility. He was also a Contributor to the US Access 1999 Design Guide for Accessible Rights-of-Way. Mr. Lewendon discussed pedestrian design and legal requirements for complying with the ADA.

Mr. Lewendon discussed some of the requirements of the ADA, such as transition plans, which are required of public agencies to specify the steps for fixing inaccessible facilities. He also touched on the design guidance manuals for design in public rights-of-way such as the PROWAG, ADAAG, and MUTCD.

Mr. Lewendon then discussed the design of pedestrian facilities. He broke down the various aspects of pedestrian facilities within the right-of-way such as furniture zone, pedestrian zone, frontage zone, driveways, curb ramps, and crosswalks and described the aspects which can affect disabled pedestrians such as steep grades or pavement texture. At intersections, he described crosswalk placement and how it is affected by intersection design elements such as curb radius, median islands and channelized right turn lanes.



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For more information contact Derek Mueller, Newsletter Editor, at dmueller@pape-dawson.com.

VOLUME 4
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2011



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Institute of Transportation Engineers

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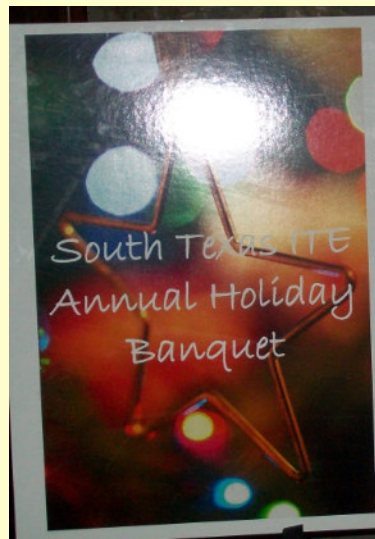
Section News...

2011 STITE Holiday Banquet this Friday!

Registration deadline Today!



The STITE Holiday Banquet will be held this Friday, December 2nd, at the Club at Sonterra. The deadline to register for the banquet is **today**, November 29. STITE members should have received an email with a link to the registration site.



In this issue

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 following positions can be voted on in the election:

President

Mike Garza

Vice President / President Elect

Amy Lewis

Secretary – Treasurer

Derek Mueller

Business Card Renewal Reminder

This is the final 2011 newsletter. We would like to thank all our newsletter sponsors for their support and encourage them to renew their business card ads for 2012. 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.



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Institute of Transportation Engineers

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San Antonio, TX
78279-0891

Second Annual Regional Conference, Corpus Christi

September 30, 2011



Mike Garza and America Garza with
Conference Speakers

The Second Annual Regional Conference was held in Corpus Christi, TX at the TxDOT District Office on September 30, 2011. After lunch, STITE President **Mike Garza** welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers.

The first speak, **Troy Walden, Ph.D**, from the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) gave a presentation on the effectiveness of red light cameras. Dr. Walden said that of the 3,600 traffic fatalities in Texas last year, one half were intersection related. Based on a study Dr. Walden performed at 275 signalized intersections before and after red light cameras were installed, the crash rate at intersections with red light cameras was reduced by 11 percent and the number of red light-running related crashes was reduced by 23 percent. Based on this study, Dr. Walden said the red light cameras are shown to significantly reduce crashes at signalized intersections.

The next speaker, **Ismael Soto**, Director of Traffic Operations for the TxDOT Corpus Christi District, gave a presentation on the changes to the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD). Mr. Soto's informative presentation covered a wide variety of changes and additions to the TMUTCD. He showed a variety of new signs, pavement markings, and signals, such as the flashing yellow arrow which were included in the latest version.

After Mr. Soto's presentation, presentation, **Peter Harrison** of HNTB gave a presentation on the Disaster Recovery Program, of which HNTB is the program manager. The Disaster Recovery Program is designed to help rebuild after the damage from Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. These two hurricanes affected over 45 percent of the Texas population

and cost more than an estimated \$29 billion in damages. The Disaster Recovery Program is the largest public works program in Texas history and involves more than 5,000 projects.

Next, **Gary Schatz**, Traffic Engineer for the City of Austin, gave a presentation on new initiatives in Austin. Mr. Schatz talked about Austin's Great Streets plan, which aims to increase mobility in the downtown area for all users such as bikes and pedestrians. He showed the modifications they had implemented on South Congress including the addition of bike lanes and reverse angle parking. Mr. Schatz also gave an overview of the HAWK pedestrian beacons which are being implemented in Austin at locations with heavy pedestrian traffic. The Hawk stops traffic with a flashing red signal when pedestrians are crossing and is unlit at other times. He also discussed roundabouts and gave examples of when their installation may be appropriate.

A vendor session followed Mr. Schatz' presentation. Following the vendor session, George P. Hartman of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers gave an ethics presentation. Mr. Hartmann gave updates on new rules and legislation as well as case files of ethics violations.

Following the conference, attendees had dinner at Snoopy's on the pier. The fishing tournament was held the next day. Photos and awards from this tournament can be seen on the next page. The STITE board would like to thank all of the vendors for helping to sponsor the event and America Garza and the TxDOT Corpus Christi District for hosting and organizing the conference.



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STITE Regional Conference Dinner & Fishing Tournament



TexITE News

- ◆ STITE member Gilmer Gaston was elected as the Texas Representative to the ITE International Board of Directors.
- ◆ The TexITE Spring Meeting will be held in San Marcos, March 28-30, 2012.
- ◆ Chris Poe of TTI, was named the 2011 Transportation Engineer of the Year.
- ◆ Jennifer Butcher of Savant Group, Inc., was named the 2011 Younger Member of the Year.