Study Reveal Safety Issues on Shared-Use Paths
by
Lisa Aultman-Hall, Ph.D.
Director, Connecticut Transportation Institute

Despite the logical assumption that removal of bicycles and pedestrians from proximity to motorized traffic should improve their safety, recent research shows otherwise. Most of us assume, incorrectly, that the safety issues on shared-use paths are minor and certainly far less serious than the safety issues on roads. Particularly since the implementation of ISTEA and TEA21, states and municipalities have been building dedicated non-motorized facilities, such as shared-use paths, at an unprecedented rate.

And for the most part, the public loves these facilities, venturing out to walk, jog, bicycle and rollerblade at a rate that makes path capacity an issue in some locations. Unfortunately, the transportation safety issues on these off-road facilities are not fully understood.

In previous research (1998 and 1999), CTI's Dr. Aultman-Hall found that sidewalks and off-road shared-use paths have incident and injury rates significantly higher than those for on-road cycling. Similar results have been found by other researchers in Washington state and California. Given the preference of many people for cycling on paths including rail trails, and out of concern for the safety of the walkers, joggers and runners, it is timely to study what is dangerous about shared-use paths, and how they can be operated more safely for all users.

Planners and researchers have very little data upon which to conduct defensible safety analysis to identify causal factors, design countermeasures and/or to make design decisions for non-motorized facilities. This is particularly true for shared-use paths. While various designs and operational characteristics exist, such as the 1999 AASHTO Guidebook for the Design of Bicycle Facilities, no comprehensive study of their relative effectiveness has been undertaken. Furthermore, traditional crash and injury databases are not complete with respect to incidents that occur on paths. There are two key limitations that hinder non-motorized safety analysis, particularly for shared-use paths: lack of complete incident databases and lack of travel exposure information.

In order to further our understanding of shared-use path safety, the Connecticut Department of Transportation funded a study at the University of Connecticut in 2002 and 2003 to design a survey instrument to collect comprehensive self-reported path crashes and injury events for all path users. The survey was piloted in September 2002 on the Farmington River Trail in the Town of Canton, Connecticut. Between June and July 2003

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT'S YOUR CHRONICLE!

Over the years I have been enjoyed the Chronicle for the informative articles and for the summary of activities across the Section. Only as I became more active and was asked to contribute articles did the amount of work that goes into actual publication become evident. And, as the Chronicle evolves into an ever-improving journal, the job has only become more difficult.

Just think of all the information that has to be assembled: topical articles, committee reports, state chapter reports, student chapter reports, a directory, calendar events and special features. And, let's not forget the advertisements. Talk to any of our current or past editors and they can fill an afternoon with stories about meeting deadlines at the last-minute. The editors of the Chronicle take on one of the most demanding roles the Section has to offer. Those of us who have not lived through the process tend to take all of this for granted.

New to this year's Chronicle are the "Where Are They Now?" section and a "Feature Projects" section, featuring a different project theme for each issue. The first of these will provide an update on an ITE member of interest selected by the Chronicle editors. The "Feature Projects" section gives each of us an opportunity to send in a photograph, rendering or graphic with a caption to highlight a project – this can bring recognition to our firm and, more importantly, to our clients. In addition, this year we have color! These are good examples of the type of innovation we see from our Chronicle staff.

We are fortunate to have a history of dedicated editors who devote hours to bringing a quality product to us. This success does not come by accident! It is important to note, however, that as much as we need them, their success in turn depends very much on the rest of us. If we do not send them articles, committee reports and other news, the editors will have nothing to print.

We all need to pitch in, because after all it is your Chronicle! Anyone in the Section is welcome to forward an article, or respond to one of the special features. For those of us who are committee chairs and state or student chapter presidents, coordinating with the Chronicle staff is a responsibility that we need to accept when taking on these positions. In most cases, all that is needed is a paragraph about what your group has done between issues. Besides, this is a perfect opportunity to shine and to let the membership know just how hard your committee or chapter is working.

When you receive your next Chronicle, don't just read it – take a good look at the quality product that has been prepared. Sometimes it is hard to remember to do that because we are busy and we all tend to take these efforts for granted. So go ahead and write an article or take a few minutes to prepare a committee report. And please, consider the deadline that is included in all requests for material for the Chronicle.

