

The Official Publication of The Texas District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

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A Message from the President

By Dave Carter, PE, PTOE—City of Richardson

Howdy and welcome to March Madness, TexITE Style. We plan to collimate the month with yet another incredible TexITE conference which will be in San Marcos for the first time on March 28-30th. Early registration ends in a few days on March 14th so please don't delay registration. As we did last year in Fort Worth, we have already sold out the conference hotel but there are several great places to stay within a few miles of the Embassy Suites Conference Center.



The TexITE Program Committee has been working diligently to put together what promises to be one of thebest technical programs in TexITE history. We have reached out to TxDOT and will have five presentations from their staff plus a Keynote Address from Phil Wilson, TxDOT's Executive Director on Friday and Howard Wolf, Chair of TxDOT's Reorganization Committee on Thursday.

A Free FHWA Workshop on Wednesday will cover "General Signing Principles for Local Roads and Streets" and is open to all members, affiliates and their staff, even if they can't attend the entire meeting. If you would like to attend the free training and are not registering for the conference please email Mary Cearley at <u>m-cearley@TTIMAIL.TAMU.EDU</u>. Following the Wednesday workshop is an Engineering Ethics Class and the Exhibitor reception which are also open to everyone. These are fantastic and free opportunities aimed to provide more value to our membership and to entice potentially new members to participate.

As usual there will be 2 days of technical sessions with 27 speakers, a large exhibit hall with 36 vendors demonstrating the latest in transportation products and technology, tours, and plenty of networking opportunities.

The Newsletter Committee, as illustrated by your ability to read this message on-line, has gathered information from across the State and revamped the way we receive the latest in news. Our other committees are hard at work advancing the organization in one way or another. If you are not currently active in one of our District committee's I encourage you to get involved. The time and effort that you put into your organization is an investment in our futures.

I'm proud to report that our organization is vibrant and growing. We have almost 1,000 Texas District members, including our <u>students</u>, who are the future of the organization. I commit to you that the District Board will continue to work for you to enhance our organization and our meetings to provide opportunities for you to advance your career in our industry.

I, like many of you, find it difficult, and sometimes seemingly impossible, to be away from the office for the relatively small amount of time required attending our District Meetings. However, I can also say that I have never attended a TexITE Meeting without learning something new or picking up at least one idea or solution that I have applied to an existing or pending problem. So, while we are often looking at a mountain of reasons why we cannot attend, it is always well worth the costs and time. Therefore, I encourage you to plan to attend the upcoming District Meeting in San Marcos, a meeting that I believe will go down in the TexITE history books as one of our most successful ever. I look forward to seeing you there.

\$

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

www.kimley-horn.com

Getting Together

By Sabas Avila, P.E.—City of San Marcos & Alex Reyna, PE—Bury Partners

Your LAC would like to remind you that the TexITE Spring 2012 Meeting (March 28 to 30) is almost here! Hosted in the charming city of San Marcos, this meeting promises both thoughtprovoking technical seminars and social events that are fun for the whole family. See www.texite.org/spring2012 For a detailed schedule, including events such as our Technical Tour of the award winning Wonder World Drive Extension Project and our Thursday Night Social complete with canoe races on the San Marcos River and a barbecue dinner.

There will be opportunities for continuing education at the Engineering Ethics Seminar and the General Signing Principals for Local Roads and Streets Seminar. You can network and explore the latest transportation technologies at the Highway Products Group Reception.

If you have any questions about the meeting or would like to preregister for the canoe races, please contact Sabas Avila or Alex Reyna at <u>lac@texite.org</u>. See you soon!





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ITE Happenings

By Gilmer Gaston, PE, PTOE—Pape-Dawson Engineers

Dear TexITE Members,

First let me say that I am proud to serve the Texas District as International Director. I have just returned from my first official International Board of Direction meeting. The Board met

March 1-2 in Pasadena, California in advance of the 2012 Technical Conference (March 4-7) the following are comments from the International Board of Direction (IBOD).

State of the Institute

ITE currently has over 13,300 members in the US and 16,560 worldwide. Of this number the Texas District represents about five percent of the total membership with 818 members.

ITE Annual Operating Budget is approximately \$7M. The Institute finances are suffering slightly, attributable to the slow economic recovery. On that note, it sounds as if we are extremely fortunate to be in Texas where the impact of the recession has been tempered by our strong economy.

