



**Capital Area Section - Texas (District 9)  
Institute of Transportation Engineers**



<http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>

***Capital Area Section***  
***of***  
***Texas District (9)***  
***Institute of Transportation Engineers***

***2016 Annual Section Report***  
***January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016***

Prepared By:  
**Tom Gerrity**  
2016 CAS-ITE Secretary - Treasurer

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## A Message from CAS-ITE's 2016 President



2016 further defined the “new” legacy that began when I joined the Board of the Capital Area Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (CAS-ITE) three years ago. Since that time, our small section has continued to increase the number of activities we offer to our members with the goal of encouraging active member participation. I am truly honored to have served as the 2016 Section President alongside our dedicated and passionate leadership board and the numerous volunteer committee members. The results outlined in this annual report were truly built on team effort with the goal of providing quality programming and great value to our local members and community.

This past year, CAS-ITE had many notable and memorable events that range from technical presentations, collaborative joint events, fundraisers, awards recognitions to civic action. Some of the notable topics that were presented include ethics, smart cities, systems engineering, and Austin’s safe passing laws. CAS-ITE also joined the *Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt-a-Street Program*, which now extends opportunities for community service to our members.

We also witnessed Ronnie Bell, PE’s retirement as Committee Chair from the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). CAS-ITE was honored to recognize Ronnie for his many contributions to our profession since 1988! In addition, we were very proud to have our own Dr. Mason Gemar, PhD, PE, PTOE representing CAS-ITE and winning TextITE’s 2016 Technical Paper Award.

CAS-ITE also had a record breaking year in business card ad sponsorship commitments and another outstanding scholarship fundraising drive. The Board and I are especially thankful for having the best sponsors that continue to support our causes and ensure that we are always successful with our endeavors. The sponsorships and contributions that CAS-ITE received this year enabled us to recognize Stefanos Politis, Ehsan Jafari, and Swati Agarwal as our 2016 University of Texas scholarship recipients.

As my tenure has come to an end, I personally want to thank Valerie, Tom and all of my CAS-ITE family for giving me the opportunity to serve. This has been a journey of growth for me, and I am confident that our next generation of officers would be able to take this legacy and continue CAS-ITE’s tradition of success.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Belarmino". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rob Belarmino – 2016 CAS-ITE President

## Executive Summary

CAS-ITE had an active and successful year in 2016. Our Section sustained membership participation by continuing to provide great technical meetings and engaging social activities. We have also increased our engagement with our local Student Chapter through social events, engaging a liaison to directly communicate to the Student Chapter, supporting participation in the Traffic Bowl, and scholarship awards.

### **Membership**

The Capital Area Section currently has the following statistical membership grades as of December 31, 2016:

- 83 International ITE Members
- 24 Student Members
- 13 Fellow Members
- 10 Section Affiliates

Our dues remain unchanged from the previous calendar year. CAS-ITE has the following dues structure:

- Active Professional Members - \$15
- Retired Professional Members - \$5
- Students, Life & Honorary Members - \$0

### **Section Activities**

- Our Section held four (4) Section meetings and one (1) joint meeting with the South Texas Section covering a variety of topics.
- CAS-ITE hosted two (2) events with the UT Student Chapter, one (1) Traffic Bowl Scrimmage in March and a Happy Hour in September
- The Section held a TopGolf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser, which was made possible by 11 corporate sponsorships, generating \$1,400 in additional revenue and allowing CAS-ITE to distribute \$3,500 in scholarship awards.
- The Section joined the Keep Austin Beautiful Adopt-a-Street program and held the first of its quarterly clean-ups which the Section will continue in 2017.
- Overall, Section meetings and social events had a total of 238 attendees over the course of the year

### **Section Committees**

- The Section's Communications Committee, led by 2016 President Rob Belarmino, was responsible for the development of our semi-annual newsletter. The newsletter includes articles about Section meetings, including local member and Student Chapter participation at District, and International events. It also features members that are "on the move" and provides insight into some of our area's key local projects.

- The Scholarship Committee revised our scholarship application, collected and reviewed completed scholarship applications, and selected our 2016 scholarship winner and runners-up.
- The Nominating Committee (Brian Van De Walle and James Kratz) identified candidates, collected candidate information, coordinated with TexITE to setup the online election, and counted the on-site ballots for our annual elections.
- The Fundraising Committee, including Tom Gerrity, Emily Weigand, and Valerie Kaiser was responsible for planning the 2016 Scholarship Fundraiser at Top Golf.

**Section Student Chapter**

- CAS-ITE and the UT Student Chapter hosted two (2) social events
  - Traffic Bowl Scrimmage at Varsity Pizza to provide support for the students' quest to become International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Champions.
  - A fall semester "Welcome Back" Happy Hour at the Flying Saucer

**Awards/Honors**

CAS-ITE presented service award plaques and certificates to the following members:

- Ronnie Bell – in recognition of his longtime service on National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD)
- Rob Belarmino - for providing three (3) years of service on the CAS-ITE Board (2014-2016)
- CAS-ITE awarded \$3,500 in student scholarships in 2016:
  - One (1) \$1,500 Student Scholarship to the CAS-ITE Scholarship Winner: Stefanos Politis
  - Two (2) \$1,000 Student Scholarships to the CAS-ITE Scholarship Runners-Up: Swati Agarwal and Ehsan Jafari

**Finance and Budget**

- The CAS-ITE balance forward from 2015 to carry into 2016 was \$1,644.07.
- Retained earnings from 2016 into 2017 was \$1,234.60
- 2016 total revenue was \$7,676 including \$1,200 from our corporate sponsors, \$990 in revenue from special meetings, \$1,300 in Section Dues, and nearly \$4,200 in gross revenue from our scholarship fundraiser.
- 2016 total expenses of \$8,085 included support of our UT Student Chapter (including scholarships) in excess of \$3,500, fundraising costs of \$2,800, civic fees of \$250, and \$110 in awards.

## Introduction

The Capital Area Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (CAS-ITE) was originally founded as a chapter of the Texas District of ITE (also known as District 9 of ITE or TexITE) in 1998, and granted a Section Charter on August 1, 2002. CAS-ITE is one of six (6) Sections within the TexITE District representing TexITE's major urban centers.



CAS-ITE serves transportation professionals within the Austin area, which includes Travis, Williamson, and Hays Counties. Our members are traffic and transportation engineers, transportation planners, designers, consultants, signal technicians, contractors, vendors, inventors, researchers, professors, students, and policy makers who work to maintain and improve surface transportation systems worldwide.

As a Section we promote the professional development of our members, increase public awareness of our profession, and provide opportunities for the exchange of technical and policy information. In addition, we serve as a conduit to provide information regarding the benefits of becoming an ITE member. Affiliation with a Section or Chapter affords individuals an opportunity for local involvement with their peers and to explore the benefits of becoming a member of the Institute and TexITE.

## Elected Leadership

The CAS-ITE Executive Board is comprised of five elected members. Results are announced at the Year-End banquet, which is typically held in December:

- President
- Vice President/President Elect
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Section Representative (2 year term)
- Past President



Our 2016 Board Elected Members were:



**President**

Rob Belarmino, P.E.  
HNTB Corporation  
Email: rbelarmino@hntb.com



**Vice-President/President Elect**

Valerie Kaiser, P.E., PTOE, STP  
RS&H, Inc.  
Email: valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com



**Secretary - Treasurer**

Tom Gerrity, P.E., PTOE  
Trafficware Group, Inc.  
Email: tjgerrity@lan-inc.com



**Section Representative**

Alex Reyna, P.E., PTOE  
Reyna, Inc.  
Email: alex@reynainc.com



**Past President**

Chad Wood, P.E., PTOE  
Brown & Gay Engineers  
Email: cwood@browngay.com



Our election results were announced and the officers were sworn-in at the annual holiday banquet on December 9, 2016 which resulted in the following 2017 elected officers:



**President**

Valerie Kaiser, P.E., PTOE, STP  
RS&H, Inc.  
Email: valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com



**Vice-President/President Elect**

Tom Gerrity, P.E., PTOE  
Trafficware Group, Inc  
Email: tjgerrity@lan-inc.com



**Secretary-Treasurer**

James Schwerdtfeger, P.E.  
Big Red Dog, Inc  
Email: james@bidgreddog.com



**Section Representative**

Alex Reyna, P.E., PTOE  
Reyna, Inc.  
Email: alex@reynainc.com



**Past President**

Rob Belarmino, P.E.  
HNTB Corporation  
Email: rbelarmino@hntb.com

Past Capital Area Section Presidents

1998 - Ginger Daniels	
1999 - Brian VanDeWalle	
2000 - Steve Venglar	
2001 - Rafael Cruz	
2002 - David Carey	
2003 - Michael Heath	
2004 - Roy Mynier	
2005 - Sharon Barta	
2006 - James Kratz	
2007 - Rene Garza	
	2008 - Doug Skowronek
	2009 - Gordon Derr
	2010 - Alex Reyna
	2011 - Alan Hughes
	2012 - Anna Martin
	2013 - Eric Bollich
	2014 - Vivek Deshpande
	2015 - Chad Wood
	2016- Rob Belarmino

**Evaluation of 2016 Goals**

Below is a list of the goals identified in last year's Annual Section Report and our evaluation of our performance of those goals.

