



ISSUE 02 • SEPTEMBER 2022

# MOVITE MINUTE

THE MISSOURI VALLEY DISTRICT OF ITE JOURNAL



# **EDITOR'S NOTE**

**We are always looking for new content to share with our membership. If you would like to showcase a local project, promote an upcoming event, or nominate a member to be featured, please submit a write-up to me, Ashley Fillback.**

**Emailing a picture and a short description about something cool you, your section, student chapter, company, or project team does is all it takes to be featured across MOVITE's platforms.**

**We couldn't do this without the input of all of our great members of MOVITE. I hope you enjoy reading the MOVITE Minute!**

**Contact:  
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Communications Director  
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# Brian Willham, PE, PTOE, PTP

## Meet a Member Feature



Brian is a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer and Professional Transportation Planner with over 20 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. His experience has included a wide variety of multi-modal transportation planning and design, intelligent transportation systems planning and design, preparation of various types of funding applications, CIP planning and development, and various forms of group leadership and management. Brian is currently the Transportation Planning Director for HR Green, based in Cedar Rapids, and is the 2022 MOVITE Treasurer.

### What is your favorite ITE memory?

My favorite ITE Memory has to be the 2014 Joint Western and Midwestern District Annual Meeting in Rapid City, SD. That meeting was a fantastic time of seeing friends from MOVITE, the (old) Midwestern District, and making new friends from the Western District. I had the opportunity to be a part of a panel presentation, and I ended up having my own cheering section (complete with full size photos of my face) in the audience! My family came along and we extended our time into a family vacation where we stayed in Custer State Park for a few days, found our favorite hike yet (Devil's Bathtub), and explored the Black Hills and the Badlands.



Dakotah  
"Joining together in friendly compact"



# Brian Willham, PE, PTOE, PTP

## Meet a Member Feature

### What is your favorite project?

My favorite project so far was more of an initiative that I was lucky enough to be involved in while working at the City of Des Moines. *Step It Up Des Moines* started with participation in a program through the Walkability Action Institute / National Association of Chronic Disease Directors that brought the City, MPO, Public Health Department, and School District together to develop strategies to make walking and bicycling easier, safer, and more comfortable for our communities. It resulted in a focused project to improve sidewalks, crosswalks, and transit stops in a neighborhood that greatly relied on non-motorized travel to get around.

### What is one piece of advice you would share with a newer member of the industry?

My best piece of advice for someone joining our industry is to find a way to get experience and build your network in as many facets of transportation as possible. I was lucky in the early days of my career to be involved with a great mix of planning and design related work. In addition to my experience through my job, I joined ITE right away and began to build my network, getting involved in various committees, board positions, and other opportunities to collaborate with my peers and help move our profession forward.

### What are you looking forward to right now?

I am really looking forward to working with my peers across MOVITE and beyond to continue to make our transportation systems safer and more accessible for everyone. With the expanded funding programs, new and emerging technologies available, and the ability to incorporate big data more and more, we are in the midst of some exciting times and opportunities to affect change for our communities now and in the future. And of course, I can't wait to see my friends in Oklahoma City in a few weeks at the Annual Meeting!



# Section Spotlight

In this edition of the MOVITE Minute, we are putting a Section Spotlight on the Arkansas Section of ITE. There had been informal off-and-on interest in beginning a chapter in Arkansas for a number of years at various MOVITE functions. Earl Newman lent his passion and persuasiveness to keep the discussion going through the years. The real turning point happened when ITE began offering a public agency membership option. With some helpful coaxing from Shawn Leight, Andy Brewer helped facilitate ARDOT (then AHTD) joining as a public agency member in June 2015. Several ARDOT staff began participating, which built momentum for formalizing a state chapter. The ARITE Chapter was chartered in 2016 and bylaws approved in 2017. Andy Brewer served as the de facto president of the organization until 2018 when formal officers were appointed. ARITE became a Section in 2020 at the same time MOVITE became a District through the OneITE initiative. The name for ARITE includes the fun homophone of “all right” which was intentional and continues to evoke bad puns.



