

ASCE

American Society
of Civil Engineers



ASCE Illinois Section

News

Vol. 48, No. 4
April 2007

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Investing in Transit Strengthens Our Economy and Our Quality of Life

By Robert Gorski, PE, M-ASCE and Clayton Weaver, Weaver Consulting

Public transit is essential for our region's economy, our ability to compete in a global economy, our quality of life, and our environment. Transit can play a significant role in helping us address congestion and maintain mobility throughout the region. Public transportation provides an important link between employers and their employees. It reduces pollution and reduces the use of oil. Road congestion costs this region \$4.9 billion each year and wastes 151 million gallons of fuel. The Regional Transportation Authority has worked with CTA, Metra and Pace to develop a strategic plan called Moving Beyond Congestion which identifies budget needs, potential revenue sources and a coordinated plan for service enhancement and expansion activities. Moving Beyond Congestion presents a five-year proposal that clearly describes the investment in transit that we must make in order to remain a strong and growing region.

Public transit is essential
for our region's economy, our
ability to compete in a global
economy, our quality of life,
and our environment.

The Challenge: An Underfunded, Aging System in a Changing Market

Our transit system includes over 3800 buses and vans and 2300 train cars serving Chicago and hundreds of suburbs spread across six counties. Some parts of the system are newer and they work well. Other parts of the system are more than a century old and are in need of a major overhaul.

Our Five Year Investment Lays the Foundation for the Future

RTA has developed 3 building blocks to guide planning and capital investments:

Maintain – \$ 7.3 billion on repairs and vehicle replacement that keep our existing systems in good working order so that there are fewer delays and other problems.

Enhance – \$1.1 billion on better and faster service without building any major new city or suburban train lines.

Expand – \$1.6 billion on new train and bus routes requiring major investments that will cost billions of dollars and take years to complete. These funds allow us to capture Federal discretionary money.

Funding: The Wisdom and the Will to Invest

Capital: The federal government makes billions of dollars available each year for public transit projects and challenge state

(continued on page 7)

President's Notes

Joe Johnson, P.E., M. ASCE



The Illinois Section is committed to building upon its strong tradition of technical activities and professional development events for its members. At our March meeting, the Section Board discussed options for new initiatives and made decisions to move forward with funding several specific activities. I would like to highlight

these items so that our members are aware of where the Section is committing resources and energy.

...developing a centralized office/meeting space...

First, the Board agreed to create and support a new committee that will assess the need for and potential benefits of developing a centralized office/meeting space for use by the Illinois Section ASCE and other area engineering organizations. The thought behind this initiative is that an established space could provide the Section and/or other Chicago area engineering groups with a "home base" that might facilitate the logistics of hosting meetings, workshops, or seminars and be a visible sign of the engineering community in Chicago.

The second initiative identified and supported by the Board will involve an outreach event for members of

the Illinois Section that live and/or work outside of the immediate Chicago area. Results from an initial analysis of our membership data shows that we have a significant number of members that live well outside of the Chicago metro area. Plans are currently being developed for a Section-sponsored social event or dinner meeting to be held at a location that will be convenient for those members that can't easily attend events in the City. Watch your newsletter for more information on this event.

...an outreach event for members of the Illinois Section that live and/or work outside of the immediate Chicago area.

Third, as part of the Section's ongoing outreach to the ASCE student chapters at IIT, Northwestern and UIC, the Board agreed to invite the current and incoming presidents of these student

ASCE Illinois Section News

ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

Mailed to all ASCE-IS dues-paying members
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Illinois Section - Zone III - District 8

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ASCE National Information

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Michael Cook x6121

Submission deadline for the Newsletter is the 10th of the month.

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chapter to be our guests at the 2007 President-Elect Dinner. We hope that this effort will help us continue to strengthen our ties to the Student Chapters and provide the student leaders with an opportunity to meet with Section members and President-Elect Mongan.