- Increase public sector participation particularly at the county and city levels.
  - While maintaining MailChimp directory helped, the biggest drivers in attendance is availability, topic presented, and location of the meeting
- Advance our outreach to the UT-Austin Student Chapter through joint meetings and the establishment of a Student Liaison or Student Outreach Committee.
  - Jake Gutekunst served as the CAS Student Liaison in 2016 and is continuing in this role in 2017
  - We had two activities with the Student Chapter
    - Traffic Bowl Scrimmage on March 23, 2016
    - Happy hour at the Flying Saucer on September 12, 2016
- Maintain CAS-ITE scholarship program at \$3,000 in annual distributions
  - In 2016 we distributed \$3,500 in scholarships to three (3) winners chosen from among nine (9) applicants. The Section sees this as a success when compared to the prior year, with only three (3) applicants and a \$3,000 distribution.
- Maintain the Communications Committee and semi-annual newsletter
  - We published newsletters in June and December
- Establish a Fundraising Committee to assist the Secretary-Treasurer in planning the Scholarship Fundraiser and other minor fundraising events.
  - A Fundraising Committee was established with Tom Gerrity, Valerie Kaiser, and Emily Weigand with the support of Chad Wood and Alex Reyna for the TopGolf fundraiser. They helped with the cost/benefit analysis of holding the event, organizational and pricing aspects, as well as contacting sponsors.
- Obtain 501(c)3 Status.
  - CAS-ITE is pursuing this goal in 2017, along with filing taxes under the direction of ITE International. We are in communications with the IRS

concerning the status of our EIN and will register the Capital Area Section as a non-profit with the State of Texas.

- Increase awareness of our organization through volunteerism and strategic partnerships.
  - We joined the Keep Austin Beautiful Adopt-a-Street program. Our street segment is 45<sup>th</sup> Street from Burnet Road to Guadalupe Street in central Austin. We had our first clean-up in the fourth quarter of 2016 and will continue to have quarterly clean-ups through 2017.

### Goals for 2017

Our Section will continue to meet the goals in our charter as well as the following:

- Increase public sector participation particularly at the county and city levels.
  - Continue efforts to improve communications and setting dates that do not conflict with other major events.
- Advance our outreach to the UT-Austin Student Chapter through joint meetings and other events.
  - Have at least one (1) Traffic Bowl Scrimmage before the TexITE Spring Meeting.
  - Continue to use our Student Liaison to identify activities that the Student Chapter has an interest in attending.
- Maintain CAS-ITE scholarship program at \$3,000 in annual distributions.
- Maintain the Communications Committee and semi-annual newsletter
  - Continue June/December publication targets.
  - Increase outreach to members for “Member Spotlight” articles
- File Taxes and Obtain 501(c)3 Status.
  - Continue formalizing our organization with the IRS and the State of Texas
  - Engage with TexITE to follow up and provide additional information/support when needed.
- Identify continuing education opportunities that support the interests of all members
- Identify and develop future leaders within the organization
- Create social activities that enhance professional connections among the membership

### Membership

The Capital Area Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers currently provides the following membership grades:

- **Section Members** - Any TexITE (ITE District 9) Member or Affiliate who resides or works within the area designated for the Section, and who is in good standing with TexITE, shall be eligible to become a Section Member and shall become a Section Member upon payment of Section dues. Any member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) may become a member of the Section, without residing or working in the Section area, upon approval of the Section members.

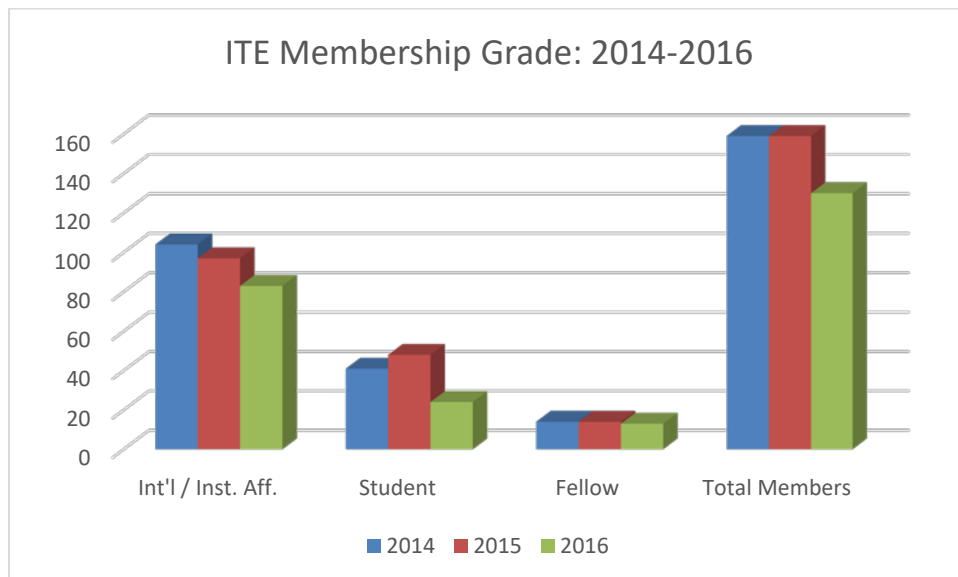
- Section Affiliates** - Any other interested individual who is not a student and who resides or works within the Section boundaries may, at the discretion of the Section, become a Section Affiliate upon payment of Section dues. CAS-ITE had 10 Section Affiliates in 2016.

Our Section also welcomes both Student Members who are enrolled in a recognized transportation related program at an engineering or planning school and resides within the designated boundaries of the Section.

The Capital Area Section currently has 130 International Members as listed by the ITE website ([www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the membership grade of these International Members.

**Table 1 - Membership Grade of Capital Area Section International Members**

Membership Grade	2014	2015	2016
International ITE	100	93	83
Institute Affiliate	4	4	0
Student	41	48	24
Fellow	14	14	13
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>130</b>



**Figure 1 – 2014-2016 Membership Grade Comparison**

Section Activities

**Section Meetings**

The Capital Area Section held regular meetings throughout the year, which included four (4) Section meetings and one (1) joint meeting with the South Texas Section (STITE). The topics covered both technical subjects and policy. As we have done historically, our first meeting was an ethics seminar provided by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers which allows for our members to meet their Professional Development Hour (PDH) requirement in ethics to maintain their Texas licensure. All of the meetings were well attended by affiliate and non-affiliate members. Table 2 shows the summary of the meetings held throughout the year:



*CAS-ITE Members participate in active discussion on recent TBPE rule changes and legislative updates.*

**Table 2 - 2016 Section Meeting Summary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Event</b>	<b>Speaker/s</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
February 19	Professional Ethics	Robert Opiela, P.E. (TBPE)	43
April 29	Mobility 35	Steve Miller, P.E. (HNTB)	28
June 24	Smart Cities Grant / Traffic and ITS Projects (joint meeting with STITE)	Jim Dale (City of Austin) Marc Jacobson, PE PTOE (City of San Antonio)	50 (23 CAS-ITE)
August 26	Systems Engineering and Federal ITS	Toni Whitfield & Stephen Ratke P.E (FHWA)	34
October 28	APD Safe Biking Program	Ofc. Rheannon Cunningham	21



Our April meeting featured an overview of TxDOT’s Mobility35 program by **Steve Miller**, PE. Steve described the 65-mile program, and highlighted the key challenges, which include a constrained urban environment, maintenance of traffic during construction, diverse stakeholders, providing east-west connectivity, and funding. The program aims to add capacity, improve traffic flow, enhance safety, unclog intersections, improve connectivity, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and maximize the use of infrastructure.

Steve highlighted the public involvement process, available funding and project schedule and implementation, and the two (2) alternatives being discussed for downtown Austin. He concluded by discussing the upcoming project between Rundberg Lane and US 290E, which is advancing into final design and construction very soon.



Steve Miller, PE discusses the Mobility35 program.

One of our most popular events of the year is our annual Joint Meeting with the South Texas Section of ITE (STITE) in San Marcos. This meeting takes place in San Marcos and features a barbecue lunch. This tradition is a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas outside of our semi-annual TexITE meetings. To begin the meeting, we honored **Ronnie Bell**, PE for his dedicated service to the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). Ronnie Bell became a member of the Signals Technical Committee in 1988 and served for 10 years as its chair. The speakers for the meeting were **Jim Dale**, PE, Assistant Director for the Austin Transportation Department, and **Marc Jacobson**, PE, PTOE, Senior Engineer in the City of San Antonio Traffic Management group.

Jim Dale’s Presentation, “Tale of a Smart City: Austin” focused on the City’s proposal for a USDOT smart cities grant. Austin was selected as one of the seven finalists of 78 applicants. Jim gave an overview of the City’s proposal and how the City collaborated with public, private, and research sector partners. The proposal focused on innovative new services such as family transportation plans, electric fleets, and connected traveler initiatives. Jim also emphasized the importance of a data ecosystem that focused on end users and contained open data.



Marc Jacobson presented on ITS and signal upgrades in San Antonio. The City operates 1400 traffic signals, 1000 school flashers, and 50 CCTV cameras, and a major effort has been improving signal communications to a central traffic management center. Marc stated that 98 percent of its signal infrastructure is online, which will greatly improve the City’s ability to collect data and monitor operations.

Our August meeting focused on FHWA’s role on System Engineering and Federal ITS Projects. **Stephen Ratke, PE** and **Toni Whitfield** presented on behalf of the FHWA - Texas Division. Steve coordinates safety initiatives, while Toni works as a Traffic Operations/ITS Engineer. Steve presented on the history of Systems Engineering and the role FHWA plays in local projects. He also gave a brief synopsis of what a Systems Engineering approach accomplishes. Steve demonstrated the use of Systems Engineering in identifying and correcting project deficiencies early in the process.

Toni Whitfield expanded on Systems Engineering processes. Toni presented on the Systems Engineering documentation and requirements for Federally funded ITS project. She stressed the importance of the "V" diagram and how ITS projects should proceed with FHWA coordination. The various stages of development along the "V" diagram are essential in completing a successful ITS project and receiving Federal funding. Steve and Toni included how each process fits into Regional, Metro, and State planning.