## Get to Know the Section

### ARITE Board of Directors:

President: James Barr, PE  
Vice-President: Stephen Sichmeller, PE  
Secretary-Treasurer: Finley Vinson, PE  
MOVITE Arkansas Section Director:  
James Arbuckle, PE

**Membership:** 91

### Upcoming MOVITE Meeting:

October 4-6, 2023 in Bentonville, AR



# Section Spotlight



Meetings have been hybrid since COVID, with a decent portion of attendees still attending virtually. The quarterly lunches begin with a business meeting, followed by a technical presentation from a guest speaker. Meeting attendance typically ranges from 30-40 attendees.

ARITE assists the University of Arkansas and its student chapter activities; such as, class speaking engagements and preparing for ITE student events. This includes coaching the back-to-back District Champion Traffic Bowl team. Go Hogs! Recently ARITE has helped celebrate the UA student chapter traffic bowl victories at the MOVITE District with a pizza dinner. A small gathering of members in Northwest Arkansas have also started meeting when desired to get to know each other. It typically involves meeting at places that serve both coffee and other fine refreshments.

The first MOVITE District meeting (Spring 2021) was hosted by ARITE and included a very quick pivot from in person to virtual thanks to the lingering global pandemic. We are gearing up to hit repeat of the planned in-person meeting in downtown Bentonville from October 4-6, 2023. It is proving to be a fun meeting at a surprisingly cosmopolitan location nestled in the Arkansas Ozarks. We are excited to host all our MOVITE friends. See you in Fall 2023!

# Summer Vacation

Excited to resume international travel, GSITE Board of Director Kelly Schaefer got to visit Portugal in April 2022. She planned a self-guided tour for herself and her mom JoAnn all over the country via trains, buses, tuk tuks, trolleys, and more. Using Lisbon and Porto as home bases, they added day trips to Belem, Sintra (a MUST see!), Obidos, Braga, and Douro Valley. What she loved: all the different cod dinners; seeing where the Portuguese explorers launched and arrived home; exploring castles, estates, and old neighborhoods; and making memories with her mom, locals, and other travelers. Portugal was an amazing trip and she can't wait to see more of the world soon!



What is summer vacation without a little time outdoors? MOVITE President, Esther Shaw-Smith spent some time with her boys, Eli & Daniel, hunting hermit crabs while on vacation in Port Aransas, Texas.

# A Travel Diary

By: Carrie Falkenrath

*“Travel makes you realize that no matter how much you know, there’s always more to learn.” – Nyssa P. Chopra*

My family loves to travel, but rarely leaves the continent. This summer we let our graduating High School Senior choose the trip. Our destination? Italy. We made a loop of the country, stopping in Rome, Venice, Levanto, Florence, and Sorrento. None of us speaks Italian, but we studied an Italian phrasebook, cobbled together our combined high school knowledge of Latin and French, and, most importantly, made ample use of Google Translate.

Like much of Europe, Italy is easy to travel by transit – and we convinced our teens (18 and 14) to undertake their first backpacking trip. There is an excellent interconnected rail network (local, regional, high-speed) country wide. Rome has just about everything from Metro to bikeshare and electric scooters. Florence and Venice also have extensive bus coverage, the former includes minibuses to fit down old narrow streets, the latter’s is completely on the water. Florence also has a burgeoning streetcar network. The smaller seaside towns of Levanto and Sorrento were compact and walkable (albeit hilly). We also rode ferries, bicycles, “gozzos” (fishing boats), kayaks, and chose to use a car only once – when our kids convinced me to hire a taxi to drive us (and our backpacks) back up the hill from our seaside hotel to the train station on the steep Cinque Terre coast. Watching our kids (and their, ahem, older parents) navigate a foreign country in a very foreign language, I was reminded of the quote above. And, in that spirit, here is an abbreviated list of...

## Things I learned on my summer vacation:

- A ten-minute walk feels like twenty when you’re carrying your luggage. Forty when your kids are carrying theirs.
- The ability to pay for your trip via an on-bus kiosk (Florence) needs to go worldwide.
- Pedestrians have the right of way, but you’ll usually take your life in your hands to claim it.
- It is easy to travel almost anywhere by train in Italy; it is much less easy to take your luggage with you if it’s not small enough to lift/fit into an overhead rack.
- Basalt cobblestones have endured for centuries – they will easily defeat your legs and feet.
- Museums are much more palatable to teenagers when it’s 104°F outside.
- Even staircases can be spectacular.
- There are entirely too many yachts in the world – but I wish I had a friend who owned one.
- You can be born with a curiosity for travel, but a love of travel is learned.