And finally please remember that the Chronicle staff works very hard. So the next time you see any of our current or past editors, take a minute to say "thanks" and don't be afraid to pass along a compliment. But, above all, get those articles and reports in!

Ken Petraglia
NEITE President
While active ITE members may be familiar with Kim's recent activities, we thought some of the more inactive members might be interested and motivated by Kim's diverse experiences with ITE.

Kim's affiliation with ITE spans the length of this professional engineering career and he has served ITE in a variety of different capacities including the following:

- District One 2003 Immediate Past Chairman, 2002 Chairman, 2001 Vice Chairman and 2000 Secretary-Treasurer
- New Hampshire Chapter 1996 Immediate Past President, 1996-1997 President
- District One 2004 Harvey B. Boutwell Distinguished Service Award
- New England Section 1999 Distinguished Service Award

Kim is currently serving as the International Director for District One. He recently attended the ITE International Meeting and Exposition in Melbourne, Australia. Although he did not see a kangaroo he ate some!

While there he attended the International Board of Directors Meeting, the Coordinating Council Meeting, the Old Boardees Banquet, the Leadership Dinner, the 75th Anniversary Banquet, the Business Meeting proper and over sixteen hours of technical sessions. He indicated that he saw lots of ITE friends from around the world and it was well worth the trip. The Chronicle Team recently "set down" for an interview with Kim ...

What types of engineering projects are you currently working on?

As principal of TEPP, LLC, I am always involved in a wide variety of projects. Recently, this includes projects in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont for private, governmental and institutional clients. The projects are quite diverse and include: traffic impact and access analysis for land developments including the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act process, traffic operations/signal planning/engineering, accident/safety analysis, parking analysis/design and transportation review for governments and other entities.

What would you consider your most rewarding experience as an engineering professional?

Sometimes it feels like I was born to the profession, because transportation has fascinated and excited me ever since I can remember. My passion has sustained me through the years, from building roads in the sandbox, through the rigors of being a transportation engineering student and through my twenty-four years of practice.

I would have to say that I am most proud of establishing my own firm in 1991, surviving recessions and difficult times and building TEPP, LLC, a successful transportation engineering, planning and policy firm.

It is gratifying to know that though the profession, I am able to make practical contributions that benefit the public and our clients, giving meaning to my work. Also, a tremendous feeling of accomplishment comes with mastering transportation engineering techniques, policies and procedures.

One of the most rewarding experiences, I have found, is collaborating with our many colleagues, combining our diverse knowledge and experiences to discover effective solutions to difficult challenges. I value my affiliation with ITE so highly because it is one of the best vehicles for professional collaboration.
the survey was conducted on a second section of the Farmington River Trail in the town of Farmington and the Farmington Heritage Canal Greenway in Cheshire.

In total, 684 shared-use path users were surveyed on the three shared-use path facilities in Connecticut. These users reported 51 collision or fall events (37 on the specific sections of shared-use paths being studied). Of those 51 events, 35 resulted in injuries; two of which were considered major. The amount of travel for each group of users on each trail was estimated from survey questions and a map where participants traced their most common route. This allowed researchers to calculate the average crash and fall rate per unit distance traveled for each user group and for each path facility.

The results showed that event rates for skaters were highest, followed by bicyclists and pedestrians. The bicycle event rate was three times that of pedestrians, while the rate for skaters was over six times that of pedestrians. Falls were the more frequently reported events when compared to collisions and they were more often associated with an injury. Therefore, efforts to understand what can prevent falls are necessary.

The overall incident rates were highest on the trail with the largest traffic volume and largest number of intersections and lowest on the trail with the fewest intersections and lowest percentage of skaters and bicyclists. Finding that the highest incident rate is on the highest volume path is particularly concerning as the demand for shared-use paths and their popularity increases.

Given that this study indicates that frequent collisions and falls occur on shared-use paths and that they often result in injuries, there is a need for safety countermeasures. These study results combined with comments from the survey respondents suggest that countermeasures should include several actions: speed control; clear communication of path operating rules; and finally the consideration that different user types be separated when high volumes warrant. The continuation of high design standards (geometric and traffic control related) is clearly a safety countermeasure, and the nature of these results suggest that older facilities with lower standards may require upgrading in the future. Finally, due to the high incidence of falls, education, perhaps in the form of signage, could be undertaken so that users are aware of this risk.

