



MOVITE JOURNAL

MISSOURI VALLEY SECTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

MOVITE JOURNAL





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Cover image: A view into Downtown Omaha with Lewis and Clark Landing in the foreground.

Above: The Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge that connects Omaha and Council Bluffs.

We are always looking for great content from studies, projects, or personnel spotlights. If you want to share your thoughts about the Journal or have an idea for a feature story, please contact Chris Rolling at crolling@olssonassociates.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Joint MOVITE and MIDWESTERN District Meeting

June 29 - July 1, 2015
Branson, Missouri

ITE 2015 International Annual Meeting and Exhibit

August 2 - August 5, 2015
Diplomat Resort & Spa - Hollywood, FL

MOVITE Fall 2015 Meeting

September 23-25, 2015
HotelLumière on the Riverfront - St. Louis, MO

Click Here for: [CALL FOR ABSTRACTS](#)

ITE 2015 Technical Conference and Exhibit

October 28 - October 31, 2015
Westin La Paloma - Tucson, Arizona

STAY UP TO SPEED!

Click here to stay up to date with upcoming events on the [MOVITE Events Page](#)

JOBS!

Looking for a job or want to post an opening?
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PRESIDENT

Jason Haynes - City of Springfield
840 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802 | 417.864.1167
jhaynes@springfieldmo.gov

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Hofener
Traffic Engineering Consultants, Inc.
6000 S. Western, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73139 | 405.720.7721
mhofener@tecok.com

SECRETARY

Nathan Becknell - City of Rogers
301 W. Chestnut
Rogers, AR 72756 | 479.621.1186
nbecknell@rogersar.gov

TREASURER

Dave Mennenga
George Butler Associates, Inc.
One Renner Ridge, Suite 300
9801 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219-9745 | 913.577.8214
dmennenga@gbateam.com

BOARD DIRECTOR

Andy Swisher - HR Green
5525 Merle Hay Rd., Ste. 200
Des Moines, IA 50131 | 515.657.5266
aswisher@hrgreen.com

ARKANSAS DIRECTOR

Mark Nichols - City of Jonesboro
P.O. Box 1845
Jonesboro, AR 72403 | 870.932.2438
mnichols@jonesboro.org

IOWA DIRECTOR

Todd Knox - Snyder & Associates, Inc.
2727 SW Snyder Blvd.
Ankeny, IA 50023 | 515.964.2020
tknox@snyder-associates.com

KANSAS DIRECTOR

David Church - Parsons Brinckerhoff
16201 W. 95th St, Suite 200
Lenexa, KS 66219 | 913.310.9943
church@pbworld.com

MISSOURI DIRECTOR

Martin Gugel - City of Springfield
840 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802 | 417.864.1020
mgugel@springfieldmo.gov

NEBRASKA DIRECTOR

Mark Meisinger
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
11422 Miracle Hills Dr., Ste. 115
Omaha, NE 68154 | 402.445.4405
mark.meisinger@fhueng.com

OKLAHOMA DIRECTOR

Wayne Russell
Traffic Engineering Consultants, Inc.
6000 S. Western, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73139 | 405.720.7721
wrussell@tecok.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Danielle Vachal - Parsons Brinckerhoff
1248 O Street, Suite 852
Lincoln, NE 68462 | 4402.875.7259
vachaldk@pbworld.com

SECTION ADMINISTRATOR

Thomas G. Swenson - TranSystems Corporation
2400 Pershing Road, Suite 400
Kansas City, MO 64108 | 816.329.8762
tgswenson@transystems.com



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

CHRISTOPHER ROLLING, P.E., PTOE



Welcome to the new MOVITE Journal. We have been on a little hiatus, but we are back and, at the risk of sounding trite or proud, better than ever. In the future, we will be using this space to give a voice to the MOVITE Board, but with all the changes, I wanted to take a chance to introduce the new Journal and myself as the new editor.

The new look is not only to improve the aesthetics, but also readability of the Journal. Generally, we want to make it more enjoyable for you to read the publication. We will improve on this as we continue to refine the look. An improved layout, interesting photography, and most of all relevant content will all lend to that.