# ITE Annual Meeting

July 31 - August 3, 2022

## New Orleans, LA

The 2022 ITE Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans, LA from July 31-August 3, 2022 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel on Canal Street. This meeting marked the first in-person annual meeting since 2019 with the theme of the meeting as *Investing In Our Future*.

Many MOVITE members in attendance found their way to the conference a couple days early to enjoy the sites New Orleans has to offer. Whether you set your eyes on sampling every type of beignet you could find or enjoyed relaxing to the live music, there is a little bit of something for everyone. With the hotel located in the French Quarter, members were able to easily walk to find creol or cajun food for dinner, sip a Hurricane on Bourbon Street, check out the St. Louis Cathedral at Jackson Square, or tour the city on a streetcar.

New Orleans was the perfect location to kickstart in-person ITE meetings again. As they say in NOLA, "Laissez les bon temps rouler!" *Let the good times roll.*



# Annual Meeting

Photos Courtesy of Zaki Mustafa

The 2022 ITE Annual Meeting provided an assortment of technical sessions, workshops, panels, technical tours, and social events for all who attended. The meeting kicked off on Sunday, July 31st with a variety of workshops, council meetings, LeadershipITE's final session, a first-timer's orientation, and a welcome reception in the Exhibition Hall.

MOVITE's Erica Myers serves as a Co-Chair for the Women in ITE Member Program Committee where she did an incredible job planning the workshop for Women in ITE. The workshop was well attended and a great opportunity for some of our members to network and discuss important issues women face in the profession. ITE is always recruiting new members to join committees and councils. Go to [ITE's website](#) to find out how to get involved.

Monday, August 1st, started off strong with an opening business and plenary session featuring Louisiana Department of Transportation Secretary, Dr. Shawn Wilson, and U.S. DOT Deputy Secretary, Polly Trottenberg.



# Annual Meeting



Late afternoon, the ITE Traffic Bowl Grand Championship took place. The ITE Traffic Bowl Chair, **John Davis**, recruited the help of other MOVITE members to volunteer with day of set-up and operations. Thank you to **Carrie Falkenrath**, **Ashley Fillback**, **Jacob Kaltenbronn**, and **Shawn Leight** for helping run the show. Check out page 12 for more information on the event.



Monday night, International Director **Andy Swisher** organized a MOVITE social at a local bar. Members enjoyed drinks and appetizers together before heading out to check out the nightlife and activities NOLA has to offer.



On Tuesday August 2nd, the ITE Awards Luncheon took place. MOVITE was well represented with **Nathan Becknell** graduating with LeadershipITE's 2022 class (page 13) and the N. Vine Street Corridor Improvement Project winning the 2022 Transportation Achievement Award in the Traffic Engineering Category (page 16).

Thank you to everyone who made it out to NOLA this year, we hope to see you in Portland, OR in 2023!

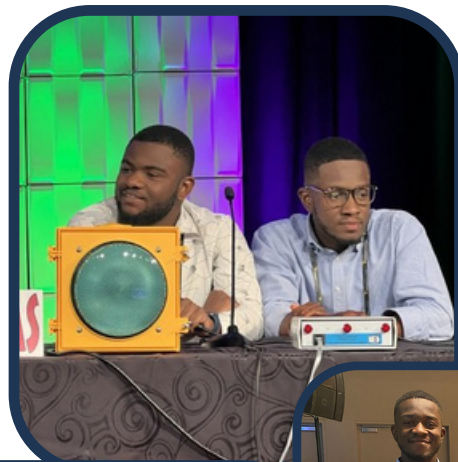


# Grand Championship Traffic Bowl

The 13th Annual ITE Traffic Bowl Grand Championship took place at the 2022 ITE Annual Meeting on August 1st. Winning teams from each District's Traffic Bowl participated in a Jeopardy-style trivia match. Students were tested on their knowledge of ITE, transportation planning, and engineering topics to determine the Grand Champion.