To request a copy of Dr. Aultman-Hall's full report, Developing a Methodology to Evaluate the Safety of Shared-Use Paths, Publication No. JHR 04-297, please contact Stephanie Merrall at (860) 486-6446 or smerrall@engr.uconn.edu.

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For all of these reasons and through the evolution of both my career and the profession, the field of transportation is as enjoyable and more rewarding for me today as it was those many years ago in the sandbox.

**How did you originally get involved in ITE?**

As a young professional, I attended ITE meetings and social events and took advantage of the many professional development activities offered. I soon discovered that the opportunity to interact with other members and learn more about the profession was quite valuable. As a result, I became actively involved in the New England Section Technical Committee and the New Hampshire Chapter. Eventually, I served as President of the New Hampshire Chapter and New England Section President. My time and effort was richly rewarded with an even greater appreciation of the profession and a widespread network of colleagues, many of whom have become good friends.

**What motivated you to become an International Director?**

During my time on the District One Executive Committee and as its Chairman, I saw how much our membership values ITE. I also saw a membership deeply committed to improving our profession and its service to the world. Being International Director gives me the privilege of bringing the perspective of the District to the ITE International Board of Direction and helping ITE continue to grow in service.

**What can young professionals expect to gain from their involvement in ITE?**

ITE is the organization of choice for transportation professionals for many good reasons. ITE facilitates effective involvement because it is large and diverse while, at the same time, it is local and personal. The organization presents a wealth of opportunities for professional development, collaboration, service and leadership at all levels. Young professionals can use these opportunities to master transportation engineering techniques and make a lasting contribution. Involvement can foster the passion for the profession, keeping transportation engineering enjoyable and rewarding. Indeed, ITE helps young professionals develop to their full potential, with the attendant rewards.

See you at the next meeting!
The theme for this issue’s Feature Projects section is pedestrian enhancements. Below are some examples of what firms are doing in the area to improve accessibility for pedestrians.

**Pedestrian Enhancements**

**CHARLES/MGH RED LINE STATION**
Boston, MA

The purpose of the Charles/MGH Red Line Station Accessibility and Modernization Project was to create a safe, barrier-free pedestrian access to the subway station serving a major medical area (Mass General Hospital).

HDR Engineering and Elkus/Manfredi Architects developed the design for the crossing area. Neoscape provided the pictured rendering.

**WASHINGTON AND CENTRAL STREETS**
Wellesley, MA

The Washington Street/Central Street roadway corridor plays a significant role for the residents of Wellesley, Massachusetts. It is a major east/west link, which includes three distinct commercial zones, passive and recreational facilities, and residential districts.

Gates, Leighton & Associates, Inc., working together with the Beta Group, Inc., developed an alternative design for the crosswalk area. Concrete pavers edged with granite curb were used to identify the crossing zones. Both materials are locked together with a concrete edge restraint.
**MAIN STREET**  
**Burlington, VT**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation, the city of Burlington and the University of Vermont were major stakeholders in this project to improve the traffic flow along Burlington’s Main Street and create a vibrant and appealing gateway to the downtown. The project corrected the roadway’s structural deterioration and insufficient capacity to handle current traffic volumes, as well as inadequate pedestrian, bicyclist and public transportation amenities.

Dufresne-Henry designed the project.

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**HARVARD STREET**  
**Brookline, MA**

Improvements to the JFK Crossing section of Harvard Street were seen as the first step of the economic revitalization of the numerous small shops found in this area. Design ideas carefully address the concerns of both residents and business owners while making significant improvements to pedestrian safety and the aesthetics of the road corridor.

Beta Group, Inc. and the landscape architectural firm of Gates, Leighton & Associates, Inc. designed this project. Improvements to the roadway corridor included pavement rehabilitation, ornamental lighting, street trees, brick pavers, benches, trash receptacles, planters, and bike racks.

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**Send in your Feature Project for the next issue of the Chronicle!**  
The theme for the November issue is “Roundabouts.”

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**MassHighway Announces Release of Traffic Management Plans Manual**

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) announces the first release of the “Standard Details and Drawings for the Development of Traffic Management Plans” manual. With the release of the standard traffic management drawings and work zone sign listings, MassHighway will require that all projects under the purview of Department review shall follow these guidelines. These drawings should meet the majority of typical work zone setups, but shall also be used as templates for more customized applications. Each of the standard drawings and details provided in this document conform to the 2003 Edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD). An Engineering Directive will be released by the Department to provide more specific details on how the drawing templates should be utilized.

