



# texite

Official Publication of District 9 Institute of Transportation Engineers

Volume 52, Number 3

Winter 2006

## Texas Transportation Finance 101

*Author: Emily Braswell, AICP, Wilbur Smith Associates*

There isn't enough money to build our way out of congestion in Texas. By the year 2030, our population will increase by 12 million people, road use will increase by 214 percent and highway freight traffic will increase by 77 percent<sup>(1)</sup>. Unfortunately, the cost of operating the transportation systems in Texas will continue to increase and traditional revenue sources such as fuel taxes and license fees will not keep pace.

Of course, in Texas we like to think that we get the job done no matter how steep the challenge and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in partnership with the State Legislature has advanced some innovative finance tools over the last two decades to begin to meet these challenges.

In 1991, the Legislature expanded the definition of finance to include tolling as one method of finance that could be used in conjunction with state and federal dollars. In 1997, the Texas Turnpike Authority in Dallas became the North Texas Tollway Authority and the Texas Turnpike Authority Division of TxDOT was formed. In 2003, House Bill 3588 was passed and enabled Regional Mobility Authorities (RMA) and the creation of Pass-Through Finance Projects. Each subsequent legislature has refined each of these pieces of legislature until Texas now has one of the most aggressive public-private transportation partnership climates in the world.

At this time, there are six RMAs in Texas in addition to the Harris County Toll Road Authority and the North Texas Tollway Authority. These eight entities are very active and have had a tremendous impact on transportation in Texas, but each of them is limited in scope to toll roads and in geography. Rules defining the RMA can be found in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) under Title 43, Chapter 26 and toll projects in general can be found under Title 43, Chapter 27.

Pass-Through Finance as it was authorized in 2003 and refined in 2005 allows any one of the 254 counties in Texas as well as cities, RMA's, and some special authorities to partner with other public or private entities to fund TxDOT projects of Regional and Statewide significance and be repaid over time by the State<sup>(2)</sup>.

The projects must preserve and maintain the existing system and provide local, regional and statewide benefits. Further, it authorizes TxDOT to delegate authority to local government to implement the project, resulting in expedited project delivery by the local government to help those who help themselves by blending Local, Regional and Statewide funding to expedite projects.

The passage of this key piece of legislation in 2003 with further refinements in 2005 opens the door to new partnerships between public and private entities at the local level to expedite the delivery of projects of local, regional and statewide significance and to give local governments greater control over the scheduling and execution of transportation system projects.

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#### Professional Service Dir

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Welcome to the  
2007 TexITE Winter Meeting  
Crowne Plaza—Downtown  
Houston, TX

February 1—3, 2007

Register Now, Online  
at

[www.texite.org/wintermeeting](http://www.texite.org/wintermeeting)

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## From the Editor's Desk

Phew! The winter edition of the newsletter is finally out through the door. I sincerely thank those who contributed articles and news items and the rest for waiting patiently for the publication of the newsletter.

As I reported in this column of last edition, the Newsletter Committee requested your participation in a readership survey to find out what you, the reader, think of the publication. I express my gratitude to all the respondents for taking their precious time to express their opinions. Even though the response was not overwhelming, the results gathered from the survey are important and fascinating.

The results of the readership survey and the comments received are discussed in detail on page 8 of this edition. Of the respondents, nearly 75 percent rated the contents of the newsletter as either good or excellent. While we are proud of this response, we did not overlook the several recommendations from respondents to improve the publication. Analyzing the results of the survey, the following issues stand out and will be our foremost priority:

- Improve participation of the student members in the newsletter.
- Increase technical content in the forthcoming issues.
- Incorporate articles on some or all of the suggested topics

The Newsletter Committee sees it as its primary responsibility in 2007 to address as many reader concerns and recommendations as possible, and to ensure that the newsletter remains informative, relevant and compelling. Though it is unlikely that we will meet all requirements in a single issue, over the course of a year, however, we expect to come pretty close to meeting or exceeding most readers' expectations. So please keep coming back.

Please keep continuing to send me your suggestions or comments to [vpasumarthy@wilbursmith.com](mailto:vpasumarthy@wilbursmith.com). Also we are relying on you to continue to provide us with your articles and support for the upcoming newsletters.

