

GRANITE CHIPS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

FEBRUARY 2004



CHAPTER NEWS

TRAFFIC CALMING LESSONS LEARNED

(by Robert Bollinger, PE - NHITE Vice-President)

On December 10, 2003, at the NHITE Annual Business Meeting, Amy Sheridan, Executive Director of Concord 2020 and Greg Bakos of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) presented the program entitled "Traffic Calming: Lessons Learned," which summarized the group's efforts in Concord's South End neighborhood.

Amy began with a brief overview of Concord 2020's status as a nonprofit planning group committed to; a vibrant and livable downtown, neighborhoods served by walkable villages, preservation and access to the natural environment, economic vitality, and transportation that serves the community. Amy indicated that the agency's primary sources of funding have come through the Federal Highway Administration (approximately \$500,000 per year) and the city of Concord (approximately \$100,000 per year).

Concord 2020 emphasizes that it "encourages, educates and equips," and in this instance, to determine the most pressing transportation issues in Concord's South End. Concord 2020 organized numerous public meetings and workshops to gather input from neighborhood residents. Notices for the

meetings and workshops were advertised in local newspapers, newsletters and cable outlets in an effort to convene as many individuals, merchants, and City officials as early on in the planning process as possible. Workshops were also attended by such



Amy Sheridan, Executive Director of Concord 2020

well known national consultants as Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc. and Michael Wallwork of Alternative Street Designs, PA, both based in Florida.

The primary concerns of neighborhood residents that emerged from this process were as follows:

- establishing safer pedestrian crossings,

establishing safer intersections,

- accommodating parking for local ball fields and a local temple, and
- maintaining safe and efficient access and egress for fire vehicles.

To address these issues several alternatives were suggested and included such traffic calming measures as roundabouts, chicanes, oval medians, and pedestrian refuge islands. These results were summarized in a report entitled, "South End Neighborhood: Traffic Management Plan." However, for these measures to transition from concept to reality, more detailed engineering would have to be completed.

VHB, a national planning, transportation, land development and environmental service firm, with local offices in Bedford, New Hampshire, was selected through a competitive process, to make the final design possible.

Greg Bakos of VHB discussed the overall design issues, including the need for actual on the ground survey (as the conceptual plans were based largely on aerial photography), plowing concerns, driveway access issues, historical considerations, potential right-of-way acquisitions, and cost. Throughout his presentation Greg emphasized the need to keep sight of both the "people process" and the "design process."

In doing so, Greg also commented on the need to give adequate advanced notice to local residents, while paying special attention to direct abutters, and allowing the opportunity for public testimony throughout the process. However, the general difficulty of trying to meet the needs and desires of all involved parties, including local citizens and City planning officials, and winning over skeptics on all sides, was not always an easy task. The latter even

included an on the ground demonstration of local fire apparatus traveling through a simulated roundabout, with traffic cones representing the edge of pavement.

Both Amy and Greg indicated that the key word for a project such as this is "compromise." Regardless of the obviously good intentions of all involved parties, it is just not feasible for all expectations of the various parties to be met completely, and certain concessions must be made. In their conclusion, Amy and Greg highlighted five points that were necessary for a successful grassroots effort such as this. They are:

- 1) the need to involve City design staff throughout the process,
- 2) provide a field layout for neighborhood residents,
- 3) utilize a national expert through the final approval process,
- 4) design for snow and ice, and ultimately,
- 5) embed the project in the City's master plan.

To show our gratitude, outgoing NHITE President Joe Lowry presented Amy with a complimentary "Granite Chip" at the conclusion of her presentation. Due to a shortage, Greg was given an IOU, but we earnestly thank both presenters for their efforts.



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NEW ENGLAND SECTION NEWS

(by Joe Lowry, PE - New England Section Director)

As a newly elected Director of the New England Section, I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Andover, Mass on January 26. Also attending the meeting was NH Chapter President Kevin Dandrade.

Plans are well underway for the District One 2004 Annual Meeting to be held in Burlington, Vermont on May 19, 20, and 21. The theme for the meeting is "Safe – T For All Seasons" and looks to provide a very informative technical program. Since the District One meeting is only held in New England every three years, this is a great opportunity for New Hampshire members to participate. Additional information is available on the Vermont Chapter's website at www.neite.org/vt/.

Members of the New Hampshire Chapter are encouraged to attend meetings held by other New England Chapters. The following is a tentative listing of upcoming regional meetings and events:

- ◇ February 26th Maine Chapter
Portland, ME
- ◇ March 16th New Hampshire Chapter
Manchester, NH
- ◇ March 30th Connecticut Chapter
Bradley Airport, CT
- ◇ May 25th Dejardins Golf Outing
Massachusetts
- ◇ June 9th Joint NE/NH/Maine
Portsmouth, NH

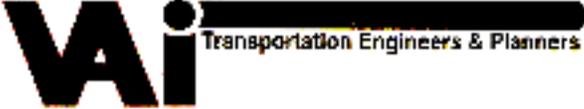
Plans are also being made to hold a PTOE exam in New England in October. In preparation for the exam, a one-day refresher course will be held in September.

More information on these will be coming.



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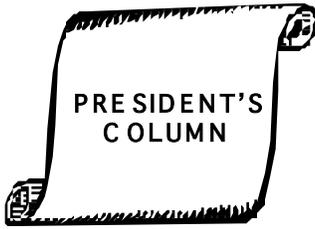


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(by Kevin Dandrade PE - NHITE President)

Greetings

This is my first column as the new President of the chapter and I would like to start it by thanking Joe Lowry, who diligently served the chapter as President for the previous three years. Joe is still helpful in keeping the transition smooth for the new NH Chapter officers as well as providing continued leadership for this organization at the New England Section level. Thanks, Joe!