In addition to this manual, each drawing has been made available in both AutoCAD format and PDF format so that designers can include the standard details in their construction documents. Files are available to download via MassHighway web site, [www.mass.gov/mhd](http://www.mass.gov/mhd), or may be purchased on a CD-ROM along with a copy of the manual from the Consultant Service Center. These drawings conform to standard MassHighway AutoCAD specifications and any revisions to work zone practices published in the MUTCD will be announced through the MassHighway web site as necessary.

In addition to the TMP manual, MassHighway will soon be releasing a Bridge Design Manual that will also be available for downloading through the Department web page. Standard drawings will be made available in both Adobe Acrobat and AutoCAD formats.

Through innovation such as standardization of traffic management plans and the new Bridge Design Manual, MassHighway hopes to improve upon the project delivery and design review processes.
ITE To Be Involved in the Public Participation Process for the Draft Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan for Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) has called upon the Massachusetts Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MAITE) to be involved in the public participation process for the state's new long-range transportation plan. MAITE has accepted the call and is now asking its members to help review and comment on the plan.

In July of 2004, a new state bill, called An Act Restructuring the Transportation Systems of the Commonwealth (Chapter 196 of the Acts of 2004) was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed by Governor Romney. The new law required the preparation of a new long-range transportation plan to replace the most recent plan, published in 1995, which was prepared while the state was nearing completion of the design and was reaching peak activity in the construction of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project. It was thought that a new plan would focus on a post-Artery project transportation agenda for the state.

On March 10, 2005, the governor unveiled the 20-year transportation plan for Massachusetts, entitled A Framework for Thinking – A Plan for Action. The plan is a guiding blueprint for where future capital spending of an anticipated $31 billion will be placed in the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. This plan becomes even more important with the latest passage and signing on August 10, 2005 by the president of the federal transportation bill, called SAFETEA-LU.

The plan is consistent with the Office of Commonwealth Development's Sustainable Development Principles by investing in those projects that will best promote a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous future for the Commonwealth's citizens. The plan is also consistent with the Romney administration's Fix-It-First policy by directing at least 75% of all new spending toward maintaining, repairing, and improving the state's existing bridges, highways, and intersections and ensuring that the regional transit authorities are able to achieve and maintain a state of good repair.

During the month of June, Secretary John Cogliano of EOT presented the draft plan to members of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Competitiveness Councils at four regional meetings held across the state. In late September, officials of EOT will present the draft plan to the general public at six public meetings held at libraries across the state. Prior to these meetings EOT will present the draft plan to members of MAITE and receive comments on September 14, 2004 at 4:00 PM at the New England Section ITE meeting held at the Best Western hotel in Waltham. The draft plan can be viewed at: www.eot.state.ma.us/downloads/longrangeplan/FWFTReport.pdf. The plan will incorporate comments and be finalized in the month of December.

Thomas E. Desjardins Memorial Scholarship Fund

On Tuesday, May 24, 2005 the NEITE held the 6th Annual Thomas E. Desjardins Golf Tournament to benefit scholarships for college students in the field of transportation engineering. This year's tournament took place again at Sandy Burr Country Club and resulted in our first encounter with less than perfect weather. In fact, the elements tested our resolve and commitment to this worthwhile activity but overall gave testament to our strong support for this scholarship fund and Tom's memory. The wet weather resulted in a few no shows and for others a chance to catch up on the neglected card game after making the turn at the warm and dry clubhouse. Others like the hardy teams from HDR and CDM slugged it out and finally finished in time for the barbecue luncheon and raffle. Most golfers who participated reported having a good time on the links (okay they had a good time once they got back to the club house and had their first drink) as well as socializing and most importantly raising money for our ITE scholarship fund. I particularly enjoyed hearing one of Tom's childhood friends relate the story about Tom and the overnight dumpster party.

This year we will be awarding two scholarships, thanks to your support, for $1500 each. One is directed to an undergraduate level student and the second to a graduate level student. I understand from talking to Ken Petraglia, we have already received eight applications, thanks to Ken's outreach program with each student chapter.

