



HAMILTON

ANNUAL REPORT

**20
24**

Omar Shams. C.E.T., B-Tech
Hamilton Section Vice President
March 2025

Section Details

Institute of Transportation Engineers Hamilton Section


Area Served: Brantford & Brant County, Haldimand County, Halton Region, the City of Hamilton, and Niagara Region

Student Chapters: McMaster University & Mohawk College

Founded: 1983

Membership: ~260

Website: www.itecanada.org/sections/hamilton

 ITE Hamilton Section

Section Executives 2024



Jill Juhlke
President



Omar Shams
Vice President



Adam Mildenberger
Treasurer



Joel Elgersma
Secretary



Matthew Di Maria
Technical Liaison



Anastasia Soukhov
Student Liaison

Introduction

2024 was a year of significant progress and increased engagement for the ITE Hamilton Section. Following the successful hosting of the ITE Canada National Conference, our Section saw an increase in participation across technical events, networking sessions, and student initiatives. This year, we continued our commitment to fostering a strong professional community, expanding our student support programs, and strengthening collaborations with local and cross-border partners.

A major milestone this year was Conference Planning and hosting. Our engagement at the ITE Canada National Conference 2024 reinforced Hamilton's presence on the national stage and provided a platform to showcase our Section's achievements. Additionally, in our efforts to expand professional networking opportunities, the ITE Hamilton Section participated in the Upstate New York ITE Mini-Conference, fostering cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Looking ahead, the ITE Hamilton Section will continue to build on this momentum by enhancing professional development opportunities, increasing student participation, and securing long-term sponsorships to support our initiatives.

Meetings and Key Events

The Hamilton Section organized and participated in several impactful events this year:

1. **Executive Committee Meetings:** In addition to the conference planning and organizational meetings, ITE Hamilton held three executive meetings throughout the year to discuss ongoing initiatives, emerging transportation trends, and potential keynote speakers for future events.

2. **Upstate New York Mini-Conference:** For the first time, in Fall 2024, Section members attended the Upstate New York Mini-Conference to build cross-border collaboration. This event fostered knowledge-sharing and strengthened relationships with our ITE counterparts in the U.S.
3. **Annual General Meeting:** The Hamilton Section AGM was held on December 17, 2024, bringing together members, industry professionals, and students for a morning of insightful discussions and key organizational updates. The AGM featured the presentation of the annual financials and the introduction of the newly elected Executive Committee. As part of the morning's technical program, Brian Hollingworth, Director of Transportation Planning and Parking at the City of Hamilton, led an engaging "What Would You Do?" session. This dynamic discussion provided attendees with a platform to collaboratively tackle real-world transportation challenges, fostering innovative thinking and knowledge-sharing. In addition, Anastasia Soukhov delivered a compelling presentation on "The Purpose of Transportation – Considering Equity in Transportation Systems: Lessons from the Literature and Some Practice." Her research highlighted the importance of incorporating equity into transportation planning and policymaking, offering valuable insights from both academic literature and practical case studies. The AGM served as an excellent opportunity for networking, professional development, and celebrating the achievements of the ITE Hamilton Section.



Student/Young Members Support

ITE Hamilton remains committed to fostering the next generation of transportation professionals by actively supporting student engagement and young member development. Throughout the year, the Section supported in promoting student-led events including Student Leadership Summit.

ITE Hamilton, in partnership with the Toronto and Southwestern Ontario Sections, co-hosts the Joint ITE Student Presentation Competition, an annual event designed to enhance students' presentation skills and provide valuable networking opportunities. This competition features student research presentations, professional feedback, and financial prizes to recognize outstanding work. ITE Hamilton actively contributes to the planning, promotion, nomination process, and judging of this competition, reinforcing our commitment to student professional development. A major milestone for the section was establishment of a perpetual bursary for Mohawk College students, ensuring long-term financial support for transportation engineering students.

Mentorship Opportunities

ITE Hamilton recognizes the critical role of mentorship in bridging the gap between academic learning and professional experience. In a previous effort, we attempted to establish a formal mentorship program connecting students with experienced transportation professionals. While the first iteration faced challenges in implementation, strong student participation and continued interest have demonstrated the need for such a program.

Networking Events

Networking is a fundamental aspect of all ITE Hamilton Section events, providing members and students with invaluable opportunities to connect, exchange ideas, and build relationships within the transportation community. This year, ITE Hamilton placed a strong emphasis on fostering meaningful connections by integrating networking opportunities into every event. A highlight of the year was the ITE Canada National Conference, which brought together more than 500 delegates from across the country. This event provided unparalleled networking opportunities, allowing members to connect with industry leaders, share insights on emerging trends, and expand their professional networks on a national scale.



At our AGM, networking remained a core focus. The event concluded with a dedicated networking session during the final hour, giving attendees the opportunity to interact in a more relaxed setting, foster new connections, and strengthen existing relationships. Through these efforts, ITE Hamilton continues to ensure that our Section remains a hub for professional growth, collaboration, and industry engagement.

ITE National Conference Hosting

ITE Hamilton proudly hosted the 2024 ITE National Conference from June 9-12, welcoming over 500 delegates, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors from across Canada. Themed "Disruptive Progress," the event explored innovative solutions for safer, cleaner, and more equitable transportation.