*Praveen Pasumarthy*  
*Editor*

### What's Your E-mail?

This newsletter is distributed primarily by e-mail. If you are a TexITE member and did not receive this newsletter electronically from TexITE, please update your information. You can do this by contacting the roster manager, Susan Langdon at [ros-ter@texite.org](mailto:ros-ter@texite.org)

## Committee Updates

### Younger Member Committee Meeting

The Younger members will be meeting in the morning on Friday, February 2nd to begin planning our next session for the summer meeting in Amarillo. A time and location will be posted on the conference website and emails will be sent out as reminders ahead of time. Please make plans to attend. We need people from every agency and company to help develop topics for a younger member session. So come ready with projects you are working on and projects you have coming so we can help plan another session.



### Friday Evening Social

The Younger Members will again be meeting for our own networking event during the Winter TexITE meeting. We will hit up some places in downtown Houston after the Friday night social, so be ready for a long night. Details will be passed around at the committee meeting and by word of mouth. Look for Jennifer Butcher (the tallest female at the TexITE meetings) if you have not heard the plans; and as always, this event is open to younger members (35 and under) and those that are just looking to have some fun.



## International Director's Message

Dear Texas District Colleagues:

On December 14th, I had the honor and privilege of presenting Jim Carvell with a resolution from ITE on the occasion of his



**Robert Wunderlich**  
International Director

retirement from the Texas Transportation Institute. A review of Jim's resume reveals that he has been a teacher, practitioner, consultant and researcher. He's served TexITE for many years in virtually every volunteer capacity including a term as TexITE President and, for many years, as the liaison to the Student Chapters. He represented us on the International Board of Direction of ITE and was honored by TexITE as the Transportation Engineer of the Year for 2001.

But you have to know the man to know that he is a mentor and a friend to countless numbers of his fellow professionals. That he can disagree with you while maintaining your respect. To know his complete integrity in every thing he undertakes and his passion for making this a better world to travel in.

Jim has served his country, the traveling public, and his profession honorably and with distinction, and I am proud to call him a friend.

I hope all of you will join me in thanking Jim for his many years of dedicated service to our organization and to us as professionals, and in wishing him and Nell many years of happiness and fulfillment.

Robert C. Wunderlich, P.E.

## Message from the President

Happy New Year! This is always an exciting time of year. A new year holds so much promise and opportunity for each of us. We make resolutions to better ourselves personally, professionally, or spiritually. I am also making resolutions to better TexITE and will share those with you shortly.

The winter meeting will be held in Houston, February 1-3. I am excited about the program and hope that you find it fulfilling. An ethics seminar is offered on Thursday to meet your continuing education requirements. We will also test a new meeting registration system.

Don't forget that the summer meeting will be held June 14-16 in Amarillo. Taylor Withrow is planning a unique experience for you. I hope to see many of you there for the BBQ and the show.

Please respond to the call for abstracts. Our first try in the fall didn't yield any response. I would like to see that greatly improved. We don't typically toot our own horns, but we shouldn't be afraid to exclaim our accomplishments – small or big.

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer for TexITE. The many volunteers that keep our organization going year after year would certainly welcome your help. If you have ideas for how to improve TexITE or its services provided to you, please contact me directly. The board serves you and your needs.

Students are in the news. TexITE welcomes the new Texas A&M University – Kingsville chapter. Also, Nell Carvell and sons, Jay and Wade, established the Jim Carvell Travel Scholarship Fund to assist TexITE student members attend ITE annual meetings. This is a very generous gift and one that reflects Jim's strong interest in both TexITE and its student chapters.

The International Board is focusing on membership growth. After many years of strong growth, the number of voting members is declining slightly. I am serving on a task force examining this issue and working to develop solutions. I will be working closely with the TexITE membership committee to expand representation from each section and develop a clear charge for the coming year. I encourage each of you to introduce TexITE at the district or section level to your peers. Encourage them to join the professional society that represents the transportation engineering and planning fields.

As for District Board business, we have been very busy and the work doesn't appear to be slowing. We acquired general liability, and director and officers insurance this fall. The board will be considering policy and by-laws changes. We completed our first year of official non-profit status and will be working to acquire state sales tax exemptions for our meeting expenses. Finally, meeting agendas will be posted to the website in advance of the meeting for member review. Board meetings are open to all members.



