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New England Chronicle

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The New England
Section of the
Institute of
Transportation
Engineers

Context Sensitive Solutions in New England

Ruth Bonsignore, VHB

There are many memorable examples of context sensitive design (CSD) implemented throughout New England, such as I-93 through Franconia Notch in New Hampshire, the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut, Union Station in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Washington Bridge in Rhode Island, to name just a few. The Departments of Transportation throughout New England are working hard to make CSD part of every project and every day life at their agencies. While no two statewide level approaches, context sensitive solutions (CSS) are the most direct route to a successful transportation project.

What is CSS?

There are many definitions for context sensitive design and context sensitive solutions. In the recent ITE publication, *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*, CSS was defined as "...a different way to approach the planning and design of transportation projects. It is a process of balancing the competing needs of many stakeholders starting in the earliest stages of project development. It is also flexibility in the application of design controls, guidelines and standards to design a facility that is safe for all users regardless of the mode of travel they choose."

New England Approaches

The following is a brief synopsis of CSS activities at the various state departments of transportation in New England:

Maine—Although the MaineDOT does

not have a formal CSS program, it has been embracing the spirit of context sensitive project development for more than a decade. A state law called the Sensible Transportation Policy Act (STPA), enacted in 1991 and formally adopted in 1993, requires a full study of transportation alternatives before major investments are committed to and requires the Department to engage the public at all levels of the planning and project development process. Over the past five years, the

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

-Wayne Dyer

MaineDOT Bureau of Project Development has also adopted more flexible design standards for use on Maine roads that are not part of the National Highway System, including village design standards. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are advocated as part of each transportation project. MaineDOT supports planning that promotes livable communities and projects that lead to investment in community centers. The STPA rule continues to be refined, working with the State Planning Office, to better link State- and MPO-related transportation project development processes

to the local comprehensive planning process, and to reduce the dependence on the automobile by promoting compact, mixed use land patterns and fostering alternative modes.

New Hampshire—NHDOT has formally adopted and is incorporating the context sensitive solutions process into defining problems and solutions on New Hampshire's transportation system. NHDOT believes that working with the communities to understand their goals for future land use and the relationship to the transportation system is critical to the process. Since November of 2005, a cross-section of NHDOT personnel (design engineers, planners, environmental personnel, maintainers, construction engineers, etc.), local community representatives, regional planning personnel, and resource agency representatives (and their partners) attended a series of two-day training programs on applying CSS principles to the planning and project development processes and to demonstrate how to apply CSS principles to ongoing projects. These training sessions are part of an anticipated three-year effort intended to help formalize and institutionalize what NHDOT has been doing in the area of context sensitive design. The NHDOT envisions the next step as developing tools to help integrate transportation needs, environmental needs, design criteria, and community objectives and values into their every day work to provide effective transportation in the context of safe and livable communities.

continued on page 4

A Message from the President

John Mirabito



Welcome back from your holidays and winter vacations, New England. I need you to shake off the cobwebs and Patriot-less Super Bowl doldrums, because we have an exciting year ahead for NEITE! We hit the ground running this year. January 16 we held the 3rd Annual New England Section/Vermont Chapter meeting, in Montpelier; in February several Board members attended the 3th Transportation Student Research Symposium, co-hosted by MAITE and the UMass-Amherst Student Chapter; and the UMass-Amherst Chapter put on their 8th Annual Technical Day, on March 7th. Not bad for the first 2 ½ months! And there are more activities to come. We will develop NEITE's first strategic plan; NEITE is hosting the District 1 Annual Meeting May 9-11 in Providence, RI; and later that month will be the Tom Desjardin Memorial Golf Tournament, as well as joint meetings with the Connecticut Chapter March 20th, New Hampshire and Maine Chapters in June, and the Annual Meeting December 3rd, in Warwick, RI. Don't forget to look at the calendar at the end of this issue for the upcoming events.

This is an ambitious agenda and I didn't/can't act alone. I would like to thank Neil Boudreau, the immediate past President, for his leadership and setting the ground work for many of the things we will accomplish this year. One of our greatest achievements last year was to establish a mentoring program for our young members. This is an area that Neil felt NEITE was lacking, and he was instrumental in beginning the mentoring program. Another important event in 2006 was the chartering of the Rhode Island Chapter, led by President Kevin Johnson. Thank you to last year's Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and Chapter officers for your hard work and dedication in making the year successful. Ken Petraglia began the joint NE/VTITE meeting during his term as President. Because of Ken and outgoing VT Chapter President, Roger Dickenson, this meeting has flourished and is now a regular event on the NEITE calendar.

I know the incoming Board and Committee Chairs will make 2007 as successful as last year. There some new faces, some old faces, and some people taking on new roles in the NEITE leadership for 2007. Kevin Dandrade and Joe Balskus are your newly elected section Directors, and I know they will serve NEITE well. I would like to welcome back Kevin Hooper as Chair of the Past Presidents Council and Sudhir Murthy as Chair of the Legislative Liaison Committee, both of whom have served NEITE in various capacities in the past. Diane Moribito, who recently chaired the Charter and By-Laws Committee, will be leading the Membership Committee. Under her leadership, we will refocus and energize the committee, which is essential to identifying and recruiting new members. Jennifer Conley will be the Chair of the Student Chapter Liaison Committee. Jennifer's committee will be the primary link with our student chapters and help integrate them into all facets of NEITE.