Adedolapo Ogungbire and Kwadwo Amankwa-Nkyi from the University of Arkansas represented the MOVITE District in the Grand Championship among ten teams competing for the title. This was University of Arkansas' second appearance at the Grand Championship, the first being in 2021.

Although Clemson University took home the championship, the University of Arkansas had a very strong showing at the International level. We are all very proud of you! Go Hogs!



# LeadershipITE



LeadershipITE (LITE) is a formal leadership program established to grow and empower the next generation of transportation leaders. This program aims to provide participants with the skills, tools, and network to successfully navigate their careers and be leaders in their places of

business, communities and professional organizations of choice.

MOVITE is proud to support ITE's initiative to grow the next generation of transportation leadership. Our most recent LITE participant is no other than **Nathan Becknell, PE, PTOE, PTP.**

## Get to Know Nathan

Nathan is a Principal and Manager of the Fayetteville, Arkansas office for Traffic Engineering Consultants, Inc. (TEC) which he opened in 2019. He received both his BSCE and MSCE from the University of Arkansas and has held multiple leadership roles within ITE including MOVITE President and ARITE co-Administrator. Prior to his employment with TEC, Nathan worked for the City of Rogers, Arkansas for five years as a Civil Engineer, the last two of those years he served as the City Engineer. Nathan previously worked at Garver on the transportation team and Mobley Contractors as a foreman on a concrete pipe crew and concrete finishing crew.



# Nathan Becknell, PE, PTOE, PTP



## We asked Nathan some questions:

### Why did you apply for LeadershipITE and how has the experience been?

I was encouraged to apply to LeadershipITE from several colleagues that were alumni and the stars hadn't quite aligned until 2022. I am happy to be the first member from Arkansas to participate and will make sure I'm not the last. The experience has been invaluable. The teachers and mentors put a great program together and the teamwork has yielded a bond with my classmates that will last a lifetime. I really appreciate the focus on harnessing our potential to be the future of our community of transportation professionals.

### What is your favorite ITE memory?

When I served a few years ago on the Midwestern District board (may it rest in peace) we had a board meeting in Madison that ended with a fun evening at a Cuban dance club. I will never forget the abilities, or lack thereof, on that dance floor. There are likely a few photos floating around from that evening, but hopefully they have been lost to the sands of time.

### What has changed the most since you started your career?

So many good things and a few not so good things. What immediately comes to mind is the quickly increasing amount of female professionals around. Early in my career there were often times when not a single woman was present in meetings. It has become not only common to have women around, but to also have them calling the shots! We were never a profession at its true potential with half the talent sidelined and I wholeheartedly welcome the change.

# Nathan Becknell, PE, PTOE, PTP

**What do you see as your biggest accomplishment since you started your career?**

When I was with the City of Rogers, Arkansas as City Engineer, I worked with my team, bosses, politicians, and public to produce what we termed the “connectivity ordinance.” The ordinance was meant to produce a more gridded transportation network than was being designed for most developments, and thus reduce the need for bigger wider roads and the subsequent higher taxes. Within that code I pushed hard to keep a section that required a pedestrian connection at the end of all new cul-de-sac and dead end roads. I have a passion for serving those that want a choice or don’t have a choice to get around safely without a motorized vehicle. So many more children will have a better ability to walk to school now.

**Best vacation?**

Easily a trip to Peru. The Inca Trail hike into Machu Picchu is mesmerizing. Cusco is such an energizing city and the group I was with made the most of every bit of the trip. I highly recommend it for everyone. I hope to beat it out though with a trip my 12 year old daughter wants to take to Egypt next year. She is very interested in history and I can’t wait to get her out into the big world.



# N. Vine Street (US-183) Corridor Improvements

At the ITE Annual Meeting in NOLA, the 2022 Transportation Achievement Award in the Traffic Engineering Category was presented to a team from the MOVITE District. WSP USA Inc., The City of Hays, KS, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kirkham Michael, and Smoky Hill Construction were all recognized at the Annual Meeting for their work on the N. Vine Street (US-183) Corridor Improvements. Congratulations to the team on an incredible job!