Lastly, the Board agreed to support initial discussions between the Illinois Section and the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) regarding possible joint government affairs efforts. The ISPE currently has a lobbyist that works on issues of importance to their organization in Springfield. We hope to find ways that the Illinois Section ASCE can partner

with ISPE to help play an increasing role in government affairs activities

...to invite the current and incoming presidents of these student chapter to be our guests at the 2007 President-Elect Dinner.

in Illinois. One current idea includes supporting and participating in a legislative breakfast with ISPE.

These ideas represent just a few of the possible initiatives discussed by the Board. However, these items were identified by the Board as areas where

a commitment could have real benefits for the Section and its membership. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these specific efforts, please contact me at (312) 831-3821 or joe.johnson@mwhglobal.com. I will be more than happy to put you in

...discussions between the Illinois Section and ISPE regarding possible joint government affairs efforts.

contact with the Board members leading our efforts on these exciting initiatives.



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Are You Ready for Another Summer of Congestion?

by Cassie Gray

Are you ready for another summer of congestion on the roads due to construction projects? Involvement in a new strategic planning initiative sponsored by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), CTA, Metra and Pace called Moving Beyond Congestion (MBC) may be the way out.

As we are all well aware, road congestion is a growing problem in Northeast Illinois. Time lost and fuel wasted idling costs residents nearly \$4.2 billion annually. Public transit including CTA, Metra and Pace saves the region about \$12 billion each year through a combination of congestion relief, reductions in emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NOX) and particulate matter as well as “intangibles” such as mobility and quality of life benefits. The regional transit system, responsible for nearly

120,000 jobs, provides residents of Chicago and its suburbs approximately 2 million rides each day. Imagine the gridlock that would ensue if those 2 million rides were carried in cars instead!

With such a demonstrated value, why have public transit systems fallen into disrepair and funding avenues been cut? A program called Illinois FIRST provided nearly \$1.6 billion in capital investment bonds funding to the RTA which increased the overall capital program to \$3.8 billion from 2000-2004. Illinois FIRST funded new Pace and CTA buses, Metra railcars, capacity enhancements of the Brown Line and Red Line, as well as many other reconstruction and replacement of bridges, garages and other facility improvements. Unfortunately, CTA, Metra and Pace are now facing a

major funding shortfall as Illinois FIRST was not renewed by State legislators and no new state capital funding has been put in place. In order to maintain current levels of service and provide for increased costs of security, fuel, and healthcare costs of employees, the RTA has resorted to funneling capital expense dollars to the operating budget. This is not a sustainable practice and if left unchecked, could result in a downward spiral.

MBC has issued a final report that calls for investment of nearly \$16 billion over the next five years to maintain, enhance and expand the RTA. Currently, the RTA has approximately \$3 billion of this total in committed federal money, and plans to pursue up to \$3 billion more in federal funds if state and local governments can provide matching dollars. This leaves \$10 billion unfunded, but the report offers a variety of avenues to research and consider in upcoming legislative sessions.

The report also recommends that Metra and Pace re-evaluate their reverse commute and off-peak travel schedules in order to accommodate a full range of travel needs. Currently, CTA, Metra and Pace have different fare collecting structures. The vision of MBC calls for an investigation of full regional fare integration to provide riders with a seamless regional transit system. Other key investments include track, structure and signal improvements to promote safety and speed travel times, station, parking and passenger facility improvements as well as additional support facilities and improvements. **ASCE**

Information used to prepare this article was found at www.movingbeyondcongestion.org. You can also sign up to become a “Partner for Transit” and see a full schedule of community events at the same site.

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Did you know? Part 2

by Chris King, Illinois Section ASCE Director


ASCE's IL Section is continuously working to make our organization more of what YOU want and over the course of the next year we intend to survey and discuss means for all of us to get more value out of our MEMBERSHIP. Whatever your reason for joining, be that resume building, advocacy, networking or simple dialog, the section goal is to build on that reason and give you more.