We are already looking forward to next year's tournament at Sandy Burr. The scholarship fund has grown to approximately $20,000 and we will be awarding the scholarships at our September meeting. See you in September at the Waltham meeting!

For more information please contact Rodney Emery at (617) 242-9222, fax (617) 242-9324, or via email at remery@ekmail.com.
The Massachusetts ITE Chapter and ITS Massachusetts, in conjunction with the New England Section of ITE, sponsored the first Transportation Engineering Research Symposium on Friday, February 18, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at The New England University Transportation Center at the Massachusetts Institute Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The event had presenters from four of the major engineering institutions in Massachusetts. Research papers were presented by students from MIT (11 students), UMass Amherst (4 students), UMass Lowell (1 student), and Northeastern University (2 students). The following is a complete list of topics and presenters:

- Gianluca Antonini (MIT) – A Discrete Choice Framework for Simulating Pedestrian Dynamics
- Ramachandran Balakrishna (MIT) – Off-line Calibration of Dynamic Traffic Assignment Systems
- Rahul Deshpande (UMASS Lowell) – Evaluation of Control Strategies using Computerized Microscopic Simulation Model TSIS 5.0
- Daniel Dulaski (UMASS Amherst) – Identifying a Unique Centerline Line Rumble Strip: Why and How?
- Travis Dunn (MIT) – Decentralization as a strategy for urban highway operations
- Jeffery Ensor (MIT) – Modeling Road Pricing: What Needs to be Done?
- Eva Kassens (MIT) – Athens Olympic Transportation Modeling
- Charisma Farheen Choudhury (MIT) – Modeling Lane-changing Behavior in Presence of Exclusive Lanes
- Kevin Heaslip – (UMASS Amherst) – Pedestrian Safety Audit of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- David Hurwitz (UMASS Amherst) – Demonstration and Evaluation of Rational Speed Limits
- Rana Al Jammal (UMASS Amherst) – Identifying Groups in Data in Search for Unique Patterns of Activity Travel Behavior
- Maaza Mekuria (NU) – Bus Stop Spacing Optimization using Geographic Modeling
- Lev Pinelis (MIT) – Kuala Lumpur International Airport passenger traffic volume competitiveness
- Sgouris Sgouridis (MIT) – Planning for Freight: An Analytic Approach to Integrating Supply Chain Management and Regional Strategic Transportation Planning
- Janine Waliszewski (MIT) – Pricing Impacts on Freight Travel in Mexico City
- Zhigao Wang (NU) – Urban Rail Operations and Control Simulation
- Yang Wen (MIT) – Simulation-Based Evaluation of Advanced Traveler Information Services
- Jinhua Zhao (MIT) – Extending the Value of Automated Data Collection Systems: Rail Transit OD Matrix Inference and Path Choice Modeling Examples

The conference began after introductory remarks from MAITE President James Terlizzi and Prof. Joseph Sussman (MIT). Dr. Joseph Coughlin, Director of the New England University Transportation Center at MIT (the sponsor of the event venue) and the luncheon at MIT opened the session with a word of support to all the presenters. Professors Nathan Gartner, UMass Lowell, John Collura and Paul Shulginer from UMass Amherst were also present encouraging and supporting the proceedings.

Dr. Joseph Coughlin making opening remarks. (Prof. Joseph Sussman in the background.)

Presenter Rana Al Jammal and ITS Mass President and Moderator Kien Ho discussing presentation details.
In March, the New Hampshire Chapter welcomed Marty Kennedy from Vanasse Hangen Brusslin, Inc. and Stephen Buckley of the law firm Bossie Hodes Buckley McGrath & LeFevre to discuss the planning, engineering, and legal aspects of traffic impact fee systems. Both have been involved in implementing and maintaining traffic impact fee systems in southern New Hampshire. This lunchtime meeting was well attended by consultants, local planning representatives, and NHDOT representatives and provided for a good discussion following the presentation. A more in-depth review of the presentation will be provided in the upcoming edition of Granite Chips, which can be accessed on the web at http://www.nseite.org/NH/.