Board Actions/Issues

- ITE will be publishing the 9th Edition of Trip Generation in 2012. Later in the year a fully electronic version is expected to be available through a 3rd party vendor.
- ITE is also publishing the 2nd Edition of the Traffic Control Devices Handbook this year.
- ITE has initiated a Leadership ITE program that is envisioned to be an intensive, year long, training class to train the next generation of leaders within ITE.
- ITE's 2012 Technical Conference was projected to be a financial success, netting revenue of \$250,000.
- ITE Approved a Policy on Roundabouts, as follows: "The Institute of Transportation Engineers recognizes the safety, operational, and sustainability benefits of welldesigned roundabouts and recommends that the use of roundabouts be considered when intersections are being planned, designed, or modified.'
- Tax exempt status for ITE Districts and Sections was discussed. It is recommended that all Sections determine their tax exempt status and make application to become (Continued on page 6)



The In Crowd

By Matt Sneed, PE—Kimley-Horn Associates

"What would you say... you do here?"

It's a famous line from the movie Office Space, and an appropriate topic for the first Younger Members Committee column.

What would we say we do? The purpose of the Younger Members Committee is to harness the youthful enthusiasm of the young (and young-at-heart) members of ITE to provide assistance to students/EITs/PEs, promote new membership, and foster networking. Officially, the Younger Members Committee is open to anyone under the age of 35, but members of all ages are encouraged to participate in Younger Member events. Our focus is currently on three projects: the Traffic Bowl, the PE Licensure Handbook, and the late-night social event.

The Traffic Bowl is by far the biggest undertaking of the Younger Members Committee. This Jeopardy-style event is open to 4-person teams from student chapters at universities around the state. The winning team gets a trip to the international ITE meeting to compete against other teams for the international championship. Planning for the event begins 4 to 6 months in advance, with the 'Question Pool' subcommittee (we're big on subcommittees, by the way). This subcommittee begs, borrows, or steals questions from other ITE districts, in addition to creating many original questions from the approved resources (MUTCD, HCM, etc.). With the support of the TexITE leadership, we worked with a vendor this winter, Eric Nelson of Advanced Traffic Solutions, to build TexITE's own Traffic Bowl equipment. The equipment is in the final stages of being built, and we are very excited to test it before the spring meeting. For the actual event, we work with the Local Arrangements Committee to set up the A/V and Traffic Bowl equipment. We also work with the Student Liaison, Robert Saylor of the City of Richardson, to make sure the students understand the rules. Lastly, and most importantly, we take great care of the Emcee, making sure his glass is always full and he is as charming as he can possibly be (Thanks Dave!).

If you are an EIT and even considering taking the PE test, please visit the ΡE Licensure Handbook (http://



Campus News

Compiled by Derek Mueller, PE-Pape-Dawson Engineers

The following is information we have received from our student chapters.

University of Texas, ITE Student Chapter Officers:

President – Mason Gemar Vice President for Membership – Mubassira Khan Vice President for Activities – Aria Berliner Treasurer – Ravi Venkatraman Secretary – Matt Pool

Recent Activities:

TRB 91st Annual Meeting (1/21-1/26) – Our department sent over 30 students to the conference where we presented/coauthored approximately 15 papers for speaker sessions and 30 papers for the poster sessions. Almost all of the students are ITE student members. We also assisted at the UT reception on Sunday, 1/22, and organized a social gathering for our members on Tuesday, 1/24, with around 15 members in attendance. Several of our members also attended the ITE student reception on Monday, 1/23.

Joint Service Project with Texas A&M Student Chapter –On Saturday, February 11th, 10 of our chapter members met with 7 members from the A&M chapter in Bastrop to complete a service project at a local residence. We helped clear small trees and brush from a property severely damaged by last year's forest fire. The project was initiated by the Texas A&M chapter.

UT Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day – On Saturday, February 25th, 4 student members volunteered in the school of engineering's outreach event. We hosted students for around 3 hours in one of the computer labs where we introduced elementary and middle school girls to traffic engineering through interactive computer games and simulations.

Speaker Meeting – On Friday, March 2nd, we hosted Nick Wood, a research engineer from TTI (Austin). Mr. Wood spoke to our group about vehicle mileage fees and emerging technologies in related research over a lunch meeting.

