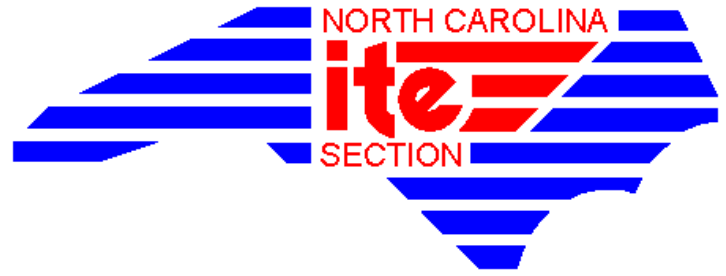
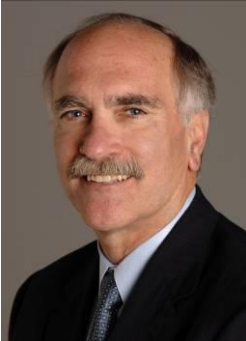


NCSITE INVOLVER



August 2006

President's Message



NCSITE Paid Staff

A big issue that affects us all is whether or not NCSITE decides to hire a paid staff member to assist with member services. It's a subject that the Board will decide later this year.

Let's face it, we are becoming a big organization and the services we provide keep expanding and expanding and expanding. We have over 500 members. We've got a web site, we've got a monthly newsletter, we're holding lunch and learn meetings and after work meetings, we've got technical subgroups, we are assisting student chapters, we distribute scholarships, we provide workshops and council meetings and a mid-year meeting and an annual meeting... and the list goes on and on. These services are a real bargain for the \$30 annual NCSITE membership fee that we pay.

And like it or not... we are a business too. We manage about \$88,000 a year. Someone accounts for every penny and pays the bills. For every meeting we hold, someone plans the agenda, reviews and signs contracts, mails registration forms, solicits sponsors and vendors, makes sure you have a name tag, puts presentations on the web site and etc. Our *Involver* takes editing, solicitation of articles and advertisers and maintenance of a listserv distribution list. Speaking of listserv, just keeping up with member information in general for the over 500 members takes some time.

We recently asked some of our volunteers how much time was being spent monthly on NCSITE related support activities and found some folks are spending 25-30 hours... that's asking a lot of folks who are trying to support NCSITE in their spare time in addition to the job that is supporting their family.

The Board is still defining what the paid staff member might do, but some of the duties might include assisting with the *Involver*, assisting with meeting logistics for the mid-year and annual meeting, compiling board meeting minutes, making sure member information is kept up to date, developing standard accounting documents and assisting in compiling year-end reports that we must submit to the Southern District ITE. Clearly, the Board

wants someone to assist with providing better services to our members and someone to free their time to work on more strategic issues, not someone to run the organization. It may be possible to find someone to work a few days a month, a retired member perhaps, who would be willing to provide services for a relative small stipend. We want to put our foot in the water, not jump in.

If you have filled out the member survey that we recently sent to you (oh, did I mention the survey takes time to develop, administer, compile results and evaluate), then you know we are asking some questions regarding whether you support the need for a paid staff person and, just as important, whether you are willing to pay for it. Please complete the survey if you have not... and let us know your feelings. The responses we get from you will be a key component of Board discussion.

Jim Humphrey
NCSITE, President
jhumphrey@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Welcome New Members

Terry Canales, NCDOT
Katina Thompson, NCDOT
Jeff Garland, NCDOT
Tyler Bray, NCDOT
Tommy Tate, MAB
Baohong Wan, MAB
Tereca Batts, Green Light Traffic Services
Anna Gallup, Charlotte DOT
Tracy Newsome, Charlotte DOT
John Burriss, CAMPO
Jill Gurak, PBS&J



Are You a Member?

