

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Below is a summary of NCITE's activities for 2021.

Overview

NCITE is a very active section, and we have continued to be so throughout the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and have even seen an increase in membership. Many of NCITE's initiatives align with ITE's initiatives. Several of these efforts have been on-going from year to year. Of note:

- NCITE has an active young member and student group. One of our student teams made it to the international traffic bowl finals. We work closely with our student chapters for fundraising, meetings, and STEM activities.
- We typically integrate fundraising into our Summer Social and Annual Meetings for the Great Lakes Endowment fund and for student scholarship awards.
- Roadshows, social media, and virtual meeting capabilities are commonplace for us to ensure a strong section and to stay connected with our members when we might not be able to in-person.
- Our meetings provide a diverse breadth of the industry, from planning aspects, bike and safety projects, ethics, and diversity/inclusion. Last year's technical meetings covered a wide array of topics, which we believe attracts members from different backgrounds and maintains interest.

Regular Meetings

NCITE hosted several meetings and events throughout the year, including monthly Executive Board Meetings, 5 Section Meetings, a Summer Social, an Annual Meeting, a Past Presidents dinner, and other events planned by our 10 committees.

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)	Location	Attendance
Feb. 18	Fargo Main Avenue Reconstruction Project (2020 Transportation Achievement Award Winner)	Matt Pacyna (SRF) Jacob Nordick (SRF)	Virtual	77
Mar. 30	Sturgis Trails Improvements (Roadshow)	Liz Wunderlich (City of Sturgis, SD)	Virtual	49
April 15	D-Line Bus Rapid Transit Project	Shahin Khazrajafari (Metro Transit) Ryan Bauman (HDR)	Virtual	66
May 5	Transportation Equity	Abdullahi Abdulle (MnDOT) Hally Turner (MnDOT)	Virtual	66
Aug. 4	Summer Social / Fundraiser	-	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis	55
Sept. 9	Past Presidents Dinner	-	Pillbox Tavern, St Paul	13
Oct. 6	Uneven Gains in Telework During Covid-19	Ashley Asmus (Metropolitan Council)	Virtual	38
Nov. 16	Annual Meeting	-	Park Tavern, St Louis Park	50

With the continuation of COVID-19 cases, all of our section meetings were held virtually. These meetings were an hour in duration with a typical agenda consisting of announcements, introductions/question of the day, and a technical presentation. As there were no associated expenses with the virtual meetings, registration was offered free of cost.

An ongoing initiative of NCITE is to host at least one "roadshow" meeting each year with presenters outside of the twin-cities metropolitan area. We continued this tradition, albeit, virtually, with our March and February section meetings.

Transportation equity is a pressing issue and one of the most complicated facing our industry. At our May section meeting, MnDOT staff provided an overview of transportation equity, shared highlights from the

Advancing Transportation Equity Initiative, and shared resources for participants to apply to their own work.

Student/Younger Member Support

NCITE has three Student Outreach Coordinators who manage the student scholarship programs, attend student career fair events, participate in the Great Lakes District Student Activities Committee, and serve as a liaison for ITE Student Chapter groups to coordinate funding opportunities, participate in District annual meetings, and interact with ITE headquarters. These coordinators are responsible for interacting with the student chapters within NCITE, presenting on Engineering careers to students, and administering the annual scholarship program.

NCITE awarded \$2000 to four students via scholarship in 2021, two of those scholarships were dedicated to a student who completed a transportation related internship.



NCITE Student Outreach Coordinators Eden Rogers and Chad Jorgensen awarding Student Maddie Fiddler one of four \$500 Scholarships.

NCITE, by policy, supports student attendance at section meetings by reducing the meeting cost to \$5. For the Section Annual Meeting, the cost to the student will be half of the full member registration cost unless otherwise approved by the Executive Board. This policy does not apply to graduate or part-time students if they are employed as a professional or technician more than twenty hours per week during the school year.

NCITE also includes a very active Younger Member Committee. The purpose of the Younger Member Committee (YMC) of NCITE is to connect young professionals in the diverse field of transportation and create opportunities to build relationships and grow professionally. These opportunities are provided through social and educational events held throughout the year. This committee additionally seeks to fulfill the following goals:

- Promote engagement in the NCITE mentorship program, which aims to assist younger members as they progress through their careers.
- Connect with university students and build relationships with individuals who are potential future members of NCITE.
- Promote engagement in the NCITE Technical Committees to encourage professional development and provide opportunities for younger members to share their ideas.

