Hello TBITE Community,

It has been a pleasure serving as your President with the illustrious TBITE Board this year. The Board put forth their best foot this year, while working extra hard to provide an event-filled calendar for you, the membership. This year, we focused on providing value, elevating our membership, and serving the community. Events that you may have attended were focused on achieving these goals, and we hope you came away with something of value: a new contact, a new idea, or just a breath of fresh air in this busy time in transportation.

Our TBITE community has grown strong this past year, with our attendance and membership reaching newer and higher levels. With the institution of OneITE, we are starting to bear the fruits of this effort. Our chapter will be transitioning, while also getting new resources and new members. This is truly an exciting time.

Over past year, some of successes included:

1. TBITE is recognized as the premier chapter/section in the State of Florida. The work we are doing is of the highest quality, and we are recognized as a leader.
2. TBITE has a formal committee structure, focused on areas of interest to the members. These committees are forming the backbone of our organization. These individuals are truly driving change within the industry and are shaping TBITE.
3. Our financial position and ability to support the local student chapters is enormous. We now send USF ITE students to meetings regularly, so that the next generation can have the same, or better, opportunities than previous generations.
4. Our future is bright. With the involvement of the Southwest Florida Chapter, our opportunities to include a new, diverse cohort yields new types of collaboration and events.

Lastly, for anyone looking to get involved and do more than just put in your 40 at work, I have these words of advice. Join ITE. This organization has given me so much in terms of friends, new colleagues, new opportunities, and great memories. It is an organization that can provide a vehicle to jumpstart your career, provide a new avenue for advancing your ideas, or give you an opportunity to really grow into a well-rounded transportation professional. Please keep in touch and I look forward to seeing you at more TBITE and ITE events.

Dear Members,

I feel honored and elated to serve as your President in 2020. I am confident that in this year we will continue to build upon the foundation our past leaders have set, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for what they have helped us achieve in the Tampa Bay Region.
As many of you might already know, this year Tampa Bay ITE will transition into a Section as part of the ONE ITE Initiative. This new status will allow us to grow and provide more opportunities for our members to get involved. During this period of transition, I have set four objectives that will help guide us as we steer into new horizons.

To be Informative:
We want to continue providing you with relevant information through our newsletter and bimonthly announcements, including news at the District and International level.

To be Engaging:
We want to continue engaging with community partners and advocacy groups as well as our community leaders, that share the same goals and values we do, by holding panel discussions on trending topics that allow for a conversation among stakeholders. Going even further, we want to continue engaging our recent graduates, students and younger professionals, by either reaching out to Universities, Community Colleges and STEM programs in the area, and through the formation of a younger members group that can assist with connecting mentors and mentees.

To be Inclusive:
Many times, I’ve heard from those not familiar with ITE that this is an organization for “just engineers”. To be exact, we are A Community of Transportation Professionals and must therefore continue promoting the value that thrives from the collaboration and sharing of knowledge from our technically diverse members. From planners and engineers, to teachers and researchers, our Section will continue to include all disciplines that make up this great community.

To be Fun:
By either volunteering with us or by attending our meetings. Our goal is to make it as fun for you as it is for us. I want to challenge you all to think about something you are passionate about in the realm of Transportation and to pursue it. Talk to us, our doors are open and let’s see how we can make incorporate it in this new stage of Tampa Bay ITE.

To an exciting and successful year,

Emmeth Duran, E.I
President
Tampa Bay ITE

RECENT EVENTS

2019 Awards Banquet

Our annual awards banquet was held on Thursday, November 21 at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2019 TBITE Awards.

Dan D’Antonio, P.E., PTOE, Joseph J Grimal Transportation Professional of the Year
Cong Chen, E.I., Ph.D., Keith Crawford Young Transportation Professional of the Year

Jackson Street Complete Streets Project, Project of the Year

In addition to awards, our officer election coincides with this event each year. Congratulations to Alex Bourne on being elected to the 2020 Treasurer Position.

Dues collection is now routed through ITE International. In order to be a member of TBITE, you must also be a member of ITE. This should simplify the process of joining or renewing by implementing a one-stop shop for membership. In addition, membership in the Florida Puerto Rico ITE District is included.

Check out all the benefits of ITE membership.

ITE MEMBERSHIP

Great American Teach In

On Thursday, November 21, Hillsborough County Public Schools participated in the annual Great American Teach In. This event allows kids to hear professionals share stories and demonstrations to give them an idea of potential career paths to pursue.

Several TBITE members shared their professional experiences with kids and told them about possibilities within the Transportation field.

Pictured below are Alex Bourne and Christian Kline with their enraptured audiences.
On Bikes

On Friday, December 6, On Bikes held its annual bicycle build. This volunteer event brings community members to Amalie Arena to assemble bicycles for children in need and in the foster care system. Over the course of one afternoon and evening, the volunteers assembled 700 donated bicycles.

Pictured below are Kris Milster, Alex Bourne, John Greist, and Brandon Campbell representing TBITE at the event.

2020 TBITE LEADERSHIP

Officers

President
Emmeth Duran, E.I.

Vice President
Jodi Godfrey

Secretary
Brandon Campbell, P.E., PTOE

Treasurer
Alex Bourne, P.E.

Past President
Kris Milster, P.E., PTOE

Committee Chairs

Technical Committee
Burak Konuk, P.E., PTOE

Website Committee
Alex Anaya, P.E., PTOE

Mentoring/Outreach
Christian Kline, E.I.

Website Committee
Sarah Melo

Social Committee
Addie Kraemer

Chapter Administrator
Carlos Ramirez, P.E., PTOE

TBITE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Rakesh Rangaswamy

Rakesh Rangaswamy is a Research Assistant at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) and Ph.D. student with a concentration in transportation engineering at the University of South Florida (USF).

His major research interests include pedestrian and bicycle safety, urban planning, and intelligent transportation systems. He is the 2018 TEAM FL Scholarship Award Winner, and he has won best poster at the CUTR Transportation Achievement Awards two years in a row (2018, 2019). Rakesh has worked with CUTR for several federally funded projects under the guidance of Dr. Pei-Sung Lin; he also serves as President of the USF Student Chapter - Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

Previously, he has worked as a structural draftsman at M/S DESCONS and as an assistant professor at Acharya Polytechnic. He has several research papers currently under peer-review, and they are ready to be published in top journals such as Transportation Research Part B and Transportation Science and Operations Research. He has served as Assistant Logistic Chair for Florida Section Student Leadership Summit (2019), and he also served as Vice-President for USF-ITE Chapter (2018-19).
Rakesh received a Diploma Degree (2012) in Construction Technology from Acharya Polytechnic, India; a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering (2016), NITTE, India; and a M.E. degree in civil engineering (2018) with a concentration in transportation, USF. He will complete his Ph.D. in 2022, and Rakesh is currently looking for internship opportunities.

If you would like to nominate someone for consideration for an upcoming TBITE Member Spotlight, please email Jodi Godfrey at jodis@cutr.usf.edu.

Upcoming Events

**USF Transportation Day**
Date: Thursday, February 27
Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**SMPS Annual Transportation Breakfast**
Date: Feb 20
Time: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Location: Rusty Pelican

**TBITE Q1 Luncheon**
Date: TBD (March)

Stay Tuned! Registration will open soon.