Don't forget to renew your NCSITE registration prior to August 15th. Anyone not renewed at that time will have an inactive status with the section and will no longer receive the great membership benefits such as reduced meeting registration fees and listserv announcements. Reminder emails will be going out in early August for anyone that has not renewed through ITE or the NC Section. If you have any questions about your status, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Jeffery Dale (jeff.dale@kimley-horn.com) 919.653.2978

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save the date

NCSITE Annual Meeting Thursday, November 9, 2006

*McKimmon Conference and Training Center
~ Raleigh, NC ~*

*Concurrent Technical Sessions
Vendor Room
Past Presidents' Luncheon
Social Hour
Silent Auction
Annual Awards Banquet*

Transportation News

A transportation news website - www.nctransportnews.com - was launched in June, and is being edited by NCSITE Past President David Robinson. The website, which is updated daily, provides news of all transportation modes involving state, regional and local agencies, providers, businesses, facilities, and people in or affecting North Carolina. In addition, there are links to transportation information sources, listings of job opportunities, and advertising. NCSITE members are encouraged to submit agency or business news, hirings, promotions, etc, for publication.

Hold These Dates

August 9th

Transportation Planning Council Meeting
4:30-5:30 Kimley-Horn (Cary Office)
6:00-7:00 Bonefish Grill
Raleigh, NC



August 17th

Traffic Engineering Council Meeting
6-8 p.m.
Triangle Regional Transportation Management Center
Raleigh, NC

September 13th

Transportation Planning Council Meeting
4:30-5:30 Kimley-Horn (Cary Office)
6:00-7:00 Bonefish Grill
Raleigh, NC

September 14th

Charlotte Lunch 'n Learn
11:45— 1:00 PM
The Charlotte Museum of History
3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte

September 21st

Traffic Engineering Council Meeting
6-8 p.m.
Triangle Regional Transportation Management Center
Raleigh, NC

For more information about upcoming meetings, please visit our web site at <http://www.ncsite.org/meetings.html>

NCSITE Award Nominations Due September 15th

The 2006 NCSITE Awards Committee would like to request your nomination for our Annual Awards. Please review the Award Criteria and submit anyone deserving to be recognized with any of these prestigious awards. You can view past recipients, review the criteria, and complete an online Nomination Form at the following link: <http://www.ncsite.org/awards/nominationform.html>. Nominations should be submitted by Friday, September 15, 2006.

If you have any questions about these awards or the nomination procedure, please contact either Ms. Terry Hopkins, PE (Thopkins@dot.state.nc.us) or Mr. Burt Tasaico, PE (Htsaico@dot.state.nc.us).

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What's Happening in Raleigh

By: Calvin W. Leggett, P.E.

The General Assembly has gone home for the year, and we have a few legislative accomplishments to report. The primary transportation issues the legislature dealt with this past year were funding and tolling issues. There are many specific topics covered by various bills but I am going to focus on the big issues that likely will impact all NCSITE members.

The first issue on everyone's mind was funding. While there appeared to be an understanding that more funding is needed to support our transportation programs, there was also an acknowledgement of public angst over the price of fuel. This led to a series of bills that decrease the annual transfer from the state Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund (now some \$252 M per year), and bills to cap or decrease the state gas tax.

Ultimately, what passed regarding the transfer is this: the basic transfer for next year is adjusted by \$ 80 M back to roughly \$170 M that was included in the original 1989 Trust Fund bill, and that the fiscal 2006-07 Trust Fund transfer will be decreased an additional \$115 M to "pay back" those funds that were borrowed by the General Fund in 2002. The additional \$195 M available to the Trust Fund next year will increase the Powell Bill and Secondary Road paving allocations each by \$12 M; raise the statewide loop budget by \$48 M; and increase intrastate project funding by \$115 M.

There were also a number of bills to decrease or cap the state gas tax. North Carolina's gas tax is now calculated as \$ 0.175 + 7% of the wholesale price adjusted every 6 months. Because of the sharp increase in wholesale gas prices last year the tax rate increased by almost 3 cents January 1st to \$0.299 per gallon. The outcome of the debate was a 1 year cap placed on the variable portion of the tax at today's rate of 12.4 cents. The Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund shall also be held harmless; any motor fuel revenues lost because of the cap will be transferred monthly from the General Fund, up to an annual total of \$17,600,000.