*Stephen Ratke and Toni Whitfield present on Federal requirements.*

Our October meeting had both an active transportation and safety focus. We invited **Special Police Officer Rheannon Cunningham** of the Austin Police Department (APD) to discuss the Safe Biking Initiative and safe passing laws. Ofc. Cunningham became the Program Coordinator for the Safe Biking Initiative (SBI) in 2013. SBI is a multi-phase approach to make cycling safer through education and enforcement. She also discussed the safe passing ordinance (adopted 2009) which requires 3-foot (6-foot for buses and trucks) of clear space when passing a vulnerable roadway user such as a cyclist. However, enforcement of the law did not gain traction until 2013, where APD began developing the Vulnerable Road User Operations (VRUO) program.

Ofc. Cunningham described the program including the outreach and education, typical violations encountered, undercover operations, and tools (e.g. Codaxus C3FT, Go-Pro, concealed radios) for enforcement. She showed videos taken during undercover operations, and highlighted some of the findings from the operations. APD’s VRUO program has received positive reviews and is being considered by other cities. The meeting concluded with a lengthy Q&A about bicycling laws and enforcement.

**Social Activities**

In addition to the regular Section Meetings, the Capital Area Section held social events throughout the year. These included outreach efforts to support the UT Student Chapter by participating in a Traffic Bowl Scrimmage, fundraising events such as our TopGolf



Tournament, as well as a service event. Table 3 shows the summary of the social events held by the Section.

**Table 3 - Social Events Summary**

Date	Topic/Event	Attendance
March 23	Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with UT Student Members	12
September 8	Happy Hour with UT Student Members	18
October 22	Keep Austin Beautiful Street Cleanup	2
November 13	TopGolf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser	30
December 9	Year-End Banquet & Election	36

Our first and second social events of the year were held for our University of Texas Student Chapter. The first featured a Traffic Bowl Scrimmage where our professionals and student members challenged the 2016 Traffic Bowl Team to several rounds of Traffic Bowl. Students and professionals alike enjoyed food, laughs, and the challenging fun that is a game of Traffic Bowl. The second event was a fall semester “Welcome-back Happy Hour” at the Flying Saucer. More information and photos for this event are addressed in our *Student Chapter* section of this report.

The CAS-ITE Board elected to participate in Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt-a-Street Program as part of the Section’s effort of developing community impact social events that could be extended to professional and student members.



Tom Gerrity and Rob Belarmino Lead the CAS-ITE Clean-up

This year, CAS-ITE adopted the segment of 45th Street from Burnet Road to Guadalupe in central Austin. As part of this program, CAS-ITE is responsible for conducting four cleanups per year. KAB also posted a roadside sign indicating CAS-ITE’s adoption of the street segment. We held our first clean up on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*CAS-ITE members and supporters gather for the TopGolf Scholarship Fundraiser*

The Capital Area Section brought back its Scholarship program in 2012 and starting in 2014 the Section began creating a single major fundraising event to support this scholarship. Building on the popularity of the 2014 Skeet Shoot and 2015 Bowling Tournament, the officers chose to hold the 2016 fundraiser at TopGolf. We offered multiple levels of sponsorship so companies could create teams – and most did. The event provided three (3) hours of golf with brunch and the opportunity to compete for individual prizes. **Alex Reyna, Sam Lundquist, and Jake Gutekunst** received the top scores and took home the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes,

respectively. Prizes ranged from gift cards, tumblers and a grand prize of 20 Qt K2 Cooler. Over 30 golfers showed up on a rainy November morning and raised over \$1,400 for the scholarship.

Our final event was the Year-End Banquet. Last year's event at Stiles Switch was popular with CAS-ITE and a great success, so we held our luncheon there for the second year in a row. We treated ourselves to some brisket, turkey, and sausage while electing our incoming officers, honoring our past board members. More details on this event are outlined in the *Section Committees* and *Awards* sections of this report.

## Section Committees

### Capital Area Section Communications Committee

The Capital Area Section Communications Committee, chaired by Rob Belarmino, was responsible for the return of our Section newsletter back in 2015. He continued this into 2016 and released our newsletter on a semi-annual basis, in June and December of 2016. The newsletter summarizes our past and upcoming meetings and social events, and provides a services directory featuring our sponsors. Refer to Appendix A for copies of the newsletter for 2016.

In addition to our newsletter, the website (<http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>) is one of our primary ways of reaching out to existing and potential members; it is regularly updated by the Secretary-Treasurer with the latest Section information including officers, membership forms, Section meeting attendance records for PDHs, and upcoming meetings/events.

The Communications Committee has continued its regular use of the MailChimp email marketing service provider, managed by the Secretary-Treasurer, to send out Section information and notices of upcoming meetings and events.

Capital Area Section Scholarship Committee

The 2016 Capital Area Section Scholarship Committee was chaired by Cody Stone and Derek Mueller. The Scholarship Application was announced via e-blast and posted to the website. Jake Gutekunst worked closely with UT Student Chapter President Krishna Murthy Gurumurthy to advertise the scholarship, which was due in early November. Nine (9) students applied for the scholarship, which was an improvement over last year's three (3) applicants.

With the support of the Fundraising Committee's TopGolf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser, which received the strong support of our corporate sponsors with 11 firms acting as sponsors of this event, the Section was able to award \$3,500 in scholarship funds. The Scholarship Committee received nine (9) applications and awarded scholarships to the winner and to the two (2) runners up. Details about the Scholarship Award winners are in the Awards section of this report.

Capital Area Section Nominations/Elections Committee

The 2016 Capital Area Section Nominations/Elections Committee was chaired by James Kratz and Brian VanDeWalle. The CAS-ITE Executive Board elections are held in December of each year with the results announced at the Annual Year-End Banquet. The Section Officers began solicitation for the 2016 Section Officer Election at the August meeting and via e-blasts to our members for the positions of Secretary-Treasurer and Section Representative. The Election Committee received the following two (2) nominations for the Secretary-Treasurer position:



Cody Stone, EIT  
Alliance Transportation Group



James Schwerdtfeger, PE  
Big Red Dog



*Election Results are announced at the Year -End Banquet*

The Nominations/Elections Committee administered the election online with the assistance of Gary Thomas, TexITE Webmaster, and collected paper ballots during the December 9<sup>th</sup> Year-End Banquet. James Kratz tallied the results and announced that James Schwerdtfeger won the election for Secretary-Treasurer. James Kratz then administered the oath of office for the 2017 Officers and Members.

## Student Chapter

CAS-ITE has engaged with and provided financial support to the University of Texas Student Chapter throughout the year. The Section and students held two social events, a Traffic Bowl Scrimmage and a Happy Hour at Flying Saucer.



*Fun times at the Flying Saucer!*

The Section supported the UT Student Chapter Traffic Bowl Team. In advance of the District Traffic Bowl at the 2016 Spring Meeting, CAS-ITE supported the team by scrimmaging the students versus the professionals on March 23, with **Jake Gutekunst** filling the role as game host. In the fall, Jake Gutekunst also organized a Welcome Back Happy Hour at the Flying Saucer

For the March 1, 2016 – March 1, 2017 term, the University of Texas Student Chapter Officers are listed below:

Krishna Murthy Gurumurthy - President  
Stefanos Politis - VP of Operations  
Qichun Dai - VP of Recruitment  
Scott Kilgore - Secretary  
Pragun Vinayak – Treasurer

For the period of March 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016, the University of Texas Student Chapter Officers are listed below:

Kevin Savage - President  
Manar Hasan - VP of Publicity & Outreach  
Swati Agarwal - VP of Membership  
John Helsel - Secretary  
Patrick Jordan – Treasurer

## Awards/Honors

CASITE presented service award plaques, certificates and scholarship awards to the following members:





**Ronnie Bell, PE** for his dedicated service to the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). Ronnie became a member of the Signals Technical Committee in 1988 and served 10 years as chair.



**Robertson Belarmino, PE** for providing 3 years of service on the Capital Area Section Board



2016 Scholarship Winners **Ehsan Jafari, Swati Agarwal,** and **Stefanos Politis,**

**Stefanos Politis** was awarded \$1,500 as the 2016 CAS-ITE Scholarship Award Winner. He is pursuing a Doctorate at UT Austin and his work focuses on highway geometric design and optimization, as well as road safety, asset management and the application of GIS and remote sensing in transportation. He is working with his advisor, Dr. Zhang, to develop a total transportation asset management system aiming to provide innovative services to TxDOT decision makers enabling them to perform better informed, more coordinated, and efficient allocation of the available budget. His interest in transportation was sparked at series of seminars concerning road safety and traffic organized by a former race car driver under the nickname “laveris”. He went on to study at the National Technical University of Athens. He was recently elected as the Student Chapter’s Vice President of Operations.

**Ehsan Jafari** was awarded \$1000 as a 2016 CAS-ITE Scholarship Award Runner-up. He is a PhD student at UT Austin. He earned his BS in Electrical Engineering from University of Kerman (Iran), a MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tehran, and a MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona.

**Swati Agarwal** was awarded \$1000 as a 2016 CAS-ITE Scholarship Award Runner-up. She is a PhD student at UT Austin who is with Dr. C. Michael Walton and Dr. Michael Murphy on transportation projects for TxDOT that include characterizing Specialized Hauling Vehicles operating in Texas, and development of a library of pavement consumption of various truck configurations. She earned her Bachelors in Architecture from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), and her Masters in Urban Planning from Harvard.

Finance and Budget

The current CAS-ITE BBVA Compass Bank account balance is \$1,234.60. The 2016 fiscal year began with a balance of \$1,644.07. The Section has maintained a strong retained earnings to carry into the next fiscal year thanks to our continued focus on providing more value for our sponsors, and a successful scholarship fundraiser. Our Section continues to have engaging technical meetings and fun social events but we have also have our semi-annual newsletter which includes a professional services and vendor directory advertising all of our corporate sponsors. With our continued strong sponsor support and our annual scholarship fundraising event, the Section was able to distribute \$3,500 in Scholarships in 2016.