**Jason Crawford**  
President

(Continued on page 7)

## Announcements

### 18th Biennial TRB Visibility Symposium

The Transportation Research Board Visibility Symposium, held regularly since 1968, brings together researchers, practitioners, consultants, transportation agencies, and industry to present and review contemporary research on issues related to the visual communication of information within the general transportation infrastructure. The event is being held on **April 17th and 18th, 2007 at College Station, Texas**. The Visibility Symposium is sponsored by Texas Transportation Institute and the following TRB committees:

- AND40 Visibility, in collaboration with,
- AND10 Vehicle User Characteristics,
- AND20 User Information Systems,
- AHD55 Signing & Marking Materials,
- AHB50 Traffic Control Devices,
- AHB55 Work Zone Traffic Control, &
- AHB60 Highway/Rail Grade Crossing.

Pre-registration is recommended and will help in planning and preparing a better conference. If you pre-register your name tag and program packet will be ready when you arrive at the Conference. The registration fee is \$200 and will be available through March 18, 2007. After March 18 the late registration fee will be \$250.

For further information, please visit their website at [www.visibilitysymposium.com/](http://www.visibilitysymposium.com/)

### Call for Abstracts

*Summer 2007 Technical Conference, Amarillo, Texas*

TexITE announces its first call for abstracts to the Summer 2007 Technical Conference.

The conference will be held on June 14-16, 2007 at the Fifth Season Inn, in Amarillo, Texas. Please submit an abstract today! Conference information will be available on the district website ([www.texite.org](http://www.texite.org)) along with contact information should you have any questions.

The conference will feature presentations chosen from abstract submittals that offer practical and innovative solutions to contemporary engineering and planning challenges. Policies, procedures, and technical analysis methods are sought. The conference organizers invite you to submit abstracts on all transportation topics, such as:

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Public Involvement and Outreach | • Planning                      |
| • Transit Planning or Operations  | • Signs and Markings            |
| • Transportation Safety Issues    | • Low-cost Congestion Solutions |
| • Traffic Operations              | • Pedestrians and Bikes         |
| • ITS Design and Communications   | • Managing Special Events       |
| • Mitigating Construction Impacts | • Resource Planning/Scheduling  |

E-mail abstracts prior to **April 1, 2007** to [ricke@ci.waco.tx.us](mailto:ricke@ci.waco.tx.us). Please keep the abstract to 300 words and one page, including the following information: Author(s) and affiliation(s), mailing address, email, and FAX for author contact. Accepted abstracts will NOT be expected to prepare a technical paper for the conference.

If you have any questions about the abstracts please contact Rick Charlton, at E-mail [ricke@ci.waco.tx.us](mailto:ricke@ci.waco.tx.us) or Telephone (254) 750-6634.

### FHWA Publication of Interim Guidance on the CMAQ Program

FHWA is announcing publication of interim program guidance on Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and soliciting comments on its contents. An electronic copy of the guidance may be downloaded from the FHWA web page at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq06gm.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq06gm.htm).

Comments on the interim guidance should be received by February 20, 2007. For more information on the guidance document please contact: Mike Koontz, Office of Natural and Human Environment, 202-366-2076 or [michael.koontz@dot.gov](mailto:michael.koontz@dot.gov).



## Announcements

### NPRM Temporary Traffic Control Devices

The FHWA is extending the comment period for a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (NPRM) and request for comments, which was published on November 1, 2006.

The original comment period was set to close on January 2, 2007. The extension is based on concern expressed by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) that the January 2 closing date did not provide sufficient time for discussion of the issues in committee and a subsequent comprehensive response to the docket. FHWA recognized that others interested in commenting may have similar time constraints and agreed that the comment period should be extended. Therefore, the closing date for comments has been changed to February 16, 2007.

For further information, please contact: Mr. Chung Eng, Office of Transportation Operations, (202) 366-8043.

### TexITE Announces Poster Contest Winners

The contest, entitled Transportation: Past, Present, and Future, was open to all 5th and 6th grade students in Texas and was created to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System celebrated by the United States Department of Transportation. Students were asked to submit original, non-computer generated artwork that addressed the past, present, or future of the Interstate Highway System in Texas, and the committee received 23 poster entries from across the state of Texas. Entries were judged by a panel of transportation professionals, and the Future Engineers Committee sponsored cash prizes for the winners of first through third place. Results of the contest were announced by the Future Engineers Committee following the completion of judging on October 23.



