



TBITE Quarterly



Volume 3, Issue 4

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President's Message

Matt Wey, P.E., PTOE
Carter & Burgess

As the year comes to close, it is time to bid my farewell as president of TBITE. It is hard to believe that one year has passed already. What a successful year it has been! To mention some of this year's Chapter milestones, we have successfully maintained over 100 active members in TBITE and continue to reach out to more than 240 transportation professionals in a seven county Chapter area. On average we have had more than 60 attendees for each of our quarterly meetings, and have been fortunate to listen to several special guest speakers discuss key transportation issues affecting the Tampa Bay area. Our speakers have included the Director of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, Mr. Ralph Mervin. He provided us with an insightful discussion of the challenges and opportunities the Expressway Authority has experienced during the construction phase of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway reversible lanes project. We also had the pleasure of meeting the new FDOT District Seven Secretary, Mr. Don Skelton, and receiving his humorous, but insightful "Top Ten" list of what consultants must know to win work with the FDOT. In our October meeting, we modified the format of our luncheon by providing a panel discussion of the

new growth management legislation in Florida, Senate bill 360. Special guest speakers Ms. Karen Segerman of CUTR, Mr. Bob Clifford of FDOT, and Mr. Ron Weaver (a prominent Tampa land use attorney) provided us with various perspectives regarding the new senate bill. Besides our quarterly meetings, we were also able to add three new TBITE venues, including the PE Laws and Rules continuing education seminar, the inaugural TBITE golf tournament, and the first ever Keith Crawford Transportation Engineering Student Scholarship.

The year ended with a quite a "bang". The TBITE Annual Awards Banquet was held on November 30th to celebrate the transportation profession and to recognize our fellow members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of engineering. In addition, it was a special time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of certain individuals who have made the 2005-year a great success for the Tampa Bay Chapter of ITE. The Annual Awards Banquet themed, "Transportation Issues Spanning Tampa Bay" featured two elected officials from local governments representing Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Councilman Shawn Harrison from the City of Tampa discussed the role of elected officials in developing transportation partnerships between local communities and governments. Pinellas County Commissioner, Mr. Ronnie Duncan, presented to us examples in Pinellas County where enhancements to land use could help alleviate transportation shortcomings. The Chapter has grown so much that it is hard to believe that TBITE is only in its fourth year of existence.

All of these activities I have mentioned would have not come into fruition if it were not for the hard work and dedication of the Chapter Executive Board and the support of the Chapter membership. Throughout the year, the executive board has operated as a team of highly talented individuals.
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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



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President's Message (cont.)

Matt Wey, P.E., PTOE
Carter & Burgess

They truly made my job easy and I am quite thankful to have worked so closely with each of them. As I mentioned one year ago when I accepted the president's position, to truly plan for your future you must first look back at your past and build upon your accomplishments. Having a successful 2005 year to build upon, your new Chapter president, Rosana Correa, will lead us into the future. Thank you.

A Special Thanks...

It has been one of the goals of the TBITE executive board to continue to provide new programs for our members and to create different venues for professional enrichment. We also pride ourselves with providing new opportunities for engineering students who desire to begin a career as transportation professional. These underlying goals of the Chapter could not be accomplished without the dedication and hard work of our chair people and board members, as well as the financial contributions of various companies who have sponsored our events.

We would also like to thank the following companies who sponsored this years' awards banquet:

1. Bayside Engineering
2. Carter & Burgess
3. CPH Engineers
4. Faller Davis & Associates
5. Gray-Calhoun & Associates
6. Parsons Brinkerhoff
7. PBS&J
8. Sprinkle Consulting
9. Tindale & Oliver & Associates

We would also like to extend our thanks to the 2005 chairpersons:

1. Elisa Powell and Sashi Ketu, TBITE Activities committee
2. Steve McGinley and Megan McKinney, Fundraising committee
3. Rick Langless, Newsletter
4. Oliver Rodrigues, Golf Tournament
5. Sadiq Pirani and Sachin Rae, TBITE website and Chapter Photography.

2006 TBITE Executive Board

Congratulations to Elisa Powell for being elected as the new TBITE Treasurer! Your 2006 TBITE Executive Board is...

2006 TBITE Executive Board

PRESIDENT:

Rosana Correa, P.E.
rcorrea@graycalhoun.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Stacy Burgess
sburgess@gc-inc.com

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Elisa Powell
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PAST PRESIDENT:

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weymg@c-b.com



ITS Corner

Sadiq Pirani
CPH Engineers, Inc.

Statewide 511 Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS)



The 511 traveler information hot line that helps commuters avoid backups and incidents on major roadways is going statewide. The expanded service will be voice activated.

The 511 traveler information phone and internet service is part of FDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) SunGuide ATIS Program, the SunGuide System uses CCTV cameras, detection devices, and dynamic message signs (DMSs) to detect traffic incidents and inform travelers on a real-time basis.

South Florida started its 511 service in July 2002, a month after the inauguration of the highway help-line in central Florida. Service in the Tampa Bay area began in September 2004. By linking the three areas and adding roadways in other parts of the state, travelers will be able to plan ahead and make better travel decisions. Southwest Florida and Jacksonville will also have 511 systems in 2006 that will be integrated into the statewide network. Currently, motorists have to enter a code corresponding to the highway and county. For example, I-95 in Palm Beach County is 951*. The Turnpike is tpk* or 875*. These codes will not be necessary with the voice-activated system.

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TBITE 2005 Annual Awards Banquet

Rosana Correa
Gray-Calhoun & Associates, Inc

The TBITE 2005 Annual Banquet was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at the Double Tree Hotel on West Cypress St. in Tampa.