The N. Vine Street Corridor Improvement Project has significantly enhanced multi-modal safety and improved traffic operations and economic activity. Residents and visitors have been positively impacted with improved mobility through the corridor, an enhanced and welcoming gateway to the city, improved access to businesses, enhanced economic development, options for pedestrians and cyclists, and increased safety for all modes of travel. Installation of a roundabout (the only multi-lane roundabouts of this shape in existence) has reduced crossing conflicts by 71%, and shared-use paths, two mid-block crossings with Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), and multilane pedestrian crossings at all roundabout entrances and exits with RRFBs. Click [here](#) for more information on the project.

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**





# Student Chapter Spotlight

*Written by: Gideon Plank*

Missouri S&T has been privileged to have an ITE student chapter for a notable portion of its recent history. In the past decade the chapter has both grown and dwindled with it having to be rebuilt by a transportation professor in 2017. Between then and the COVID-19 pandemic the chapter had a large membership with regular meetings. However, the organization faded away during COVID and was left existing only on paper. While the Civil Engineering department wanted to maintain the chapter, there was nothing to be done until Tyler Sanzottera and I began expressing interest in reestablishing it. At first it was daunting to think about what the two of us were aiming to do, and there was a lot of work needed to return the chapter to its former self. But I think both of us found that there was overwhelming support for our goals. In our peers the chapter received dedicated officers and a complete executive board. In our professors there were advisors and advertisers. And in our alum were interesting and flexible presenters. Through the efforts of all these people: our officers, former members like Ashley Fillback and Matt DeMoss, and the Civil Engineering department, we have been able to revitalize the chapter and for that we are grateful.

The past two semesters the chapter has been focused on the base structure of the organization and while that will hold true, this semester efforts will be concentrated on generating greater interest and expanded membership. With our school's new program for student organizations, the chapter will be more visible and better organized so that all students can easily see what



## **2022-2023 Chapter Officers:**

Gideon Plank (President)  
Jacob Johnson (VP)  
McKenna Schneider (Treasurer)  
Alex Zarate (Secretary)  
Tyler Sanzottera (Executive at Large)  
Dr. Jenny Liu (Faculty Advisor)

## **Upcoming Presenters:**

Kelly Schaefer  
Carrie Falkenrath  
Tricia Bohler  
Angie Franklin  
Tom Morris  
Shane Epting



# Student Chapter Spotlight



the organization is and when we meet. Another focus will be a response to the frequent requests for additional meetings on a more complete schedule. Through the support the chapter has received and the combined network of the officers it is now set up to have a presentation about every three weeks. This consistency should encourage more active membership and attract interested students. The most difficult part of the chapter's reestablishment has been regaining access to past funds. Without this the organization has not been able to provide what is easily the best way to get large numbers of students to attend, free pizza. Having finally received access, the chapter expects to garner more hungry college students to participate in activities and presentations.

Something the chapter has been proud of is a consistent turnout of 15-20 students. This is a credit to the ways our meetings are advertised. Flyers are made and hung through the Civil Engineering building and event details are also sent out online and to the Civil department through a department calendar. One opportunity the chapter has used extensively is speaking directly with the transportation class the university provides. The transportation professor has also provided extra credit as an incentive for students to show up and participate, something many other chapters might benefit from.

In less than two semesters the student chapter has been transformed from no members into a stable and growing organization. While many other student organizations have stopped meeting and not returned to the same levels of involvement as before the pandemic, S&T's ITE student chapter has. Because of this great change, MOVITE saw fit to award the Student Chapter Momentum Award. The chapter is honored to have received this and owes it to the past president, Tyler Sanzottera, for both turning the organization into a candidate for the award as well as applying for the selection of it.

# Resources for Members

## Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM Resources)

Do you want to get younger generations interested in STEM, but don't know where to start? ITE makes it easy with countless resources and activities for all ages! The ITE website provides directions to hands on learning activities about safety, traffic waves, signage, roadway geometry and much more. In addition to activities, there are educational power points, videos, and websites to explore. We highly recommend holding outreach events throughout November in celebration of National STEM Day (aka "Innov8 Day") November 8th! Want more information? Check out the [Science Technology Engineering and Math \(STEM\) Resources page](#) or email [STEM@ite.org](mailto:STEM@ite.org).