Explore UT Day – On Saturday, March 3rd, 8 of our student members volunteered as part of the Explore UT outreach event. Our group hosted elementary through high school students along with parents for nearly 6 hours. Again, we used interactive computer games and simulations to introduce



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Technically Speaking

By Nikki Norton, EIT—City of Bryan

HAWK Pedestrian Crossings in Texas

High Intensity Activated Crosswalks (HAWKs) are being integrated into communities across Texas. These Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) are being recognized for their effectiveness in reducing crashes and increasing driver yield rates to pedestrians.

Now recognized as an MUTCD approved device, the HAWK allows entities to provide actuated pedestrian crossings where full signalized installations may not be warranted or desired. Essentially, the HAWK provides an additional option in situations where passive flashing beacons, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), speed zones, and traditional pedestrian crosswalk signs and markings are seemingly ineffective or inappropriate.

The Cities of Waco, Austin and Houston are areas already making use of PHBs in their communities. With less than ten



in the City of Houston, the City of Austin leads with twenty-five installations currently in use. while several additional locations are under consideration for both areas. The City of Waco recently installed their first PHB, and are working to bring public awareness and understanding of the new signal through press releases, informa-

Duane A Laverty / Waco Tribune-Herald

tional literature and videos.

While each entity has used differing technologies, controllers, and approaches to the installations, the collective results are promising. In the recent FHWA publication *Safety Effective-ness of the HAWK Pedestrian Crossing Treatment (2010)*, safety benefits of the HAWK were identified as reductions in total, severe and pedestrian crash types. With a 29 percent reduc-



What's Happening in Your Section

Compiled By Kerri Collins, PE, PTOE—Pape-Dawson Engineers

The following is information we have received from our local chapters.

From the South Texas Section:

By Derek Mueller, PE—Pape-Dawson Engineers

The South Texas Section held its first monthly lunch meeting for 2012 on January 25. The meeting featured speaker Brian Buchanan of VIA Metropolitan Transit. Mr. Buchanan discussed new projects on the horizon for VIA such as the pro-



posed downtown streetcar and bus rapid transit. He also gave an overview of VIA's long range plan.

The second lunch meeting was held February 29 and featured speaker Pat Irwin from the Alamo Regional Mobili-

ty Authority. Mr. Irwin talked about the performance studies of the US 281 superstreet in San Antonio. The superstreet was completed in 2010 to improve the operation of the signalized intersections along US 281. Mr. Irwin reported that the travel time studies performed after the implementation of the superstreets met or exceeded the travel time savings reported in the initial traffic study of the superstreet. He also talked about future projects and studies the Alamo RMA was planning.

The South Texas Section is currently planning a softball and

volleyball tournament fundraiser conjunction in with the local chapters of ASCE and SHPE. The tournament will be held on March 31 in Boerne, and will Texas



also have a BBQ lunch. This fundraiser will be used to help

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Vendor News

Compiled by Boro Dedeitch, PE—Parsons

The following notifications were obtained from contacted vendors that provide services within the Texas market.

Econolite Introduces Autoscope ENCORE

Econolite and Image Sensing Systems, Inc. (ISS) announced the introduction of *Autoscop ENCORE*[™], the next generation of *Autoscope* multitasking video solutions, providing the reli-



able, immediate and comprehensive traffic information necessary for the most demanding intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The *Autoscope ENCORE* introduction marks 20 years of a successful product development partnership between Econolite and Image

Sensing Systems. "As a pioneering force in transportation technology, the Econolite-ISS partnership continues to identify and address the burgeoning need in the ITS industry for automated multitasking detection tools," said Econolite Chief Executive Officer Mike Doyle. "We are proud to play a key role in firmly establishing *Autoscope* as the technology leader." As an exclusive distributor for *Autoscope*, Econolite has helped deploy more than 95,000 *Autoscope* units since the partnership began in 1991.

A true multitasking video detection solution, *Autoscope EN-CORE* features powerful network browser navigation, comprehensive data collection, Internet access via web server, and software development tools to achieve efficiencies and seamlessly integrate with other ITS systems. This offers unparalleled control, security, and immediate data and video access. Its dual-core digital signal processor (DSP) with advanced RISC machine (ARM) processing is part of a low-power consumption system-on-chip (SoC) package. This SoC architecture combined with multi-threaded software enables the *ENCORE* sensor to process video images in real time to detect traffic, extract data, identify incidents, and transmit detector outputs while simultaneously streaming MPEG-4 video output.

