



NORTH CENTRAL SECTION

INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

SECTION MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2021: 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

1. Section Meeting Advertisers: Bolton & Menk

2. Call Meeting to Order

Kevin Peterson, NCITE President, called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

3. Announcements

Kevin provided the following announcements on behalf of NCITE:

- NCITE is looking for a chair for the Geometric design committee – contact Kevin or the board if interested or have any questions about the committee.
- NCITE is now part of the Great Lakes ITE district as part of OneITE.
- Great Lakes and ITE are now accepting award nominations, which are due in March. The NCITE board is happy to support any nominations.
- NCITE is coordinating comments and drafting a response letter for the MUTCD proposed changes. Reach out to Kevin with any comments or questions.
- ITE international has been hosting and recording drop in sessions. These are on-demand and free. NCITE members are encouraged to take a look at these.

4. Question of the Day

Kevin asked attendees to answer the question of the day in 5-minute small group discussions, which was: How have you stayed busy while managing the pandemic and during the cold weather?

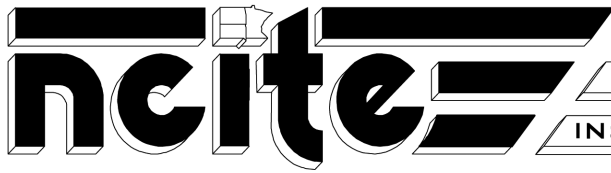
5. Introduction of Speakers

Cortney Falero, NCITE Director, introduced Matt Pacyna (SRF) and Jacob Nordick (SRF), who presented on the Fargo Main Avenue Reconstruction Project. This project was awarded the Transportation Achievement Award for NCITE in 2020.

6. Presentation

- Jacob introduced the project and noted that the project team included the City of Fargo, North Dakota Department of Transportation, SRF, and other consultant partners.
- This full reconstruction project improved pavement conditions, sidewalks and ADA compliance, and replaced city utilities past their normal life expectancy. Additionally, updates to help maintain acceptable traffic operations were completed, including adding turn lanes.
- Project began in June 2016 and the final design and bid package was completed in September 2019. Construction in 2018, anticipated cost is \$10M.
- The City developed a Collective Vision Statement, that identified the cities needs and focus areas for the future.
- Three goals for Main Streets across North Dakota included building healthy and vibrant communities, 21st Century workforce, and smart and efficient infrastructure.

- Two public input meetings were held to gather stakeholder and public input. Additionally, over 60 property and business owners were engaged in the project. This input also resulted in changes in the purpose statement, including a focus on making the environment more active and comfortable for pedestrians, contributing to an environment that encourages economic success, and support of vehicular needs with an emphasis on local trips.
- Matt Pacyna presented the traffic operations study update. Since the 2013 study, the evaluation changed. Changes included: refreshed crash, traffic, and train data, use of StreetLight origin-destination data to identify that there was little to no regional traffic using the corridor, incorporation of observed parking maneuvers/behaviors, and traffic operations focused on corridor capacity throughout the day. VISSIM was used to validate capacity thresholds.
- Three alternatives were initially considered, including a 5-lane section, 4-lane section (2+1), and a 3-lane section. During alternatives analysis, a 5-4-3-lane hybrid concept was added.
- Analysis showed that the 5-lane and 2-1 alternatives (with a TWLTL) would provide sufficient long-term capacity. The 3-lane alternative would not provide sufficient capacity and would result in diversion to adjacent corridors. The 5-4-3 hybrid alternative blended these results.
- Additional considerations included train crossings and use of dynamic wayfinding to help motorists understand when train events were happening and how to modify their travel patterns. Parking and access modifications were made as well as parallel corridor improvements.
- An evaluation matrix was used to compare the alternatives in the purpose and need categories of vehicular mobility, pedestrian environment, and placemaking and economics. Overall, the 5-4-3 alternative performed best for the combined purpose and need and was selected as the recommended alternative.
- The Red River to Broadway Section included conversion of the 2nd St signalized intersection to a roundabout to improve safety and had minimal right of way impacts. Traffic and geometric analyses were used to recommend lane geometrics in the roundabout. This section has three lanes, which allowed for wider pedestrian facilities. Curb bump outs were added to shorten crossing distances at 4th St. Parking was also added in this section. This section has more of a downtown feel.
- The Broadway to University Drive section included 4 and 5-lane sections where the corridor context changes to more of a commercial feel.
- 3D Fly-Thru visualizations were created to aid in stakeholder and public comment and enhanced the new look of the corridor. Jacob shared these visualizations, as well as video footage from a drone after construction.
- There was a lot of coordination needed due to the construction of a lift station occurring simultaneously with the construction of the roundabout at 2nd St. There was also coordination needed with a flood diversion project in one of the intersection quadrants. There were some design challenges due to a 6% grade drop under the railroad bridge. One of cross streets was one-way, but a counter flow lane was added to accommodate traffic exiting the roundabout until the next intersection.
- 10th Street bridge deck was replaced as part of this project and was very shallow.
- Utility replacement was complex and spurred the construction staging of this project. Sections of Main St were closed to construct this.