## Career Center

ITE's Career Center provides members with a space for finding and posting job opportunities! With a user-friendly interface, the Career Center gives members access to thousands of job postings that can be filtered by location, discipline, education, and more. Additionally, users can save job listings and set job alerts for new positions. For job seekers, the Career Center also supports members with coaching services, tips for interviews, educational opportunities, and other professional development tools. Looking to add a new member to your team? ITE's Career Center can connect with its network of talented, driven individuals. Visit [jobs.ite.org](http://jobs.ite.org) for more information!

Join us on Social Media for the most current news and updates!



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District of ITE  
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MOVITE (Missouri  
Valley District of ITE)  
Group Page



[@MovitePrez](#)

# Celebrations

## Welcome New ITE Members

Since the last edition of the MOVITE Minute, we have had new members join ITE. Let's give them a warm welcome! Feel free to reach out to any active member to learn about how to get involved.

**Clint Richard Kassmeyer**

**Jackson Okla Slayter**

**Jacob Jesse**

**John Gibson**

**Kyle Thompson**

**Luke Kotz**

**Michael McIntire**

**Ryan Aguayo Padilla**

**Scott Pottorff**



Congratulations to MOVITE's newest Professional Traffic Operations Engineers (PTOEs), Professional Transportation Planners (PTPs), Road Safety Professionals - Level 1 (RSP1s), and Road Safety Professionals - Level 2 (RSP2s, Behavioral or Infrastructure) who passed certification exams in the June 2022 exam periods. Those interested in applying to the February 2023 exam period should submit by midnight, November 20, 2022. Find more information on these certifications and upcoming exam periods by visiting the [TPCB website](#).

## TPCB New Certifications - June 2022 Exam

**Newman Abuissa (PTOE)**

**Susan Barry (PTOE)**

**John Carr (PTP)**

**Lance Feldmann (PTOE)**

**Brian Geiger (RSP1)**

**Joshua Hartman (PTOE)**

**Allison Karagiorgas (PTOE)**

**Joanne Martin (PTOE)**

**Paige Martz (RSP2I)**

**David McClintock (PTOE)**

# 2022 Fall Meeting



## Register Today!

This year's 2022 Fall MOVITE Meeting will be hosted by the Oklahoma Section of ITE from October 11 (Tuesday) - 13 (Thursday), 2022 at the Omni Hotel & Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Fall Meeting will include a variety of technical presentations, social events, a golf tournament, and a cycling tour. If you plan to attend the Fall Meeting, make your plans today! If you are traveling from out of town, a block of rooms has been reserved for the conference with a cut-off date of **Monday, September 19th, 2022**.

If your company plans to sponsor or exhibit at the meeting, **Monday, September 19th, 2022** is the deadline. An email of the company's logo as a \*.tif or \*.jpeg file should be emailed to Kristie Drury (kdrury@olsson.com) by the deadline to maximize visibility of your logo. Logos submitted after the deadline may result in limited placement due to necessity to order signs and meeting materials.

## Call for Abstracts

It's voting season! In September, MOVITE will hold elections for the Board Director position from Missouri to maintain the six-state rotation of officers on the Executive Board. Once ballots open up later this month, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote to make your voice heard. Keep an eye out for your ballot, we will post across our social media platforms when they become available.



# Sponsorship Highlights

For over 60 years, MOVITE has become a successful organization dedicated to bringing individuals together to advance the knowledge and skills of transportation professionals throughout the six-state region of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. MOVITE's success would not have been possible without the generous annual support of our many corporate and agency sponsors.

We would like to thank the following 2022 Calendar Year Sponsors for generously donating to help support the mission of MOVITE:

- CBB Transportation Engineers + Planners
- GBA
- General Traffic Controls
- JEO Consulting Group
- Olsson
- Snyder & Associates
- T<sup>2</sup> Traffic and Transportation
- Traffic Engineering Consultants



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