"Autoscope ENCORE builds upon all of the legendary features of its Autoscope predecessors, making it a powerful ITS solution," said Ken Aubrey, President and CEO of Image Sensing Systems, Inc. "By simplifying installation and leveraging a new high-integrity enclosure design, Autoscope ENCORE represents an environmentally secure video detection platform upgrade, providing convenient integration with virtually any network while at the same time reducing overall visual obtru-



ITE Happenings

(Continued from page <u>3</u>)

tax-exempt if not currently. The Sections are NOT covered under the District's tax exempt status, nor are they covered under ITE International. It was determined that ITE HQ can assist the Sections, either in whole or in part; however, there will be a cost that is passed on to the Sections, thus, each Section should evaluate their situation and the costs to the section for obtaining tax exempt status.

- Elections The Board considered a report on Recommendations for Modification of the International Vice President Nomination/Election Process. This report was authored by a committee of four (4) well respected past International Presidents of the Institute, Brian Bochner, Alf Guebert, Steve Hofener, and Walter Kraft. Based on this report and Board deliberations, several changes were recommended to the Nomination and Election process, the precise wording of which will be determined and sent to the membership for approval, as these changes will require modification of the ITE By Laws. The ultimate goal of these changes were to eliminate some of the obstacles that may prevent good candidates from running for the office. Obstacles that were identified were the length of the campaign.
- ITE has also initiated the preparation of Transportation Briefing Sheets or Fact Sheets that will provide members the resources to effectively communicate engineering applications and planning strategies to elected leaders and decision makers.
- Use of the ITE Community continues to grow, if you have not yeset up your on-line profile, I encourage you to do so. You may access the ITE Community from the ITE web site at <u>www.ite.org</u>.
- Council Involvement I encourage all TexITE members to become involved in one of the many Council's available through ITE. The ITE Councils run on volunteer effort and there is plenty of room and need for sweat equity on all the councils. I applaud Beverly Kuhn for moving from the Traffic Engineering council up to the Vice Chair position on the Coordinating Council. I also applaud Gary Schatz for taking on the leadership role of the Roundabout Subcommittee under the Traffic Engineering Council.
- The **ITE 2012 Annual Meeting & Exhibit** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 12-15, 2012, see the ITE website for more details. Given the outstanding technical

meeting in Pasadena, I look forward to Atlanta being one of the best Annual Meetings ever If you have never attended an ITE Annual Meeting, I encourage you to join me and your fellow Texans in Atlanta, I am sure the climate will be familiar.

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San Antonio, Texas

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Rock E. Miller, P.E., PTOE (F) is our ITE International President, he is scheduled to attend and participate in our upcoming District Meeting in San Marcos. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to discuss bicycle lanes and complete streets with Rock.

I look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at the San Marcos District Meeting and see that our District Technical Committee has assembled an outstanding program.

The In Crowd

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texiteym.pbworks.com/w/page/24350015/PE-Handbook)

which is linked to the YM page of TexITE.org. This wiki-style page was started for recent P.E.s to post advice, lessons learned, and tips about the PE exam. There is a page for general advice, and as well as a "PE Exam Testimonials" page where the PEs can post personal advice. If you are a PE who has any advice to the younger members, please post it here. And remember, you can always contact me or any other younger member to discuss the PE test.

The most interactive Younger Member Committee project is the late-night social event during the bi-annual meeting. This year we are meeting at Sean Patrick's Irish Pub on Thursday night, where there will be free bus service until midnight. Even though the event is put on by the Younger Members Committee, all ages are welcome and encouraged to come. There will be competitive activities, with gift cards for the winners. We are looking forward to a great meeting, and hope you will join us for the late-night social!



Campus News

(Continued from page <u>4</u>)

them to traffic engineering.

Upcoming Events:

Speaker Meeting – On Friday, March 23rd, Jared Heiner and David Huter from HNTB will be coming to speak to our group about financing transportation projects over a lunch meeting.

TexITE Spring Meeting (3/28 - 3/30) – Approximately 8-10 of are members will be registering for the event, including a number of students participating in the poster sessions and Traffic Bowl competition.