Illinois ASCE has:

- 3109 members in Illinois
- 302 communities have members of ASCE.
- Chicago leads the way with 780 members
- Naperville is a proud second with 136.
- Evanston, Arlington Heights and Northbrook round out the top 5.

- **QUESTION**—How can we be better advocates in our community lives? How many of us are involved at the political leadership level to leverage our education for our community's benefit?
- 1095 Business entities are represented.
 - 13 firms with over 20 members
 - 23 with 10 to 20 members
 - 1095 with 9 or less members.
- **QUESTION**—Are we encouraging our coworkers to be involved?
- Our membership comprises of over 646 differently defined business positions.
 - **QUESTION**—is there truly such a lack of clarity in our job functions that necessitates such a large range of titles?
- We have 435 members (14% of our membership) in the position of president, owner and vice president. Certainly enough folks in a position of corporate authority to impact the lives of our co-workers.
- **QUESTION**—What can the society do to help make that happen?
- We have 255 student members. Are we adequately reaching out to them?
- We have 179 retired members. THANKS for staying involved!

Are you going places?

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Please think of the ways in which you've always thought the society could do and be more. Is it more education, training, social activities, management guidance, ethics panels, etc? Keep your eye out over the next few months for more information on how you can provide feedback to ASCE to make your organization more of what you want. **ASCE**

Section Activities

Transportation Group

Executive Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 3
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: TBD
RSVP: Bryan Luke, bluke@cbbel.com
(847) 823-0500

Luncheon Program

Speaker: Andy Jazdanian - Toda America Inc
Topic: Colored Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavements Via Colored Asphalt
Date: Tuesday, April 24
Time: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Place: Chicago Athletic Association
12 South Michigan Ave, Chicago
PDH: 0.5 PDH
Pre-Registration: Through April 20, 2007
Cost: \$15-students,
\$40 with pre-registration,
\$50 at door & post 04/20/07

RSVP: Jason Gregor
jgregor@cityofchicago.org

Seminar

Topic: IDOT Basic Geometric Design Class
Date: April 2-6
Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Place: IDOT Region 1 Office
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg
PDH: 27 PDH
Cost: \$725 ASCE Member,
\$750 non-ASCE Member
RSVP: Smita Shah, sshah@spaantech.com

Younger Member Group

Monthly Happy Hour

Date: Thursday, April 12 at 5:30pm
Place: TBA
RSVP: James Wonneberg
JWonneberg@ekmail.com
(312) 424-5446

Dinner Meeting

Topic: Wrigley Field Renovations
Date: Wednesday, April 25
Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Place: TBA
RSVP: Cassie Gray, cgray@cmtengr.com

Geotechnical Group

Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Clyde N. Baker, STS Consultants
Topic: Risk vs. Reward:
A 50 Year Retrospective
Date: Wednesday, April 11
Time: 5:30pm
Place: Costas
340 South Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60661
Free Valet

Urban Planning & Development Group

Dinner Presentation

Date: Thursday, April 12 at 6:00pm
Place: Chandler's Chophouse
401 N. Roselle Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194
(847) 885-9009

Information: Dennis Dreher of Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd., will present on Conservation Development. The program will focus on the benefits and implementation challenges of conservation development and presenting residential and commercial examples.

Cost: \$45/\$20 Students
RSVP: Erik Olson
eolson@bollingerlach.com
Phone: 815-479-1200 Fax: 815-479-1220

Minority Affairs Committee

Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 3 at 5:30pm
Place: 35 East Wacker Dr. Ste 1000
Chicago, IL 60601

Contact Tim Scully Granzeier for more information: 312-263-6703 (ext 4109) or tgranzeier@arcadis-us.com.

Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group

Monthly Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 10 at 5:30pm
Place: HDR Engineering, Inc.
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Ste 200
Chicago, IL 60631
773-867-7225

Structural Group

17th Biennial Lecture Series

Session 1: Special Projects (2.5 CEU's)

Date: Thursday, April, 12
Time: 5:30 pm
Topic: Infrastructure Improvement in Conjunction with the Chicago manufacturing campus
Speaker: Dr. Soliman Khudeira, PE, SE - CDOT
Topic: Tall Buildings-Trends in Composite Structures: Hyatt Center and One South Dearborn
Speaker: James Swanson, Carrie Warner-Halvorson and Partners

Registration: The fee for one evening is \$75. For full time students the registration fee is \$25. Registrants will receive a copy of the symposium proceedings. For additional information or questions, please contact Barb Pries at (312) 649-4600 or Basar Civelek at (312) 424-5410.

Session 2: Redundancy of Bridge Structures (2.5 CEU's)

Date: Thursday, April 19
Time: 5:30 pm
Topic: Redundancy of Two Girder Bridges - Marquette Interchange Approach
Speaker: Dr. Tony Shkruti, PE, SE - HNTB
Topic: Redundancy of Highway Bridge Superstructures
Speaker: DR. Michel Ghosn - City College of New York.

Place: Chicago Athletic Association
12 South Michigan Ave, Chicago

Registration: The fee for one evening is \$75. For full time students the registration fee is \$25. Registrants will receive a copy of the symposium proceedings. For additional information or questions, please contact Barb Pries at (312) 649-4600 or Basar Civelek at (312) 424-5410.

For information about the group, contact Sudhir Singamsethi, sudhir@matrixchicago.com, (312) 427 1200

Investing in Transit Strengthens Our Economy and Our Quality of Life

(continued from page 1)

and local governments to provide matching funds. The State has provided no capital money since 2004 forcing local governments to provide the entire match. Our hope is that the State will pass a capital plan this year that gets us the \$10 billion we need over the next five years.

Operating: The RTA's goal is to generate \$400 million more per year without overburdening passengers. Revenue proposals, including a review of revenues currently collected in the RTA region must be considered. We appeal to state lawmakers and the Governor to craft a comprehensive proposal and have offered a summary of revenue options used across the country and around the world to generate funds for public transportation. For Health Care, Education and jobs

initiatives to work, people must be able to get to jobs, medical and educational facilities.

Conclusion: Our Future Is At Stake

We welcome an open, honest and vigorous debate on the subject of transit investments and funding. We encourage everyone who cares about our quality of life, our economy and our long-term health to participate. The future of our region is at stake and this is no time for half-measures.

We all live, work and play in a highly mobile society and if we want it to grow and meet our future needs, now is the time to invest in public transit. From the central city to the farthest suburbs the Chicago region is poised for growth and greatness, bidding for major international events like the Olympics and securing its global

reputation as one of the most progressive, vibrant and culturally integrated metropolises in the world. At the heart of this vision is a modern, efficient public transit system that will leverage

Today's sound
investment yields
tomorrow's
infinite promise.

our economic assets and to help realize our individual dreams and collective hopes in the years and the decades ahead. Today's sound investment yields tomorrow's infinite promise. For more information and to become a "partner" please go to <http://movingbeyondcongestion.org/>
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American Society of Civil Engineers- Illinois Section 13th Annual Golf Outing

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007
OAK MEADOWS GOLF COURSE
900 North Wood Dale Road
Wood Dale, IL

8:00 AM Shotgun Start (Please check in by 7:30 AM)

\$115 Registration Fee covers:

- Green Fees and Golf Cart
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Prizes and Awards

Proceeds from the outing support the Illinois Section Minority Affairs Program providing scholarships. Since 1990 the Minority Affairs Committee has sent 88 students to Introduction to Engineering at Notre Dame University with a scholarship value of approximately \$112,000.

ASCE 2007 GOLF OUTING - REGISTRATION FORM

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Organization: _____
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Additional Golfers:

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Registration and check for \$115
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Thursday, May 17th

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Illinois Section News & Secretary Report

M A R C H 2 0 0 7

In an effort to inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at the monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this monthly article to the newsletter. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome and can be sent to the Section office at the address shown on Page 2.