If the wholesale price would not have caused an increase in the uncapped variable rate portion of the gas tax, then no transfer will be made. There were several administrative changes that passed for the Turnpike Authority to enable them to move forward with project development. One particular item of interest is that I-540 from I-40 to NC 55, which is currently under construction, was made eligible to be converted to a toll route. This is a single exemption from the law that prohibits conversion of an existing highway to a toll road. This exemption does spell out, however, that the MPO must approve of the toll conversion of I-540 before it can occur. Tolling this section of I-540 is appealing to the Turnpike Authority because it, along with Triangle Parkway and Western Wake Freeway (I-540 from NC 55 in Morrisville to NC 55 in Apex) would provide a connected toll system that would maximize the financial viability of any one of these projects.

The biggest issue facing the Turnpike Authority is how to finance project start up cost or "gap" financing. Toll revenue can support a certain level of bond financing, but if a project costs more to build than the amount of bonds the expected toll revenue can support, then additional funds have to be found to finance the gap. One source of these additional funds is the TIP, but with that funding source under extreme stress, other sources need to be explored. This issue was debated in this year's legislative session, but solutions will have to wait till the General Assembly returns in 2007.

With the demand on our roadways and the cost of new facilities increasing rapidly, our current revenue stream is falling short of current needs by over

\$ 1 billion per year. Finding that much additional revenue from our existing revenue sources is not likely to happen (it would require a \$ 0.20 increase in the per gallon gasoline tax), so we in the industry will need to work on developing new sources of revenue both public (state and local) and private. The NCSITE Administrative Council has this issue on its work plan and we in the department have a great interest in whatever ideas may be developed by that group.

It was a good year for us in the General Assembly. But unresolved hot topics, especially regarding funding, remain. Stay tuned for next year, and get your opinions and input ready for your elected representatives to help shape the 2007-2008 debate.



Transportation Planning
Traffic Engineering

Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, PLLC

— 4000 WestChase Boulevard
— Suite 530
— Raleigh, NC 27607
— p: 919.829.0328
— f: 919.829.0329
— w: www.mabtrans.com

Charlotte Lunch 'n Learn

Ms. Vivian Coleman and Mr. Keith Hines from CDOT will be presenting on City of Charlotte Pedestrian Initiatives on September 14th at 11:45 at the Charlotte Museum of History. Registration information will be sent out soon. This event is free for students. Licensed Professionals will be eligible to earn up to 1 PDH and door prizes will be awarded at the end of the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Radha Swayampakala at radha.swayampakala@rsandh.com.

Job Postings



Traffic Engineer/
Planner

THE LPA GROUP INCORPORATED, a growing transportation design consulting firm, seeks a Traffic Engineer/Planner in the Carolinas. Candidate should have at least 3 to 7 years of experience in the preparation of traffic planning studies, traffic analysis, traffic signal design/system timing, & transportation modeling. Experience using analysis, planning & CAD software, such as HCS, Synchro, TransCad & Microstation is required. Civil Engineering or related degree. Excellent written/verbal communication skills to assist in report/proposal preparation & presentation. We are an employee-oriented firm providing competitive salaries & excellent professional growth opportunities. Great benefits including medical, vision, & dental insurance, and 401(k) savings plan. Email resume referencing job code SC0605TE to hr@LPAGroup.com. EOE

RS&H Architects-Engineers-Planners, Inc.
Traffic Engineer/ Transportation Planner

We are currently seeking Traffic Engineers and Transportation Planners in our Charlotte, North Carolina office. Qualifications include BS or MS in Traffic Engineering, Transportation Planning, Urban Planning or Geography with planning emphasis in transportation and strong GIS, report writing and computer skills.

If you are interested in an exciting career with a growing firm, please visit <http://www.ncsite.org/employment.html> for more information.