Spurred by an ITE Elected Leadership webinar, NEITE will be developing a strategic plan this year. Determining what NEITE should be in the future, and examining our operating procedures and methods of delivering member services is necessary for NEITE to thrive. Peg Kelly of Facilitation Plus was hired to lead the strategic planning process, which will include interviews with the Board, a retreat,

“This is an ambitious agenda and I can't act alone.”

which will be held before the NE/CTITE meeting, and producing an action-oriented plan, which will outline how to reach our goals. I will update you on how the strategic plan progresses in future Chronicles.

This year, May 9-11, is NEITE's turn to host the District 1 Annual Meeting. The meeting is rotated between the three sections that make up the District (New England, Upstate New York, and Metropolitan New York and New Jersey), and we have chosen the Biltmore in Providence, RI as the site. The Biltmore is a spectacular hotel that combines architectural features like the grand lobby and glass elevator

with modern amenities such as large suites and an internet connection. Our meeting Co-Chairs, Gary Hebert and Frank Romeo, have developed an outstanding technical program themed “Innovative and Flexible Design Solutions” and planned many excellent social activities. Every member should attend

“I look forward each year to renewing the friendships I have made at the District Meeting.”

at least one District Meeting. I look forward each year to renewing the friendships I have made at the District Meeting. If you have never attended a District Meeting, this is your opportunity meet your peers from around the district and visit the Renaissance City.

You are reading the first Chronicle produced by our new team: Alan Belniak, Ruth Bonsignore, and the rest of the folks at VHB. I am excited by the energy and ideas that the VHB team will bring to the Chronicle. They will continue to present the technical information you have come to expect and some new twists. You can do your part to help to them by submitting articles for publication. We have all worked on interesting projects. Please share your experiences with us.

As I said earlier, this is an ambitious agenda and I can't do it alone. I challenge you to take an active role in NEITE! We have a dedicated core, but there is room for you at NEITE. You can join one of the committees, contribute to the Chronicle, present a project at one of our meetings, become active in a State Chapter, or attend the District Meeting. However you chose to become involved in ITE, I guarantee that you will be rewarded through the experience. Take the first step and contact me a jmirabito@fstinc.com or (781) 221-1126.

I look forward to working with our elected and appointed leaders and to meeting many new members this year.

Sound Off!

Your chance to respond to a transportation or traffic question that affects all of us. A question will be posted in the next Chronicle and a link to a discussion board on the NE ITE site (www.neite.org) for you to sound off about the topic. A selection of interesting responses received, as well as another question, will be in the following issue.

ITE New England Chronicle Update

You may have received this issue of the Chronicle via e-mail and regular postal mail. In an effort to get you quality information quicker, we are attempting to shift the Chronicle to an all-electronic version. In addition, this will help cut down on costs, as well as help the environment.

Please take a moment and provide ITE with your e-mail address if you haven't yet.

- Go to www.ite.org and click 'Login' on the left.
- Your 'Login' is your ITE member number, and your 'Password' is the first six letters of your last name.
- From there, click the gray 'Edit' button at the top of that page to edit/add information.

We will request a new section list from www.ite.org prior to the next mailing.

A Message from the Editor

VHB is excited to take on the role of the New England ITE Chronicle editor! From engaging one another in thought-provoking discussions to reaching out to colleagues for information, it gives us a chance to engage one another in the small world of transportation engineering.

Thanks to the fine job done by Tom Stokes, Ray Hebert, and Michelle Langone; VHB hopes to continue the drive and spirit of the Chronicle. Should you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments on content, please let us know by sending an email to abelniak@vhb.com

VHB ITE Chronicle Staff

Alan Belniak
Ruth Bonsignore
Terri Courtemarche
Jorge Quinones

Useful Links

Institute of Transportation Engineers
<http://www.ite.org>

American Society of Civil Engineers
<http://www.asce.org>

American Society of Civil Engineers (New Hampshire Chapter)
<http://www.ascenh.org>

American Society of Civil Engineers (Vermont Section Chapter)
<http://sections.asce.org/vermont>

American Society of Civil Engineers (Maine Section Chapter)
<http://www.maineasce.org/maine.htm>

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers/
American Society of Civil Engineers (Connecticut Section)
<http://www.csce.org/>

Information, Please?

The EXECOM sees the TENC listserv as the best way to communicate and serve our membership. There are more than 480 TENC members presently using the listserv. The TENC listserv is by far the busiest of all councils in ITE. If you want to join, please go to the ITE Web site (www.ite.org/councils/TENC) and go to the TENC section. The listserv is listed under the "Discussion Group" heading. It is a great way to get answers to your technical questions from your peers.

ITE Young Consultants Award

The Young Consultants Award, sponsored by and funded by ITE's Transportation Consultants Council, recognizes achievement in transportation consulting by younger employees of member firms of the Transportation Consultants Council. The award is bestowed annually for a paper reporting on transportation consulting activities; the paper does not have to report upon a total project, but can cover the portion of the project for which the writer was responsible.

