



texite

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Hurricane IKE: Lessons Learned

As another hurricane season approaches, it is time to look back and make sure the lessons learned from the previous hurricanes are properly implemented. Vast improvements have been made on several fronts, such as evacuation process, during the hurricane Ike compared to hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Hurricane Ike slammed into the southeast Texas coast in the early morning hours, Saturday, September 13, 2008, an extremely large and powerful Category 2 storm. The storm surge devastated coastal areas, killing residents and destroying homes and infrastructure. Due to the breadth of the storm and 400 nautical miles of wind, much of the Houston-Galveston region was left without power, damaged roofs, and tons of debris. Hurricane Ike will likely go down in history as the most costly and destructive storm ever to hit Texas.

By most accounts, the lessons learned from Hurricane Rita made a huge difference in the ability to prepare for and respond to a major threat to the Texas Coast. Work done at the local, regional, and state levels since Rita helped ensure a smoother evacuation for most; a robust shelter operation in cities across Texas; plentiful fuel supplies for evacuation and re-entry; and a more mature process for identifying and assisting residents with special needs.

To learn from Hurricane Ike and prepare for the next hurricane, FEMA had established a “living document” titled The Hurricane Ike Impact Report. They gathered input from a wide variety of sources. According to the authors, “It is the first-ever attempt to comprehensively compile the damage assessment and impact information of federal, state and local governments for use in the long-term recovery process.”

One of the keys to the success of the long-term recovery of communities, large and small, is the ability to align needs and priorities into one coherent roadmap for the future. Preliminary estimates indicate that these communities face huge recovery costs compounded by other issues related to the hurricane’s impacts, including loss of population and thus a lower tax base. These issues are further exacerbated by the current economic downturn. At the same time, the devastation of Hurricane Ike has provided an opportunity to focus on federal, state and local efforts which may include, stronger, safer and more sustainable communities, reducing loss from natural disasters, enhancing coastal resilience, rebuilding in a way that is designed not only to put back what was lost, but to make it better. Many jurisdictions have already expressed interest in enhancing their backup power capability by participating in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program.

The state of Texas established an advisory panel of public and private sector experts called “The Governor’s Commission on Disaster Recovery and Renewal”, that will guide the state’s long-term recovery and renewal efforts. (<http://governor.state.tx.us/hurricane>)

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Save the Date

**2009 TexITE Summer Meeting/
ITE Annual Meeting**

San Antonio, TX

August 9—12, 2009

President's Message

(that's right, there are two of us this time)

First, a word from Rick...

Wow! What a ride! Over the last year, I have been privileged to be at the helm of this fantastic vessel we so affectionately refer to as TexITE. As I look back, I pray that I haven't damaged her too much and wonder where all the time went. There were so many things to accomplish and so few of them actually completed as envisioned. At the same time we managed to continue to network and appreciate the good works of our colleagues.

We have enjoyed two energetic and successful technical meetings in Irving and San Antonio and many of you made the trek to Anaheim for the Annual ITE Meeting. I had been looking forward to those meetings for many reasons, but our TexITE get-togethers particularly always rejuvenate me. Despite all the hassles of meeting preparations and agendas, despite the undone work at my desk when I return, and lately despite the rising travel costs, in my mind and my heart I still very much look forward to them because I know when I return to my office, I'll be rejuvenated. How does that happen? I know that many of you feel the same way and each of you has your own personal set of answers to that question.

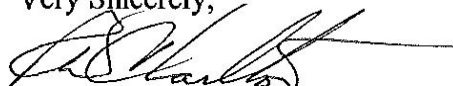
Our gatherings are important events that allow us to network, to learn from others' experiences and research, to bolster our beliefs in time-honored principles, to debunk naysayers in our workday lives, to lend our ideas and solutions to colleagues, to find new products and solutions to problems, and to make new and renew old acquaintances. There are many other important reasons that we can list about why we come together, such as, honoring those among us who stand out as the best or brightest, to recognize their hard work, to encourage others to reach for their

greater potential. I hope that you feel as passionately about our meetings as I do. If you really think about it, our technical meetings are well worth enduring the hassles and overcoming the obstacles to be there.