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- Streetscaping was an important element of the project and included landscaping and lighting upgrades.
- ITS elements were incorporated in the project, including: fiber optic communications for a train warning system and tied to signal preemption, three digital message signs, a HAWK pedestrian signal, and three CCTV camera site upgrades.
- Project construction occurred later than initially scheduled (one year in 2018). Red River to Broadway was constructed in 2019 (\$10.3M), and Broadway to University was constructed in 2020 (\$11.6M). Final project cost was around \$28M.
- The City is already seeing benefits from this project. Redevelopment is underway at various locations along the corridor.

7. Questions

- Was a before and after analysis completed on the origin-destination data? Matt doesn't believe so, as the project was constructed fairly recently. Fargo has seen improved congestion around the roundabout.
- How was the cost difference from the beginning and end of the project funded? State funds were moved around from other projects.
- Jeremy Gorden from the City of Fargo noted that the significant corridor changes have provided a lot of benefit. He encouraged those in the meeting to think outside of the box and not be afraid to change existing conditions. He noted that City funding didn't really change, most of the funding increases were addressed by the state. He also noted that traffic is decreased on Main Ave due to COVID and more people working from home.
- Who were the drone videos created by? SRF has licensed pilots who captured the video footage.
- What agencies did they have to get permission from to do the drone flyover? Permissions are needed mostly from the FAA. There are height restrictions as well.
- Were there issues with getting the community on board with the roundabout? There was pushback. A camera was put up and they captured some footage of vehicles going the wrong way in the roundabout. Snow removal was another concern from the City's maintenance forces. The overall reaction to the roundabout has been that it's working great and people seem to like it.
- Are there any more planned roundabouts in Fargo? No plans currently. Fargo has 10 or 11 roundabouts currently; some weren't designed big enough. Drifting snow is a concern in Fargo.

8. Adjourn

Cortney thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Sager
2021 Secretary
February 18, 2021



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SECTION MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2021: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

1. Section Meeting Advertisers: Stonebrooke

2. Call Meeting to Order

Kevin Peterson, NCITE President, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

3. Announcements

Kevin provided the following announcements on behalf of NCITE:

- The Great Lakes District is hosting a virtual happy hour this Thursday. See the recently sent email for more information.
- There are several committees seeking help, including the Complete Streets and Safety Committee, the ITS Committee, and the Geometric Design Committee. Reach out to Kevin Peterson or Tyler Krage if you're interested in getting more involved.
- The 2022 Great Lakes District meeting will be held by NCITE. Reach out to Kevin Peterson or Jeff Preston if you would like to help out with that

4. Question of the Day

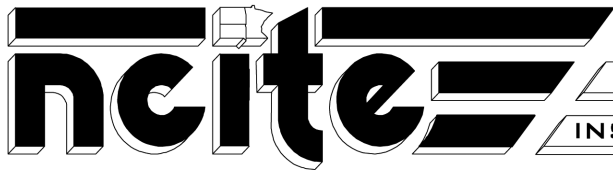
Kevin asked attendees to answer the question of the day in 5-minute small group discussions, which was: What is your most memorable non-motorized/bicycle journey?