Contact Heather Talbert at talbert@ite.org for more information.
The deadline is April 2, 2007.



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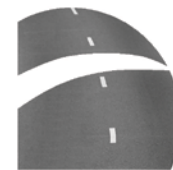
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Context Sensitive Solutions in New England

(continued from page 1)

Vermont—Context-sensitive planning and design is inherent in the Vermont Agency of Transportation’s (VTrans) vision “to preserve, develop, and enhance an integrated Transportation system to support Vermont’s quality of life and economic well-being.” In this regard, VTrans’ mission is “to work cooperatively to plan for and accommodate the need for movement of people and commerce in a safe, reliable, cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and equitable manner.” Although Vermont does not have a formalized CSS program, the methods outlined in the Vermont State Design Standards are generally consistent with the spirit and intent of CSS. Adopted in 1997 and updated along the way, the Vermont Design Standards have been structured to be flexible to allow for, and encourage, creative methods to minimize impacts from transportation projects on scenic, historic, archaeological, environmental and other important resources. They give VTrans greater ability to conform to State and Federal statutes, rules and regulations; to ensure that projects are designed to fit the Vermont context; to ensure that projects minimize environmental impacts; and to maximize the public benefit of transportation improvement investments. The project development process also emphasizes the use of extensive public input and participation.

Massachusetts—On their journey toward context sensitive solutions, the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) took a major step forward in January 2006 by adopting its new Project Development and Design Guide. The Guide dramatically reshapes the way transportation projects are implemented throughout the Commonwealth. This publication, and the process that led to it, are significant because:

- the Guide was developed through a unique, collaborative process using a task force of constituents representing a diverse array of viewpoints and priorities;
- MassHighway was proactive in bringing the public into the process through an open review of the draft Guide and an extensive series of outreach meetings;
- the Guide reshapes the project development process, supporting more extensive early planning and coordination, and a concerted public involvement program to craft projects that successfully balance MassHighway’s stewardship responsibility for the Common-

wealth’s road system with respect for the character of its communities;

- the Guide has significantly more flexible design standards and places high value on the preservation or enhancement of natural and cultural resources as part of transportation improvement projects; and,
- the Guide integrates multimodalism into every aspect of project planning and design.

Connecticut—ConnDOT’s CSS program was one of six pilot programs started in 1999. Early on, ConnDOT initiated training for all stakeholders involved in transportation projects. An Internal Leadership Team comprised of senior managers from the Department and FHWA, and representatives from various stakeholder groups developed general guidance on training program needs. ConnDOT held statewide workshops that targeted their staff, FHWA staff, regional planning agencies, municipalities, resource agencies, and special interest groups to introduce the concepts, gather feedback, and engage cities and towns throughout the State about their role in the process. ConnDOT also sponsored a two-day conference for northeast states and Canadian provinces to share experiences. Local training programs and workshops have followed to promote the CSS philosophy and share various techniques that can be used to develop context responsive projects. ConnDOT supports a comprehensive program of public involvement in project development and the 2003 Connecticut Highway Design Manual charges the transportation designer to “develop solutions that meet the Department’s operational and safety requirements while preserving the aesthetic, historic or cultural resources of an area.” ConnDOT has also developed alternative design criteria for rehabilitation projects on existing facilities and for bridge rehabilitation projects under the Local Bridge Program that reflect the practical constraints of designing highway improvements on existing facilities.

Rhode Island—In August 2004, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) adopted a policy that requires that context-sensitive solutions be incorporated into all reconstruction projects from their inception through construction. As stated in the policy, “This includes the artful blending of good engineering design practice with elements of historic/cultural preservation, environmental

preservation and landscape architecture. The resultant project must first be a functional and safe transportation facility, but it must also blend into and become part of the fabric of its environment.” Projects of a lesser scope are expected to select elements of the process that will insure the final transportation improvement is accomplished in a context-sensitive manner acceptable to the Department and the local community. All project managers and engineers working in the State are expected to understand that the concepts and principles of CSS are applicable to every project, large and small. For their part, RIDOT initiated a training program for its staff on the concepts and implementation of the CSS approach to project development.

Do Your Part!

Transportation planners and traffic engineers, you can do your part to assist these state agencies in the quest for context sensitive solutions on every project by:

- staying current with local and state transportation and environmental policies;
- educating yourself on the latest tools and technologies in transportation planning and traffic engineering;
- staffing your project with the multi-disciplinary team needed to successfully deliver a context-sensitive and environmentally responsive project;
- embracing constituent input throughout project planning and design;
- integrating the needs of all modes of travel into the project development process; and
- communicating effectively the alternatives and their advantages and disadvantages to decision-makers.