Updates and additions to content will probably be what you notice next. The new Journal will have much the same information, but a few additions and changes we feel will enhance the Journal.

How many of us know each other outside the workplace or the few conferences per year? One of the new features will showcase a different member each issue. With nearly 650 people in MOVITE, I know there are members out there who have a unique story. Maybe you know someone, maybe you are that person. Either way, please reach out and share your story.

Finally, you will notice that this issue is a bit shorter than previous ones. By modifying content and layout, we have stripped the Journal to the essentials. By incorporating these changes, and making use of more dynamic links, we've been able to shorten the Journal allowing us to publish issues more frequently and to keep the content fresh and more relevant.

With that, I want to thank you for reading. We are always looking for submissions from our members. If you have an interesting project or study, a friend you think should be featured, an upcoming event, or even a cool transportation related photo that you would like to have on the cover, please send it my way.

Happy reading.

MEET A MEMBER

JASON HAYNES



Jason Haynes is our MOVITE President and has graciously agreed to be the first in our member spotlight. Jason is a registered Professional Engineer (MO) and a PTOE, currently working for the City of Springfield Public Works Department. With MOVITE, Springfield, and two children at home under his care, he leads a busy, yet fulfilling life.

What is a typical day in the life of Jason Haynes?

I enjoy seeing my kids getting ready for school in the morning and my wife helping them, then I am shortly on my way to work as an Engineer at the City of Springfield. I spend most of my time communicating and coordinating with my staff and other organizations, such as MoDOT. I try to get a workout in at lunch several times per week as they help me handle stress. After finishing a hard day's work, I head home with anticipation of hearing how my kids' day went and what school functions my wife participated in that day. With my spare time in the evening, I am usually outside playing baseball or football with my kids. In my spare time, I enjoy hunting, golfing, and taking my family to the lake on our boat.

Who or what has been the greatest inspiration in your career? My father taught me a strong work ethic, which is why I feel like I never stop moving. However, my grandfather told me that someday when you are old and getting ready to pass on, you want to know and be proud that you helped your community and others in a positive way. I think of this nearly every day as I do enjoy public service and feel like I am making a difference in my community. So, my grandfather was very inspirational to me.

What does MOVITE mean for you? What has being a MOVITE member meant to you? First and foremost, MOVITE is about family and friends. I have made friends over the years in MOVITE that feel like family to me. A close second is the technical information. I do not enjoy re-inventing the wheel, which is why I am quick to call a MOVITE friend in another community and ask for their help. I always get good advice and experiences that

will save me a lot of unnecessary time and effort, which I appreciate very much. These are the reasons why I have volunteered in MOVITE so much over the years.

If you could have been in any other profession, what would it be? I think being a professional golfer would be awesome. You would not get injuries like in the football, baseball, etc., but you get paid great to play a fun game and meet many new people.

What is something interesting that few may know about you? I bowled on several leagues growing up and got really good. I enjoyed bowling and the success, but the smoke in bowling alleys back then drove me away when I was 19 years old. I have only bowled about once every three years since. I am not as good anymore!



STATE NEWS- NEBRASKA

DIRECTOR UPDATE

MARK MEISINGER, PE, PTOE | NEBRASKA STATE DIRECTOR

MOVITE members,

2015 has been a busy year for ITE in Nebraska. LOCATE continues to provide leadership in Nebraska on the local level, organizing meetings and activities. I have been able to attend a number of the LOCATE board meetings as well as events.

On February 19, I had the honor of returning to Lincoln as a guest speaker for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ITE Student Chapter. We discussed the benefits of ITE membership and professional association involvement while enjoying pizza provided by MOVITE. The student chapter has expressed an interest in becoming more involved with local professionals.

On March 19, LOCATE and the UNL ITE Student Chapter co-hosted the Transportation Engineering Meet and Greet, a career fair for transportation engineering students. I was able to attend as a professional and also gave an update on upcoming MOVITE meetings and scholarship opportunities to the assembled group. MOVITE covered registration costs for a number of local public agencies to attend the event. Event proceeds were donated to the Patrick T. McCoy Fund for Engineering Excellence.

