



Virginia Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

THE TRAFFIC LITE

Volume 34, No. 1

Editor: Bob Kuhns, CLARK NEXSEN

Summer 2005

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President's Message



I have always felt that when one volunteers for active duty in support of a professional organization such as VASITE, the benefits received always outweigh the effort required. My recent experiences at our **Spring Meeting** in March in Chantilly and at the **Southern District Annual Meeting** in Savannah in April confirmed that belief, and I would like to briefly share them with you.

First, in Chantilly we had a very successful meeting at the Center for Innovative Technology. Thanks to Owen Curtis and his support group at HNTB, our technical program was one of the most interesting to date. Northern Virginia offers a laboratory for experimentation, and the presenters provided excellent discussions of how transportation is pushing beyond the limits of conventional thinking. The meeting culminated with a tour of the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center next to Dulles Airport.

As with all successful meetings, as much was gained from talking with fellow professionals as from the content of the presentations. As I noticed members from various firms and agencies greeting one another as though they were at a reunion, it occurred to me that there is a need for more opportunities for face-to-face contact among our members in the area.

To meet this need, we are initiating quarterly brownbag lunches with a technical program speaker. Four member firms are committing to hosting one luncheon meeting each year for two years. As of this writing, I have commitments from two firms and will announce the full program at the Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Next, in Savannah we witnessed the first Traffic Bowl, a competition of undergraduate and graduate students from the states in the Southern District. The Traffic Bowl was a Jeopardy type of contest using answers from various professional texts to which the competitors try to provide questions. Virginia and VASITE were well represented, and thanks go to the participants and to Kirsten Black and John Yorks, who organized our participation in this first annual event.

After witnessing the Traffic Bowl, I was left with an indelible memory of the high level of enthusiasm exhibited by both the participants and the audience. Everyone present at the competition was caught up in the emotional outpouring, cheering for the students representing their state and school. No doubt, it will foster closer ties between this organization and our participating schools in the coming years.

I hope all who read this realize that attendance at meetings is important to the individual, the organization and the profession. Our Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach on June 28-July 1, 2005 will provide the next best opportunity for meeting participation. We have an exciting and varied Technical Program, excellent event speakers with **Mary Lynn Tischer** at the luncheon and **Commissioner Philip Shucet** as the banquet speaker.

Beyond the program content, we are working to change the ambiance at the meeting. Clearly, a meeting on the Oceanfront Resort in late June was not planned to display new business suits. Our meeting dress guidance this year is: *Ties are prohibited and socks are optional*. It is summer at the beach and we want everyone to feel that way. Attendees also will notice a difference at our reception before the banquet – A Parrot Head Convention. We will have entertainment playing appropriate music. We will also have a contest with prizes for the best in Parrot Head attire. As with the Traffic Bowl, I look forward to an exciting competition.

Finally, I am pleased with our new logo. It debuted in Savannah as the Virginia contingent wore polo shirts with the logo. We hope it will serve us well for many years.

I hope to see all of you in Virginia Beach at the Annual Meeting.

Bill Cashman

2005 VASITE President

Candidates for 2006 VASITE

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Past President Tim White, has presented the outstanding slate of candidates provided below for Officers and Directors of the Section for 2006. Each candidate has consented to run and serve if elected.

President: **Bill Cashman**, *URS Corporation*

Vice President: **Chris Gay**, *BMI-SG*

Secretary: **Kirsten Black**, *Woolpert*
Mark Jamison, *City of Roanoke*

Treasurer: **Bryan Katz**, *SAIC*
Ric Lowman, *City of Virginia Beach*

Director (ITE): **Randy Boice**, *HNTB*
Carl Tewksbury, *Kimley-Horn*

Director (AFF): **Brian King**, *VDOT*
Reggie Moseley, *VDOT*

District 5 Rep.: **Paul Prideaux**, *Michael Baker Corp.*
Tim White, *Wilbur Smith Associates*

The following Board Members will be continuing on the Board and fulfilling the second of their 2 year terms:

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Director (ITE): **Josh Hurst**, *Clark Nexsen*

Director (AFF): **Anne Booker**, *HSMM*

District 5 Rep.: **Jeff Minnix**, *URS Corporation*

We thank each of these individuals for volunteering to help make VASITE the strongest transportation engineering organization in Virginia.

And for 2006 ITE International Officers:

Don't forget to vote for **2006 ITE International Officers:**

President: **Richard T. Romer**, P.Eng., PTOE

Vice President: **Alfred A. Guebert**, P.Eng., PTOE
Earl E. Newman, P.Eng., PTOE

Balloting occurs in June for the 2006 Elections. Additional information regarding submissions of ballots are provided in the June issue of the ITE Journal. Write-ups of the candidates are also provided in the Journal and at the ITE website at:

<http://www.ite.org>



THE TRAFFIC LITE

Bob Kuhns, Editor

CLARK NEXSEN

5510 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 110
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February 2ND Hampton Roads Region VASITE Luncheon

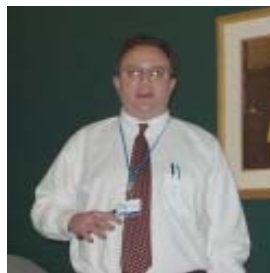
The 16th in a series of luncheons was held on Wednesday, February 2nd at the Old Country Buffet located on Greenbrier Parkway in Chesapeake. The guest speakers were **Lynn Allsbrook** and **John Yorks**, traffic engineers with the City of Hampton. The subject of their talk was "Hampton Traffic Management System – A Local Project With Regional Benefits."