Overview of New England CSS Approaches

	ME	NH	VT	MA	CT	RI
Training in CSS/CSD		■		■	■	■
Increased outreach	■	■	■	■	■	■
Environmental integration	■	■	■	■		■
Aesthetic programs	■		■	■		■
Traffic calming guidance	■		■	■		
Replace-in- footprint	■	■	■	■	■	■
State-developed criteria	■		■	■	■	■
Project development guidance			■		■	

Useful Websites for CSS-related Materials

www.ite.org/css

www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd/index.cfm

www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd/pubs.cfm

www.contextsensitivesolutions.org

www.sha.state.md.us/events/ocet

thinkingBeyondPavement/thinking.asp

Students Showcase Work at Student Research Symposium

Laura Castelli, VHB

Graduate students representing area colleges and universities had the opportunity to showcase their research to colleagues during the third annual MAITE/UMass Transportation Student Research Symposium at the Boston Radisson on Feb. 9 2007. The students presented research from many areas of transportation planning and engineering, including the role of congestion in Massachusetts vehicle crashes, the effects of attention maintenance on driver performance and the use of ITS in transit systems. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer period where students debated the findings of various studies.

The symposium's keynote speaker was Ms. Luisa M. Paiewonsky, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Highway Department. Commissioner Paiewonsky spoke about her career in public service; from her three-year stint in the Peace Corps to her more than 17 years at MassHighway where she has served as an intern, manager, director, and Commissioner. Paiewonsky urged students to consider a career in public service, where

they can feel both pride and ownership of the Commonwealth's many miles of state highway.

Many of the students attending the symposium took time to attend the day-long career fair. Event sponsors were given the opportunity to meet students, hear more about their research and career goals, and discuss employment opportunities. This year's career fair included representatives from MassHighway and several area engineering firms.



UMass student Kevin Moriarty presented his findings to an attentive audience.

MassHighway Releases Manual

Neil Boudreau, MassHighway

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) announces the release of the "2006 Massachusetts Amendments to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and Standard Municipal Traffic Code" manual. The updated amendments are based on the 2003 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and reflect current Massachusetts' specific standards and requirements. The amendments now include documentation on Traffic Regulations, Highway Access Permits, Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions and Traffic Control Agreements. Copies of the amendments will be sent to each City and Town in the Commonwealth as binding code in conformance to Chapter 85, Section 2 of the General Laws. The full manual is available to download via MassHighway web site at www.mass.gov/mhd.

In addition to this manual, MassHighway will soon be distributing an updated statewide top crash intersection list. Lists for top statewide interchanges and rotaries will follow at some point in the future. The top crash intersection list will be based on geographically located (geocoded) crashes that have occurred between 2003-2005. The information will be summarized in an Excel spreadsheet table as well as in an ArcGIS shape file so that users can review the geographical limits of the high crash locations. We are proud of the fact that the turnaround time for this information is less than one year from when the 2005 crash data became available. The quick turnaround is now possible because of a new MassHighway crash system which automatically geocodes the crash data once it has been entered into the statewide system. The hope is that the availability of the crash location information will make it easier to prioritize projects based on safety.

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The 2006 NEITE Awards Ceremony

David J. DeBaie, Chair

Committee Members

The 2006 NEITE Awards Committee was comprised of Kim Hazarvartian (NH); Tom Gorrill (ME); Douglas Prentiss (MA); Robert Blasi (RI); and Paul Smith (CT); and chaired by David DeBaie who also voted as the Vermont representative. The Committee's guidelines identify that upon selection by the President, the Chairman appoints a committee including a member from each state. There are, of course, carryovers as the guidelines state that terms should be 3 years, and 2 members 'turnover' each year. In addition, while not specifically stated in the guidelines, non-members of the Section (such as an individual with only ITE Chapter membership) are not considered for membership and, to avoid members of the committee becoming selections of the committee, prior award winners are sought as members.

Process

The guidelines speak to timing of the effort, the voting role of the chair in the event of a tie, and the chair reporting directly to the president. Otherwise the process is open. Chairmen have collected and passed down their notes, which suggest a tradition of nominations and subsequent selections. E-mail has facilitated the exchange of information among the committee and in fact has displaced the troublesome meetings-in-person. For the past several years suggestions were solicited from the membership via the NEITE web site.

2006 Presentation

Presentations were made by NEITE President Neil Boudreau at the 2006 Annual Meeting on December 4th as follows:

- Maria R. Fuentes
Transportation Leadership Award
- Garo Garabedian
Transportation Engineer of the Year Award
- Kevin G. Hooper, P.E.
Distinguished Service Award
- Kenneth Petraglia, P.E., P.T.O.E.
Distinguished Service Award
- Michelle M. Langone
Young Professional Group Award

Biographies and plaque texts of the 2006 NEITE Awards



Maria R. Fuentes
Executive Director of
Maine Better
Transportation
Association

Transportation Leadership Award

Presented to: Maria R. Fuentes

For Your Vision, Leadership, and
Tireless Effort Advocating for
Maine's Transportation Systems

Maria Fuentes earned a Bachelor of Science majoring in Public Relations and Marketing from Boston University in 1982 and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maine in 1985.

Following her academic studies, Ms. Fuentes was a research associate with the Maine Advancement Program in Augusta, and later served as an assistant administrator with the program. Since 1992, Maria Fuentes has held the position of Executive Director of the Maine Better Transportation Association, also of Augusta, Maine.