Every year TBITE presents honors for Young Professional of the Year, Professional of the Year, and Transportation Project of the Year. This year the winners were:

- Young Professional of the Year – Michael Moule, P.E., PTOE
- Professional of the Year – Edward Mierzejewski, Ph.D, PE
- Project of the Year – The West Central Florida Outer Beltway Project – District 7

The featured speakers were Pinellas County Commissioner Ronnie Duncan and Tampa City Councilman Shawn Harrison. We believe this banquet was the best one yet. We try to improve every year, so stay tuned for next year's events.

Other Upcoming Events

NEXT TBITE QUARTELY MEETING

Our next TBITE quarterly meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2006. We are still in the process of organizing this meeting, so stay tuned as the dates could change.

We are currently planning on have the rest of the quarterly meetings in May, August, and October, 2006. We will keep you informed as the dates, locations, and topics become solidified.

See you at the next meeting!
Thanks!



ITS Corner (continued from page 3)

The new 511 traveler information website, www.FL511.com, provides construction alerts, estimated travel times on major roads, and live camera feeds from throughout central Florida.

Florida is one of the nation's leaders in 511 usage. Through September 2005, about 28 percent of the 40.1 million calls made to 511 systems across the country were in Florida.

DMSs for Tampa Bay under FDOT SunGuide ITS Program

Overhead Dynamic Message Signs (DMSs) and CCTV cameras are being constructed as part of the FDOT's SunGuide ITS Program. FDOT will spend about \$110 million over the next ten years installing a network of DMSs and CCTV cameras along I-4, I-275, I-75 and major bridges. Tampa Bay travelers will see some of the first signs along I-275 from Martin Luther King Boulevard to Bearss Avenue.



The new DMSs will be similar to three signs near Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. Information from CCTV cameras and detection devices will be fed back to a new \$5.7 million Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC) also under construction

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GET INVOLVED WITH TBITE!

Activities Committee

Pre-Meeting Coordinator Chairperson
Steve McGinley
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On-Site-Meeting Coordinator Chairperson
Shashi Ketu, E.I. of PBS&J
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Fundraising Committee McChairpersons

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Newsletter Committee

Chairperson: Rick Langlass, P.E., RS&H
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TBITE Golf Tournament

Oliver Rodrigues, P.E., Bayside Engineering, Inc.
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TBITE Annual Awards Banquet

Chairperson: Sadiq Pirani, Gray-Calhoun
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Sadiq Pirani, CPH Engineers
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ITS Corner (continued from page 4)

at the FDOT District 7 office in North Tampa. The DMSs will post estimated drive times to the Interstate 4 interchange and Tampa International Airport. The new DMSs will also be used for Amber Alerts so drivers will have more opportunities on the interstates to see information about missing children.



The FDOT has plans to install more than 70 DMSs in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Polk counties over the next four years to help direct traffic along the major roadways and interstates.

**HAVE YOU VISITED
OUR WEBSITE??
CHECK IT OUT:**

www.ite.org/tampabay

Keith Crawford Scholarship

On November 30, 2005 at the third Annual Awards Banquet of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Mr. Keith Crawford from the FDOT District Seven Traffic Operations Department was presented with a highly distinguished award recognizing him for his life long commitment to the transportation profession. Mr. Crawford was granted this distinction for his illustrious career as a traffic engineer in Florida as well for his service to the Florida Section of ITE and ITE District 10, where he has held several key leadership positions. In attendance at the banquet were more than seventy transportation professionals representing the private and public sectors, as well as elected officials from the local governments in the Tampa area. The Annual Awards Banquet entitled, "Transportation Issues Spanning Tampa Bay", was held at the Double Tree Westshore Hotel to recognize the accomplishments of certain individuals, and to discuss pressing transportation issues currently affecting residents of the Tampa Bay area. Special guest speakers were Councilman Shawn Harrison from the City of Tampa and Commissioner Ronnie Duncan from Pinellas County.

In addition to receiving an award for his more than forty years of dedication to the transportation profession, Mr. Crawford was also honored by having the inaugural 2005 Tampa Bay ITE Engineering Student Scholarship named after him. To a standing ovation by all in attendance, Mr. Crawford was truly humbled by the experience and jokingly said, "he thought he was at his retirement party". Past-president of the Tampa Bay ITE Chapter, Ms. Sandra Gorman, ushered the words to attendees at the banquet that the annual Tampa Bay ITE Engineering Student Scholarship will be forever named the 'Keith A. Crawford Engineering Student Scholarship'. The \$500 scholarship was awarded to Ms. Sara Elizabeth Hall, a scholar athlete and resident of Plant City who is seeking her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida. The money for this scholarship was raised by the local chapter through contributions made at the inaugural Tampa Bay ITE Golf Tournament held in conjunction with the Florida Section of ITE's Annual Summer Meeting in St. Pete Beach on June 15-17, 2005. Please congratulate Mr. Crawford for the recent awards he has received.



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TBITE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ADVERTISE IN TBITE NEWSLETTER

Advertise your business or job postings in TBITE Quarterly Newsletter. Advertising space is available at \$50 per issue or \$150 for the year. The Newsletter is published the last week of March, June, September, and December of each year. For more information please contact any of the board members.

TBITE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

The University of South Florida has a very active student chapter of ITE. We'd like to invite them all to be part of the TBITE family as well, but we need your help. You or your firm can sponsor a student for \$75 per year. This will cover the cost of student attendance at each TBITE meeting as well as the Annual Banquet. For more information please contact any of the board members.

Please contact Drew Roark at (drew.roark@rsandh.com), or Rosana Correa at (rcorrea@graycalhoun.com) with ideas or suggestions for the next TBITE Quarterly!