

2020 Outstanding Section Award

Submitted by the Northern Alberta Section to the Canadian District for the 2020 calendar year.

Regular Meetings

Our Section hosted seven meetings in 2020. Meetings after March were held online in accordance with provincial restrictions.

Meeting #1	Feb 5	Edmonton, AB
Topic: Jasper Avenue New Vision - Facing Challenges with Creativity, Collaboration, and Flexibility		
Speakers: Dwayne Andrews (Sponsored by DIALOG / AI-Terra Joint Venture)		

Meeting #2	Mar 4	Edmonton, AB
Topic: Stony Plain Active Transportation Strategy		
Speakers: James Potter (Sponsored by Bunt and Associates)		

Meeting #3	May 13	Online
Topic: Accelerating Transit in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region: Building a Regional Transit Services Commission		
Speakers: Carolyn Sherstone, Anika Muhammad, and Diana Soroaga (Sponsored by WSP)		

Meeting #4	June 25	Online
Topic: Local Impacts of Covid-19		
Speakers: Darryl Mullen, Carrie Hotton-MacDonald, Anthony Ng, and Howaida Hassan		

Meeting #5	Oct 7	Online
Topic: Open Option Parking in Edmonton		
Speakers: Anne Stevenson, James Veltkamp, Dallas Karhut		

Meeting #6	Nov 4	Online
Topic: A Safety Assessment of Driver Feedback Signs and Development of Future Expansion Program		
Speakers: Dr. Tae J. Kwon and Mingjian Wu		

Meeting #7	Dec 7	Online
Topic: On Demand Transit Service		
Speakers: James Vine, Dan Finley, and John Stepow		

The May 13 meeting was noteworthy as our first ever online event and had almost 200 simultaneous viewers making it the largest event in our section's history. In addition to being an interesting topic, it showed there was strong interest in locally relevant technical content delivered online.

In addition to the above presentations our board also meets on the second Tuesday of every month to organize our efforts to provide section activities and carry out various administrative activities. On July 18, our board also conducted our annual calendar planning session in which we brainstorm ideas and identified which should be prioritized for the upcoming year.

Student/Younger Member Support

Our policy for the last couple of years has been to provide five free student registrations at each of our monthly luncheon to expose students to the Section and provide an opportunity to network with professionals in the industry. Registrations are administered by our student chapter

at the University of Alberta, which also provides an ongoing point of contact with the chapter. Due to Covid we only hosted two luncheons in 2020, but look forward to continuing the practice in the future.

We also support our student chapter's annual paper competition by contributing financially to their prize pool and helping to recruit judges from industry. The paper competition continues to foster interest in transportation among students and the chapter consistently receives a number of high quality submissions.

Application of Technical Knowledge

Local transportation challenges and projects tend to feature prominently in our luncheons and webinars. We prefer topics that discuss an actual project, especially projects within Alberta or Canada, and are not purely theoretical or research based. All seven meetings in 2020 discussed a project within the boundaries of the Northern Alberta section. These projects include issues that have generated debate at the local and national level, including parking requirements, active transportation, and on demand transit. We also hosted an event in June, which we typically don't do, to showcase local responses to transportation issues caused by the pandemic. Our meetings include time for Q&A after the presentation and the discussion is often interesting and edifying.

Networking Events

The Northern Alberta Section hosted an end-of-year online social in December. Despite our initial concern that the online format would be very awkward, the social was a great success with over 20 participants. We started by randomly mixing attendees into breakout rooms with some icebreaker questions, which resulted in great random conversations similar to what you would experience at a conference or luncheon; several people remarked afterwards that the time flew by very quickly. We also held several rounds of trivia with prizes (gift cards to a local business) that sparked conversation and competition. Our social also included our AGM and the presentation of our section awards. And just like an in-person event, some people were so interested in the conversation that they stayed on the call after the program ended. In light of the success of this event, we will definitely be doing another online social in the future.

K-12 STEM Outreach

Building on the success of our classroom outreach in 2019, we had planned to do another session this year, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic.

New Member Recruitment

None.

Diversity and Inclusion

As discussed, our section maintains a close relationship with our student chapter at the University of Alberta and provides free luncheon registrations for students to help them network with industry professionals. We're especially pleased that the winner of our NextGen award was also previously in a leadership position with the student chapter.

Our Section Board has traditionally been young and diverse and 2020 was no exception. Although the Board has only five members, it once again included representation from Public Agencies, women, and younger members (under 35 years old). Including planners on the Board has been difficult as many planners commit their time to APPI,¹ however, many of our events are well attended by planners and others who are not professional engineers. Acknowledging the need to broaden the Section beyond engineers, five of our seven presentations in 2020 included at least one speaker who was not an engineer, and two of the presentations had speakers from public agencies.