5. Introduction of Speakers

Mark Powers, NCITE Director, introduced Liz Wunderlich, City Engineer for City of Sturgis, SD, who is presenting on recent Sturgis Trails improvements.

6. Presentation

- Liz has been the City Engineer for approximately 10 years, before that, they didn't have a City Engineer. At that time, the comprehensive plan was getting outdated and there were several gaps in the bike network.
- Black Hills Trails (a non-profit group of local citizens) built a series of trails on Bureau of Land Management property. Meanwhile, the city started to implement a Bike Plan.
- Various funding sources were sought out, including grant applications, as well as county, and DOT assistance.
- Recent additions include a bike park, Fort Meade Trail, Barry Stadium Trail (built by BHT), and Centennial Trails.
- Fort Meade Trail is in a historical district and needed to undergo environmental documentation (completed by the BLM). The city worked with the Fort Meade History Museum to add 10 historical signs along the trail.
- The city has agreements with USFS for permits on their land, as well as with Black Hills Trails to support their volunteer efforts.



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- Trails are also used for horseback riding, the National Guard has been asked to assist with this process. The city is also working with State Game Fish and Parks (GF&P) to incorporate a unique walk and fishing experience.
- The city sponsors bike races and Wednesday night events (Music on Main).
- The city uses temporary traffic signals during events. Signal heads are put up and the system is manually controlled.

7. Questions

- Who is maintaining the trail system? Concrete bike paths are maintained by public works. Adjacent land owners are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks. No winter maintenance is done on the unpaved trails.
- Are there future plans for more trail? There are more plans for paved trails to go in town, though more funding is needed for that effort.

8. Adjourn

Mark thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 2:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Sager
2021 Secretary
March 30, 2021

SECTION MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2021: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

1. Section Meeting Advertisers: Alliant

2. Call Meeting to Order

Kevin Peterson, NCITE President, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

3. Question of the Day

Kevin asked attendees to answer the question of the day in 5-minute small group discussions, which was: How are you enjoying working from home and what are your plans for returning to the office (if any)?

4. Announcements

Kevin provided the following announcements on behalf of NCITE:

- The Younger Member Committee is hosting a Zoom happy hour at 6pm today.
- The Great Lakes traffic bowl is next Tuesday. The district will be hosting a virtual watch party. Look for the post on Twitter or reach out to Tyler Krage for more information.
- The SimCAP committee is reviewing mutcd... information is posted on the website
- May Section meeting, noon on May 5th. Hally Turner will be giving us an update on her planning and equity work for the state.
- The board is planning the 2021 summer social. Looking at hosting a mini golf event at the walker art center. Cortney will be sending out a survey to assess comfort level.
- Announcements from Kristi Sebastian, Director for the Great Lakes District on the ITE international board:
 - i. The Great Lakes Annual Meeting has a call for abstracts out.
 - ii. The meeting will be in Ohio from August 29-31. There will be a social on the 29th and the other two days will be the technical meeting
 - iii. Alyssa Rodriguez, ITE president, will be present.
 - iv. Will have a workshop on transportation equity.
 - v. Registration is or will be live soon.
 - vi. ITE has been hosting traffic impact seminars (8 total). On Sunday the 29th, the district will be hosting a program similar to that with instructors from our region.

5. Introduction of Speakers

Cortney Falero, NCITE Director, introduced Shahin Khazrajafari (Metro Transit PM) and Ryan Bauman (HDR PM) who presented on the D Line Bus Rapid Transit Project.