*Table 4 - 2016 Budget Summary*

<b>Total 2016 Balance Forward</b>	<b>1664.07</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)	1120.75
Section Dues CAS-ITE	180.00
Annual Sponsorships	1200.00
Scholarship Fundraiser	4185.00
Year-End Banquet	990.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7675.75</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Guest Speaker Lunches, Awards	108.38
Keep Austin Beautiful	250.00
Scholarship Fundraiser	2759.38
Year End Banquet	1390.55
UT- Student Events	76.91
Scholarships	3500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8085.22</b>
<b>Balance Forward Year End 2016</b>	<b>1234.60</b>

Figures 2 through 4 below show the Overall Operating Budget Distribution, Section Income Distribution and Section Expense Distribution for 2016.



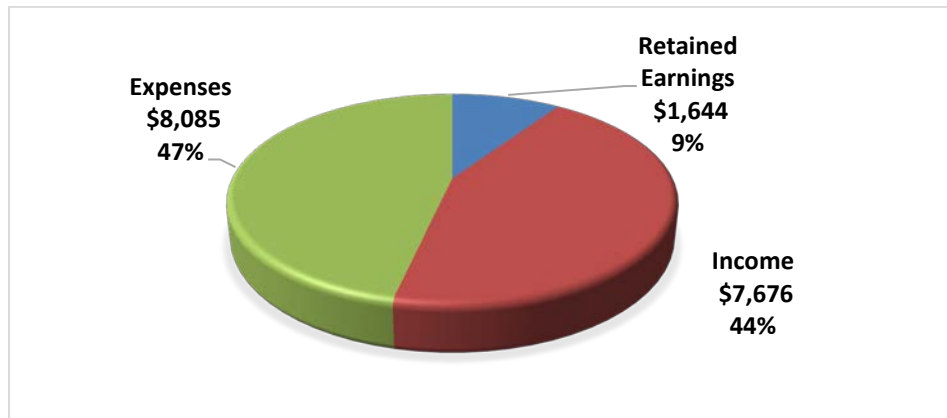


Figure 2 - 2016 Operating Budget Distribution

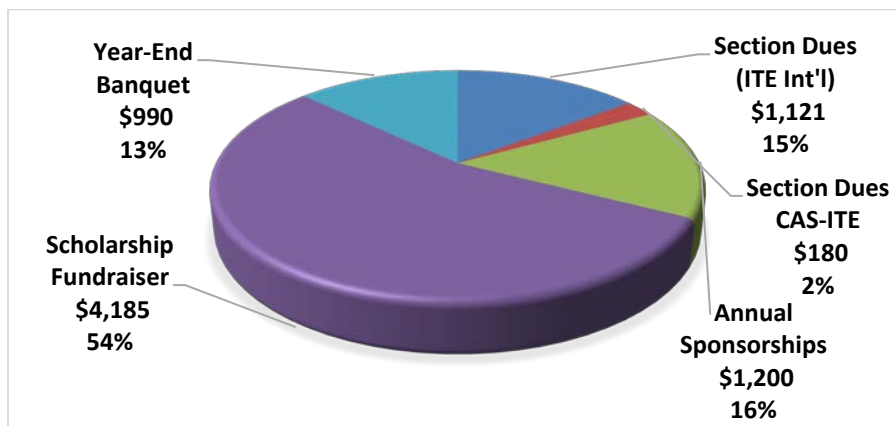


Figure 3 - 2016 Income Distribution

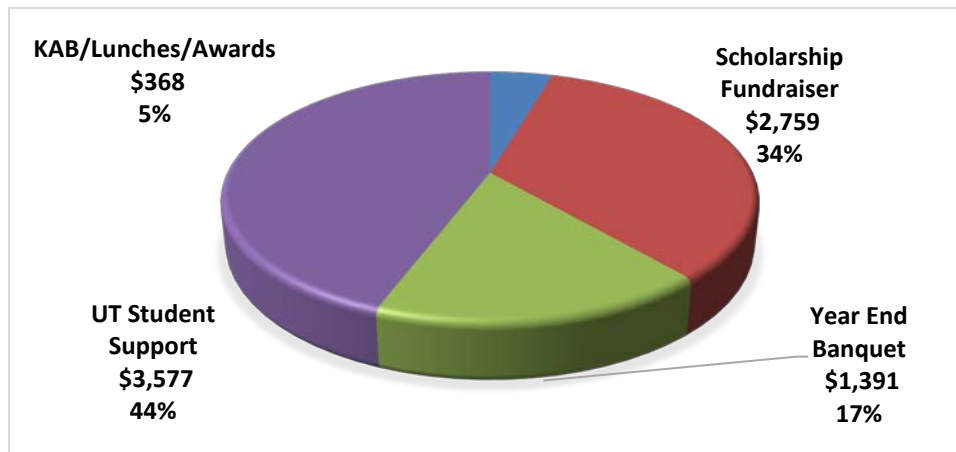


Figure 4- 2016 Expense Distribution

## Summary

The Capital Area Section of ITE had a successful year in 2016. Our Member participation remains high and our Section is looking forward to assisting with the TexITE District Meeting in Fall 2017 in San Marcos.

Going into 2017, we have 15 corporate sponsors, with 1 more pending corporate approval. This commitment from our corporate sponsors has allowed us to maintain our scholarship program and expand our financial support of the UT Student Chapter's endeavors, such as participating in Traffic Bowl at the ITE Annual Meeting and annual scholarship. Our corporate support also provides the incoming Section leadership a strong level of retained earnings in 2016.

The goals in 2017 are similar to those of years past – increasing member participation and sustaining financial health for the benefit of our members. One major undertaking for 2017 is filing taxes and obtaining 501(c)3 status. The Section sees our obtaining 501(c)3 status is especially critical as sponsors prefer to categorize their financial support of the Section as charitable contributions. It is our priority to build on successes in 2016 that will attract new, participating members as well as engage existing members. We anticipate an exciting 2017 full of thoughtful technical meetings, fun social events that allow our members to make meaningful professional connections, and continued support of our member's goals and those of our local students.

APPENDICES

# Capital Area Section 2016 Annual Report

## APPENDIX A: CAS-ITE SEMI ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, VOL14, ISSUES 1 & 2



Capital Area Section of ITE  
texite.capital.section@gmail.com

## President's Message

By Rob Belarmino, PE



I am honored and privileged to be serving as this year's Capital Area Section President. Our Section has established a variety of goals in 2015, which the Board has been executing in 2016; and will continue to execute and improve upon for

the remainder of year. With your support, we will continue to provide interesting meeting topics and section activities to deliver on ITE's core purpose of advancing transportation knowledge and practices.

I want to welcome our newest board member Tom Gerrity, Secretary Treasure, and our re-elected Section Representative, Alex Reyna. The leadership and experience that both Tom and Alex will provide to our section is invaluable, and I'm excited to be working with them, along with Valerie Kaiser, to continue to shape and strengthen our section.

I want to thank the leadership that our past president Chad Wood has provided, and continues to provide to ensure our success. His leadership brought many firsts to our Section, including receipt of the 2015 TexITE Section Activity Award, record breaking sponsorship campaigns, and disbursement of \$3,000 in scholarship awards. I also want to thank Federico Mendoza for serving as our Section Representative to TexITE through 2015 and keeping us informed of decisions at the District level.

With that said, our Section has had a great first half into 2016. Our section meetings have been very well

attended, which is reflected on the demand that we recently saw at the annual joint meeting with the South Texas Section in San Marcos.

We plan on building on this momentum by developing initiatives to increase fundraising activities, volunteer opportunities, and expand social/networking activities beyond our regular section meetings. So be on the lookout for these activities as we roll them out over the coming months.

I also want to encourage our members to actively participate and join committees to improve our Section. The various committees within CAS-ITE are always looking for help and innovative ideas to provide services at the highest level possible. We only get what we put in; and the success that we are seeing can be largely attributed to the many volunteered hours by our members.

Finally, I want to thank our 2016 Ad sponsors. Your support keeps our section funded, which allow us to serve our members in the Capital Area. I hope that all of you have had a great 2016 CAS-ITE experience to-date, and I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## February 19 Section Meeting 2016 Kick-Off & TBPE Ethics

By Rob Belarmino, PE

CAS-ITE kicked-off the 2016 section meetings on February 19, 2016, with a presentation on engineering ethics. The meeting was held at One Texas Center in the City of Austin. The meeting was attended by 43 affiliate and non-affiliate CAS-ITE members. **2016 President Rob Belarmino**, started the meeting with a roll-call and section business. Rob presented a brief summary on CAS-ITE's 2015 accomplishments, including winning TexITE's 2015 Section Activities Award. He also thanked the UT-Student Chapter for winning the 2015 TexITE Traffic Bowl and representing the District at the 2015 ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Grand Championship at the International Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Hollywood, Florida. Rob provided insight to the section's operations, income and expenses, and reported a year-end account total balance of \$1,605.17. He thanked all of the 2015 advertisement and scholarship sponsors, and encouraged everyone to continue their support to CAS-ITE. The sponsorships allowed CAS-ITE to award \$3,000 in scholarships in 2015. Finally, Rob thanked all of the contributors to the 2015 Annual Report, which can be can be downloaded from the website.

**Secretary-Treasurer Tom Gerrity**, discussed membership and reminded everyone to check their current status and update their contact information on the ITE website. This will help direct section dues



CAS-ITE Members participate in active discussion on recent TBPE board rule changes and legislative updates.