I am also happy to report that Dave DeBaie has been appointed Membership Chair and Nick Sanders has been appointed Program Chair. They will be helpful in encouraging additional membership in the chapter and coordinating our meetings and other events. Thank you both for your willingness to assist us.

Upcoming NHITE Meetings

This year I hope that our chapter can dedicate the focus of our meetings to transportation safety as an element of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA) bill that is currently being hashed out in the U.S. House and Senate. Our upcoming March meeting will concentrate on "Design Considerations for Work Zone Traffic Control Plans" since work zones on both large and small projects can affect transportation efficiency and safety. Frank Bauer will shed some light on some practical items that we can consider while in design that will help plan for a safe and useful working area and keep contractors

from throwing away a traffic control plan that lacks "constructability".

As another reminder, the ITE District 1 meeting will be held in Burlington, Vermont from May 19-21, 2004. It is shaping up to be a great event with many interesting presentations. For more information, please see the VT Chapter website at <http://www.neite.org/vt/>.

We hope to have another successful June meeting, which is jointly-sponsored meeting with the New England Section and the Maine Chapter. We tentatively plan to hold this meeting in Portsmouth on Wednesday, June 9th. We are still evaluating course topics so please contact me with any fresh ideas.

Newsletter Advertisements and Distribution

As you will see in this issue, the New Hampshire Chapter has initiated an Employment section to better serve the companies in this area. Since we have a very niche market and a close network of transportation professionals, it seemed appropriate to use this newsletter and our website as a marketing source for our participating firms and agencies for a nominal fee. Please contact Dan Hudson with any advertising requests.

As we have mentioned in previous meetings and newsletters, the New Hampshire Chapter has decided to distribute this information electronically unless there is a specific request for a hardcopy. If a member does not have access to the web or would simply prefer a hardcopy to be sent by mail, please notify David DeBaie directly so that he can update our distribution notes.

Participation in NHITE

I recently attended an ITE New England Section board meeting where we briefly discussed measures

to improve membership in the organization. I will be working with others in the Section to contact area universities to promote student interest in forming new student chapters. The NH Chapter officers will also be contacting local and regional firms that are actively working in the transportation field in NH, but that have few or no employees with NHITE membership. We are also considering a discount for public employees at future meetings, and possibly even a future lunchtime meeting, to encourage additional participation from municipal and NHDOT staff. If you have additional ideas about how to reach out to other potential members, please contact Dave DeBaie, our new Membership Chair.

Have a safe spring and may all your lights be green. (Actually, that may present a MUTCD conflict at some point, so please ignore the later...)

Delightfully Submitted,
Kevin R. Dandrade, P.E.
NHITE President

NHITE 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Confirmed Events:

- March 16th:
Design Considerations for Traffic Control Plans
(Manchester, NH)
- May 19th-21st:
ITE District 1 Meeting
(Burlington, VT)

Tentative Events:

- May: Granite Chips Issue #2
- June 9th:
Joint meeting with NE Section / ME Chapter
(Portsmouth, NH)
- Aug.: Granite Chips Issue #3
- Sept. 9th:
Joint meeting with VT Chapter
(Sunapee, NH)
- Nov.: Granite Chips Issue #4
- Dec. 14th:
Annual Business Meeting
(Concord, NH)

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CHAPTER BUSINESS

(by Robert Bollinger, PE - NHITE Vice-President)

Ballots for 2004 NHITE Officers were collected by Secretary/Treasurer, Louise Casseres at our December 10, 2003 Business Meeting. Eleven valid ballots were counted and all were unanimous as follows:

- Kevin Dandrade - NHITE President
- Robert Bollinger - NHITE Vice-President
- Louise Casseres - NHITE Secretary/Treasurer

Louise presented the Treasurer’s report and stated that our Chapter account is in great shape, with a \$2770.78 balance as of November 16, 2003.

Newly elected NHITE President, Kevin Dandrade, presented outgoing NHITE President Joe Lowry with a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated three-year term. Thanks Joe!

ON-LINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

(by Kevin Dandrade, PE - NHITE President)

I would like to inform you of an on-line course that is being offered through the University of New Hampshire’s Distance Learning Center. Professor Emeritus Paul Ossenbruggen is teaching a course entitled “Planning for Traffic Safety in 2004 and Beyond”, which focuses on the evaluation of accident trends and roadway risk. Since this is an on-line course, you can stay at the office later each day without worrying about the commute to a seminar site, or simply enjoy the comfort of home (and your favorite slippers) while learning about traffic safety.

Here is the pertinent information:

Planning for Transportation Safety in 2004 and Beyond

UNH Course Registration # 25887 (Distance Learning Course)

Monday, March 15 to Thursday, March 18, 2004, 6-8 PM each evening via the internet. 0.8 CEUs. \$300 including textbook materials and fees.

Professor Emeritus Paul J. Ossenbruggen, Ph.D. 603-659-3771 or pjo@cisunix.unh.edu

You can review the course syllabus at the following website:

<http://www.courses.unh.edu/safetea/Syllabus.htm>

NEW MEMBERS

(by Robert Bollinger, PE - NHITE Vice-President)

Please help us welcome NHITE’s newest members:

- Carlos Garcia, Maguire Group
- Jason Plourde, Greenman-Pedersen
- David Saladino, Resource Systems Group
- Jeff Santacruce, Greenman-Pedersen

EMPLOYMENT ADS

(by Dan Hudson, PE - Granite Chips Editor)

(No ads at this time.)

Transportation Engineering related employment ads can be placed for a nominal fee. If you would like to place an ad, please contact Dan Hudson, PE - Granite Chips Editor (danh@cldengineers.com or 603-668-8223 x162) for further details.



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