- Coordinate with the NCITE Membership Committee to promote membership in NCITE and track YMC membership.
- The YMC started a Professional Engineer Exam Study group in 2019 that continues to be active today.

Application of Technical Knowledge

NCITE works daily to ensure that motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians can safely and efficiently complete their daily trips. This year, NCITE compiled and shared 56 comments on the December 14, 2020, Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) to the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

For our quarterly newsletter, The INCITER, our technical committees are asked to submit an article on technical subjects on a rotating basis. Also, paying advertisers for our section are provided the opportunity to contribute one technical article per year. A total of 14 technical articles were published in 2021.

Technical Committee	Role
Geometric Design	Establishes a forum for NCITE members to share, discuss, and explore the traffic operations and safety effects of roadway design elements.
Emerging Technologies in Transportation (ETT)	Re-branded in 2021 and formerly known as the ITS Committee, the ETT Committee provides a forum for participants to address technical issues related to developing technology in the industry (ITS, CAV, Big Data, etc.) and to share lessons learned. This Committee works jointly with ITS-MN.
Intersection Traffic Control	A forum for NCITE members to discuss issues related to traffic signal design and operation.
Planning Methods & Applications	The purpose of this committee is to discuss and author NCITE standards of practice relating to issues in the transportation planning field.
Complete Streets and Safety (CSS)	A forum for NCITE members to discuss issues related to improving safety and mobility for everyone, with an emphasis on vulnerable road users (VRUs), transit riders, and multi-modal transportation systems.
Simulation & Capacity Analysis (SimCap)	A forum for analysis methods with the intention of developing best practices for traffic modeling in our region.
Traffic Operations and Maintenance	A forum for operations and maintenance staff to discuss best practices, tips, and ideas.

Our section meetings always include a technical presentation. Most often, we look to our members or their colleagues to provide these presentations. These presentations are typically posted to our [YouTube](#) channel for later viewing.

Networking Events

Offering our membership networking opportunities is a priority for all NCITE events, as highlighted in the bullets below.

- All five of our **Section Meetings** in 2021 were held virtually. Although it didn't replace face-to-face interaction, we still strived to incorporate networking opportunities at these events. This was done through five-minute breakout sessions where attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer a question of the day.
- For our **Summer Social** (an event that we have every year), we surveyed membership to gauge interest and comfort in doing an in-person meeting and were excited to find that most members were on-board. The event was held at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN, where guests could play mini golf and socialize. Additionally, \$730 was raised for our student scholarships.
- Our **Annual Meeting** was also held in-person, at Park Tavern in St Louis Park, MN. A happy hour, which was planned by our Younger Member Committee, took place at the venue an hour before the meeting. The first part of the event included check-in and networking, pizza, and a presentation summarizing the section's activities in 2021, and announcement of award winners and election results for our 2022 board. The presentation was followed by an evening of Trivia and Bowling.

- Our **11 Standing Committees** also offer networking on a smaller-group level, where members with similar interests can discuss technical subjects or participate in committee-planned events.



August 2021 Summer Social at the Walker Art Center

K-12 STEM Outreach

NCITE typically participates in several K-12 STEM Outreach events each year, however, there was a reduced number of opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Typical events which we keep on our radar include Civil Engineering Day at the MN Science Museum, High School Career Fairs, Future City Competition, and the Minneapolis STEM expo.

New Member Recruitment

Over the course of 2021 NCITE welcomed 41 new members (35 professionals and 6 students), bringing our total up to 499 total members. This is the largest increase that we have seen in the past three years. To encourage attendance, our virtual section meetings were offered free of cost to both members and non-members. The Executive Board and Communications Group also continued using our [new member flyer](#) to help members get more involved and plugged in with the Section and ITE. We also announce our new members in our quarterly [newsletter](#).

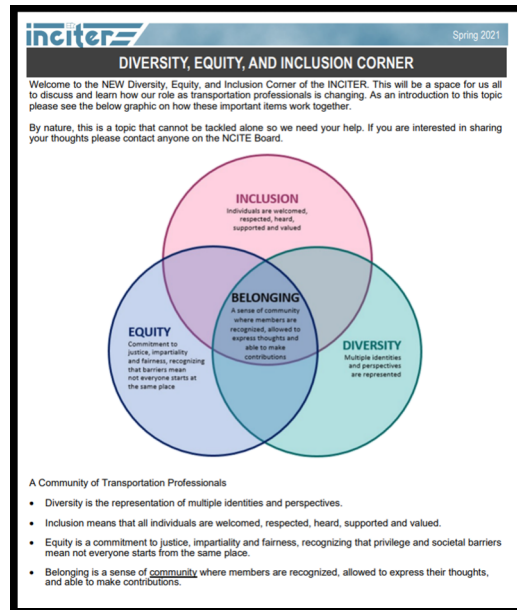
The Executive Board and Membership Chair are committed to ensuring that members see and feel value in being a part of ITE International and NCITE. The goal of bringing value to members was accomplished in the various activities and initiatives NCITE accomplished in 2021:

- Hosted [Section Meetings](#) throughout the year.
- Communicated with members per the NCITE Communications Plan using tools such as the Section [website](#), [newsletter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and our Twitter account [@NC_ITE](#).
- Supported Great Lakes and National ITE events, workshops, and courses for members by sending members to the District and National meetings, promoting events, workshops, and courses.
- Developed and fostered partnerships with other transportation organizations in the Midwest.
- Supported student activities via scholarships and attendance at meetings to encourage the future of the transportation profession.

Diversity and Inclusion

NCITE continued its commitment to diversity and equity. The 2020 NCITE Board initiated a Diversity and Equity Corner in the NCITE Newsletter; The INCITER. This provided an opportunity to advance ITE DEI initiatives while also focusing on local transportation equity events and headlines.

Additionally, NCITE was lucky to have Abdullahi Abdulle and Hally Turner of MNDOT present to the Section on Transportation Equity.



NCITE instituted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Corner into our Quarterly Newsletter

Training/Professional Development

NCITE offers Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for all of our section meetings, which always include a technical presentation. This year, there were five section meetings.

We have a professional development committee that plans a bi-annual symposium. Due to the pandemic, we made the difficult decision not to host one in 2021, however, the next one will be in 2023. NCITE typically collaborates with Women in Transportation Studies (WTS) to offer a two-hour ethics course on PE renewal years, however, 2021 was not a renewal year.

Field Trips/Technical Tours

NCITE provided opportunities for technical educational tours. With the Covid pandemic technical tour opportunities were limited, but the Younger Member Committee was able to host an Ice-Skating Event, Social Bicycle and Brewery Event, and a Kickball Tournament.



NCITE Younger Members attend the 2021 Bike and Brewery Event

Service Projects

NCITE did not participate in any service projects in 2021, however past events have included: Earth Day cleanup and fundraising for jackets for the homeless.

Funding Support

In addition to the scholarship funds and Leadership ITE stipends that NCITE provides, NCITE supports its members in many ways. Upon receipt of a written request and documentation of expenditures, the Section Treasurer is authorized to pay travel and/or registration expenses as described below:

What is Funded?	Who is Funded?
Great Lakes District Annual Meeting	- Section President and Past President: Up to \$500 each. - Section Vice President shall be eligible for up to \$500 if either of the officers noted above is unable to attend. No more than two Section officers shall be eligible for reimbursement. - Great Lakes Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Past President): Up to \$500.
Great Lakes District Fall Workshop	Current and Incoming Section Representative: Up to \$250 each.
ITE International Annual Meeting	- Section President and Vice President: Up to \$750 each. - Section Secretary and/or Past President: Up to \$750 if one of the officers noted above is unable to attend. No more than two Section officers shall be eligible for reimbursement.
Great Lakes District Annual Meeting <u>OR</u> ITE International Annual Meeting	- The recipient of the Young Transportation Professional of the Year Award (Award): Up to \$650 within 12 months of receiving the Award. - NCITE student chapters: Up to \$750 per school. An NCITE student chapter who wins the MWITE Traffic Bowl shall be eligible for an additional \$750 in travel expenses to attend the competition at the ITE International meeting.
ITE Student Leadership Summit	NCITE Student Chapters: \$150 once annually to each Chapter that attends an ITE Student Leadership Summit and provides NCITE with a written summary of the event for publication in the NCITE section newsletter.

LeadershipITE

NCITE has a strong commitment to LeadershipITE with four alumni, including our 2021 Vice President and our 2022 President. Recognizing the benefits to the Section of having its members participate in Leadership ITE, it is the policy of the North Central Section to offer financial assistance for participation in the program up to \$250 each for up to two Section participants per annual Leadership ITE class.

Advocacy

As an agency NCITE is proud to advocate for the transportation industry through education, networking, and service. We are a growing organization who will continue to support the advocacy of ITE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natalie Sager, P.E.
2021 NCITE Secretary
March 9, 2022