Mr. Robert Opiela, PE talks about Professionalism in engineering and updates on TBPE's Professional Practice.

from international members that recently moved into the area served by the CAS-ITE section. Section dues for 2016 is \$15, and 2016 ad sponsorship is \$100. Tom will be sending out reminders to organizations that would like to renew their sponsorships. Finally, Tom also reminded everyone that the registration for the TexITE Spring Meeting in Galveston, TX, is now open, and that CAS-ITE will sponsor a Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with the UT-Student Chapter on March 23 at The Varsity.

Following the section business, **Mr. Robert Opiela, PE**, Director of Licensing, from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) provided an overview and led discussions on TBPE's Professional Practice Update/Ethics. Mr. Opiela's presentation included insight to the TBPE board members and staff, defining professionalism, current outreach efforts, policy advisory, legislative updates, and board initiatives. Mr. Opeila started the discussion by presenting to the members the following quote regarding professionalism:

*"It is one of the primary obligations of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to assure that Texas engineers are held to the highest standards of competency, integrity, and honesty. Public safety depends upon that standard and consistently achieving in our profession requires faithful and unwavering practice of honesty and integrity in all aspects of our lives not only when we sit at our desk."*

Please see *ETHICS* on page 3



*ETHICS* from page 2

He then engaged CAS-ITE members in scenario discussions about Professionalism, Plan (Review) Requirements, Professional Services Procurement Act, and Industry Exemption. Mr. Opeila also outlined the bills that were filed, and passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that affect the practice of engineering, including the repeal of the \$200 professional fee, licensing rules and exemption for active military members, the use of unmanned aerial vehicle for engineering and survey, and contract identification. The new legislation will be adopted by TBPE as Rule Changes. In addition, Mr. Opeila touched on upcoming rule changes, including the “decoupling” of the examination and requirements, which would allow the PE exam to be taken while candidates are gaining experience. Finally, Mr. Opeila discussed TBPE’s “Journey Towards Excellence” by providing initiatives that lead to better communication to customers, good use of resources, and improved visibility to the community.

## March 23rd Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with UT-Austin Student Chapter

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

CAS-ITE and the UT-Austin ITE Student Chapter gathered together in Austin, TX on March 23rd, 2016 at The Varsity Pizza and Pints to hold a practice competition with the local student team from UT-Austin for their competition at the Spring TexITE meeting. The meeting was attended by 5 members of the Capital Area Section and 12 students from the UT-Austin ITE chapter. **2016 President Rob Belarmino**, opened the meeting by introducing himself and welcoming attendees, and participated on the team of professionals with **Secretary-Treasurer Elect Tom Gerrity**, and other members of CAS-ITE.

**Jake Gutekunst**, CAS-ITE member, moderated the competition and provided the questions for the quiz.



*The 2016 University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter Scrimmage with the with CAS-ITE professional prior to going to competing in the TexITE Spring Meeting in Galveston, TX.*

The first game was won handily by the UT-Austin student team, and points were carried over into the second game to determine a final champion. The professionals made a strong comeback and squeezed out a narrow win by answering the final question correctly, propelling them to victory. The event brought together the local student chapter and the CAS-ITE for a fun and engaging time to connect, and continues as a tradition each spring.

## March 30–April 1



By Valerie Kaiser, PE

The 2016 TexITE Spring Meeting was held on Galveston Island at the Moody Garden’s Hotel March 30–April 1. LAC Chair Matt Johnson and his team put together some terrific programming that the membership enjoyed. The four technical tours featured areas unique to Galveston, including a tour of the US Coast Guard Traffic Operations Center, a Bicycle Tour, a tour of the Galveston Ferry, and a tour of the Port of Galveston. Plenary Session 1 was an Ignite! Session, featuring ten of TexITE’s signal Please see *SPRING* on page 4



*SPRING* from page 3



*The 2016 TexITE Spring Meeting. Photos Courtesy of TexITE and Greater Houston Section.*

timing professionals who were challenged to present on specific topics within a short time frame. Plenary Session 2 gave the membership some technical knowledge regarding hurricane evacuation and recovery from a transportation engineering perspective, with case studies concerning Hurricanes Rita and Ike. Our Thursday Night Social included a tour of the Tall Ship Elissa, where members were able to independently tour the National Historic Landmark, which dates back to 1877. Our UT Student Chapter competed in the traffic bowl that evening and put forth a solid effort, but unfortunately succumbed to the Texas A&M team. We look forward to supporting the traffic bowl team next Spring. Several of our Capital Area Section Members and friends participated as moderators or speakers at the Spring meeting. Anna Martin (City of Austin) moderated the session entitled “How Can We Better Plan For the Future?”, a session focused on transportation planning. Speaking at this same session on the City of Austin’s Smart Cities application with the USDOT was Gordon Derr (City of Austin). “Safety First! How We Are Improving Safety in Our System” also featured our members Stephen Ratke and John Habermann. We truly appreciate these individuals for representing the Capital Area Section and sharing their knowledge with us. We look forward to coming together again for the TexITE Fall Meeting in Fort Worth.

## April 29 Section Meeting Mobility35 Program Update

By Rob Belarmino, PE

The second section meeting was held on April 29, 2016, which included a presentation and discussion on the Mobility35 program. The meeting was attended by 28 affiliate and non-affiliate CAS-ITE members. **President Rob Belarmino**, started the meeting with a roll-call and section business. Rob thanked the current 2016 sponsors and informed the Section that attendance has been steady at both the Ethics and Traffic Bowl Scrimmage meetings. **Secretary-Treasurer Tom Gerrity** reported that the section has received four sponsors to-date and encouraged the members to renew their sponsorship for 2016. **Jake Gutekunst** provided a brief summary of the results of Traffic Bowl scrimmage, with the consultant group winning the scrimmage. Jake encouraged everyone to participate in future meetings and joint activities with the UT-Student chapter. **Section Representative Alex Reyna**, provided a status on CAS-ITE’s Tax Exemption filing/request. He is currently performing research and will be reaching out to previous board members to solicit information regarding previous filings. Finally, Tom encouraged everyone to attend the next Joint meeting that will be held in San Marcos, Texas. This meeting will discuss current efforts by San Antonio and Austin to become “smarter” cities.



*Steve Miller, PE discusses the Mobility35 Program Update with the CAS-ITE section members and affiliates.*

Please see *MOBILITY* on page 5

*MOBILITY* from page 4

Following the section business, **Steve Miller, PE**, HNTB, provided an overview and update to the Mobility35 program. Steve described the 65-mile program, and highlighted the key challenges, which include a constrained urban environment, maintenance of traffic during construction, diverse stakeholders, providing east-west connectivity, and funding. The program aims to add capacity, improve traffic flow, enhance safety, unclog intersections, improve connectivity, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and maximize the use of infrastructure.

Since the Mobility35 program began in 2011, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and regional partners have made it a priority to involve the community in the development process. This resulted in over 300 stakeholder, community, and public outreach meetings. The process helped develop a “string of pearls” approach to meet the identified challenges. This approach introduced a series of stand-alone projects with specific benefits. It also introduced sets of comprehensive projects, including express lanes and improved ramps, frontage roads, and intersections, that would link the stand-alone projects to provide a cumulative benefit to the I-35 corridor. To date, the 10-year program has identified over 40 projects to complete the I-35 corridor improvement.

As of 2016, the TxDOT and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) have dedicated over \$110.7 million of Proposition 1 funding. The Texas Transportation Commission also committed \$158.6 million in Congestion Relief Initiative funding. These funding initiatives allowed for construction to begin for four projects in 2015, and three projects in 2016, which would deliver a combined total of \$210.9 million in construction projects. Between 2016 and 2020, the program has identified several stand-alone projects that total at \$663.5 million. In addition, the program has identified three comprehensive projects for the north, central, and south sections of Travis County, which are projected to cost between \$1.23 and \$1.53

billion. Steve noted that the Travis county comprehensive projects are currently in the environmental and schematic phase. Overall, the Mobility35 program cost estimate is between \$4.3 and \$4.6 billion. The cost will vary based on the selected improvement of either 1) modifying the existing elevated section, or 2) lowering the freeway for the segment of I-35 between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Cesar Chavez.

Finally, Steve highlighted the project for the segment of I-35 between Rundberg Lane and US 290E. This project will include three new flyover ramps, modifying an existing flyover, and improving main lanes, frontage road, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Steve invited everyone to attend the public hearing for the project in May; and fielded questions from the section members about the program.

## June 24 Annual Joint Meeting Smart Cities

By **Derek Mueller, PE**

The Capital Area and South Texas Sections held their annual Joint Meeting on June 24 in San Marcos. After discussing section news and upcoming events, Ronnie Bell, City of Austin, was honored for his service with the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.



*CAS-ITE and STITE members at June 24 Joint Section Meeting*

Please see *ANNUAL* on page 6

*ANNUAL* from page 5

The speakers for the meeting were **Jim Dale, PE**, Assistant Director for the Austin Transportation Department, and **Marc Jacobson, PE, PTOE**, Senior Engineer in the City of San Antonio Traffic Management group.

Jim Dale's Presentation, "Tale of a Smart City: Austin" focused on the City's proposal for a USDOT smart cities grant. Of 78 cities to submit for the grant, Austin was selected as one of the seven finalists. Mr. Dale discussed the major



*Jim Dale, PE discusses City of Austin Smart Cities.*

goals of becoming a smart city: improved safety, enhanced mobility, and enhanced ladders of opportunity to support underserved residents. For their proposal, the City collaborated with public, private, and research sector partners. The proposal focused on innovative new services such as family transportation plans, electric fleets, and connected traveler initiatives. Mr. Dale also emphasized the importance of a data ecosystem that focused on end users and contained open data.