We had originally planned a joint event with APPI in April with a presentation from Dr. Karen Lee about opportunities for collaboration between transportation and health professionals. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to the pandemic but we are working to reschedule her for 2021.

Training/Professional Development

None.

Field Trips/Technical Tours

None.

Service Projects

None.

Funding Support

In most years NACITE has a sponsorship program where companies can sponsor a luncheon or other event and recommend a speaker/topic. This has proven to be an excellent way to find unique topics that the board might not know about, in addition to providing additional funding for the Section. This funding helps support our student chapter, reduce registration costs at events, and provides the flexibility to try different new things where we may not be able to recover costs. For the 2019-2020 season (from Sep 2019 to Aug 2020) we raised \$3,400 from eight different companies. We decided not to call for sponsors for the 2020-2021 season due to the limit on events (and expenses) caused by the pandemic, but intend to resume the practice in 2021-2022.

LeadershipITE

None

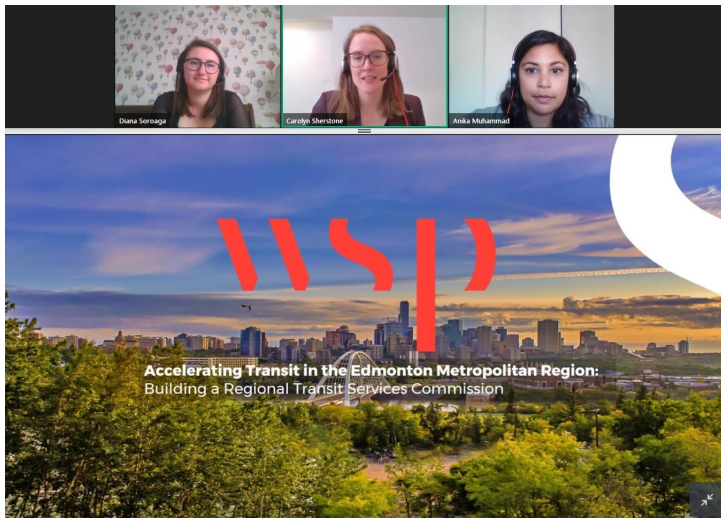
Advocacy

None

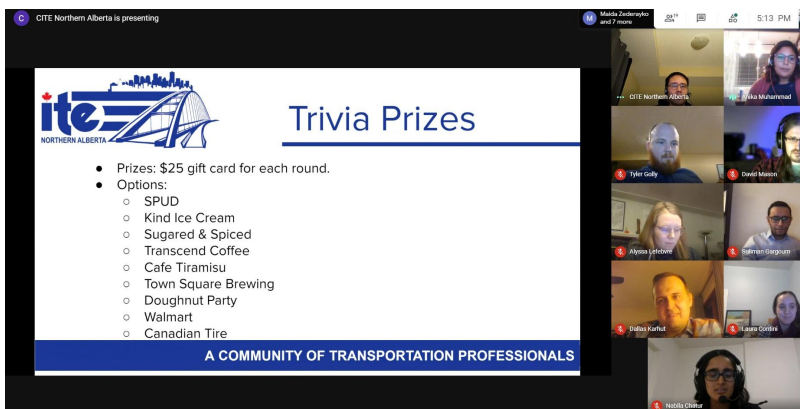
¹ Alberta Professional Planners Institute.



One of our last luncheon events before provincial restrictions came into force.



Our first online event was also the best attended event in the Section's history



Our online social provided an opportunity for members to see each other during this time.



Congratulations to all our award winners.

Northern Alberta 2020 Financial Report

Balance of funds the beginning of the reporting period:	\$35,002.53
Bank Account - Servus	\$35,002.53
Income for the reporting period:	\$5,244.56
Luncheons	\$4,155.48
Old Office Supply Sale	\$110.00
ITE International and District Support	\$979.08
Expenditures for the reporting period:	\$5,250.66
Luncheons	\$4,202.05
ITEUA Student Presentation Support (February 2020)	\$400.00
Year End Social (November 2019)	\$414.03
General Administration Cost	\$234.58
Net Income / Loss	(\$6.10)
Balance of funds at the end of the reporting period:	\$34,996.43
Bank Account - Servus	\$34,996.43

Notes:

All transactions are shown net of credit card processing fees where applicable.

Some expenditures were not recognized in 2019 as reimbursement cheques were not deposited until 2020.