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Institute of Transportation Engineers
Missouri Valley Section

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Dear **MOVITE** Members:

I am very excited and honored to be serving as your 2018 MOVITE President! My active participation in ITE has proven to be an integral part of my professional career, and I have truly enjoyed serving on the Executive Board for this great organization during the past four years.

As we begin 2018, a lot has already been happening behind the scenes to make this another successful year for MOVITE. In early December, I had the pleasure of hosting our entire Executive Board in Kansas City for its annual planning retreat, during which we welcomed our new Board and State Directors and completed the successful transition of officer duties for the upcoming year. At our retreat, I also reviewed with the Executive Board **my three primary goals for 2018** that were first presented during our Fall business meeting held in early October in Hot Springs, Arkansas:

1. **Continue our focus on supporting Student Activities** – Led by Vice President Andy Swisher, Nicole Oneyear, our Section's liaison to the MWITE District Student Activities Committee, and our six State Directors, we already have an established network of communication, support, and funding for our active Student Chapters. As professional members, I would encourage each of you to also reach out to our students. Attend one of their Student Chapter meetings, offer to become a mentor, or even make a presentation about one of your current projects or to provide your valuable career insights – anything that further illustrates to our students that MOVITE understands they are the future of our profession.
2. **Improve our coordination and communications with the Midwestern District (MWITE)** – I will personally take responsibility for improving these relationships at the District level this year, with the assistance of incoming MWITE Vice President Martin Gugel, our Section's representative on the District Board. For 2018, we have already modified our Student Awards and Annual Report processes to coordinate with the new submittal deadlines required for ITE International and the MWITE District. As the designated MOVITE representative on the MWITE Executive Board, I will also be involved in the extensive planning efforts for the **ITE International Meeting**, which is being hosted by the North Central Section (NCITE) and held in **Minneapolis, Minnesota from August 20-23, 2018**. This will be a rare opportunity for MOVITE members to locally interact with the ITE community of transportation professionals from around the world. I hope that many of you will plan to attend this very special Midwestern event!
3. **Be Active Advocates for Future Transportation Changes** – As transportation professionals, we are being challenged on a daily basis to move more vehicles,

people, and freight goods than ever before, with an infrastructure that is already pushed to its capacity limits. Yet this is still such an exciting time for our profession, as we look to incorporate new technologies and modal choices to satisfy the ever-changing end-user needs and expectations. As ITE members, we need to be sure that we are involved in ongoing critical conversations about transportation, from those at your local levels to the discussions happening on a global scale. Make sure that your capabilities and expertise are on full display to further these transportation conversations, wherever you may be. Working together as a community of transportation professionals, we can ensure that our voices are heard and we will have a much larger impact!

Your first opportunity to participate in these critical transportation conversations with your fellow MOVITE members will be at our **2018 Spring Meeting**. This upcoming meeting will be hosted by our LOCATE professional chapter and held from **April 4-6, 2018 in Omaha, Nebraska**. The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is already hard at work to ensure that we will have a successful conference. The LAC's planned meeting theme of "*Moving the Midwest*" will create conversations about both traditional and forward-thinking aspects of making transportation improvements, including discussions about current and future efforts to merge the transportation and technology industries together. You still have time to submit an abstract for your opportunity to present on an exciting new project, emerging technology, or research topic at this upcoming Spring meeting. **Abstract forms are due to the LAC by Friday, January 19th.**

In whatever capacity you are currently involved with ITE and our MOVITE Section activities, I thank you for your continued participation! However, I also challenge you to find a productive way to increase your activity level in 2018, so that your valuable knowledge and experience is as useful as it can be for our students, our fellow ITE colleagues, and our communities.

I'm looking forward to another great year for MOVITE in 2018! I would welcome any comments or questions that you may have about ITE in general or our planned Section activities for this upcoming year.

Best Regards,



David J. Mennenga, P.E., PTOE
2018 MOVITE President