*Marc Jacobson, PE, PTOE discusses City of San Antonio ITS and Signal Upgrades.*

Mr. Jacobson presented on ITS and signal upgrades in San Antonio. He noted that the City currently operates 1400 traffic signals, 1000 school flashers, and 50 CCTV cameras. A major focus to improving traffic management abilities is communication to this equipment. Mr. Jacobson said that at one point, only 30 percent of the signals had communication to the traffic management center, but that they are now at 98 percent. The City has also recently upgraded their traffic management software, allowing them to

have access to more and better data. He noted that data is key for improving the signal operations. He mentioned vehicle detection systems capable of detecting discreet vehicles such as radar detectors and CCTV cameras as implementation that can greatly improve the City's ability to collect data and monitor operations.

## Awards & Recognition

### By City of Austin

On June 24, 2016, the CAS-ITE recognized **Ronnie Bell, PE** for his dedicated service to the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). This committee provides recommendations to FHWA on additions, deletions, and modifications to the MUTCD. The National Committee consists of a wide range of dedicated volunteers that have an interest in the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of traffic control devices. This includes employees from state, county, and municipal governments, consulting firms, manufacturers/distributors, professional organizations, tollway authorities, railroad companies, and others. Many members continue to volunteer their time and expertise even after they retire.



*Ronnie Bell, PE receives an award plaque from Jim Dale, PE for his service to the NCUTCD.*

Ronnie became a member of the Signals Technical Committee in 1988 and became a member of the ITE delegation to the National Committee in 1992. In 2002, Ronnie was appointed Vice Chair of the Signals Technical Committee. He was appointed Please see *AWARD* on page 7



AWARD from page 6

Chair of that committee in 2006 and served as Chair through the January 2016 meeting. Although he has “retired” as the Chair, Ronnie remains an active member of the Signals Technical Committee.

During his tenure, Ronnie has seen many changes to the Manual, including the major reformatting that appeared in the 2000 version and the introduction of Interim Approvals. Some of the items that have changed in Part 4 include:

- Flashing yellow (and red) arrows for permissive turning movements
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons
- Emergency Hybrid Beacons (although not included in the Texas MUTCD)
- Revision of the assumed pedestrian walking speed
- Countdown pedestrian signals
- Accessible pedestrian signals
- U–turn signal indications
- In–roadway lights
- Rectangular Rapid flashing Beacons (Interim Approval)
- Bicycle Signal Faces (Interim Approval)

## Member & Budget Status

By Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE

Capital Area Section of ITE membership registration slightly decreased compared to last year, although our account balance is as expected.

TABLE 1: CAS-ITE Membership Breakdown	
75	International Members
27	Student Members
1	Institute Affiliate
14	Fellows
18	CAS-ITE Members (Non-International)
135	Total CAS-ITE Members

As of July 2016, we have a total of **135 ITE members** as listed on the ITE website ([www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)). The membership grade breakdown is shown in **Table 1**. This is a decrease from the previously reported 155 ITE members at the end of 2015. This decrease is

TABLE 2: CAS-ITE Balance Sheet		
<b>Total 2016 Balance Forward</b>		<b>\$1,644.07</b>
<b>Income</b>		
	Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)	\$921.75
	Section Dues CAS-ITE	\$150.00
	Annual Sponsorships	\$400.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$1,471.75</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Guest Speaker Lunches	\$8.70
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$8.70</b>
<b>Account Balance</b>		<b>\$3,107.12</b>

due a reduction of student membership and International Members.

**Table 2** currently shows the CAS–ITE Balance Sheet. The current CAS–ITE balance is **\$3,107.12**. Current income to–date is from membership dues (both section and disbursement from ITE) and annual sponsorships for a total of \$1,471.25. We have collected \$1,071.75 in Section Dues and \$400 in annual sponsorships as of this month. Expenses are under–reported at this time, showing only \$8.70 on speaker lunches. We expect to pay out reimbursement for an award plaque and a short–fall (if any) from the Joint Meeting.

The CAS–ITE Board is developing fun, interactive events and fascinating meeting topics to continue to increase member participation and attract sponsorship funding to our events. Current events that are being discussed include adopting a street via Keep Austin Beautiful, and coordinating with other engineering organizations on social events.

### Upcoming Events

1. ITE 2016 International Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Anaheim, CA –	Aug 14–17
2. CAS–ITE Regular Section Meeting –	Aug/Sep
3. TexITE 2015 Annual Fall District Meeting in Fort Worth, TX –	Sep 21–23
4. CAS–ITE Regular Section Meeting –	Oct/TBD
5. Scholarship Fundraiser –	Nov/TBD
6. Holiday Banquet and Election–	Dec/TBD

## 2016 CAS-ITE Officers

Please contact any of the following officers, if you have questions about the Capital Area Section, TexITE, or ITE.

- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – President  
[rbelarmino@hntb.com](mailto:rbelarmino@hntb.com)
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE** – Vice President  
[valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com](mailto:valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com)
- **Tom Gerrity, P.E., PTOE** – Secretary Treasurer  
[TomGerrity@trafficware.com](mailto:TomGerrity@trafficware.com)
- **Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE** – Section Representative  
[alex@reynainc.com](mailto:alex@reynainc.com)
- **Chad Wood, PE, PTOE** – Past President  
[cwood@browngay.com](mailto:cwood@browngay.com)

### ITE Website Addresses

If you are interested in the latest developments at ITE or TexITE, please check out the following websites:

- ITE – [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)
- TexITE – [www.texite.org](http://www.texite.org)

You can find section meeting information on the CAS-ITE website: <http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>

Thanks to Tom Gerrity for continuing to maintain the Capital Area Section website. Please contact him if you would like to join the website committee.

## Communications Committee

Please contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the Capital Area Section Newsletter:

- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – Editor  
[rbelarmino@hntb.com](mailto:rbelarmino@hntb.com)
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE** – Member  
[valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com](mailto:valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com)
- **Jake Gutekunst, EIT** – Member  
[jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com](mailto:jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com)
- **Cody Stone, EIT** – Member  
[CStone@emailatg.com](mailto:CStone@emailatg.com)
- **Derek Mueller, PE** – Member  
[DMueller@pape-dawson.com](mailto:DMueller@pape-dawson.com)

The Communications Team is always looking for article contributions, upcoming events, employment opportunities, or legislative updates. Please contact any of the members of the Communications Committee if you would like your submittal or story to be included in the next newsletter issue.

### UT Student Chapter

If you would like to speak at one of the [Student Chapter](#) meetings, please contact their officers at [utexasite@gmail.com](mailto:utexasite@gmail.com).

## Membership Information

Interested in becoming a CAS-ITE member? Please send a completed form below to **Tom Gerrity, 2012 Holland Avenue Unit A, Austin, TX 78704** with \$15.00 annual dues payment; or bring both to the next section meeting. Section membership can also be paid with your annual TexITE and/or [ITE](#) dues.

General Information	
Name (full name plus professional designation; i.e. PE, AICP, EIT, M.S., etc.):	_____
Job Title and Employer:	_____
Business Mailing Address:	_____
Daytime Phone:	_____
Daytime Fax:	_____
E-mail Address:	_____

ITE Membership Information	
Please mark all that apply:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of TexITE, the Texas Section of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like information on ITE membership

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If your firm/organization is interested in sponsoring CAS-ITE, please contact **Tom Gerrity** at [TomGerrity@trafficware.com](mailto:TomGerrity@trafficware.com). The cost of sponsorship is **\$100 annually** per firm/agency and your logo and/or business card will be featured on two newsletters, e-blast and on the CAS-ITE website for a 12-month period.

Capital Area Section of ITE  
texite.capital.section@gmail.com

## President's Message

By Rob Belarmino, PE



Greetings and Happy Holidays to all of my friends and colleagues at CAS-ITE! Like all good things my tenure as President has come to an end. However, this does not mean my involvement will stop as I will continue to assist our section in various

capacities to continue to deliver on ITE's core purpose of advancing transportation knowledge and practices, by promoting the professional development of our members, increase public awareness of our profession, and provide opportunities for the exchange of technical and policy information.

I have been honored to be selected by you and proud to have served in various leadership roles alongside passionate friends and colleagues over the past three years. This year, I'm especially proud of the work that Valerie and Tom have done to ensure that we deliver on the goals that we established at the beginning of the year. I also want to thank all of the various committee leaders and volunteers that have sacrificed their time and resources to assist the CAS-ITE Board. It truly takes a team effort to move our section forward, thinking outside the box, and doing whatever it takes to deliver and provide the best service to our members.

I'm happy to report that this year our section held ten (10) local events that included five technical

presentations, four (4) social events, and one (1) volunteering event. These events provided a variety of eclectic technical presentations and activities that range from ethics, infrastructure updates, new technologies, systems processes, UT student chapter joint events, roadside clean-ups, and a fundraiser. This is one more event that we have added from years past!

Finally, I want to thank all of our sponsors, we could not have done everything that we setup to do without the funding and support that you provided. This year, we had a record number of (17) seventeen business card ad sponsorships, which is three more than we received last year. And even though we had a short timeframe to put together the scholarship fundraiser event, we received a total of ten (10) corporate sponsors, topping last year by two additional sponsors. Your participation and support truly mean a lot during my tenure and words cannot express my gratitude towards your contributions.

Much like the previous leaders before me, I want to urge each and every one of you to continue to promote our section, and encourage younger members to join and participate in the various

Please see *PRESIDENT* on page 5.

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## August 26 Systems Engineering and Federal ITS Projects

By Cody Stone, EIT

On August 26th, 2016, the Capital Area Section hosted its fourth meeting at the Asian-American Resource Center. Stephen Ratke, P.E., and Toni Whitfield presented on behalf of the FHWA – Texas Division. Steve coordinates safety initiatives, while Toni works as a Traffic Operations/ITS Engineer as part of the Texas Division. They put on a great presentation that received positive feedback from those who attended.