The New Hampshire Chapter hosted the annual joint technical meeting between the New Hampshire and Maine Chapters and the New England Section at the Sheraton in Portsmouth on June 22. Dane Ismart led a continuing education workshop on Access Management with more than forty attendees, during which he described the best management practices currently employed by several states in an effort to improve safety and efficiency along arterials. The evening presentation, entitled “Implementation of the E-Z Pass System,” was shared by Albert Almasy of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation - Bureau of Turnpikes, Daniel Paradet of the Maine Turnpike Authority, and Paul Godrey of HNTB. Mr. Almasy gave some history and facts surrounding the new implementation of the E-Z Pass System in New Hampshire while Mr. Paradet and Mr. Godrey presented the process for the recent switch from the antiquated TransPass System to the broadly accepted E-Z Pass System along the Maine Turnpike.

The New Hampshire Chapter is currently seeking to appoint a new Nomination Chair and a Newsletter Editor. Please contact Kevin Dandrade at 978-794-1792 (Ext. 145) with any interest.

The Maine Chapter held a meeting on April 28, 2005 at Dimillo’s Restaurant in Portland with technical presentations on Plans for Upgrading the Route 111 Corridor between Biddeford and Alfred presented by Dennis Emidy of the Maine Department of Transportation and the results of a Before- and After-Countdown Pedestrian Signal study conducted by the New England Section of ITE and presented by Mike Wasielewski, HDR, Inc. Route 111 has experienced unusually high crash and fatality rates and the Department has been working aggressively to identify and implement both short and long-term improvements. Dennis outlined a host of strategies to address problem areas. Mike’s presentation sparked lively debate about the results. Many Maine communities, including Portland, are installing/requiring countdown pedestrian signal heads as part of enhancing and improving pedestrian safety.

The Joint New England Section/New Hampshire Chapter/ Maine Chapter meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on June 22, 2005 had the greatest Maine membership attendance in recent memory. Members from as far away as the Bangor area attended and the cross-section of attendees included state, municipal, MPO, and etc.

The results of the elections for the Maine Chapter officers were announced in June as follows:
- President – Stephen Landry, P.E., Maine Department of Transportation
- Vice President – Thomas A. Emidy, P.E., Wilbur Smith Associates
- Secretary/Treasurer – Robert Kenerson, P.E., BACTS

The Maine Chapter membership would like to thank Kevin Hooper, P.E. for his leadership and dedication as a chapter officer over the last six years.

The Northeastern University Student Chapter is pleased to report our section’s activities for the September issue of the Chronicle. The following describes our efforts in recruiting new members and some of the technical, ITE sponsored, meetings that members have recently attended.

In October 2004 chapter officers began a membership drive. Officers attended undergraduate transportation-related classes where they discussed the background of ITE and our hopes for our newly founded chapter. ITE student membership forms were then distributed and a number of students responded with interest by joining. Elections were held shortly after the membership drive and the following is a list of the elected officers and their contact information:
- Joseph SanClemente, President - jsanclem@coe.neu.edu
- Matt Dixon, Vice President - mrdyzze@yahoo.com
- Jack Martin, Treasurer – jkmartin@coe.neu.edu
- Maaza Mekuria, Secretary – mmekuria@coe.neu.edu (617-373-7034)

With a number of students graduating this September and the hopes for more active participation from the undergraduate element of the student chapter, it is anticipated that new officers will be elected at the beginning of the upcoming fall semester.

On Friday, February 18, 2005, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ITE Student Chapter held the inaugural Massachusetts Research Symposium (sponsored by MAITE and ITS/Mass) at the MIT Student Center. Several graduate student NUISE members participated and presented their research.

On Wednesday, April 14, 2005, the University of Massachusetts Student Chapter held their annual NEITE/UMass Technihood Day. A number of NUISE members traveled to Amherst to be in attendance.

Over the course of the next year, we hope to become more active and plan more events for our members.
**Young Professionals Group**

The New England Institute of Transportation Engineers (NEITE) Young Professionals Group (YPG) had a successful tour of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) Operations Control Center (OCC) on the afternoon of August 18, 2005. John Hogan of the MBTA Subway Operations Department hosted the tour from the main operations control platform to a dozen young engineers from the Boston Metro area. Detailed insight behind the T’s inner workings was provided, along with discussions of topics including track monitoring, homeland security and scheduled improvements for communications and other infrastructure. One such tidbit learned was the updating of system-wide station entry methods from the antiquated turnstiles to sliding glass partitions that operate using card readers instead of tokens, which will process passengers more efficiently and will crack down on fare cheaters. The lost revenue expected to be recouped from this alteration has been estimated at over $12 million per year.