Come August, we will have the opportunity to show our Texas hospitality at the 2009 Annual ITE Meeting in San Antonio. We will hold our Summer District meeting in conjunction with it. John Friebele is heading up our effort to make that Annual Meeting a success, and can use volunteers. Opportunities abound to participate and I sincerely hope that all TexITE members seriously consider getting involved. In the meantime, set your sights on Frisco in January of 2010 for the next REJUVENATING TexITE event!

As I surrender the helm to capable hands, I offer my sincere gratitude to the TexITE Membership for allowing me to play an active role in this very special professional organization. The last three years will always hold a special place in my most treasured memories. Thank you TexITE!

Very Sincerely,



Rick Charlton

...and you're proving to be a hard act to follow, Rick. But, onward we must go, and we have several challenges ahead of us. While we don't quite need a D.C. bailout yet, we are feeling the financial pinch of a tightening economy. Over the coming months, we will be revisiting how we operate the money-generating side of our District and will be looking at ways to maximize the use of the dollars the Dis-

trict takes in. You will see an increase in dues for 2010 (the first increase in quite a few years) and our Special Committee on Meetings will be searching for ways to make each meeting at least pay for itself. If you know of ways the District can either cut costs or generate additional revenues, please bring these ideas forward. I personally have offered to give back half of my exorbitant salary as TexITE president for this year and encourage other officers to do the same.

In other news...

The District enjoyed a great event this past February in Lubbock and I applaud Sharmon Owens and her Local Arrangements team for putting together an interesting and enjoyable meeting. After an early scare about low attendance, it proved to be one of the better meetings in the past few years (at least in my humble opinion). She has certainly set the bar high for Mr. Moen and his crew in Frisco as they are our next TexITE hosts in January 2010.

We are also at the start of what is sure to be a close race for the next TexITE Secretary-Treasurer. The two candidates are Dave Carter of the City of Richardson and Brian Moen of the City of Frisco. I wish the best of luck to both you fine gentlemen. You'll be seeing some election information soon (if you haven't already). So remember, like the man said, "vote early - vote often" and may the best man win!

In closing...

I'd like to mention (as Rick mentioned and Gary mentioned and Praveen mentioned) that we have a great opportunity to show off our District, our State and especially our people when ITE comes to San Antonio this August 9th through

President's Message

(Continued from Page 2)

12th. I encourage everyone to attend and help District 9 strut her stuff. Even if you don't normally attend ITE or even Tex-ITE meetings, you won't want to miss this one! Tom Brahms and his staff have put together an exciting technical program and our Local Arrangements team has been helping ITE line up the best events and venues to make sure that this meeting will leave everyone with a true Texas experience.

That's all for now, but stay tuned for more exciting updates!



Brian Jahn

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Message from the International Director

Gary B. Thomas, Ph.D., P.E., Texas Transportation Institute



It's been a very exciting start to my three-year term as your International Director. First of all, I want to express my utmost appreciation one more time to Robert Wunderlich for his service to the Texas District and to the Institute as a whole during his term in office. I think I speak for the district in saying that he represented our members very well and we wish him the best of luck in his campaign for International Vice-President.

This past year has been a challenging one for all of us, both personally and professionally. ITE, as an organization, is no exception to these difficult times. I want to assure you that your leaders (staff and volunteers alike) are doing their very best to keep ITE financially strong and professionally relevant. Tough decisions have been made at headquarters to reduce staff and cut operating expenses yet still maintain the level of service we have come to expect. As I write this, the politicians and pundits are telling us that the worst may be behind us. I sure hope that is the case. Regardless, ITE remains a healthy organization, primarily because of the decisions that have been made over the past several years. The staff at headquarters has also been very much at the forefront of the political scene. They regularly meet with congressional staff to provide information on transportation issues and have been very involved in the transportation authorization process.

I'm sure you know by now that the ITE Annual Meeting is being held in San Antonio this year on August 9-12 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Conventional Center on the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk. I really want to encourage all of you to make plans to be there. The program is shaping up to be an excellent one. The Texas District will hold their annual business meeting during the conference. The last time the Texas District hosted the annual meeting was back in 1994 in Dallas (perhaps you recall the lovely weather we had). As a matter of fact, that was the very first annual meeting I ever attended (I was living in Arizona at the time) and I've only missed two since then.