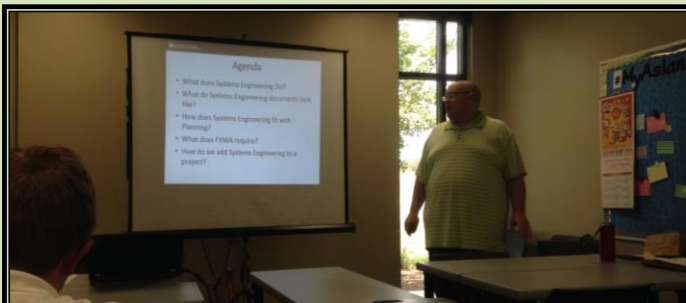
Steve presented on the history of Systems Engineering and the role FHWA plays in local projects. He also gave a brief synopsis of what Systems Engineering accomplishes. Steve demonstrated the use of Systems Engineering in identifying and correcting project deficiencies early in the process. As a case example, the construction of the interstate highway network shows the use of Systems Engineering by identifying the need, setting the requirements, designing and implementing the product, and testing and validating the end result.



*Stephen Ratke and Toni Whitfield responds to questions from CAS-ITE members.*

This process was further expanded upon by Toni Whitfield in discussion of Systems Engineering processes. Toni presented on the Systems Engineering documentation and Federal requirements for ITS. She stressed the importance of the "V" diagram and how ITS projects should proceed with FHWA coordination. The various stages of development along the "V" diagram are essential in completing a successful ITS project and receiving Federal funding. Steve and Toni included how each process fits into Regional, Metro, and State planning.

The presentations were engaging and led to constructive discussion between consultants, state agencies, and federal employees. Some of the questions and general discussion related to how the process can prevent project delays, the coordination that needs to occur between agencies, and what should be included in Systems Engineering documents. CAS-ITE thanks Steve and Toni for their presentations!



*Stephen Ratke provides an overview of the systems engineering process, while Toni Whitfield describes the "V" diagram.*





## September 8 CAS-ITE & UT-Student Chapter Welcome Back Mixer

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

CAS-ITE and the UT-Austin ITE Student Chapter gathered together in Austin, TX on September 8th, 2016 at *The Flying Saucer* to hold a back to school meet and greet for new and returning students from the University of Texas at Austin. The meeting was attended by 4 members of the Capital Area Section and 14 students from the UT-Austin ITE chapter.

President Rob Belarmino, HNTB, and Vice President Valerie Kaiser, RS&H, welcomed attendees and conversed with students about careers in traffic and transportation engineering. The event was the first of many to be held jointly with the UT-Austin ITE Student Chapter this fall, and was an opportunity for students and professionals to connect.



(L-R) Jake Gutekunst, Rob Belarmino, and Valerie Kaiser participate at the CAS-ITE & UT-Student Chapter Mixer.

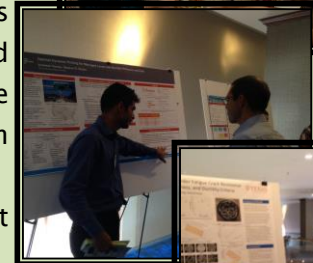


## September 21-23 2016 TexITE Fall Meeting

By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE

CAS-ITE was again well represented at the annual TexITE Fall Meeting that was held in Fort Worth, Texas. CAS-ITE members actively participated throughout the meeting through technical presentations, student poster presentations, social and networking events. In fact, eight (8) of the forty-one (41) presenters for this meeting were from the Capital Area (majority of which area Section affiliates), representing nearly 20% of the overall topics discussed throughout the event. Our Capital Area professionals presented on a range of topics including how to tackle the influx of charter schools, managing major events, innovative intersections, and Vision Zero Action Plans.

The local CAS-ITE members/affiliate that provided insight to some of the key projects and advancements from the capital area were **Anna Martin** and **Donna Galati (COA)** - *Managing the Influx of Charter Schools in the City of Austin*, **Lee Austin (COA)** - *The perfect Traffic Storm :SXSW and the President's Visit to Austin*, **Sabas Avila (COSM)** - *Operation of Continuous Flow Interchange along IH-35 Lessons Learned*, **Victor Vargas (TxDOT-AUS)** - *US 290 Corridor CFIs* and Please see *FALL MEETING* on page 4



FALL MEETING from page 3



*TxDOT and FHWA representative at the Highway Products Group Exhibit of the 2016 TexITE Fall Meeting.*

*Median U-Turn Intersections, Derek Mueller (Pape-Dawson) - Super Street Basics and the Need for such Facilities, and Rashed Islam (HDR) - Performance of the IH 35/RM 1431 Round Rock Diverging Diamond Interchange.*

In addition, **Dr. Mason Gemar** from the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research was announced as the recipient of TexITE's 2016 Technical Paper Award. He received a plaque and check for his submittal.

The Capital Area Section was also selected to host the 2017 TexITE Fall Meeting. Sabas Avila will be leading the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). Please contact Sabas if you would like to participate in the LAC to make next year's event a success!



*Dr. Mason Gemar receives the 2016 Technical Paper Award from TexITE President Dale Picha.*

## October 22 Adopt-a-Street Quarterly Street Clean-Up



By Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE

CAS-ITE Board elected to participate in the *Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt-a-Street Program*. This program selection is part of our effort of developing community impact social events that could be extended to professional and student members.

This year, CAS-ITE adopted the segment of 45th Street from Burnet Road to Guadalupe Street. CAS-ITE is responsible for conducting four (4) cleanups per year. KAB also posted a roadside sign indicating CAS-ITE's adoption of the street segment.



*Tom and Rob presenting the success of the first CAS-ITE Keep Austin Beautiful Adopt a Street Clean-Up.*

The first clean-up was held on October 22, with Rob and Tom leading the effort. They collected nearly ten pounds of trash during a one-hour period. After the clean-up Rob and Tom celebrated their success at Maudies.

We expect this event to continue to grow in participation at future clean-ups. So please join us next time in this opportunity to give back to our City, one street at a time!



## October 28 APD Innovative Approaches to Enforcement of Safe Passing Laws



By Rob Belarmino, PE

CAS-ITE invited Special Police Officer (SPO) Rheannon Cunningham to present about Austin Police Department's (APD) initiative to enforce the City of Austin's (COA) safe passing laws at the October 28 regular section meeting. The meeting was held at the Center for Transportation Research conference room of the UT-Austin Building.

Officer Cunningham is currently the Program Coordinator for the Safe Biking Initiative or SBI. Initiated in 2013, SBI is a multi-phase approach to assist in making cycling safer in Austin through education and enforcement. SBI develops partnerships with local municipal and government agency departments, ranging from the COA, Texas Department of Transportation and Cycling Advocacy Groups through multi-agency planning and outreach. Notable key programs and outreach events include: Officer Training, Bike Light Give-Away, Awareness Campaigns, "Chat with the Chief", Community Discussions, and Data Analysis (crash and citations) presentations.



*Officer Cunningham discusses the Safe Biking Initiative to CAS-ITE members and affiliates.*

Officer Cunningham provided insight to the safe passing law ordinance that was initially adopted in 2009. The law requires passenger vehicles to provide a minimum of 3-feet of clear space when passing a vulnerable roadway user (such as a cyclist). The clearance space is increased to 6-feet for trucks and buses. Enforcement of the law did not gain traction until 2013, where APD began developing the *Vulnerable Road User Operations* (VRUO) program.

VRUO promotes safe motorist interaction with cyclists through outreach, education, and enforcement, including undercover operations. She showcased some of the tools (, which includes Codaxus C3FT, Go-Pro, concealed radios, and educational leaflets) used by APD, and the typical citations or violations encountered by APD staff. She also showed videos taken during undercover operations, and highlighted some of the data collected and analysis results from the enforcement operations, which will be used to enhance the program. APD's VRUO program has received positive reviews and is now under consideration by surrounding communities to increase safety within their own roadways.

*PRESIDENT* from page 1

meetings and activities that we provide. ITE offers many levels of memberships, and CAS-ITE is the only local professional organization in the Capital Area that I know of that charges an annual local membership of \$15! This is a bargain in comparison with other organizations, considering our networking reach and technical programs that we provide. So please continue to spread the word and keep our section growing!

With all of that said, I want to congratulate all of the 2017 incoming officers. I know that they will continue to advance on the legacy and work that we have completed. Thank you again for the wonderful three years and I wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Best Regards,  
-Rob



## 2016 Scholarship Fundraiser

By Valeri Kaiser, PE, PTOE

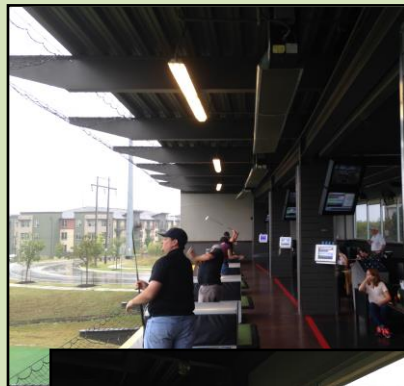
Thanks to the support of our local firm sponsors the 2016 scholarship fundraiser was another success. This year's event was held at TopGolf Austin, as selected by section members and affiliates from previous surveys. The event received sponsorships from the following ten (10) organizations:



The fundraiser generated **\$4,160** of sponsorships revenue, netting CAS-ITE a total of **\$1,200** of additional scholarship funds. In combination with other revenue sources, CAS-ITE will be awarding **\$3,000** in scholarship funds for 2016.

CAS-ITE hosted **30** participants from private/public organizations and the UT Student Chapter. Participants shared a brunch and played the signature TopGolf game of hitting golf balls into targets for points. **Alex Reyna, Sam Lundquist, and Jake Gutekunst** received the top scores and took home the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes, respectively. Prizes range from gift cards, tumblers and a 20 Qt K2 Cooler grand prize. CAS-ITE also raffled additional Starbucks gift cards.