All attendees walked away having learned a bit more about the MBTA and perhaps a better appreciation for the work performed by the “man behind the curtain.”

The YPG plans on holding its next meeting at the Massachusetts Chapter Annual Meeting in Waltham on September 14, 2005. Check the NEITE website for updated time and location, and please register for the YPG email list to receive updates regarding group activities and meetings. Hopefully we can plan another successful tour such as the MBTACCC tour.

**Membership News**

During the past year, New England ITE has been pleased to see continued growth in membership. We offer our sincere congratulations to the following new Members, Associates, Students, and Institute Affiliates, who joined the Institute between January and June 2005.

**Members:**
- Mark Moriarty - BL Companies
- Timothy Snyder - Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
- Jeffery Therese - Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

**Associate Members:**
- William Millett - Beta Group, Inc.
- Joshua Seeherman - Edwards & Kelcey
- Matthew Sokop - City of Holyoke
- Emily Stear - Lamoureux & Dickerson
- Richard Tetreault - Vermont Agency of Transportation

**Students Members:**
- Rebecca Chase - Monash University
- Marc Ducharme - University of New Hampshire
- Adam Kiel - University of Massachusetts - Lowell
- Eric Nascimento - University of Rhode Island
- Jill Silva - University of Rhode Island
- Rick Williams - Monash University

**Institute Affiliates:**
- Brian Peterson - Brian Peterson Photography
- Steve Robertson - Swarco Traffic Management

**NEITE Webmaster**

As I write to update you about the activities at your Section website, www.NEITE.org, I am surrounded by moving boxes; preparing to move 2,800 miles from my home in Massachusetts. A new adventure awaits my family in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will be out west for about three years, after which time, we hope to return to our roots in beautiful New England.

While I am away, the Section Board has agreed that I should continue on as the volunteer Web Coordinator. Thankfully, the leadership is arranging to have local liaisons that will assist in gathering information at the local level. Silpa Munukutla of Traffic Solutions, LLC in Belmont, Massachusetts has agreed to serve as one such liaison. She can be contacted by email at SMunukutla@TrafSol.com. I will continue to handle most technical aspects of the website. I will be available to handle the questions of committees and chapters and will continue to accept information to be posted online via email at submit@neite.org.

Over the past year, the website underwent a face lift. The “new look” was launched on February 24, 2004. Since then, over 2,100 visitors have stopped by the site. An interactive “Events Calendar” was created to assist both the members and the leaders of the Section and the local Chapters. I hope that this tool will be put to good use in the upcoming year. For the second year, position papers for the Section’s annual election were posted. Contact information for most committees and executive board members is also just a click away!

I am excited about the growth the site experienced in 2004 and anxious to continue expanding the information provided online for the membership.

Andrea D. Quenneville  
NEITE Web Coordinator  
2675 Windmill Pkwy, Apt 1412  
Henderson, NV 89074  
email: ALDQ@rcn.com
The New England Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (NEITE) has recognized an NEITE member for outstanding technical proficiency with the Transportation Engineer of the Year Award since 1972. The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1974 to recognize a section member for outstanding contributions to the activities and welfare of NEITE. Non-members have been recognized since 1989 for contributions to the interests of NEITE through the Transportation Leadership Award. The Young Professionals Group Award was initially awarded in 1998 to a section member who has less than five years of professional experience, for outstanding contributions to the interests of NEITE.

2004 NEITE Award Selections

- Arthur W. Gruhn, P.E., Chief Engineer of ConnDOT – Transportation Leadership
- William R. Bent, P.E., Massachusetts State Traffic Engineer – Transportation Engineer of the Year
- Diane M. Morabito, P.E., PTOE, Casey and Godfrey – Distinguished Service
- Michael W. Wasielewski, HDR – Young Professional Group Award

The NEITE Awards Committee, per the New England Section guidelines, is comprised of a member from each New England state. The guidelines for the committee set a term of three years for committee service. Thanks are due to outgoing members Paul Nauyokas (MA), Frank Romeo (RI), and David Scott (VT).

In 2005, the six nominating and voting members and their associated state are: Tom Gorill (ME); Kim Hazarvarian (NH); Bruce Hillson (CT); Douglas Prentiss (MA); Robert Blasi (RI); and David DeBaile (VT). All of these committee members have been previously recognized with an NEITE award.