As Executive Director, she has been an active advocate for the funding of various transportation projects throughout Maine including roadways, bridges, ports, rail, pedestrian and bicycles. She has led several efforts to pass transportation bonds. Ms. Fuentes was instrumental in gaining approval for the widening of the Maine Turnpike. She has been a key organizer of the Annual Transportation Conference.

Maria Fuentes is a member of the University of Maine Board of Visitors. She is former Chair of Better Roads & Transportation Council of America. She has been a member of the Hallowell Zoning Board of Appeals, the Kennebec Valley United Way, the Kennebec Child Development Corporation, and the University of Maine Alumni Association.

In 2004, Ms. Fuentes was awarded the Construction Communicator of the Year Award by the Construction Specifications Institute. In 2000, she was awarded the Pine

Tree Emblem Alumni Service Award from the University of Maine Alumni Association. And in 1998, Maria Fuentes was awarded the Major Achievement in Construction Award by the Associated Constructors of Maine.



Garo Garabedian
City Traffic Engineer,
Greenwich, CT

Transportation Engineer of the Year 2006

Presented to: Garo Garabedian

For Spearheading and Coordinating the
Planning and Public Information Process
for the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut
regarding the King Street-Route 15
interchange study

The Transportation Engineer of the Year Award is conferred by the section to recognize outstanding technical proficiency by a member of NEITE. This year's recipient is well known to many of us. However, in the current environment of heightened security, it became difficult to obtain complete background information on this individual's "early years".

What we do know is that he has dedicated himself to public service. For the last 26 years he has served as a municipal traffic engineer. Most recently, he was highly instrumental in the advancement of traffic engineering solutions for improvements to a critical highway interchange that affected residents of two communities which are also located in two adjacent states. The award recipient spearheaded development of innovative alternative engineering solutions in a cooperative effort with representatives from both municipalities and states, resulting in two concept scenarios which were brought forth to address safety and operational issues at this interchange. This individual was also at the forefront of his Traffic Engineering Division's installation of a temporary modern roundabout at a nearby intersection location. The implementation of the temporary roundabout at this previously signalized location greatly improved traffic operations and level of service.

continued on page 4

The 2006 NEITE Awards Ceremony

(continued from page 6)



Kevin G. Hooper, P.E.
Kevin Hooper
Associates

Distinguished Service Award

Presented to: Kevin G. Hooper, P.E.

For Many Years of Outstanding Service to the Transportation and Traffic Engineering Profession Resulting in a Lasting Contribution To the Section and the Profession

Kevin Hooper is President of Kevin Hooper Associates, the transportation planning firm he started in 1997 after holding positions with public sector agencies (in Georgia, Connecticut, and Ohio) and private consulting firms (in Virginia and Maine) over the previous 20 years. Kevin received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Hooper served as editor for the ITE Trip Generation Handbook and as Technical Editor for ITE's Parking Generation, 3rd Edition. Mr. Hooper was Principal Investigator for the NCHRP project that produced NCHRP Report 323 'Travel Characteristics at Large-Scale Suburban Activity Centers.' He is currently participating on an NCHRP project to develop improved estimation methods for internal capture at mixed-use developments. He has also conducted numerous training courses and seminars, including the NTI training course that demonstrated NCHRP 255 techniques for refining and interpreting travel demand model output.

Mr. Hooper is the Immediate Past President of the New England Section of ITE and of the ITE Maine Chapter. He previously served as President of the Washington, D.C. Section of ITE.

Kenneth Petraglia, P.E., P.T.O.E.
BETA Engineering, Inc

Distinguished Service Award

Presented to: Kenneth J. Petraglia, P.E., P.T.O.E.

For Many Years of Outstanding Service to the Traffic Engineering Profession Resulting in a Lasting Contribution to the Section and the ITE Organization

Ken is a graduate of Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Since graduating from college, Ken has been continuously involved in the traffic/transportation engineering profession, most notably in the Boston area. Ken has been a member of ITE since 1979 (one of the longest in our membership) and presently, as a fellow of the Institute has over 30+ years in the traffic engineering profession. Ken has been a registered professional engineer in Massachusetts since 1984 and is one of the first PTOE's in New England.

In the early 1990's Ken was one of the leaders in Massachusetts drafting an update to the Guidelines for Traffic Impact Assessments, used by the Executive Office of Transportation and MassHighway for Environmental Impact Reports. Ken has presented at ITE international meetings, this year in Milwaukee and recently at the District and Section and Chapter meetings. Since the late 1990's Ken served as the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Section. As a hardworking and productive chairman, Ken led the efforts of two technical papers comparing the software analysis packages to field operations at both signalized and unsignalized intersections in the Boston area. Ken was further driven to be still more involved and served the Section on its Board of Directors from Director to Section President. In 2006 Ken was the Section Past President and prominently factored in the Section adopting the electronic format.

In 2006 Ken served as Secretary/Treasurer of the District 1 Executive Board, and in 2007 will serve as Vice Chairman.

continued on page 8



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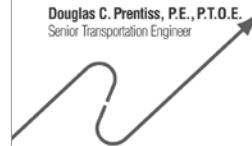
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The 2006 NEITE Awards Ceremony

(continued from page 6)



Michelle M. Langone
Howard/
Stein-Hudson, Inc.