**First Prize**  
**Donovan Street**



**Second Prize**  
**Claire Simmons**



**Third Prize**  
**Analecia Lopes**



**Honorable Mention - 2**  
**Jeffery Hong**

**Honorable Mention - 1**  
**Manuel Hernandez**

### Newsletter Articles

To submit an article or a news item for future newsletter publications, please send information to Praveen Pasumarthy at [vpasumarthy@wilbursmith.com](mailto:vpasumarthy@wilbursmith.com) or contact him at 713-785-0080 ext. 56

Donovan Street, a 5th grade student from Carrollton, has won 1st Place in the 1st Annual Transportation Poster Contest sponsored by the Future Engineers Committee of District 9 of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (TexITE). 2nd and 3rd Place went to Claire Simmons, a 5th grade student from Bryan, and Analecia Lopes, a 6th grade student from Bryan. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Manuel Hernandez, a 6th grade student from Bryan, and Jeffrey Hong, a 5th grade student from Carrollton.

The purpose of the Future Engineers Committee is to encourage students in Texas public schools to seek higher education in the engineering and science fields, with an emphasis on transportation engineering. For more information on TexITE or Future Engineers Committee activities, visit [www.texite.org](http://www.texite.org) or contact Melisa Finley at (979) 845-7596 or [m-finley@tamu.edu](mailto:m-finley@tamu.edu).

# 2007 Winter TexITE Meeting

Crowne Plaza Downtown

Houston, Texas

February 1—3, 2007

## Technical Program (Tentative - Subject to Change)

### Session 1A: Public Image of Transportation

- “Talking to Texans about Transportation”, Helen Havelka (TxDOT)
- “Transportation Public Image - Perspective from Where the Rubber Meets the Road”, TBD
- “San Antonio MPO”, Scott Ericksen (San Antonio/Bexar County MPO)

### Session 1B: Accommodating Pedestrians in the Urban Environment

- “Traffic Control Devices Used at Pedestrian Crossings”, Marcus Brewer (TTI)
- “Guidelines for Pedestrian Crossing Treatments: Results from TCRP/NCHRP Project on Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings”, Kay Fitzpatrick (TTI)
- “Safe Streets, Livable Streets”, Erik Dumbaugh (TAMU)
- “Pedestrian-Friendly Redevelopment along Houston Light Rail Line”, Speaker TBD

### Session 2A: Professional Workforce Development

- Federal Perspective, Al Alonzi (FHWA)
- State Perspective, Gary Trietsch (TxDOT)
- Local Perspective, Mark Titus (City of Dallas)
- Private Sector Perspective, Brian Shewski (Kimley-Horn)
- Academic Perspective, Jim Williams (UT-Arlington)

### Session 2B: Alternative Intersection Treatments

- “A Roundabout Way of Solving a Traffic Signal Timing Problem”, Tom Stiles & Sean Merrell (Brown & Gay Engineers)

- “Conversion of a Congested All-Way Stop Intersection to Roundabout Control”, Kelly Parma (Lee Engineering)

- “Simulation of Four Closely Spaced Intersections with Four Controllers vs. One Controller Using Diamond Phasing”, Norman Hogue (City of Waco) and Srinivasa R. Sunkari (TTI)

### Session 3: Student Presentations

- Texas A&M University, University of Texas and Texas Southern University

### Session 4A: TxDOT Research: Highlights

- “Overview of TxDOT and Federal Research Projects”, Rick Collins (TxDOT)
- “Planning for Container Growth Along the Houston Ship Channel and Other Texas Seaports”, Rob Harrison (CTR)
- “Development of Guidelines for Ramp Reversal Projects”, Roy Parikh (TxDOT)
- “Improving Intersection Safety and Operations Using Advance Warning of End of Green System (AWECS)”, Srinivasa R. Sunkari (TTI)

### Session 4A: Rapid Transit Through Traffic Engineering

- “What is Bus Rapid Transit, Really?”, Jeff Arndt (TTI)
- “Regional Computerized Traffic Signal System Supporting Bus Service Improvements in Houston”, Loyd Smith (Houston METRO)
- “BRT Texas Style”, Todd Hemingson (Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority)

## Guest Activities

Houston, a vibrant skyscraper city is the largest city in Texas. Crowne Plaza Houston - Downtown is located in the heart of the city and within easy access of numerous attractions, including **NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston Zoo, 17-block Theater District, Museum District** which includes the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**, and the highly popular **Children's Museum of Houston**.

Regular music and sports events are held at the nearby Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, and Reliant park.

Excellent shopping is also close by at **The Park Shops**, the **Galleria complex**, and **Memorial City Mall**.