On April 17, the annual ASCE/LOCATE Transportation Engineering conference was held in Omaha. It was good to see so many transportation professionals gathered to review successful projects and discuss important topics for the state of Nebraska.

Also, thank you to the MOVITE Board for finalizing the books on the 2014 Fall Meeting held in Lincoln. A portion of the meeting proceeds were shared with LOCATE. LOCATE plans on using the funds to update their website and support initiatives, including the drivesmart campaign, which educates high school students on safe driving habits.

Nebraska MOVITE members, if you have ideas or would like additional information on ITE, please contact me at any time. I look forward to seeing you in Branson at the end of June for the Spring Meeting. Thanks!

Mark Meisinger, PE, PTOE



STATE NEWS

CHAPTER UPDATE-LOCATE

GREETINGS MOVITE MEMBERS! LOCATE is off to another great start to a successful year. This year we are embarking on our 10th year as a MOVITE Chapter. We continue to have great participation from our members, and the group continually tries to expand and improve its offerings to our members and profession. Board members for this year include:

- **President:** Bryan Guy, City of Omaha
- **Vice President:** Mike Forsberg, HDR, Inc.
- **Secretary:** Chris Rolling, Olsson Associates
- **Treasurer:** Adam Denney, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
- **Past President:** Austin Yates, Benesch
- **Director of Education:** Dr. Laurence Rilett, University of Nebraska
- **Affiliate Director:** Lonnie Burkland, City of Lincoln
- **DriveSmart Coordinator (Omaha):** Matt McLaughlin, HDR, Inc.
- **DriveSmart Coordinator (Lincoln):** Shane King, Olsson Associates

The first meeting of the year was held at RailCar Modern American Kitchen in Omaha. Jeff Riesselman, FAAR Consulting, presented on accident reconstruction and forensics. Approximately 30 LOCATE members were in attendance.

In March, LOCATE held its second annual student Meet & Greet at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. This year, 12 agencies and firms participated in the event, which attracted over 40 students. The event is formatted as a career fair to provide networking opportunities for students and recruiting opportunities for participating firms. Following the meet and greet, Lonnie Burkland, City of Lincoln, presented on the City's pedestrian and bicycle programs and initiatives. Lunch was served and positive responses were heard from all attendees. As part of the Meet & Greet event, members and their firms were encouraged to make a donation to the Dr. Pat McCoy Fund for Engineering Excellence, which provides scholarships to transportation engineering students. LOCATE is proud to announce that the donations and proceeds from the event generated more than \$2,000 for the scholarship fund.

LOCATE co-sponsored the tenth annual transportation conference with ASCE on April

17th in Omaha. Approximately 140 LOCATE and ASCE members attended the event, which provided a variety of informative and interesting presentations.

LOCATE is looking forward to planning additional events this year, including social, technical, and recreational outings for our members.

In addition to our regular meetings, LOCATE continues to sponsor the DriveSmart Program. DriveSmart is a safe driving campaign for teens that is presented by LOCATE members to high school students in the LOCATE area. DriveSmart presented to over 2,600 students in 2014 and have reached out to over 10,000 students since the program's inception in 2009.

As LOCATE embarks on its tenth year, the group is developing a new logo for both the LOCATE organization and the DriveSmart program. The purpose of this effort is to modernize the LOCATE brand as we celebrate the chapter's 10th year, create a brand for DriveSmart that better fits the purpose of the program, and visually tie the LOCATE and DriveSmart logos together. The LOCATE board hopes to roll out the new logo in the coming weeks and months.

Finally, LOCATE is developing a new website. This website will provide better services to members, including meeting registration, online payments, etc., and raise LOCATE's profile to the general public. We hope to roll out this new benefit soon.

See you in Branson!