We're also excited here in College Station to be hosting the International Board of Directors for their meetings prior to the Annual Meeting. ITE and the Texas Transportation Institute have enjoyed a long-standing relationship over the years. Several past international presidents have ties to TTI. And the list of TTI employees that have been elected to other ITE leadership positions, served on ITE committees and councils, and collaborated on projects is extensive. Having the board meet at the Texas A&M campus is a way of celebrating this partnership.

As I alluded to at the top of this column, we are in the midst of the campaign season to select the next International Vice-President. The nominations committee typically selects two outstanding candidates and this year is no exception. The two candidates are Robert Wunderlich (City of Garland, Texas District) and Hibbett Neel (Neel-Schaffer, Southern District). Please take the time to learn about each of the candidates and cast your vote when the time comes. Links to both candidates' web sites can be found on the ITE home page.

I'll wrap up this first director's message with an appeal to you. Please let me know how I can serve you better. I hope to occasionally get to your section meetings during my tenure as director. But in the meantime, feel free to call or email and let me know what's on your mind.

Candidates for International Vice-President

W. Hibbett Neel, P.E., ITE Fellow

President/CEO, Neel-Schaffer Inc., Jackson, MS, USA

I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for Vice President. ITE has been an important part of my professional career and I am looking forward to applying my experience to help make ITE an even stronger organization.

ITE is the worldwide advocate for effective transportation solutions. ITE provides for the professional development needs of its members. I am committed to strengthening this mandate in every way possible.

In addition to supporting our technical professional development initiatives and the many specialty councils, I will focus on the following goals:

- Expand marketing of ITE and the transportation profession to ensure funding of transportation improvements.
- Support professional development of our members to provide the training we need to be recognized as transportation leaders.
- Support student chapters and the professional development of our young professionals.

Elected ITE Offices Held

- 1st President/Co-founder–Deep South Division (Section)
- All offices–Southern Section (District)
- Representative–Southern District 5 to the International Board of Direction

ITE Committees

District

- o Southern District Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee–Chairman (three times)

International

- o Southern District 5–Representative
- o Ethics Task Force–Chairman
- o Policy and Legislative Committee–Chairman
- o Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (3R) Committee–Chairman

ITE Councils

- Transportation Consultants–Chairman
- Transportation Expert Witness–Executive Committee
- Traffic Engineering

ITE Awards

- Deep South Section–Outstanding Service Award
- Southern District–Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award
- Southern Section–Marble J. Hensley Individual Activity Award

For more details, please visit:

www.ite.org/candidates/hibbetteel

Robert C. Wunderlich, P.E., ITE Fellow

Senior Managing Director, City of Garland, TX, USA

“Every day our members work to make the world’s transportation systems better. Our members care whether people can walk, ride, drive or be driven safely and efficiently. It’s important work—work that makes a difference in peoples’ lives. We do it with passion, caring, and a sense of responsibility that goes beyond ourselves.”

Vision for ITE

- Give all professionals working on transportation issues a home in ITE.
- Build upon our clear leadership in the staples of the profession so that we have the information we need to do our jobs.
- Explore and understand the larger issues of society so that we are positioned to address them.
- Provide professionals with electronic, virtual workspaces so that we can easily collaborate on boards, councils and committees.
- Make sure our members can access the vast amount of knowledge we have developed – quickly and easily, from wherever we work in the world.
- Tell the world about our capabilities. We need to make sure that public leaders understand that our expertise is vital to solving transportation problems.

Why Robert?

Robert leads. He has consistently accepted and succeeded in leadership positions in ITE, his career and community

Robert knows that the strength of ITE lies within its members and their efforts to make themselves and their profession better.

Robert innovates. He brought a teen driving safety program to Garland that has been introduced into all the high schools.

Robert listens and acts. He started student presentation poster sessions at District Meetings after consulting with student members about their needs.

Robert understands the big picture and the day-to-day needs of ITE members. Although he is on his city’s executive management team, he still practices transportation engineering with his staff.

For more details, please visit:

www.robert4ite.org

News You Can Use

A Collection of Articles and Events to Help Keep You Up-To-Date

Capitalizing International Experience

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that explores public-private partnership programs for highway infrastructure in Australia, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Public-private partnership (PPP) programs for highway infrastructure are not widely used in the United States.