## Social and Technical Tours

Friday night social is scheduled at SPJST Hall in the Houston Heights. Come and enjoy a Cajun Catfish feast, with Zydeco music and dancing.

The technical tour will include visits to two transportation facilities: Houston Transtar and the Metro Street Line and Rail Maintenance Facility. The tour will take place on Thursday afternoon following the ethics seminar. Transportation will be provided to and from the conference hotel.

CCTexITE will be hosting a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament on Thursday evening following the Highway Products Group reception. Join in the game for fun and prizes.

## Obituary - John Lipscomb

It is with great sadness that TexITE forwards the news of John Lipscomb's passing. John served as president of TexITE from 1980-1981.

JOHN NAYLOR LIPSCOMB, of Brenham, Texas died Friday, December 29, 2006.

Born in Baytown, Texas in 1929, John was the son of Edith Naylor and Priest T. Lipscomb. Like his father, he spent most of his career with the Texas Highway Department, starting out as a surveyor for the Conroe field office, and thirty years later, retiring from the position of Traffic Engineer for District 12 in Houston. Mr. Lipscomb served for a number of years on the board of Texas Highway Department District Credit Union, and was active throughout his career in engineering

professional organizations, especially the TexITE.

John Lipscomb was a natural athlete; as a college freshman, he had a music scholarship, playing tuba in the MOB for Rice University. When the football coach spotted him, however, he was drafted from the band to the team, and played football in 1948 and 1950, the year Rice went to the Cotton Bowl and won. While attending The University, John married Marijane Johnson. The two met and dated in Houston while in high school, where John played football for Milby and Marijane was in the Scottish Brigade at Austin High School.

During his life, the highest honor and responsibility John Lipscomb sought was to be a family man. He is survived by his

wife of 55 years, Marijane; his sister and brother-in law Edith and Earl Marchand of Houston; daughter Maribeth Lipscomb, of Dallas, daughter and son-in-law Kathleen and Mark Jircik and two grandsons: Allen and Daniel Jircik, of Houston, and daughter Ann Lipscomb, of Austin; and niece and nephews: David Marchand, James Marchand, Steve Marchand, Sherry Hess, and John Marchand.

A memorial service was held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 6th, 2007 at the Edythe Bates chapel at Festival Hill in Round Top, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of John Lipscomb to Festival Hill in Round Top, or the charity of your choice. The Festival Hill Foundation may be reached at 979-249-3129, or P.O. Box 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top, Texas, 78954.

## President's Message *(continued from page 3)*

Our own Rod Kelly was nominated for International Vice-President. You may remember that Rod campaigned last year for this office. Best of luck to Rod in the current campaign.

Now, my resolutions for TexITE. First, I want to stress communication and action. I hope to visit each section and student chapter over the next year. I will seek to appoint active committees and work with the board to develop specific charges for the committees. It is difficult to make progress when no goal is defined.

Second, I want to improve our meetings. I will work to seek your feedback on our meetings and to develop well rounded technical programs – we neglect our potential if we remain narrow in our technical offerings.

Finally, I want to improve and reinforce membership. Member services or benefits will be defined and protected. Attention will be made to retain and attract members – there are many that would benefit from TexITE and from which TexITE would benefit from their participation. I will seek ways to better integrate our student members – the future of the profession lies in their imaginations.



Jason Crawford

## News You Can Use

- ◆ The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in collaboration with IBTTA, recently completed a study of traffic control strategies at toll plazas. Their report, State of the Practice and Recommendations on Traffic Control Strategies at Toll Plazas, is now available on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Web site at [www.mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov).
- ◆ FHWA has issued guidance to help state and local transportation department partners better understand roles and responsibilities regarding compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Information can be found at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/ada\\_qa.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/ada_qa.htm).

# Readership Survey Results

*Author: Praveen Pasumathy, E.I.T., Editor*

As many of you know, we recently conducted a readership survey to know what you, the reader, think of the publication, to solicit feedback on how to improve the publication and to identify topics that readers would like to see covered in 2007.

First, I would like to thank the members who responded to the survey. It took some time and effort to do so, and we sincerely appreciate the feedback, especially to the appeal for general comments, suggestions, and for ideas regarding future articles.