Again, the CAS-ITE Board would like to thank our **SPONSORS** for making this event another great success!







## Year-End Banquet/Election

By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE

We had a great turnout for the 2016 Year-End Banquet/Elections on December 9 at Stiles Switch BBQ. We had **40 members** attend, including several members of our UT Student Chapter. **2016 President Rob Belarmino** opened the meeting, thanking our annual sponsors, citing a record-breaking year of seventeen business card sponsors. He also took a moment to thank our scholarship sponsors whose support helped us raise 40% of our scholarship awards and meet our goal of issuing **\$3000** in funds to deserving students.

Rob summarized the variety of events hosted by the Section in 2016, including our partnership with Keep Austin Beautiful. Secretary-Treasurer, **Tom Gerrity** let the membership know of upcoming events and that we would be reaching out to our membership for ideas for 2017.

Following the announcements, Tom and Valerie presented Rob with a plaque in appreciation for his contributions as a CAS-ITE officer over the past three years. Rob thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

**Cody Stone**, 2016 Scholarship Committee Chair, informed the members of the outcome of the Scholarship Competition. He noted that all participants were very competitive and that it was a record breaking year for scholarship applications. The first place winner was **Stefanos Politis**, second place recipient was **Ehsan Jafari**, and third place recipient was **Swati Agarwal**. The students will be awarded their scholarships at our **February 2017** ethics meeting.

Following the announcement of awards, the election votes were tallied and the new 2017 Officers, **Valerie Kaiser**, **Tom Gerrity**, **James Schwerdtfeger**, were announced and sworn into office by **James Kratz**. They will serve along with **Alex Reyna**, who is the current CAS-ITE Section-Representative. The members concluded the meeting enjoying a BBQ lunch with friends and colleagues.



*James Kratz installs the 2017 CAS-ITE Elected Board Members: Valerie Kaiser, Tom Gerrity, and James Schwerdtfeger.*

### Upcoming Events

- |                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Quarterly Clean-Up -          | Jan/Feb(TBD) |
| 2. Section Ethics Presentation - | Feb/TBD      |
| 3. Regular Section Meeting -     | Mar/TBD      |
| 4. TexITE 2017 Spring Meeting -  | Apr 19-21    |
| 5. CAS-ITE/STITE Joint Meeting - | June/TBD     |

## 2017 CAS-ITE Officers

Please contact any of the following officers, if you have questions about the Capital Area Section, TexITE, or ITE:

- **Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE** – President  
[valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com](mailto:valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com)
- **Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE** – Vice President  
[tomgerrity@trafficware.com](mailto:tomgerrity@trafficware.com)
- **James Schwerdtfeger, PE** – Secretary-Treasurer  
[james@bigreddog.com](mailto:james@bigreddog.com)
- **Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE** – Section Representative  
[alex@reynainc.com](mailto:alex@reynainc.com)
- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – Past President  
[rbelarmino@hntb.com](mailto:rbelarmino@hntb.com)

### ITE Website Addresses

If you are interested in the latest developments at ITE or TexITE, please check out the following websites:

- ITE – [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)
- TexITE – [www.texite.org](http://www.texite.org)

You can find section meeting information on the CAS-ITE website: <http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>. Please contact **James Schwerdtfeger** or **Tom Gerrity** if you would like to join the website committee.

## Communications Committee

Please contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the Capital Area Section Newsletter:

- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – Editor  
[rbelarmino@hntb.com](mailto:rbelarmino@hntb.com)
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE** – Member  
[valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com](mailto:valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com)
- **Jake Gutekunst, EIT** – Member  
[jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com](mailto:jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com)
- **Cody Stone, EIT** – Member  
[CStone@emailatg.com](mailto:CStone@emailatg.com)
- **Derek Mueller, PE** – Member  
[DMueller@pape-dawson.com](mailto:DMueller@pape-dawson.com)

The Communications Team is always looking for article contributions, upcoming events, employment opportunities, or legislative updates. Please contact any of the members of the Communications Committee if you would like your submittal or story to be included in the next newsletter issue.



### UT Student Chapter

If you would like to speak at one of the [Student Chapter](#) meetings, please contact their officers at [utexasite@gmail.com](mailto:utexasite@gmail.com).

## Membership Information

Interested in becoming a CAS-ITE member? Please send a completed form below to **James Schwerdtfeger**, 2021 E 5th St #200, Austin, TX 78702 with \$15.00 annual dues payment; or bring both to the next section meeting. Section membership can also be paid with your annual TexITE and/or [ITE](#) dues.

General Information	
Name (full name plus professional designation; i.e. PE, AICP, EIT, M.S., etc.):	
Job Title and Employer:	_____
Business Mailing Address:	_____
Daytime Phone:	_____
Daytime Fax:	_____
E-mail Address:	_____

ITE Membership Information	
Please mark all that apply:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of TexITE, the Texas Section of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like information on ITE membership

## Professional Services Directory:

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	11500 Metric Blvd. Bldg. M-1, Ste. 150 Austin, TX 78758 512.821.2081 <a href="http://www.alliance-transportation.com">www.alliance-transportation.com</a>
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# Professional Services Directory (continued):

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If your firm/organization is interested in sponsoring CAS-ITE, please contact **James Schwerdtfeger** at [james@bigreddog.com](mailto:james@bigreddog.com). The cost of sponsorship is \$100 annually per firm/agency and your logo will be featured on two newsletters, e-blast and on the CAS-ITE website for a 13-month period.

**APPENDIX B: DISTRICT AND SECTION BY-LAWS AND CHARTER**

**Capital Area Section Charter and By-Laws** can be found through the following links:

- <http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/8/26282503/capital-area-charter-june-2002.pdf>
- [http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/8/26282503/capital\\_area\\_by-laws\\_2006.pdf](http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/8/26282503/capital_area_by-laws_2006.pdf)

**Texas District (District 9) Charter and By-Laws** can be found through the following links:

- [http://www.texite.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Charter\\_August\\_2001.pdf](http://www.texite.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Charter_August_2001.pdf)
- [http://www.texite.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Bylaws\\_June\\_2007.pdf](http://www.texite.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Bylaws_June_2007.pdf)

# Capital Area Section 2016 Annual Report

## APPENDIX C: 2016 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT FORM



Institute of Transportation Engineers

**SECTION ANNUAL REPORT FORM**

for the period 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)

for the Capital Area Section

**Officers:**

ITE Headquarters will contact you with a "New Officers Sheet" for your completion directly following your district's elections.

**Membership:**

Number of Section Affiliates 10 Section Affiliates, 130 Members

Section Annual Dues Rate \$ 15.00 Professionals, \$5.00 for Retired, \$0 for Students, Life & Honorary Members

Section Affiliates [List Each Type]:

- 10 Section Affiliates
- 83 International Members
- 24 Student Members
- 13 Fellows
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial:**

For U.S. entities, does your district have a Federal Employer Identification Number?  
[ ] Yes [x] No However, records indicate CAS-ITE has the EIN 74-2864993.

If yes, what is the number? \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, do you have a group tax exemption? (If yes, please send a copy to ITE Headquarters, Peter Frentz, [pfrentz@ite.org](mailto:pfrentz@ite.org))  
[ ] Yes [x] No Pending. In communications with IRS.

Balance of Funds on hand at the Beginning of the Reporting Period: \$ 1664.07 .

I. Income for the Reporting Period:	
District Dues	\$ <u>1300.75</u>
Income from Meetings	\$ <u>990.00</u>
Investment Income	\$ _____
Advertising Income	\$ <u>1200</u>
Contributions	\$ _____
Other Principal Sources of Income	
<u>Fundraiser</u>	\$ <u>4185.00</u>
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
 Total Income:	 \$ <u>7675.75</u>

II. Expenditures for the Reporting Period:	
a. Newsletter Production and Distribution	\$ _____
b. Travel	\$ _____
c. Meetings	\$ <u>1390.55</u>
d. Special Projects	\$ _____
e. Awards	\$ <u>108.38</u>
f. Honorariums	\$ _____
Other Expenditures:	
<u>Scholarships</u>	\$ <u>3500</u>
<u>Fundraiser</u>	\$ <u>2759.38</u>
<u>Other Student Support</u>	\$ <u>76.91</u>
<u>Keep Austin Beautiful Fee</u>	\$ <u>250.00</u>

Total Expenditures: \$8085.22

Do you reimburse committee chairs for travel and expenses?

Yes  No      Reimbursements are only for items purchased on behalf of the Section.

If yes, which committees? Please list below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Was there a change in the District Bylaws during this reporting period?** (If yes, please send a copy of the new bylaws to ITE Headquarters, Courtney Day, [cday@ite.org](mailto:cday@ite.org) )

Yes  No

**Technical Activities:** (during this reporting period)

List Projects underway by title and, if available, provide expected date of completion:



None

List Projects by title which were completed during this reporting period and, if available, attach a copy of the report:

Joined Keep Austin Beautiful Adopt a Street Program  
2016 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser and TopGolf Tournament  
refer to the 2015 Annual Report for more information.

**Legislative and Advocacy Activities:** (during this reporting period)

No legislative or advocacy activities - Texas Legislature meets every two years.

**Student Member Activities:** (during this reporting period)

Traffic Bowl Scrimmage, Welcome back happy hour, Scholarship  
Activities - refer to Student Chapter Section of Annual Report.

Send Annual Report to:

**Courtney L Day, Membership Associate—Chapter Services**

Institute of Transportation Engineers

1627 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20006 USA

Phone: +1 202-785-0060, ext. 140

Fax: +1 202-785-0609

E-mail: cday@ite.org