■ Treasurer's Report

▲ Treasurer Moore distributed the Treasurer's Monthly Report and Income Statement as of February 28, 2007. The Monthly Report was approved as presented to the Board. Receivables were discussed; currently there is \$12,250 in total A/R.

■ Group Reports

▲ Each Section Group reported on their past month's activities and future group meetings as noted in the Section Activities portion of the newsletter. Highlights of the Group's activities are as follows:

▲ Geotechnical Group: Chair Wysocky presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Structural Group: Chair Singamsethi not present, no REPORT submitted. President Johnson reminded the board that the lecture series is in conflict with President-Elect dinner.

▲ Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group: Chair Baldauf presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Urban Planning & Development Group: President Johnson presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group and noted that the group has had good presentations.

▲ Transportation Group: Chair Luke presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Younger Member Group: Chair Smith presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

■ Committee Reports

▲ Communications Committee: Webmaster Panguluri is working with ASCE National to buy new software that will be used to maintain the website. President Johnson and President elect Whitlock emphasized the importance of the calendar being updated. Chair Olson discussed the email/newsletter, electronic newsletter 75% hardcopies 25%.

▲ Minority Affairs Committee: President elect Whitlock discussed the report and connecting students. President Johnson discussed a Regional West Point Competition and provided a flyer.

▲ Public Affairs Committee: Chair Ungeran discussed the Section special projects. President Johnson discussed the special projects, budgets that will range from \$10-13k. Discussion included the short list of items presented at the last board meeting in February. Chair Ungeran presented the ASCE "Chicago Facility Initiative". President elect Whitlock proposed 6 months to do a feasibility study. President Johnson discussed the Illinois Engineering Council. President Johnson asked Director Ungeran if we should form a committee; budget. President elect Whitlock talked about there was once a facility in Chicago. Task-History/Research about the facility in Chicago.

▲ 2007 Leadership Workshop – February 9-11, 2007 – Webmaster Srikanth attended/talked about raising the bar; Director Walczynski talked about the workshop-Eye of the Future; Director Cussen talked about the workshop-young students need interaction.

▲ 2007 President-Elect Dinner – Pres-Elect, David Morgan supporting professional activities; Nick Textor and Kay will host.

▲ Future Cities/Engineers Week Involvement – President Johnson mentioned that the board should make an effort to attend the Future Cities events; the technical groups did have good participation as judges. Individuals were encouraged to recognize Engineers Week in their offices.

▲ 2007 Government Affairs Fly-in – President elect Whitlock, Secretary Gorski and Past President Wittmer attended. IS Annual dinner-October 24th at Grand Ballroom Navy Pier. Proposal for Funds/Budget: Feasibility Engineering Faculty-say \$1000; Annual Dinner at Navy Pier signed contract; Engineer Day Tour in Chicago; Outreach to members beyond Chicago-Chris King discussion about IS members, section by county, survey; Part time Public Relations Support-\$500 possible SPAG; Mike talked to breakfast with ACEC, Legislative Breakfast co-host \$2000, Lobbyist-ISPE, IS say \$30,000, IS Section-\$500; All these figures are tentative and for discussion; Kay talked about student scholarships increase the amount or more scholarships; Tech Groups-Transportation (2) scholarships of \$2500 each; Supplement Tech Group Scholarships-Discussion; Current and In-Coming student chapters invite; 2007 Pres-Elect Dinner-Kay W.

1. Feasibility of Engineering Facility budget \$12,000, initial \$1,000
2. Engineering Day Tour in Chicago-not enough information, encourage the groups
3. Outreach to Members beyond Chicago, initial \$2,000 Joe Johnson/Chris King
4. Part-time Public Relations support, Director Cussen and Director Walczynski
5. Legislative Breakfast Co-host, Past President Thomas Burke
6. Lobbyist Explore- \$500
7. Supplement technical group scholarships
8. Incoming Student Sections, Pres.-Elect B. Gorski

■ Old Business

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■ New Business

▲ IIT Funding Request - The board approved \$800 for Haiti Outreach-IIT Student Chapter

▲ NU ASCE Student Chapter Funding Request – The board approved \$750 for educational trip in March to San Francisco.