Second, I would like to point out that the results of this survey are anything but scientific. For one thing, the results are skewed by the readers who chose to participate in the survey. But even without the scientific authority, the results are important and fascinating. The major findings of the survey are listed below:

- Close to 75 percent of the respondents rated the newsletter as either good or excellent as a way to keep informed about TexITE.
- The respondents included members from various professions - academia, consulting, public agencies and vendors. Significantly, the survey could not attract any student members to share their opinions.
- Three-quarters of the respondents access the newsletter online while 20 percent replied that they do not receive the newsletter but are interested in obtaining one. One of the respondents was candid to admit that he/she receives the e-mails notifying the publication of newsletter but does not visit the link.
- Further, close to 70 percent responded that they have been reading the newsletter for more than five years.

- Asked about the contents of the newsletter, more than 50 percent of the respondents ranked "cover stories/technical articles" as the most important item, followed by "News (area news, member news, etc)" and "Announcements".
- In addition, close to three-quarters of the respondents acknowledged that the contents are either reasonably or very useful/current.
- Asked about how members use the newsletter, majority of the respondents (close to 70 percent) acknowledged that they use it to receive information about upcoming events and activities in TexITE sections and student chapters. Interestingly, 70 percent of the academicians/researchers replied that they use the newsletter to keep in touch with the members, whereas only a small percentage (30 percent) of the consultants and public agency employees use it for that purpose. Conversely, a majority of the consultants and public agency employees use the newsletter to increase their technical skills, while only a minority of the academicians use the newsletter in this aspect.

We also noted that several respondents emphasized the importance of technical articles in the newsletter and encouraged a greater attention to this area. We also received a wealth of ideas for future content. Some of the topics include:

- A regular newsletter feature which shares technical information or transportation news with other ITE districts
- Traffic calming measures in the neighborhood
- How to deal with news media
- Creative funding methods for capital

projects

- Incident management/response
- Proper work zone traffic control plans
- Traffic Impact Analysis (what to look for/ask for from developers and review methods)

We will continue striving to deliver a top-quality publication through germane and informative articles, interviews and news. In 2007, we pledge to raise the bar even farther by addressing the constructive recommendations that we have received through this survey. Again, my thanks to every reader who responded, and to all readers who look to this magazine for pertinent and insightful information.

## Finance 101

*(continued from page 1)*

Projects are currently underway in the City of Weatherford, and in Montgomery, Grayson, Washington, Hayes, Williamson, Galveston, and Titus Counties and are under consideration in many others Cities and Counties.

1. 2006 Annual Summary: Meeting the Challenge, TxDOT.
2. Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Texas Department of Transportation, Chapter 5, Finance.

*Note: The Editor thanks Emily Braswell for taking her valuable time to provide this article. If you want to contact the author, she can be reached via e-mail at [embraswell@wilbursmith.com](mailto:embraswell@wilbursmith.com)*



# High Five Interchange

*Author: Sasanka Bhushan, C&M Associates, Inc.*

Do you know why the High Five interchange is named so? If not, read on.

The new interchange of Interstate 635 with US 75 in Dallas is called the High Five Interchange. It is a five level directional or stack interchange, rising 120 ft high above ground, approximately 12-story high.

A regular four level stack interchange, typically built where two freeways intersect, provides separate ramps for all turning movements. Main lanes of two freeways one over the other and left turns from each freeway at two different levels. But in a case when frontage roads also need to be weaved through the interchange, it becomes a five-level interchange. The High Five interchange includes main lanes of U.S. 75 on the first level, a rectangular junction of the two frontage roads on the second level, I-635 lanes on the third level and direct connection ramps that eliminate left exits on the fourth and fifth levels<sup>(2)</sup>.

The Dallas High Five was awarded to Zachry Construction Company by TxDOT in 2002. This US\$ 261 million<sup>(1)</sup> massive

project included 43 bridges, covering 2.3 million sq. ft. of deck, 710 columns, 680,000 sq. yd. of concrete paving and more than 1 million cubic yards of excavation and embankment<sup>(2)</sup>. Zachry used a unique, balanced cantilever erector with a 101-ton Segment Erector to construct bridge segments faster and easier than traditional construction methods<sup>(2)</sup>.

Officially completed in December 2005, this interchange carries around 500,000 motorists a day. The American Public Works Association recognized the Dallas High Five with the 2006 Project of the Year award. The project was also honored with the 2006 Topping Out Project of the Year<sup>(2)</sup>.