Speaker Meeting – On Friday, April 23rd, Sia Ardekani, guest researcher at the Center for Transportation Research, will be presenting to our group about Bob Herman and his invention, traffic science, over a lunch meeting.

We also have been and will continue to organize activities as part of hosting prospective students for our department this spring.

From UTSA

UTSA ITE Student Chapter is a branch of the international professional organization of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The Institute of Transportation Engineers is an educational and scientific association of transportation professionals who are responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs.

2011-2012 UTSA ITE Officers:

Christopher Reyes, President Ahmed Zaidi, Vice-President Miguel Angel Sauceda, Treasure Eduardo Villalon, Secretary Miguel Angel Sauceda, Webmaster Timothy Hayes, Public Relations

Upcoming Events:

TexITE Traffic Bowl- we are expecting to participate in the upcoming ITE Traffic Bowl this upcoming March 28 at San Marcos, TX.

ASCE, ITE and SHPE STEM Fundraiser- These three Professional/Student Organizations are joining for a STEM fundraiser

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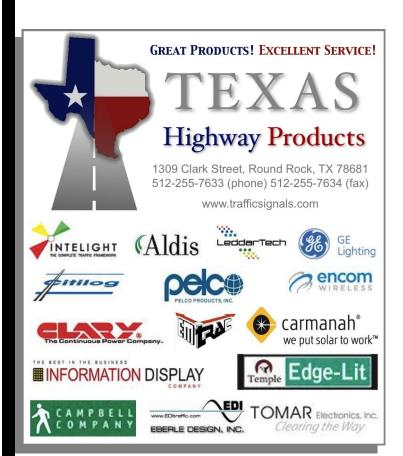


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event that will provide scholarships to college students. UTSA ITE is expecgint to participate in the Volleyball and Softball tournament.

Trash Pickup- Student chapter members get together during the semester for the Adopt a Highway Trash pickup. The last trash pick-up was held Feb. 25, 2012 and is also scheduled for March 31, 2012.

General Meetings- Our next general meeting will be March 21, 2012 and our guest speaker will be the South Texas ITE President, Mike Garza.







Technically Speaking

(Continued from page <u>4</u>)

tion in total crashes, 15 percent reduction in severe crashes, and 69 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes at the 21 intersections evaluated. The report also documents lower crash rates for HAWKs than their adjacent signalized and unsignalized intersections.

The use of a hybrid beacon to accommodate the needs of pedestrians while also recognizing those of the motorists, while gaining increased visibility and effectiveness of an actuated crossing, demonstrate the success that can be met through innovations in traffic engineering. While these installations can be used to bridge the gap until a fully signalized intersection is warranted, or as a permanent fixture, the seemingly well-received devices serves as another opportunity for pedestrian protection in Texas. Though implementing unfamiliar solutions can be difficult, and applying technology in a fresh manner inevitably introduces challenges, these efforts allow the traffic engineering field to expand and evolve, which can only be lauded as success.

A great thanks to Norman Hogue, Traffic Engineer, City of Waco and Gary Schatz, Assistant Director-Transportation Management, City of Austin for their input. For additional information, please visit: <u>http://www.waco-texas.com/traffic</u>-hybrid-beacons.asp

What's Happening in Your Section

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the South Texas Section's scholarships.

The South Texas Section is also proud to announce they are the winners of TexITE Section Activity Award! The South Texas Section will receive an award of \$1,000 and a plaque at the Spring Meeting in San Marcos.

From the Capital Area Section

By Anna Martin

Last year ended on a good note with a large turnout at our end of the year luncheon and business meeting. Vivek Deshpande of Kimley-Horn was elected as the new Secretary/ Treasurer and Alex Reyna of Bury + Partners as the new Section Representative. Alan Hughes, City of Austin, was honored as the out-going President. Section members also almost unanimously elected to establish a yearly scholarship for students interested in the transportation/traffic field. Our first scholarship will be awarded at the end of 2012.

Two of our members recently attended and presented at the International ITE Technical Conference in Pasadena, California. Gary Schatz, Assistant Director of Transportation for the City of Austin, moderated a session about the planning and design of roundabouts. Gary also presented in the Complete Streets session on efforts on South Congress Avenue. Anna Martin, President of the Capital Area Section and Project Manager at HDR Engineering, Inc., also attended and presented in the Freeway Operations session on innovative improvements planned for the US 290 corridor in Austin.