City of Durham

Transportation Systems Engineer - Modeling
The City of Durham seeks a senior transportation modeler with extensive experience in modeling. Successful candidate will have a strong technical background, including programming skills, database programming, and statistics. Experience with Tranplan, Cube, Urbansim, TransCAD and the GISDK scripting language, and GIS software is preferred. Bachelors in transportation engineering, planning, operations research, applied mathematics, computer science or similar, with intermediate curriculum in travel modeling theory and practice, together with three years of modeling experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. *Salary Range \$49,428 - \$62,086*

For application materials or to apply electronically, visit <http://www.durhamnc.gov>. The City of Durham is an EO/AA Employer.

RAMEY KEMP & ASSOCIATES, INC. TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

Ramey Kemp & Associates, Inc. has openings for the following positions in our Wilmington, NC and Richmond, VA offices:

ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER with 4+ yrs experience in roadway design for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have BSCE, PE registration, and project management experience. Microstation/Geopak experience and knowledge of NCDOT requirements essential. Autocad experience a plus.

ROADWAY DESIGN INTERN with 0-4 yrs experience in roadway design for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE and have passed FE/EIT exam and ready to take PE exam. Microstation/Geopak experience and knowledge of NCDOT requirements helpful. Autocad experience a plus.

SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER with 8+ yrs experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE and PE registration. PTOE certification a plus. Excellent written/oral communication skills, ability to work with private/public sectors. Public speaking and project management experience is essential.

TRAFFIC INTERN with 0-4 yrs experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE, registered FE/EIT or PE, good communication skills, and knowledge of

City of Hickory - Civil Engineer I Systems Operations Engineer

Salary range: \$40,551-\$60,826. Requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in Civil Engineering or closely related field and a minimum of three years experience in traffic engineering. Must have EI with the ability to obtain registration as PE in NC. See full description and requirements at <http://www.hickorygov.com>. Submit City of Hickory application to HR Dept., P.O. Box 398, Hickory, NC 28603 by August 18, 2006. For application call 828-323-7421 or go to <http://www.hickorygov.com>.

City of Raleigh Transportation Engineer

The City of Raleigh is currently accepting applications for the position of Transportation Engineer. Responsibilities include reviewing signal plans, analyzing traffic engineering data and overseeing the SafeLight Raleigh Program.

For an application and a full description please visit <http://www.raleigh-nc.org>.

For more information on any of these positions, please visit: <http://www.ncsite.org/employment.html>

Listserv Information

Information regarding the two Listserv's (official and optional) is available on the NCSITE website at: <http://www.ncsite.org/memberlistserv.html>

Involver Newsletter

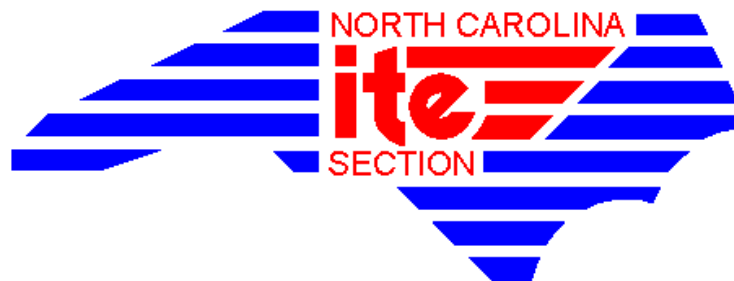
The editor of the NCSITE Involver is Stacie Phillips at Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. She can be reached by phone at (919)653-2957 or by email at stacie.phillips@kimley-horn.com. Please send all advertisements, comments or submissions to Stacie.

This Space for Rent

We are looking for companies that would like to participate in our Involver and web page advertisements. If you decide to participate in 2006, your ad would appear in two issues of the Involver (on a rotating basis). Your company logo and a link to your website would also appear on the NCSITE website (www.ncsite.org).

If you are interested in advertising in the Involver, please contact Stacie Phillips for more information at stacie.phillips@kimley-horn.com.

We're on the Web!
<http://www.ncsite.org>



The North Carolina Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, known as NCSITE, is a professional society of persons involved in transportation engineering activities. It is affiliated with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), an international professional society of transportation engineers.

The NCSITE membership includes a broad range of transportation personnel--engineers, planners, educators, administrators, and technicians. Many modes of transportation are represented in the organization's membership.

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