The scan team learned that PPPs are an effective strategy for delivering highway projects, and they are service arrangements as much as financial ones. The team observed that potential PPP projects must be analyzed and structured thoughtfully to preserve public interests and that managing the partnership over the life of the contract is critical to providing the services expected.

Team recommendations for U.S. implementation include convening workshops, developing training guidelines, establishing an expert task group, developing a research strategy, and publishing principles and guideline documents on PPP topics.

2010 TRB 89th Annual Meeting

TRB standing committees have issued more than 40 calls for papers for the TRB 89th Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010, in Washington, D.C., and the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board (TRR). While papers addressing any relevant aspect of transportation research will be considered, some committees are soliciting papers in specific subject areas to help potential authors identify topics for their papers. Committees will be producing calls for papers through June, so authors should visit TRB website periodically.

Access Management Conference

TRB is cosponsoring the 9th National Conference on Access Management on October 10-13, 2010, in Natchez, Mississippi. The conference will explore a variety of issues including program operation, access design, program administration, and corridor management. Interested individuals or groups are encouraged to submit abstracts to be considered for presentation at the meeting by June 30, 2009.

High Speed Passenger Rail

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released the testimony of Susan A. Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, before an April 1, 2009, hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. The testimony presents GAO's views on the economic viability of high-speed rail projects, challenges in developing and financing high speed rail systems, and the federal role in the potential development of a U.S. high-speed rail system.

Job Impacts of Public Transportation Spending

The American Public Transportation Association has released a report that explores estimates of the job impacts of public transportation spending and examines broader issues concerning the definition and measurement of those job impacts.

Using Pricing to Reduce Congestion

The U.S. Congressional Budget Office has released a report that explores how congestion pricing works, reviews the best available evidence on projects that make use of such pricing in order to assess the benefits and challenges of the approach, and examines federal policy options for encouraging congestion pricing.

Transportation Challenges for the New Administration

The RAND Corporation has released its conference proceedings from a panel discussion that explored the insights of three former U.S. secretaries of transportation. The former secretaries provided their insight into transportation policymaking during the new administration. (http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2009/RAND_CF257.pdf)

Student Chapter Activities

Texas Southern University

The ITE Texas Southern University Student Chapter is composed of a group of innovative students who always work with great passion and energy.

Over the last year, our chapter participated in numerous exciting events: regular meeting, technical lecture, and posters in the TexITE meeting. We are always willing to attend all ITE activities and meetings. We gathered volunteers for ITE Houston Section Annual Shrimp Boil. We have had great opportunities to communicate with ITE members from other chapters or companies when involved in these activities.

We also contribute to the development of the Department of Transportation. Our student members created the posters and flyers for both our chapter and our department in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting, Texas Southern University's Tiger Day (recruitment focus), and served in the showcase section to introduce our department and ITE chapter. That helped parents and high school students to gain knowledge of our department and ITE chapter. We also participated in a lot of other activities in our university, such as fashion show and research week. Our members have benefited from these activities.

In all, the previous year is one of the most memorable years. We really appreciate our experience to work together with all our chapter members and our chance to meet other ITE members in the meetings and activities.

Texas A&M University

By the numbers, it has been a very busy yet exciting 12 months for TAMUite: 12 technical meetings hosted by the Chapter, three Chapter-sponsored field trips to transportation facilities in Houston and Austin, 370 hours of data collection for technical projects, and 160 hours of service to the community donated by our members. Among the highlights of the last year:

- The Texas District of ITE named TAMUite as its "Student Chapter of the Year."
- Thomas W. Brahms, Executive Director of ITE, visited the Student Chapter.
- The Chapter increased membership by 60 percent, including doubling the number of undergraduate students that are Chapter members.
- The Chapter had strong representation at national and state professional conferences.

Texas Tech University

On January 22, 2009, the first meeting of the spring semester was held. The speaker was Ms. Stacey Young, who is a pavement design engineer at the Lubbock district of TxDOT. She spoke about the upcoming federal transportation stimulus package and its effects on TxDOT.

On February 5, 2009, the TexITE winter meeting began in Lubbock. Students and faculty from the chapter presented technical papers at the conference. Overall, there were three technical presentations and two student posters presented. The chapter also raised \$181 in a silent auction at the meeting. The TexITE conference was held in lieu of a February meeting.