The next meeting of the Capital Area Section will be on Friday, April 20^{th} at noon to be hosted by the City of Round Rock.

Vendor News

(Continued from page <u>5</u>)

siveness."

ENCORE sensors feature a unique lens aperture as part of a newly designed housing assembly that provides the best video detection possible in all weather and lighting conditions while reducing unit weight and end-to-end footprint by nearly 50 percent.

A critical enabling component in helping elevate traffic management systems to an ITS program, *Autoscope ENCORE* provides the comprehensive data collection capabilities for agencies to increase safety, mobility and quality of life.

ENCORE sensors and all Econolite product lines are proudly distributed throughout Texas by Paradigm Traffic Systems in Arlington and Houston, Texas. Please visit Paradigm Traffic's website at <u>www.paradigmtraffic.com</u> for more information.

Another product distributed by Paradigm Traffic Systems is the BlueTOAD by TrafficCast, which is the most advanced traffic-monitoring system on the market, directly measuring travel times using cost-effective, non-intrusive roadside technology. BlueTOAD detects anonymous Bluetooth signals broadcast from mobile devices to determine accurate travel times and speeds. BlueTOAD calculates travel times and speeds in real-time to provide route management capabilities. BlueTOAD can be installed independent of local power or communications systems by using a cellular data connection and solar panel, or it can be plugged into existing electrical and /or fiber infrastructure. Utilizing Power over Ethernet (PoE) technology simplifies network design and deployment.

The TrafficCast secure cyber-center processes the data col-(Continued on page <u>9</u>)



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Vendor News

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lected by BlueTOAD devices. Data can be viewed in real-time or analyzed historically through a BlueTOAD Web interface, which provides travel times, road speeds, and MAC address detection counts.

For technical specifications, contact TrafficCast International at <u>www.trafficcast.com</u>.

Charlie Bond, Director of Sales for Nippon Carbide Industries (USA) Inc., manufacturer of Nikkalite Brand Reflective Traffic Sign and Graphic Sheeting is celebrating his 25th year with the Traffic Sign Industry and ITE. Mr. Bond currently serves as Chairman of the American Traffic Safety Services (ATSSA) Sign Manufacturing Division, and was a past Board of Director of the Oklahoma Traffic Engineering Association (OTEA). NCI-USA is pleased to announce the availability of their new Nikkalite Brand, ASTM Type VIII Fluorescent Yellow Green Sheeting, to enhance the day and night time visibility of school crossing signs and other delineation. For more information about Nikkalite products, please visit their web site at <u>www.nikkalite.com</u> or Mr. Bond directly at cbond@nikkalite.com.

Twincrest Technologies has shown significant road user delay savings by utilizing a long zone design and shorter passage times with the Wavetronix SmartSensor Matrix radar stopbar detection system. In a study conducted by PineTop Engineering for the Utah DOT, this efficiency savings alone was shown to average \$41,000 per intersection per year. Radar performs distance measurements accurately and the truepresence capability of the SmartSensor Matrix is ideal for this application. The Federal Traffic Signal Timing Handbook also shows how long zones can be used with short passage times to improve intersection efficiency (TSTM Pg. 4-27). Please contact Twincrest at (817)539-2200 or sales@twincresttech.com to find out more and to schedule a demonstration of the SmartSensor Matrix or visit them online at www.twincresttech.com.

Iteris introduces its latest version of IterisPeMS, a state-ofthe-art performance management system which leverages real-time data collection, diagnostic, fusion, and a warehousing platform to aggregate computer performance measures across an entire transportation network. This information is used to analyze how a transportation system is performing based on pre-determined measures of effectiveness such as stops, delays, and travel time. The IterisPeMS system pro-

vides users

with a comprehensive set of reporting tools that allow for quick visualization and animation, for turnkey decision making, as well as system validation.

Iteris also introduces Vantage Vector, the industry's most advanced vehicle detection camera that merges video and radar in one unit. The camera, first announced at the ITS World Congress in October 2011, features enhanced dilemma-zone precision, extended range for higher speed approaches, advanced safety and adaptive control applications, and richer





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Transit:

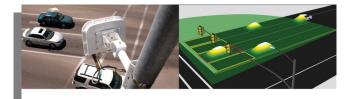
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