Young Professionals Group Award 2006

Presented to: Michelle M. Langone

For Outstanding Contributions to the New England Section of ITE as Recent Chapter President at UMass and as a Chronicle Staffer while Emerging as a Transportation Professional

After growing up in Andover, Massachusetts, Michelle went to Northeastern University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. As a result her inter-

est in her transportation studies, following her graduation, Michelle elected to continue her career at UMass-Amherst where she recently graduated with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with concentration in Transportation. While at UMass, she was involved in the Student Chapter of ITE and served as president of the Chapter her last year on campus what a way to end her college career! One of her duties as president that year to was coordinate, organize and serve as moderator at the joint Student Chapter-NEITE Section meeting held at the Campus in Spring 2005.

Following her graduation, Michelle secured a position as a transportation engineer with the Boston-based firm Howard/Stein-Hudson where she has been involved in a variety of traffic transportation projects. Still needing to stay involved in NEITE, Michelle volunteered her

time as Co-Editor of our quarterly newsletter, The Chronicle. You may have seen a few articles in there this year written by Michelle! But we know you have seen her photos; many of them are to her credit! In the spring, she was very busy at the District meeting snapping candid photos of various ITE officers and guests.

When Michelle is not busy with NEITE or her transportation engineering activities she is busy with her extra-curricular activities that include architects and engineers. This past summer Michelle was instrumental in resurrecting the Engineers/Architects Volleyball league which played games on Boston Common. Her team made it to the playoffs, ultimately losing to MassHighway (who went on to win the championship). So whether it is work or play, Michelle has taken an active role in her professional career as a transportation engineer.

ITE New England Chapter Updates

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Over the last few months, the UMass ITE Student Chapter has been busy with technical and social activities. In late November, the chapter visited the UPS Distribution Facility in West Springfield, MA where they watched the morning departure of 140 package-carrying trucks in roughly 15 minutes and learned about UPS logistics and operations from Susan Pare of UPS.

Several student chapter members and faculty advisor, Dr. Mike Knodler, participated in the Technology Innovation Challenge sponsored by the UMass College of Engineering and School of Management in December. The team's submission was the use of traffic sensor technology for a home security application. The team finished in the top 4 for this part of the competition which included an elevator pitch and business plan executive summary.

In January, 15 chapter members attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC where two members also presented their research. While in Washington, students attended the ITE Student Dinner and Information Session at ITE Headquarters. From Washington, students drove to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Vehicle Research Center where they

learned about crash testing and watched a front impact crash test on a 2007 Ford Edge. The 3rd Annual Massachusetts ITE Student Research Symposium, held on February 9 in Boston, MA, was sponsored by the University of Massachusetts this year. The day's events included 9 presentations by UMass Amherst student chapter members.

The chapter has also worked on media outreach. The chapter's web site has been completely redone (www.ecs.umass.edu/ite) and the first chapter newsletter was released. To be added to the newsletter mailing list, please e-mail hrothenb@acad.umass.edu. The chapter also participated in a variety of social activities including intramural volleyball, a holiday party, and several dinner outings.

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Chapter held its annual Business Meeting on December 12, 2006 at the Common Man Restaurant in Concord, New Hampshire. The technical session featured two presentations: "Context Sensitive Solutions" was presented by Bill Oldenburg, P.E., Chief of Preliminary Design at the NHDOT, and "The NHDOT Long Range Transportation Plan" was presented by Ansel Sanborn, P.E., former Administrator of the NHDOT Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance. The event drew ap-

proximately 40 attendees. At the conclusion of their presentations, Bob Bollinger, NH Chapter President, presented Mr. Oldenburg and Mr. Sanborn with honorary "Granite Chips" as a token of the NH Chapter's appreciation.

The results of the New Hampshire Chapter elections were tallied at our Annual Business Meeting. The following individuals were elected to serve as Chapter officers in 2007: President – Robert E. Bollinger, P.E., PTOE; Vice President – Nicholas B. Sanders, P.E.; Secretary-Treasurer – Andre H. Betit, Jr., P.E. The NH Chapter is pleased to announce that our Immediate Past President, Kevin R. Dandrade, P.E., PTOE, has been elected to serve on the NE Section Executive Board as a Director.

The NH Chapter is in the final planning stages for our Spring Meeting. This meeting, which will be conducted with the NH Department of Transportation, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2007 in Concord, New Hampshire. Please look for more details in the next few weeks on the NE Section Events page.

I would like to thank the members of the NH Chapter for their continued support, and I look forward to serving another year as Chapter President.

2007 District 1 Annual Meeting Agenda

This year's annual meeting will take place on March 20—22 in the historic Providence Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island! We are very pleased that the Local Arrangements Committee of the New England Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has selected this outstanding venue for the thirty-eighth District 1 Annual Meeting. With the help of many District 1 members, the Local Arrangements Committee has pulled together an excellent technical program that will greatly benefit all who participate. The technical focus of the meeting is "flexible and innovative design solutions." The committee has worked hard to provide a wide geographic representation in the program and include several student presentations. This is a great opportunity for

members to obtain professional development hours (PDHs) for their professional certifications and state licensing requirements. We also encourage our more senior members of ITE to invite younger staff who will benefit from the sessions and topics discussed.