▲ RTA Moving Beyond Congestion – article to be provided in the newsletter.

▲ Discussion Item: Joe discussed (8) items as shown above.

▲ Membership Analysis: Not discussed

**By Robert Gorski, Secretary/Abdul Khan,
Past President**
Robert.gorski@hdrinc.com

American Society of Civil Engineers- Illinois Section 13TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007
OAK MEADOWS GOLF COURSE
900 North Wood Dale Road
Wood Dale, IL

The Illinois Section is seeking sponsors for golf holes; sponsorships enable the Minority Affairs program to provide scholarships for area high school students to attend summer engineering camp at the University of Notre Dame. Since 1990 the Minority Affairs Committee has sent 88 students to Introduction to Engineering with a scholarship value of nearly \$112,000.

BENEFITS OF A \$250 SPONSORSHIP INCLUDE:

- A sponsorship sign displayed at a tee the day of the outing
- Recognition and acknowledgement at the outing luncheon
- Recognition in the Illinois Section NEWS and website www.isasce.org

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ASCE 2007 GOLF OUTING - SPONSORSHIP FORM

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McCormick

Robert R. McCormick
School of Engineering
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For more information about the MPM Program or to schedule an appointment, contact Professor Raymond J. Krizek, Program Director:
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<http://mpm.northwestern.edu>



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ASCE Transportation Group and IDOT have partnered to offer PDH accredited courses in coordination with IDOT's Program Development Technical Training Sessions.



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course Offering	Course Dates	Course Cost	PDH Earned
IDOT Basic Geometric Design Class	April 2 – 6, 2007	Member \$725	27 PDH
		Non-Member \$750	
IDOT Phase I Process Overview, Drainage Location and Environmental Studies	May 1-3, 2007	Member \$500	18 PDH
		Non-Member \$525	
IDOT Specifications/Special Provisions and Plan Notes	May 30-31, 2007	Member \$300	12 PDH
		Non-Member \$325	
IDOT Finance Program	June 5-6, 2007	Member \$300	12 PDH
		Non-Member \$325	
IDOT Plan Format and Composition	June 20-21, 2007	Member \$300	12 PDH
		Non-Member \$325	
IDOT Agreements/Summary of Quantities/Letting Process	June 27-28, 2007	Member \$300	12 PDH
		Non-Member \$325	

Course Location: Illinois Department of Transportation – 201 West Center Court - Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

SMITA N. SHAH, P. E. ■ TRANSPORTATION GROUP ■ TECHNICAL PROGRAMS CHAIR

Inquire for Registration to:

SPAAN Tech, Inc.
Smita N. Shah, P.E. – Transportation Chair
Registration for Transportation Classes
100 North Riverside Plaza – Suite 1750
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Ph: (312) 277-8816
Fx: (312) 277-8817
sshah@spaantech.com



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To register please complete your contact information in its entirety. Enclose payments for each registered person. Please bring a pencil and paper.

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April 2-6	Transportation Group Seminar	April 19	Session 4 of 17th Biennial Lecture Series– <i>Redundancy of Bridge Structures</i>
April 3	Minority Affairs Committee Monthly Meeting	April 24	Transportation Luncheon Program
April 3	Transportation Group Executive Committee Meeting	April 25	Younger Member Group Dinner Meeting
April 10	Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group Meeting	May 24	Illinois Section ASCE Golf Outing
April 11	Geotechnical Group Monthly Meeting	May 30-31	Transportation Group Seminar
April 12	Urban Planning & Development Group Dinner Presentation	June 5-6	Transportation Group Seminar
April 12	Younger Member Group Monthly Happy Hour	June 16	Younger Member Group Golf Outing
April 12	Session 3 of 17th Biennial Lecture Series– <i>Special Projects</i>	June 20-21	Transportation Group Seminar
		June 27-28	Transportation Group Seminar

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