Sincerely,

Bryan Guy | 2015 LOCATE President

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STATE NEWS

On May 1st, Randy Peters retired from NDOR, ending a 38-year career with the Department and leaving a gap in the Director's position. That gap will be filled by Kyle Schneeweis, a consulting engineer from Lawrence, Kansas. Kyle brings with him experience in transportation planning, policy, and financing from his time at High Street Consulting Group.

On April 14th, the Nebraska State Senate advanced Legislative Bill 610 (LB 610). This bill would raise the state gas tax by 6 percent, generating an additional \$75 million dollars annually for transportation funding. While the bill seems to have traction in the Senate, the Governor is outspoken about his skepticism, citing elimination of inefficiencies as the long-term solution.



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NEW TRAFFIC OPERATIONS LABORATORY AT INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPORTATION

BY ANDREW HOUCHIN

AMES, Iowa – Over two years ago, the Iowa Department of Transportation Director, Paul Trombino, brought forth a focus in traffic operations to an organization that was primarily focused on infrastructure issues. In partnership with the Institute for Transportation (InTrans) at Iowa State University (ISU), a goal was set to establish that would serve as a focal point for engaging faculty, staff, and students in operations research and innovation.

From concept to reality - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 15, 2014 at the new Traffic Operations Laboratory that is housed within InTrans. Attendees represented the three major support groups including InTrans, the Iowa DOT, and the Department of Civil, Construction, and

Environmental Engineering (CCEE) at ISU.

Office of Traffic Operations Director, John Corbin, called the Traffic Operations Laboratory, “A doorway into a fusion of those environments—a fused environment for innovation.” This joint enterprise is centered on support, teaching, and research. The Iowa DOT’s capability to benefit from interdisciplinary scholarship and research will be enhanced by the existence of an independent operations laboratory at CTRE. Working with the Iowa DOT’s Office of Traffic Operations, this unit will facilitate faculty and staff research for operations support.

CTRE Director, Neal Hawkins, said that this offers a unique opportunity to explore and conduct interdisciplinary



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studies that extend beyond the boundaries of traditional research. As both a teaching and research laboratory, the lab functions will continually transform to meet the needs of the DOT as well as faculty, staff, and students. In addition, the laboratory provides faculty the opportunity to teach graduate-level classes in traffic operations while allowing students to be exposed to real-time operations

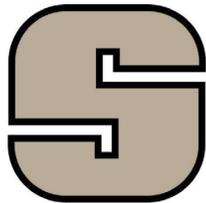
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Systems Operations Bureau Director, Sandra Larson, called this enterprise a "...great opportunity to address the needs of the public."

"DOTs across the country are realizing that our customers, the public, care a lot about mobility, about reliability, and really about being able to get where they need to go," she said.

"They are going to be amazed at what (the CTRE Traffic Operations Laboratory) will give to Iowa, give to the region, give nationally, while delivering a transportation system that meets the needs of the people."

The ceremony also included a chance to meet three of the new CCEE transportation faculty members - Anuj Sharma, Jing Dong, and Peter Savolainen.



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STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

2014 JOINT WESTERN-MIDWESTERN DISTRICT ITE MEETING

BY ANDREW HOUDIN - IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

From June 29th to July 2nd, five civil engineering graduate student ITE members from Iowa State University attended the Joint Western-Midwestern ITE Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota. One of the main reasons for the trip was to compete in the annual Traffic Bowl. Jordan Turner, Micah Makaiwi, and Georges Bou Saab were the competitors, while Patrick Johnson and Andrew Houchin were the alternates. Seven teams competed in the Midwest's Jeopardy-style Traffic Bowl, and while the ISU team unfortunately fell to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the semi-final round, they greatly enjoyed it and learned a lot from the experience. With knowledge they gained and Micah, Patrick, and Andrew returning, they fully expect to be better prepared to challenge for the Midwest title next year.

The Traffic Bowl wasn't the only reason we were there, however. We also attended a number of technical sessions, including one discussing the USDOT's ITS ePrimer, another exploring roundabouts in complex or uncommon situations, and one about the move toward "zero deaths." We also took the opportunity to network with professionals in both the public and private sector through the numerous luncheons, dinners, other events, and the vendor exhibits. Georges submitted and presented a poster with his research during the poster competition. Of course we also enjoyed the sites by going to Mount Rushmore, walking around downtown Rapid City, where there are statues of many (if not all) of the previous U.S. presidents, and visiting local restaurants.