NEITE Membership Suggestions in 2005

While nominations and final selections have been and remain the committee’s responsibility, suggestions from the membership are encouraged. All suggestions should be made for specific awards and should be accompanied by information that supports the award candidate for possible nomination by a committee member. All suggestions must be communicated to the Awards Committee Chairperson via US mail or e-mail by October 31, 2005.

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The Technical Committee has been very active throughout the summer. The committee has met three times over the past few months to advance the Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) Guidelines project. At the first meeting, eight members of the sight impaired community, Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists Meg Robertson and Beezy Bentzen, and twelve members of the Technical Committee met to discuss issues related to APS. A list of questions was drafted prior to the meeting, and was used to lead the discussion. A great deal of valuable input was provided by the sight impaired attendees, and the O&M specialists.

At the second meeting the list of questions and the corresponding responses covered during the previous meeting were discussed. A better understanding was reached by the committee on how the sight impaired community uses APS technology.

The third meeting was held with the sight impaired community members and O&M specialists. The meeting started with a visit to an example intersection where APS equipment has been implemented. While at the intersection, O&M Specialists Beezy Bentzen and Meg Robertson led the members of the committee in a few exercises that demonstrate some of the techniques frequently used by sight impaired people when crossing the street. The meeting continued with a demonstration of an APS unit by Gary Maccarone from Ocean State Signal. The various options and capabilities of the unit were presented and discussed.

Over the last three meetings, the committee has developed a strong sense of the APS technology available and how it is used by the sight impaired community. The committee will now start to assemble its thoughts into the final GuideLine. Please contact: Ken Petraglia or Mike Wasielewski at 617-357-7700 if you are interested in participating or if you have ideas for the committee.

The 2005 Nominating Committee has been formed and includes Bill Lyons, Kevin Hooper, and Joe Baltskus. The committee is deliberating potential candidates for Section Director and will make a recommendation to the New England Section Board of Directors at the September meeting.
The University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass) ITE Student Chapter just completed another successful academic year. This past spring, the UMass chapter hosted its annual meeting that brought over 40 transportation professionals to campus. In addition, the chapter continued co-sponsoring seminar sessions and held several social events, including a golf outing during this summer. The chapter is looking forward to this coming fall with the addition of several new graduate students. The chapter is currently planning events for the upcoming year including a welcoming event for new students, attending NEITE and District 1 ITE meetings and seminars, planning trips to transportation facilities, and organizing the UMass ITE Annual Meeting held in every spring. The UMass ITE Student Chapter would like to thank all NEITE members that attended our annual meeting and look forward to see everyone on campus again in the spring.

The Public Relations Committee has been busy this summer preparing the final update to the 2004 NEITE Directory issued last year. After extensive discussions with the Board at the June meeting, the Committee was given direction on the final edits to the Committee Descriptions for the Directory. As many of you are aware, the NEITE Directory was last updated in 1994 and was long overdue for “brand upgrade” and revamping of the directory information. The Directory will be available at the upcoming September Joint NEITE and Massachusetts Chapter meeting and is intended to become a downloadable document on the NEITE website for ease of use by members and potential members rather than a document that must be printed. Be sure to visit the NEITE website for the announcement on the Directory and look for copies at the upcoming meetings. For more information on the NEITE Public Relations Committee or more importantly, if you have ideas and want to assist the committee, please contact Joe Balskus, PE, PTCE, Public Relations Committee Chair at jcbalskus@tighebond.com, (203) 712-1100 or NEITE Director Julie Annino, the newest member of the Committee, at julie.annino@po.state.ct.us.

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To learn more about Barkan & Mess Associates, Inc. as well as the shoreline town of Branford, visit our website (www.barkanandmess.com). Please fax (203-483-7205), email (mail@barkanandmess.com), or mail a letter of interest and resume to:

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### Reminders

#### Save The Date!

- **New England Section/Massachusetts Chapter and ITS Massachusetts**
  - **September 14, 2005**
  - Best Western Hotel
  - Waltham, MA

- **Connecticut Chapter of ITE is currently planning their fall meeting for:**
  - **October 24, 2005**
  - Connecticut Convention Center
  - Hartford, CT

### Upcoming Events

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