

NCITE – 2024 Section Annual Report

Below is a summary of the North Central Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (NCITE) activities in 2023 and ongoing efforts in 2024.

Regular Meetings

NCITE hosted eight section-wide meetings in 2023. These included five Section Meetings, a Summer Social, a Transportation Symposium, and an Annual Meeting. Committee events were also held throughout the year but are not included in the table below.

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)	Location	Attendance
Jan 31	Hennepin Downtown Reconstruction Project	JoNette Kuhnau (Kimley-Horn) Don Elwood (City of Minneapolis)	Lucky's 13 Pub, Roseville, MN	58
Feb 24	Hennepin County ADA Transition Plan	KC Atkins (Hennepin County) Derek Sunstrom (Hennepin County)	Jax Café, Minneapolis, MN	63
Mar 28	MnDOT Traffic Safety Evaluations	Max Moreland (MnDOT) Mark Wagner (MnDOT)	MnDOT Water's Edge, Roseville, MN	72
Apr 25	4 th Avenue NW Road Diet Project and Ongoing Signal Timing Updates	Stephen Joersz (City of Minot)	Virtual	38
Jun 29	TH 36 & Manning Avenue Interchange Project	Brian Johnson (SRF) Pat Corkle (SRF) Alysa Johnson (SRF)	Washington County Government Center, Stillwater, MN	35
Jul 25	Summer Social - Saints Game Joint Event with MSES, WTS MN, and ITS MN	n/a	CHS Field, St. Paul, MN	200
Oct 26	Transportation Symposium	Various	McNamara Alumni Center, UMN, Minneapolis, MN	85
Nov 15	Annual Meeting	Jeremy Melquist Scott Poska	The Fair on 4, Mall of America, Bloomington, MN	68

An ongoing initiative of NCITE is to host at least one “roadshow” meeting each year with presenters or presentations focused on topics outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. We continued this tradition in 2023 with our April Section Meeting focusing on projects in Minot, ND.

In May 2024, NCITE will be hosting a joint virtual Section Meeting with the Wisconsin Section. This will include a networking piece for NCITE and Wisconsin members to meet and interact with each other, as well as a presentation on the planned reconstruction of the Blatnik Bridge which connects Duluth, MN with Superior, WI – a current and relevant topic for both sections.

Student/Younger Member Support

Support for Students

- For 2023, in partnership with Alliant Engineering, NCITE added a new student scholarship – the Robert J. Green Undergraduate Student Scholarship. This new scholarship increased the number of annual NCITE student scholarships from four to five. NCITE awarded \$1,000 each to five students (\$5,000 total) via scholarships in 2023.
- NCITE offers students a low-cost registration fee to attend in-person Section Meetings (\$5) or virtual Section Meetings (free). The cost for general NCITE members to attend in-person Section Meetings is typically \$30-50.
- For the NCITE Annual Meeting, a student ticket was \$5 (for comparison, a general NCITE member ticket was \$65).

- 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 engineering careers to students, and administering the annual scholarship program.

Support for Younger Members

- NCITE has a fund dedicated for Younger Member Committee (YMC) events.
- The YMC was started in 2018 and continues to remain a very active committee with bimonthly in-person meetings, which include both social and technical events.
- YMC events in 2023 included curling, an Earth Day spring clean-up walk, a bike tour, a pub crawl, a University of Minnesota (UMN) volleyball game, and a happy hour prior to the NCITE Annual Meeting.
- The YMC has been a great way for younger members to get leadership experience and we encourage younger committee members to continue with leadership roles within ITE.
 - Jeremy Melquist, 2023 NCITE President (2018 YMC Chair)
 - Phil Kulis, 2024 NCITE President (2017 YMC Chair)
 - Jack Olsson, 2024 NCITE Director (2021 YMC Chair)

Application of Technical Knowledge

Below is a list of our technical committees and their events in 2023.

Technical Committee	2023 Technical Events (bulleted)
Geometric Design	Establishes a forum for NCITE members to share, discuss, and explore the traffic operations and safety effects of roadway design elements. • TH 29 Glenwood Overpass Project
Emerging Technologies	Re-branded in 2021 and formerly known as the ITS Committee, this committee provides a forum for participants to address technical issues related to developing technology in the industry (ITS, CAV, Big Data, etc.) and share lessons learned. This committee works jointly with ITS-MN. • Connected Solutions for Smart Cities
Intersection Traffic Control	A forum for NCITE members to discuss issues related to traffic signal design and operation, as well as other types of intersection traffic control: • Pedestrian Treatments at Signalized Intersections • Signal Timing Parameters for Local Agencies
Planning Methods and Applications	The purpose of this committee is to discuss and author NCITE standards of practice relating to issues in the transportation planning field. • Regional Activity Based Model (ABM) Updates and 2050 Socioeconomic Data
Complete Streets and Safety	A forum for NCITE members to discuss issues related to improving safety and mobility for everyone, with an emphasis on vulnerable road users, transit riders, and multi-modal transportation systems. • MnDOT's New Complete Street Policy • West Broadway Bridges Walkthrough/Bike Ride
Simulation and Capacity Analysis (SimCap)	A forum for analysis methods with the intention of developing best practices for traffic modeling in our region. • Highway Capacity Manual Updates • Lyndale Avenue 4 to 3 Lane Conversion Pilot Project
Traffic Operations and Maintenance	A forum for operations and maintenance staff to discuss best practices, tips, and ideas. • Flexi Sign • Signal Camera Cleaning Policy/Schedule

	• ATCC Signal Cabinets • 3M Demo "Lines and Signs - The Science of Retro-reflectivity" • Trafficalm Systems Demo Trailer • Signal Pole Anchor Bolt Tightening • MN Fall Maintenance Expo Recap
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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 with the opportunity to contribute one technical article per year. A total of **11 technical articles** were published in 2023.