1. [www.dot.state.tx.us/about\\_us/present\\_2001.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/about_us/present_2001.htm) accessed on Dec 30, 2006

2. [www.zachry.com/projects\\_TXDot.htm](http://www.zachry.com/projects_TXDot.htm) accessed on Dec 30, 2006

*Note: The Editor thanks Sasanka Bhushan for providing this article.*

## This day, That Age

### 25 Years Ago

President: Jack Hatchell  
Vice-President: Gary Santerre  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Lee

Lubbock City voters approved 7 Capital Improvement Projects, including \$10 million for street improvements & \$4.3 million for a digital traffic signal system.

The Amarillo Traffic Engineering Study was completed and presented to the City Commission. The major activities in the study involved re-timing of entire CBD signal system and an intricate interchange at I-40 and Julian/Paramount/Wolflin.

The City of Austin's Urban transportation Department completed an extensive testing of several types of vehicle loop detectors for vehicle-actuated traffic signals to determine the feasibility of consistently detecting bicyclists.

### 15 Years Ago

President: Robert Jenkins  
Vice-President: Carol Walters  
Secretary/Treasurer: Daniel B. Fambro

On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1991, Department of Aviation, Department of Highways and Public Transportation were merged into the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT for short. Also, the Transportation Commission approved a plan to reduce the number of district headquarters offices from 24 to 18.

TxDOT's Houston District formulated twelve options to help reduce congestion on IH-610, the state's busiest freeway (in 1991). TxDOT was getting started on the complicated Environmental Impact Statement.

The City of Hurst was approved to receive the Oil Overcharge Funds for the second Traffic Light Synchronization (TLS) program.

### 5 Years Ago

President: Daniel F. Lynch  
Vice-President: Elizabeth A. Ramirez  
Secretary/Treasurer: Joseph T. Short

The Brazos Valley Section completed its first year in existence.

In order to eliminate the high costs involved, TexITE is doing away with the policy of mailing out hard copies of membership directories. From the fall of 2001 onwards, TexITE will email the directory in a pdf format on a quarterly basis.

The City of Fort Worth successfully conducted a test run where they transmitted video camera images over their CBD twisted-pair signal interconnect systems. An excellent video image was obtained. The City plans to install five video camera in the CBD by year 2001.

## Texas Fun Facts

- ◆ Texas was an independent nation from 1836 to 1845.
- ◆ When Texas was annexed in 1845 it retained the right to fly its flag at the same height as the national flag.
- ◆ Texas is the only state to have the flags of six different nations fly over it. They are: Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederate States and the United States.
- ◆ Texas boasts the largest of all the state capitol buildings, constructed of 15,000 carloads of pink granite.

### District 9 Officers

#### International Director

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## New Student Chapter

TexITE is pleased announce the formation of a new student chapter. The Texas A&M University - Kingsville student chapter was chartered on November 1, 2006 by the Texas District.

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## People News

### Brazos Valley Section

Bleyl & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of **David L. Besly, P.E.** as Transportation Project Manager in the Bryan office. David, a 15-year veteran of the transportation engineering industry, is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas.

### Capital Area Section

The Austin office of **Walter P Moore** has moved to larger space. The new address is Chase Tower, 221 West 6th Street, Suite 800, Austin, TX 78701. The phone number (512-330-1270) and fax number (512-330-1295) remain the same.

### Greater Dallas Section

After nearly 16 years of service at Parsons Transportation Group, **Dave Carter, P.E.** changed career paths and has joined the Public Sector as the City of Richardson's Asst. Director of Development Services, Transportation and Traffic. As a result, he resigned from the position of CCTexITE Chairman (TexITE's Consultant Council). **Gilmer Gaston** (Pape-Dawson Engrs) took over the role of Chairman and **Dharmesh Shah** (Lee Engineering) will be the new Secretary/Treasurer. Dave can be reached at [Dave.Carter@cor.gov](mailto:Dave.Carter@cor.gov)

Nippon Carbide Industries (USA), Inc., manufacturer of Nikkalite Brand commercial graphic films, traffic sign, and reflective barricade sheeting products, is pleased to announce new staff appointments. **Mr. Charlie Bond** (pictured left) is celebrating 20 years of service in our industry and has been appointed to Director of Sales and Marketing, responsible for sales development, government relations, and product marketing from the

Carrollton, Texas office. **Mr. Tom Imai** (pictured center) is the Managing Director over NCI-USA North America operations and **Mr. John Machado, CPA, CIA, CGFM** (pictured right), has been appointed to Director of Operations and Controller, responsible for corporate operations and finance in Santa Fe Springs, California.