In addition to the technical presentations there will be plenty of opportunities to network and socialize. Spouses/guests will have an opportunity to visit historic Newport, Rhode Island including shopping and a tour of the famous Vanderbilt mansion. The tour is free this year for advance full registrants.

We look forward to seeing all of you at this exciting event!

Wednesday

- 11:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. Registration Begins
- 12:00 P.M.—6:00 P.M. Vendors Area Open
- 1:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M. Workshop: Context Sensitive Design Solutions (Includes Snack)
- 1:00 P.M.—3:00 P.M. RIDOT TMC Tour (Box Lunch Provided)
- 6:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. Welcome Reception: Federal Reserve

Thursday

- 7:30 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Vendor Area Open (all day)
- 7:30 A.M.—8:30 A.M. Continental Breakfast Registration Open
- 8:30 A.M.—10:00 A.M. Session 1: Innovative Public Participation Strategies
- 8:30 A.M.—10:00 A.M. Session 2: Traffic Calming What Works and What Doesn't
- 9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M. Companion Tour
- 10:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M. Break
- 10:30 A.M.—12:00 P.M. Session 3: Flexible Design Experiences
- 10:30 A.M.—12:00 P.M. Session 4: Accommodating Pedestrian and Bicyclists
- 12:00 P.M.—1:30 P.M. Luncheon District 1 and International Candidates' Speeches
- 1:30 P.M.—2:30 P.M. District 1 Board Meeting
- 2:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M. Session 6: Safety Innovations and Analysis
- 2:30 P.M.—4:00 P.M. Session 5: Retrofitting Urban Corridors
- 4:00 P.M.—5:30 P.M. Traffic Bowl
- 6:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. Annual Awards Banquet
- 8:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M. Entertainment (Ocean State Follies)

Friday

- 7:30 A.M.—8:30 A.M. Buffet Breakfast
- 9:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M. Session 7: Smart Growth Techniques
- 9:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M. Session 8: Transit/Public Transportation
- 10:30 A.M.—11:00 A.M. Break
- 11:00 A.M.—12:30 P.M. Session 9: State Perspectives on Public Agency Design Guidelines
- 1:00 P.M.—6:00 P.M. Golf Outing (Triggs Memorial Golf Course)



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A Traffic Engineer's Dream Project.....

Joseph Balskus, Tighe & Bond

The Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) is undergoing a dramatic expansion of services to include a regional cancer center, medical office building, and an 855-space parking garage on their sprawling New Haven campus, just off the terminus of the Route 34 expressway. The Route 34 expressway is the remnant of the planned expressway link from the Interstate 95 and Interstate 91 interchange on the west end of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge (also known locally as the Q Bridge for Quinnipiac River). The expressway was planned to extend through New Haven to the west to link up with the Merritt Parkway.

The expressway plans were dropped due to various factors with the expressway terminating with several ramps to the local frontage roadways, North Frontage Road and Legion Avenue, running east/west and just north of the YNHH campus. In the place of the expressway, planned development projects were considered over the years, with the massive 3000-space Air Rights parking garage constructed over the planned expressway. The expressway under the garage became a parking lot under the garage (see Figure 1).

The Route 34 expressway plays an important role in the YNHH expansion plans because of several factors, including the available right-of-way remaining from the planned expressway project, the excellent access to interstate highways it provides, and the Air Rights parking garage that is adjacent to the YNHH campus.

With these significant transportation infrastructure assets, however, mitigation improvements for the YNHH cancer center traffic were needed to address existing local and state highway operational deficiencies, as well as improving access to planned loading docks at the west end of the Air Rights garage.

The improvements were vetted through the complex and enduring city approval process as well as the State Traffic Commission review and approval process. The approved improvements include the following:

- widening of Route 34 expressway ramp system
- re-striping Route 34 westbound
- construction of new ramps to expressway
- installation of overhead signing
- construction of new shipping/receiving terminal
- construction of a modern roundabout at terminus of ramps and parking garage
- construction of new internal garage ramp leading to roundabout
- reconstruction of parking area under Air Rights garage
- replacement of twelve traffic control signals

These improvements are standard design projects among engineers, except for the internal ramp construction and the roundabout. The internal ramp will be constructed within the lower garage area and provide a direct connection from the 3000-space parking garage to the Route 34 expressway, through the roundabout. The roundabout itself is unique not only because Connecticut, as a state, is usually reluctant to tackle new transportation controls, but also that it involves the connection of an expressway ramp system to a parking garage, loading area, and local street system. The roundabout option was agreed upon after several studies of alternatives for access to the garage from Route 34 and local roads while providing truck access to the garage.

These improvements are under design and will be constructed by October 2009 for the opening of the cancer center, medical office building, and lot E garage.