On March 25, 2009, the chapter held its monthly meeting. The presenter for the meeting was Dr. Delong Zuo. The topic was Dr. Zuo's research regarding the sway in a pedestrian bridge which crosses the new Marsha Sharp Freeway in Lubbock. During the November 1, 2008 football game against the University of Texas, pedestrians on the bridge reported that the bridge was noticeably swaying and that it felt unsafe. Dr. Zuo analyzed the situation for a report to TxDOT, and at the March meeting he shared those results with the student chapter.

University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter had another very successful and exciting year since April 2008. Not only did we continue to participate in many of our favorite activities, but we also introduced a variety of new activities as well. We are always searching for new ways to improve our Chapter and help others, and this year was no exception. Some of our favorite recurring professional activities included attending and presenting at the Texas ITE and Transportation Research Board Conferences, hosting Distinguished and Technical Speaker presentations, mentoring summer transportation interns, and organizing the new graduate student orientation. Each year we volunteer at the ExploreUT and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Events, and this year we continued to use the virtual driving test activity that had proven popular in the past. This activity was a success again this year. Some other new activities we introduced this year were volunteering local elementary schools as part of Engineering Week festivities and creating a team to walk in the Race for the Cure. We've also continued to attend the Capi-

Student Chapter Activities *(continued from page 6)*

tol Region ITE Meetings, helping us to keep in touch with our local ITE community. Our ITE Chapter and ITE members have received several awards over this time as well, including the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship, the Ann Irwin Leadership Scholarship, the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship, Eisenhower Fellowships, ENO Scholarships, William J. Harris Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, and others. We are pleased to share all of these activities and more with you in the following report. Enjoy!

University of Texas at El Paso

In order to achieve substantial chapter development, the objectives were established to increase awareness, involve students in transportation activities, support members in their research and create a stronger chapter. As a chapter we have contributed to fulfill our objectives through promoting academic excellence, organize technical field trips, promote the transportation career, and create social activities and chapter camaraderie to integrate future transportation engineers.

People News

Conrad L. Dudek, Ph.D., P.E., Fellow-Life member of ITE, was recognized and honored in April 2009 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University. This Award recognizes outstanding former students who have excelled in the profession of civil engineering.

Dudek received his bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit in 1960 and his master's in 1965 and Ph.D. in 1971 from Texas A&M. After he began teaching at Texas A&M and working with the Texas Transportation full time in 1967, he steadily advanced his career, eventually rising from assistant professor to professor and from assistant research engineer with TTI to director of the Southwest Region University Transportation Center as well as the director of the Advanced Institute in Transportation Systems Operations and Management. He has also served as a transportation engineering consultant to numerous organizations and companies in the U.S. and Canada.

Dudek received several awards during his career including International ITE's Inno-

vation of Education Award and TRB's Grant D. Mickle Award. After retiring from Texas A&M, the Board of Regents conferred the title of professor emeritus upon Dudek in recognition of his 40 years of dedicated service in the Texas A&M University System. He continues to be active in professional organizations and with his private consulting business.

Dudek and his wife Mary have four children and six grandchildren.

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. would like to announce the addition of **Christian Sax** as an analyst on the transportation planning and traffic operations team in their Fort Worth office. Christian began in February following completion of his B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University.

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. would like to announce the relocation of **Amy E. Lewis**, P.E. from Austin to San Antonio. The Kimley-Horn San Antonio office is located at 45 NE Loop 410, Suite 890, San Antonio, TX 78216. Amy has experience in transportation planning and traffic operations.

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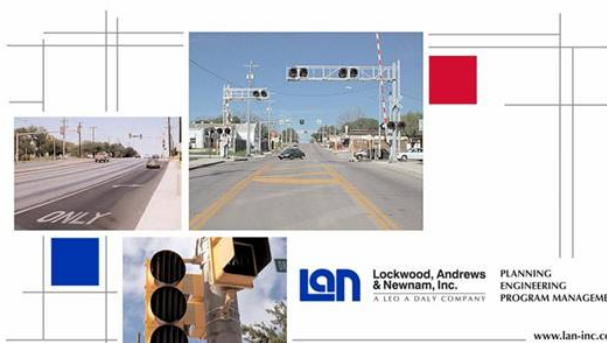
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