6. Presentation

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is an enhanced bus service with higher elevation platforms and lower bus floors to help with boarding. The stations also have improved amenities and there are reduced wait times at intersections due to transit signal priority. There are



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more frequent trips with BRT (typically every 10 minutes) and stops approximately every half mile.

- Arterial BRTs already in operation include the A Line BRT and the C Line BRT. The D Line BRT is currently in construction. Future BRT lines will further connect the metro area, as identified in a study from 2013.
- The D Line corridor will operate in Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington; between the Chicago-Lake Transit Center to the Mall of America. Buses will stop in-lane, which makes service more efficient.
- Amount of construction needed at each intersection varied by location depending on impacts to surrounding infrastructure; in general, there is a lot of pocket construction.
- Temporary D Line Stations will be used at some locations where construction re-work would be possible due to future construction being done by other agencies. For example, at Portland and 77th St will be included in a future MnDOT project.
- Multi-Agency coordination has been an important element of this project. These agencies include: Hennepin County, MnDOT, the City of Minneapolis, the City of Richfield, the City of Brooklyn Center, and the City of Bloomington.
- Project design was completed in 2020 and construction is now underway. Substantial completion will be in November 2022, with the route operational by December 2022. Construction will be completed in 2023.
- Some intersections will be closed and detoured for a month, with lane restrictions up to three months. Other intersections will have lane restrictions for 2 to 5 months. Pedestrian and vehicle access will be provided for locals at all times.
- Considerations important to BRT include: accessibility, maintenance, safety & security (lighting, sight lines, camera coverage, monitoring), first & last impressions (branding, ease of use, connectivity, community).
- Much of the corridor used to be operated by streetcars in the late 1800s/early 1900s.
- There was a pilot project at Chicago & Lake with a dedicated bus lane. With upgrades from the D Line project, this will become Minnesota's first dedicated queue jump location.
- View the project website at: www.Metrotransit.org/d-line-project

7. Questions

- With many people likely still working from home in the post-pandemic world, are there persuasive arguments for maintaining transit funding at pre-pandemic levels? Yes, there are still communities that rely on public transit. Upgrading to BRT tends to result in increased ridership.

8. Adjourn

Cortney thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Sager
2021 Secretary
April 15, 2021

SECTION MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2021: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

1. Section Meeting Advertisers: Bolton & Menk

2. Call Meeting to Order

Kevin Peterson, NCITE President, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.

3. Question of the Day

Kevin asked attendees to answer the question of the day in 5-minute small group discussions, which was: How has equity impacted the work that you're doing?

4. Announcements

Kevin provided the following announcements on behalf of NCITE:

- The Intersection Traffic Control (ITC) committee meets monthly. Their next meeting is in May 20th on Flashing Yellow Arrows.
- The SimCAP committee is planning a meeting on May 26th. Joe Devore from KLJ will be presenting on the Iteris ClearGuide.
- NCITE recently sent out a survey on the summer social.
- Great Lakes District 2021 AM this August in Columbus. Abstract deadline was extended.

Kristi Sebastian provided the following announcements on behalf of ITE:

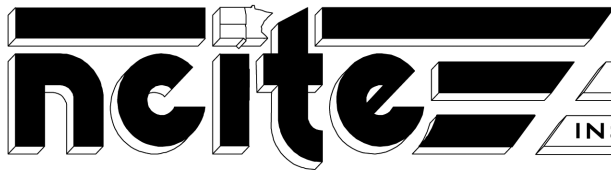
- Kristi gave an update on where Diversity and Inclusion fits within ITE.
 - This a value statement in our 2021-2023 ITE Strategic Plans.
 - Listening Sessions and Webinars are also being offered on this.
 - There will be breakout sessions on this during the ITE annual meeting as well.
- There is an access management workshop on Sunday.

5. Introduction of Speakers

Mark Powers, NCITE Director, introduced Abdullahi Abdulle (MnDOT) and Hally Turner (MnDOT) who presented on Transportation Equity.