Figure 1



ITE New England Directory

2006 Executive Board

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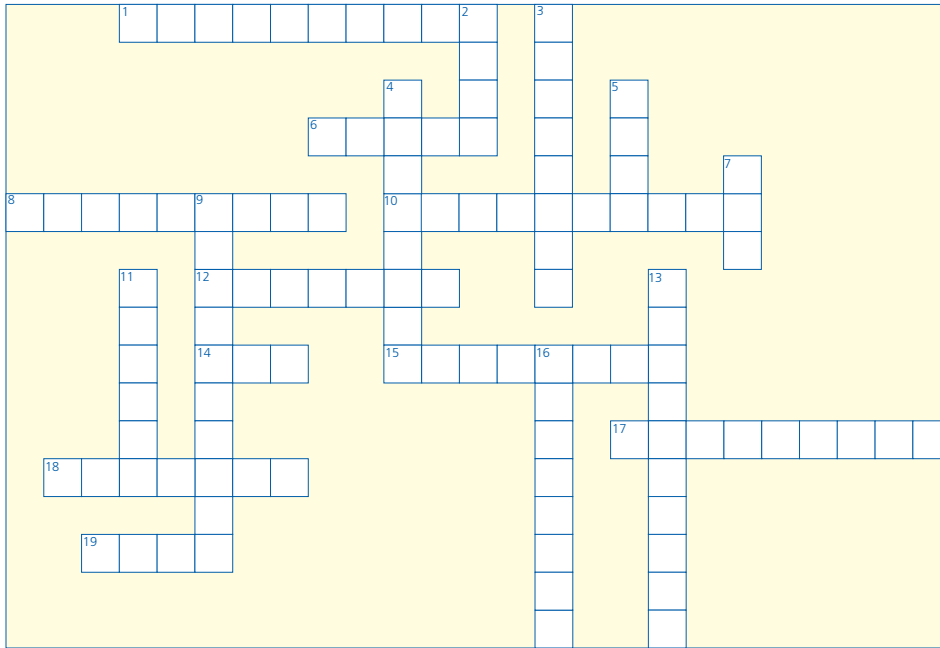
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. What Massachusetts Drivers fail to use
- 6. Specifies Traffic Signal Warrants
- 8. Mass ITE/ITS Mass Research _____
- 10. Location of 2007 District 1 Annual Meeting
- 12. There's too much ____!
- 14. Means Stop
- 15. One traffic calming tool
- 17. AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways And Streets
- 18. Current NEITE Chronicle editor
- 19. Often heard in Boston

Down

- 2. ____/Lag
- 3. Current NEITE president
- 4. R1-1
- 5. Newer License/Certification
- 7. Low wattage signal lens
- 9. ____ Flow Rate
- 11. ____on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- 13. Trip _____
- 16. Sight _____

Changes at the New Hampshire Transportation Commissioner Position

Nick Sanders, VHB

New Hampshire State Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray has resigned effective March 1. Murray began her career at the department as an intern in 1974 and rose through the ranks, nominated to the top post by former Gov. Jeanne Shaheen in 2001. A native of New Hampshire, Commissioner Murray graduated cum laude from the University of New Hampshire in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. She was the 2005 recipient of the Transportation Leadership Award presented by NEITE and the 2006 recipient of Engineer of the Year by the New Hampshire Engineering

Societies. On behalf of NEITE, we all thank Carol for her years of dedicated public service. Gov. John Lynch has nominated Charles P. O'Leary to serve as Murray's temporary replacement. O'Leary, who graduated from the United States Navel Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and a Masters in Business Administration from Dartmouth College, previously served as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation from 1990 to 1996. Gov. Lynch will soon begin the process of finding a permanent leader for the Department.

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Upcoming Events

March 20

NE ITE/CT Chapter Meeting

Manchester Country Club: Manchester, CT

Matt Blume
mblume@vhb.com

March 27

NH Chapter Meeting (tentative)

To be Determined

Robert Bollinger
reb@reb-eng.com

June 19

NEITE/ME/NH Chapter Meeting (tentative)

To be Determined

Robert Bollinger
reb@reb-eng.com

March 20

NE ITE Board Meeting

Manchester Country Club: Manchester, CT

John Mirabito
jmirabito@fstinc.com

April

ME Chapter Meeting (tentative)

To be Determined

Stephen Landry
stephen.landry@maine.gov

August 5—8

ITE 2007 Annual Meeting and Exhibit

David L. Lawrence Convention Center:
Pittsburgh, PA

www.ite.org/annualmeeting

March 21

MA Chapter/MA Municipal

Engineering Meeting: Braintree, MA

Robert Campbell
rcampbell@townofbraintreegov.org

May 9—11

Northeastern District Annual Meeting

Biltmore Hotel: Providence, RI

Gary Hebert
ghebert@fstinc.com

Frank Romeo
fromeo@beta-inc.com

September 18

NEITE/MA Chapter Meeting (tentative)

Waltham, MA

Robert Campbell
rcampbell@townofbraintreegov.org

March 25—28

**ITE 2007 Technical Conference and Exhibit
Managing Congestion: Can We do Better?**

Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina

www.ite.org/Conference

May 31

Thomas Desjardins Golf Tournament

Sandy Burr Country Club: Wayland, MA

Rodney Emery
remery@ekmail.com

To see a list of all activities and news relating to the ITE visit www.ite.org/site/evetnt.asp or www.neite.org for NEITE specific information.



New England ITE Chronicle

c/o Alan Belniak, VHB
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