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 below:

- Four **Section Meetings** were held in-person in 2023. All attendees were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves and answer a "question of the day", and the meetings included time both before and after the technical presentation for networking. Attendance ranged from ~50-75 for each meeting.
- For our **Summer Social**, which is an annual event, we held a joint networking event with the Minnesota Surveyors and Engineers Society (MSES), Women in Transportation Studies (WTS) Minnesota, and ITS Minnesota. The group attended a Saints baseball game at CHS Field in St. Paul, MN. There were 200 attendees.
- Our **Annual Meeting** was also held in-person at The Fair on 4 at the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN. The first part of the event included check-in and networking, dinner, and a presentation summarizing the Section's activities in 2023, and announcement of award winners and election results for our 2024 Executive Board. The presentation was followed by an evening of go cart racing, axe throwing, arcade games, and socializing. There were 68 attendees.
- Our **10 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. The Younger Member Committee's six events in 2023 were all networking based as well.

In August 2024, NCITE is hosting its first golf outing, which will be a fundraiser for the student scholarships. The event will be a nine-hole scramble followed by a social hour. This event will provide an opportunity for NCITE members to network while also supporting students in the section.

K-12 STEM Outreach

NCITE typically participates in several K-12 STEM outreach events each year. Typical events include Civil Engineering Day at the Minnesota Science Museum, high school career fairs, the Minnesota Future City Competition, and the Minneapolis STEM Expo.

New Member Recruitment

All Section Meetings and many technical committee meetings have had a virtual option with a reduced cost to attend (often free) to encourage attendance and reach a wider geographic area.

Our February 2023 Section Meeting was our membership drive which offers free registration to non-members who have never attended a Section Meeting. In addition, the February Section Meeting featured a planning-focused topic, the Hennepin County Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Transition Plan, which supports ITE's initiative of providing value to planners and increasing planner membership in the organization.

NCITE's Membership Coordinator also sends out our new member flyer to all new NCITE members to help them understand the many benefits of NCITE/ITE and how to get more involved with the organization.

Training/Professional Development

NCITE offers Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for all of our Section Meetings, which always include a technical presentation. In 2023 there were five Section Meetings.

The bi-annual NCITE Transportation Symposium was held on October 26th, 2023, at McNamara Alumni Center on the UMN Twin Cities campus. This conference featured 12 presentations throughout the day, with 85 attendees including several UMN students. The program contained 12 different presentations by 15 presenters and offered 6 PDHs for attendees. This year we also added Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for the ethics portion of the program providing AICPs with 1.5 total CM credits for the event.

In collaboration with WTS Minnesota, NCITE is planning an ethics training in April 2024 which will provide 2 PDHs (PE) or 2.0 CM credits (AICP).

Field Trips/Technical Tours

NCITE has historically had very active technical committees which often include in-person field trips and technical tours. For 2023 these included:

- NCITE Traffic Operations and Maintenance Committee
 - In April 2023, this committee visited the 3M campus in Maplewood, MN for a demo on signing and striping retro-reflectivity entitled "Lines and Signs - The Science of Retro-reflectivity."
- NCITE Complete Streets and Safety Committee and Younger Member Committee
 - To celebrate Earth Day, this committee, in coordination with the YMC, hosted a spring clean-up event in downtown Minneapolis, MN at Gold Medal Park.
 - In June 2023, this committee held a walking/biking tour of the West Broadway Avenue Bridges Reconstruction at the south end of Victory Memorial Park in Minneapolis, MN.

Service Projects

NCITE hosted an Earth Day clean-up event on April 19th, 2023, at Gold Medal Park in Minneapolis, MN. The event included trash clean-up along West River Parkway and the Stone Arch Bridge, which are both high pedestrian and bicycle traffic areas. All clean up equipment was provided to attendees.

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 in the table 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 Summer Retreat and Fall Retreat	● Current or Incoming Section Representative: Up to \$1000.

ITE International Annual Meeting	• Section President and Vice President: Up to \$800 each. • Section Secretary and/or Past President: Up to \$800 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 that wins the GLITE Traffic Bowl shall be eligible for an additional \$750 in travel expenses to attend the competition at the ITE International Annual 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 five alumni, including:

- Scott Poska, 2018 NCITE President (*LeadershipITE* Class of 2017)
- Jeff Preston, 2019 NCITE President (*LeadershipITE* Class of 2019)
- Tyler Krage, 2021 NCITE Vice President (*LeadershipITE* Class of 2020)
- Natalie Sager, 2022 NCITE President (*LeadershipITE* Class of 2021)
- Morgan Nelson, 2024 GLITE District Representative (*LeadershipITE* Class of 2023)

All *LeadershipITE* alumni have served or are currently serving on the NCITE Executive Board and are active leaders in the Section. Recognizing the benefits to the Section of having its members participate in *LeadershipITE*, it is the policy of the North Central Section to offer financial assistance for participation in the program up to \$750 each for up to three Section participants per annual *LeadershipITE* 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.

Sincerely,



Philip Kulis, PE, PTOE, RSP₂₁
2024 NCITE President



Nik Costello, PE
2024 NCITE Vice President



Jeremy Melquist, PE, PTOE
2024 NCITE Past President



February 2023 Section Meeting at Jax Café



March 2023 Section Meeting at MnDOT



2023 NCITE Award Winners at Annual Meeting



Incoming Executive Board at Annual Meeting



Axe Throwing at Annual Meeting



2023 Transportation Symposium