6. Presentation

- Abdullahi provided a background on past harms done with construction of interstates in the 1950s that divided MN neighborhoods and disproportionately impacted people of color.
- There are new opportunities to make transportation planning and investment decisions centered on the needs of people. See the community as the expert, not the other way around.
- Hally provided an overview on MnDOT's initiatives.
- Minnesota GO is a program with a goal of maximizing our multimodal transportation system for the health of people, the environment, and our economy.
- Equity is a means and an end. Results, process, and relationships define success.



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- MnDOT's Advancing Transportation Initiative includes: research, community conversations, equitable contracting and engagement, programs and process review, research projects (performance measures, gender equity in transportation), and updated long-range plans.
- Understand that many of the clients we serve might not be involved in our engagement initiatives because they have higher priorities such as figuring out where they'll sleep or working multiple jobs. Try to establish relationships with them and find ways to eliminate barriers for them.
- Transportation can be an obstacle that holds people back, particularly when there aren't great multimodal options. Transportation can be an opportunity as well.
- Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan:
 - Current working Transportation Equity Definition (under development):
Transportation equity ensures the benefits and burdens of transportation spending, services, and systems are fair, which historically have not been fair, and people—especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color—are empowered in transportation decision making.
- MnDOT's developed transportation equity trivia and are available to host this at office or group events or to give presentations on equity or the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan. Contact Hally.Turner@state.mn.us if you are interested in this. They will be posting this live online too. They've also developed a comic to describe equity in 8 pictures.
- Lessons learned include:
 - Lack of an agency-wide transportation equity definition or specific target populations is a challenge.
 - Equitable engagement is necessary but not sufficient.
 - Facilitation is important. Reach out to MnDOT if you need help or guidance.
 - Statewide solutions to advance equity can help address broader transportation challenges and vice versa.
 - Need to move beyond research to implementation.
- Resources:
 - Advancing Transportation Equity Initiative:
<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/program/advancing-transportation-equity/>.
 - Metropolitan Council / City of Seattle Racial Equality Toolkit
 - Urban Sustainability Directors Network: Equity Foundations Training

7. Adjourn

Mark and Kevin thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 1:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Sager
2021 Secretary
May 5, 2021



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2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2021: 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Location: Park Tavern

- **Pre-Meeting**

The Younger Member Committee hosted a happy hour from 4:00pm-5:00pm. Check-in and reception took place from 5:00pm to 5:45pm. Pizza was served around 5:45pm.

- **Call Meeting to Order - Kevin**

Kevin called the meeting to order around 6:00pm.

- **Introductions**

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer the question of the day, which was: "What was your favorite country or place that you've visited?" 40-50 attendees were present.

- **Presentation**

Kevin Peterson gave the presentation which is attached to the following minutes. Highlights include:

- Kristi Sebastian provided updates from the Great Lakes District and ITE.
- Kevin provided a recap of the five section meetings that took place this year, as well as the summer social, and ITE/GLITE Annual Meetings.
- Kevin provided an overview on Leadership ITE, the INCITER NCITE Newsletter, and Social Media participation.
- Jack Olsson provided an update on NCITE membership. We currently have 499 members.
- Kevin provided an update, on behalf of Jeremy, of 2021 financials.
- Kevin shared the 2021 board's initiatives and thanked technical committee chairs and 2021 board members.
- Kevin presented 2021 Award recipients for student scholarships (Shari Kleis, Hunter Williamette, Madeline Fidler, and AJ Tabura), Young Transportation Professional of the Year (Natalie Sager), Transportation Professional of the Year (Adam Bruening), and the Transportation Achievement Award (Highway 101 Mississippi River Crossing).
- Kevin shared the 2022 Election results and Kristi conducted an induction of officers.
- The technical meeting was adjourned around 7:00 pm.

- **Trivia and Bowling**

Trivia was led by Sporkle starting around 7:00pm and bowling was available after 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Sager".

Natalie Sager
2021 Secretary
November 16, 2021