MOVITE FALL 2014 RECAP

BY MATT KRUSE, P.E. PTOE - LAC CHAIRMAN

The 2014 Fall MOVITE meeting was recently held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in September. It was a fun and successful meeting with over 170 registered attendees. The theme of the meeting, "Rebuilding Connections," applied both professional and personal connections. We had a perfect day for golf at the Highlands Golf Course, an event that was attended by almost 60 golfers. The scores were great this year, so either some people were playing more golf throughout the year or we may need to have tournament officials in each of the playing groups. After the golf tournament, we hosted an evening social gathering that was well attended at both the hotel and the surrounding areas.

The meeting itself started Thursday morning at the Hilton Garden Inn. President Danielle Vachal welcomed the guests and kicked off the meeting. The Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) assembled a very diverse program. Some of the topics included "Complex Connections: Managing the Kansas Speedway and Surrounding Developments", "Central and Pythian: A

Complete Street Concept", Mini Roundabouts, Springfield Signal Retiming Project, Lincoln Truck OD study, Envision Sustainability Rating System, Council Bluffs Interstate, I-235 Ramp Metering, and a historical look at the Federal Gas Tax. In addition to these presentations, we also learned about "Covering Your Assets" and "Presentations from Steve Jobs". We were fortunate to have John J. Kennedy, current International President of ITE, fly in from Massachusetts on Thursday to be our keynote speaker over lunch and swear in the incoming board of MOVITE. The last session of the day was a round-table discussion with both students and professionals. The goal of this was to facilitate interaction between students and professionals and have an open forum for questions and discussions. This was something new and well attended by both groups. The evening social was held at Rule G with plenty of good food and conversation. The outdoor video board played the KSU football game, and while the game was a well-played, we will not say who won or lost.



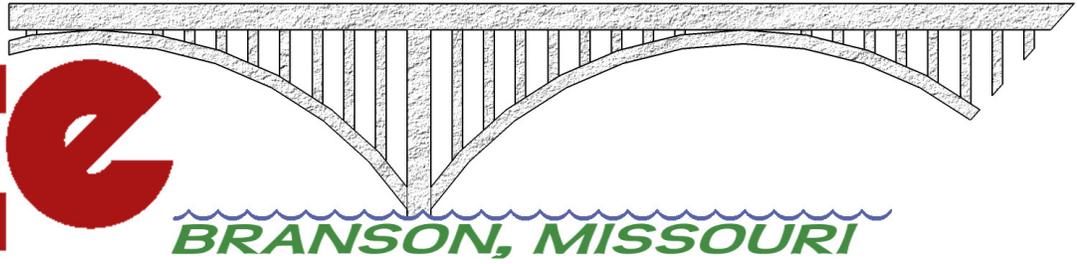
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Friday morning the conference shifted from the hotel to the recently completed Pinnacle Bank Arena. Dr. Jamie Williams from the University of Nebraska spoke on recruiting and retaining talent. He did a great job explaining the topic by sharing a few good stories from his time playing in the Big 8 with Oklahoma and Missouri and in the NFL with Houston Oilers and San Francisco 49ers. The remaining speakers concentrated on the history of the Haymarket and the ongoing redevelopment of the West Haymarket. We hosted tours of the Pinnacle Bank Arena facility to complete the conference. I would like to thank all the speakers, sponsors, and attendees that were able to make it to Lincoln. Special thanks goes out to the entire LAC. Without their help, the conference would not have been such a success.





MIDWESTERN DISTRICT 2015



LOOKING FORWARD

2015 ITE MIDWESTERN DISTRICT MEETING

Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel

June 29 – July 1, 2015

-  **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**
-  **ACCOMMODATIONS**
-  **PROGRAM**

Activities and Attractions:

Please visit the [Conference Website](#) or www.explorebranson.com for information