



GREAT LAKES NAVIGATOR

June 2026



ite

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT



International Director's Message

International's Brand Evolution initiative for updates to the Great Lakes District, Sections and Student Chapters is (mostly) complete. This was an important task to ensure consistency in our name, logo and messaging across all Districts, Sections, and Chapters. Thank you again to Morgan and all who helped with this initiative for our District!

International Board Updates

Thank you to all who participated in the All-member survey that was sent to all members earlier this year. At the International Board meeting in April, the results were reviewed and next steps discussed. In addition, a workshop was held focused on reviewing and commenting on the first draft of the 2027-2030 ITE Strategic Plan. More to come on this plan later this year.

The Board approved an updated and streamlined process for the development of Recommended Practices. The existing Neighborhood Street Design Guidelines is currently being updated and a new Recommended Practice on Implementing the Safe System Approach for Public Agencies is coming soon.

The board also received an update and discussed the current state of U.S. transportation policy, reflecting on what has evolved over the past year and how it has or hasn't impacted ITE. Some of the key points include: ITE's mission remains unchanged; ITE continues to do contract work for USDOT - no tasks were canceled, but there was a natural slow-down due to changes in staff at the administration; USDOT has remained consistent in language concerning their strategies and areas of focus under the new administration. Consistency is critical in helping members react to and operate under any conditions that might have changed from the prior admin; USDOT has launched several new initiatives including Freedom to Drive, the AI Center of Excellence, and NHTSA's Pathways to Safer Streets. A post is on ITE's e-Community All Member Forum on these new initiatives; and we are in the final year of U.S. federal funding authorization, and there remain several questions as to when and if a new authorization bill will be approved, and if not, when and if an extension will be passed in time to avoid funding gaps.

Safety Roadmap

Work continues for the ITE Transportation Safety Roadmap and Action Plan for 2025 to 2027. One of the initiatives of the plan is the ITE Safety Pledge. I hope you will join me in signing the pledge! This pledge reinforces the shared belief that safety is not optional – it is essential. [Click here for more information.](#)

Annual Meeting

I'm excited about this year's joint ITE International Annual Meeting with the Great Lakes District to be held in Detroit, Michigan from July 19 to 22, 2026 at Huntington Place. The LAC has planned several tours and activities to do in Detroit. The Student Leadership Summit will be hosted by Wayne State University. Students, engineers and planners – oh my! I can't wait to see you all there! There is still time to register and volunteer if you can.

I encourage you to explore ITE's Committees and Councils. Your technical knowledge and insights are always welcome and vital to our community's growth. Any time you can commit is appreciated. As always, the ITE website has many great resources and content – be sure to check it regularly!

Summer is here! I hope you all take time and make plans to relax and enjoy summer with family and friends! Take care and see you all soon.

Danielle



Detroit 26

Annual Meeting and Exhibition

July 19–22, 2026

2026 Joint International and Great Lakes District Annual Meeting in Detroit

We're just a month away from the Annual Meeting, July 19th - 22nd in Detroit! We're looking forward to hosting the International Annual Meeting and introducing them to our Great Lakes District traditions - mark your calendars for our annual GLITEY race (Sunday at 1pm) and 5k walk/run (Tuesday @ 6am).

Beyond the typical lineup at the Annual Meeting (such as fantastic keynote and plenary speakers, the many interesting concurrent technical sessions covering an array of topics, informative technical tours, and the always entertaining Traffic Bowl), the various ITE committees and councils will hold meetings. Its a great way to meet members with similar interests and get involved Internationally while representing the GLD. Take advantage of the nearby meeting and register today here: [ITE Annual Meeting](#).

In advance of the Annual Meeting, the ITE Great Lakes District Student Leadership Summit (SLS) is taking place at Wayne State University.

Sponsorship opportunities to offset the costs of the event are still available, and are a great way to get your company in front of future employees looking to enter the workforce in the upcoming years. For more information, [visit the ITE GLD website](#). We're looking forward to seeing everyone in July in Detroit!



President's Message

Having not done a New President's Message earlier this year, I first want to say it's been a wonderful experience serving the Great Lakes District Board through the various positions over the years, culminating in the presidency for me in 2026! I implore each and every one of you to find ways to get active in ITE, whether that be at the chapter, section, district, or international level. You will find it to be a worthwhile and rewarding experience and will make new friends throughout the organization and beyond. There is a committee or position that can meet your needs and the level of involvement you are seeking. Please reach out to me at rjacox@benesch.com if you would like to learn more about getting more involved with ITE.

At this time of year we focus on the District Annual Meeting, which we are proud to host jointly with ITE International in Detroit, Michigan, July 19-22. We look forward to seeing you there! With the International meeting, we offer you expansions on everything – more technical presentations, more technical tours, and more networking/social opportunities. The meeting will provide opportunities to present District awards and accolades as well as those at the International level. If you have not yet registered for Detroit, please consider doing so. You can find more information here: [Conference | ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition](#)

I want to highlight the Great Lakes District's 2026 Student Leadership Summit (SLS) that is occurring July 17-18 in Detroit, Michigan, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. We have approximately 40 students attending this year at the event being hosted at Wayne State University. The summit affords student attendees the opportunity to connect with emerging professionals who represent the next generation of our industry. They will participate in technical presentations, student competitions, and networking sessions to foster their own leadership and industry engagement. This year the District sponsors are focused on supporting the SLS. Sponsorship of our students is a primary way to assist in supporting the longevity of our industry. If you are interested in sponsoring the District and SLS, you can find more information on that here: [ITE Great Lakes District Sponsorship](#).

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, attends the Annual Meeting or a more local ITE event such as a golf outing or luncheon, and otherwise continues doing the great things you do to make transportation operate safely and efficiently for our communities.

Sincerely,

Ryan Jacox, 2026 Great Lakes District President

ITE GLD Election Update

Not to get political, but did you know the Great Lakes District has an election underway? Members should have received an email in May with ballot information. The election window closes on 7/3/26, so if you've put it off you have this final week to track down that email and finish your vote.

Interested in Learning More?

[Endowment Fund](#)

[Become a ITE GLD Sponsor](#)

[Student/Young Member Activities](#)

[Section News](#)

[Job Postings](#)

[2026 ITE GLD Leadership](#)

- President - Ryan Jacox
- Vice President - David Addison
- Treasurer - Jeff Held
- Secretary - Rusty Holt
- Past President - Michael Siffer
- International Director - Danielle Deneau
- Administrator - Colleen Hill-Stramsak
- ITE Illinois Representative - Monica Shei
- ITE Indiana Representative - Sarah Baty
- ITE Michigan Representative - Steve Stramsak
- ITE North Central Representative - Tyler Krage
- ITE Ohio Representative - Neal Underwood
- ITE Wisconsin Representative - Brian Scharles
- Webmaster - Adam Francour

ITE GLD Committees - Get Involved!

District committees are a great way to get involved, assist the District, and enhance your ITE experience. Please contact the committee chairs below or reach out to your District Secretary **Rusty Holt**, at rusty.holt@wsp.com and he will get you in contact with the committee to learn more.

Endowment - Tyler Krage
Communications - Rusty Holt
Annual Meetings - Ryan Jacox
Technical Program - Md Islam

2026 GLD SPONSORS

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Silver



Bronze



Institute of Transportation Engineers Great Lakes District | greatlakesite.org



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