### Greater Fort Worth Section

**Scott Cooner, P.E.** of the Texas Transportation Institute's Arlington office welcomed the addition of his third child on August 31, 2006. Kelsey Ann arrived almost 1 month early, weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz., and was 19 1/2 inches long.

**Aneel Gogula** recently joined Kimley-Horn's Transportation Planning and Traffic Operations group in Fort Worth. Prior to joining Kimley-Horn, he spent the last three years working for a local consulting firm in San Antonio.

### Greater Houston Section

Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam (LAN) is please to welcome the following to their Houston office: **Charles "Chip" Taylor, PE**, Project Manager; **Christina Berry**, Junior Planner; and, **Marshall Check**, EIT. Chip was recently working for Loudon County in VA as the Assistant Director/Highway Program Manager. Chip has 20 years of transportation planning and traffic engineering experience. Christina relocated from Mississippi while, Marshall recently received his

Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M.

**Michael A. Feeney, PE**, Group Leader of the Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering Groups at Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam (LAN) was recently named an ITE Fellow.

**Lee Jane Ream** of City of Pasadena has been upgraded to ITE Fellow.

**Darrell W. Borchardt, P.E.** of the Texas Transportation Institute's Houston office was named an ITE Fellow.

**Randolph V. Schulze, P.E., PTOE** of Walter P Moore's Houston office was named an ITE Fellow.

Walter P Moore announces that **Jennifer L. Peek, P.E., PTOE** and **Srinivas M. Sangineni, P.E.** have been named Principals of the firm. Both are members of TexITE.

**Michael A. (Mike) Chacon, P.E.**, was appointed as the Policy and Standards Branch Manager for the Traffic Engineering Section of the Traffic Operations Division of TxDOT on October 11, 2006. The Policy and Standards Branch is responsible for the development and publication of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, TxDOT Traffic Control Standard Sheets and various other TxDOT traffic engineering manuals. The Policy and Standards Branch is also in charge of the development of TxDOT guidelines for signing, pavement markings and work zone issues and manages the Information Logo and Tourist Oriented Directional Sign Programs. Mike is a 1993 graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and has been a registered professional engineer in Texas since 2000.

## Section News & Activities

### Brazos Valley Section

The Brazos Valley Section closed the year with election of new section officers for 2007. Results of member balloting were formally announced at the November 30 meeting:

President -- David Besly  
Vice-President -- Karl Zimmerman  
Secretary-Treasurer -- Michael Martin  
Section Representative - Srini Sunkari  
Past President -- Marcus Brewer

### Capital Area Section

At the December 1, 2006 meeting elections were held for Officers for 2007. Results of the elections are as follows:

President -- Rene Garza  
Vice-President -- Doug Skowronek  
Secretary-Treasurer -- Gordon Derr  
Section Representative -- David Carey  
Past President -- James Kratz

### Greater Dallas Section

The newly elected officers for 2007 are:

President -- Kelly Parma

Vice-President -- Robert Saylor  
Secretary-Treasurer -- Nanditha Togar  
Section Representative -- Mark Titus  
Past President -- Brian Moen



### Greater Fort Worth Section

2007 officers for the section are:

President -- Roy Parikh  
Vice-President -- Aaron Nathan  
Secretary-Treasurer -- Greg Royster  
Section Representative -- Scot Conner  
Past President -- Natalie Bettger

### Greater Houston Section

The Houston Section annual business meeting was held on December 13, 2006. The results of the officer elections

were as follows:

President -- Ron Jenson  
Vice-President -- Robert Siegfried  
Secretary-Treasurer -- Richard Smith  
Section Representative - Randy Schulze  
Past President -- Randy Schulze

For the first time, the Houston Area Section has awarded scholarships to students in the traffic and transportation field. This year two scholarships of \$1500 each were awarded at the annual business meeting on December 13. The recipients of the scholarships were Beth Porterfield, an undergraduate at Rice University, and Ian Hlavacek, a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dave Wright was honored as Houston Section Young Engineer of the Year.

### South Texas Section

2007 officers for the section are:

President -- Rene Arredondo  
Vice-President -- Marc Jacobson  
Secretary-Treasurer - Eduardo Mendoza  
Section Representative -- Andy Ballard

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