Lynn Allsbrook began by describing the current state of Hampton's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS). 64 miles of fiber-optic cable that provides continuous communication with most of the city's 165 signalized intersections. This hybrid system also provides dial-up connections for the few remote locations not covered by the fiber network. The ATMS also includes CCTV cameras located at 14 traffic "hot spots" throughout the city, with plans to expand this capability to 31 cameras in the near future. Images from these cameras will be provided to local cable Channel 47 for broadcast to the public. There are also plans to connect with the VDOT Smart Travel Center in Virginia Beach to share CCTV video, VMS displays and traffic count data.



Lynn Allsbrook, City of Hampton

As an example of the new capabilities available from the ATMS, Lynn and John then described an incident from last September that clearly demonstrates that, at least in the City of Hampton, ITS works! One afternoon at about 5PM, a car cut off a tractor-trailer driving along I-64 near Mercury Blvd., causing it to flip over and catch fire. Already a construction zone, this massive accident closed I-64 in both directions for several hours, sending thousands of drivers looking for alternative routes. When news of the accident reached Lynn and John, they devised a strategy that had Lynn driving to those intersections without CCTV cameras likely to be affected by the accident and reporting his finding via cell-phone to John, who in turn made appropriate timing changes via a remote computer link to the ATMS from his home. This allowed the City to optimize signal timings long before receiving the VDOT request to change them.



John Yorks, City of Hampton

The capabilities of the ATMS extend far beyond those illustrated in this example. Daily volume logs, traffic congestion maps, malfunction notification via pager and e-mail, citywide and intersection graphics maps and troubleshooting via a real-time split monitor are all part of the package.

-Submitted by **Edward R. Bohlman**

Share some news...

If you would like to contribute an article to the upcoming Fall newsletter, please send all materials (text & graphics) to Bob Kuhns at:

rkuhns@clarknexsen.com

Submittal deadline for inclusion in the Fall Newsletter will be:

August 26, 2005

Meetings

Spring Meeting

Center for Innovative Technology

Herndon, Virginia

March 9/10, 2005

Three technical program sessions followed by a tour of the Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air and Space Museum reinforced to attendees the multi-modal character of the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure and services. Sessions covered such varied topics as HOT Lanes, High-Speed Rail, LRT, signal timing and major roadway improvements along I-66 and I-81. The sessions were capped off by Ms. Lin Ezell, Executive Officer for Planning, Design & Implementation, with her presentation and the follow-up tour of the Udvar-Hazy Center at nearby Dulles. Owen Curtis and Bob Moore of HNTB are to be commended for their excellent selection of speakers and content provided at the meeting. Thanks also go out to all presenters: Nick Nicholson (VDOT), Alan Brick-Turin (HNTB), Ho Chang (Fairfax County DOT), Josh Sawislak (VDRPT), Michael Hackett (MWAA), Alan Tobias (VDRPT), Teresa DeFore (VDOT), Dave Hill (HNTB), Fred Altizer (VDOT) and Ms. Ezell.



Annual Meeting

Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel

Virginia Beach, Virginia

June 28-July 1, 2005

Plan to attend VASITE's annual meeting and enjoy Virginia Beach in the summer. For more details check the VASITE website at www.vasite.org

Fall Meeting

Wintergreen Resort

Wintergreen, Virginia

October 6-7, 2005

The Fall Seasonal meeting will be held at Wintergreen Resort. Technical sessions, continuing education and recreational opportunities will be offered. Bring a guest and enjoy this beautiful setting.

Meetings

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE:

Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach

Tuesday/Wednesday

June 28-29: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm -

Continuing Education Course - "Roundabout Design and Analysis Training"

Wednesday

June 29: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm -

Golf Outing - Hell's Point Golf Course

June 29: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm -

Welcome Reception/Pre-Registration

June 29: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm -

VASITE Board Meeting

Thursday

June 30: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm -

VASITE Annual Meeting

June 30: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm -

Reception and Annual Banquet

Friday

July 1: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm -

VASITE Annual Meeting

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rkuhns@clarknexsen.com

703-256-3344

THE TRAFFIC LITE is the official publication of the Virginia Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (VASITE), which is a professional society of persons involved in transportation engineering activities in Virginia. It is affiliated with the ITE, which is an international professional society of transportation engineers. The primary goal of VASITE is to promote sound transportation engineering practices in planning, design, operation, and management of transportation facilities and equipment for the safe, convenient and efficient movement of people and goods.