Keynote speaker Jeff Casello set the tone with his insightful talk on the future of transportation, inspiring discussions throughout the conference. University of New Brunswick won the Traffic Bowl, while the Play Street attracted over 100 participants eager to try e-scooters and a cycling obstacle course. The Student Mixer fostered valuable networking, and attendees engaged in technical tours, hands-on workshops, and presentation panels, including a Jeopardy-style game. This successful conference provided a platform for collaboration, learning, and innovation, strengthening connections within the transportation community.

Upstate New York Mini-Conference Attendance

As part of efforts to enhance cross-border collaboration, the Section participated in the Upstate New York Mini-Conference.

- Strengthened ties with U.S.-based transportation professionals.
- Shared best practices and explored opportunities for joint initiatives.
- Initiated discussions on future partnerships to address common challenges in transportation planning and engineering.

Leadership ITE

ITE Hamilton values the development of strong leaders within our section, and we are proud to highlight Jill Juhlke's participation in the 2022 Leadership ITE program. This prestigious program is designed to cultivate leadership skills, enhance industry knowledge, and strengthen the connections between transportation professionals across North America.

Jill's participation in Leadership ITE brought valuable insights to our executive team, helping to shape strategic planning, enhance member engagement, and support the growth of ITE Hamilton. Her expanded knowledge and experience have played a key role in advancing initiatives within the section and conference planning. Jill co-chaired the conference planning with Brian Hollingworth which was a successful event.

Financials

ITE Hamilton successfully hosted the 2024 ITE National Conference, and as a result of its success, the section was granted \$15,000 in funding. This financial boost reflects the hard work and dedication of the organizing committee, volunteers, and all those who contributed to making the conference a success.

Recognizing the importance of investing in the future of the transportation industry, the Executive Committee unanimously decided to contribute \$7,500 from these proceeds toward the **Future Transportation Leaders Fund**. This funding will be used to support initiatives aimed at mentoring, engaging, and providing opportunities for students and young professionals pursuing careers in transportation.

This investment aligns with ITE Hamilton's ongoing commitment to fostering the next generation of transportation professionals by supporting student scholarships, networking events, and skill-building opportunities. The remaining funds will be allocated to further enhance ITE Hamilton's programming, events, and initiatives for the benefit of all members with more focus on Student member support and capacity building.

Application of Technical Knowledge

ITE Hamilton Section did not pursue a solution to a local transportation issue or collaborate with industry on a project or program in 2024.

K-12 STEM Outreach

In 2024, ITE Hamilton continued to recognize the importance of inspiring the next generation of transportation professionals through STEM outreach. While the section did not host formal K-12 outreach events this year, we have identified this as a priority moving forward.

Looking ahead to 2025, our Student and Technical Liaison, Yashesh Gandhi, will lead efforts to expand STEM outreach initiatives. These efforts will focus on engaging elementary and high school students through interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and mentorship opportunities that showcase careers in transportation engineering and planning. Our goal is to spark interest in transportation and mobility solutions among young minds and build connections between students and professionals in the field.

New Member Recruitment

In 2024, ITE Hamilton made significant efforts to attract new members and ensure a strong, diverse executive team. These efforts were led by Past President Sheeba Vasudevan, who played a key role in ensuring that executive roles were filled on a merit basis and that new members were engaged with the section.

Recognizing the importance of broadening our membership base, ITE Hamilton focused on engaging professionals from various backgrounds, including planners, engineers, and students. Informal engagement strategies were used to connect with potential members, and events were tailored to appeal to a wider audience. The successful hosting of the ITE National Conference in Hamilton also provided an excellent platform to promote ITE Hamilton and encourage new members to join as volunteers.

Technical Tours/Field Trips

In 2024, ITE Hamilton focused its efforts on delivering high-quality technical tours as part of the ITE National Conference. A number of engaging and informative tours were organized, allowing attendees to explore innovative transportation projects, infrastructure, and mobility solutions firsthand. These tours provided valuable learning experiences, showcasing best practices in urban mobility and emerging technologies.

Beyond the conference, no additional technical tours were planned for the year. However, ITE Hamilton remains committed to offering field trips and tours in the future to provide hands-on learning experiences for members and students. Looking ahead to 2025, we aim to revive standalone technical tours that highlight transportation innovations and key projects in the region.

Service Projects

ITE Hamilton Section did not participate in any community service project in 2024.

Training and Professional Development

In 2024, ITE Hamilton did not organize a standalone training event; however, we played an active role in supporting the National Technical Programs Committee in planning and delivering high-quality technical sessions, hands-on workshops, and panel discussions at the ITE National Conference in Hamilton. Looking ahead to 2025, ITE Hamilton is committed to expanding professional development opportunities for its members. We aim to host at least one or two training sessions throughout the year, focusing on technical skill-building, leadership development, and knowledge-sharing.

Advocacy

In 2024, ITE Hamilton did not partake in any formal advocacy initiatives. However, as a professional organization dedicated to advancing transportation engineering and planning, we recognize the importance of advocating for policies and practices that promote equitable, safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation systems.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the upcoming year, we are pleased to introduce the 2025/2026 ITE Hamilton Section Executive Team. This dedicated group of professionals will lead the Section in delivering high-quality events, fostering student engagement, and advancing the transportation profession in the region.

- Omar Shams – President & Director
- Steve Molloy – Vice President
- Julia Pannolino – Treasurer
- Maria Espinosa – Secretary
- Yashesh Gandhi – Student & Technical Liaison
- Jill Juhlke – Past President

With a strong team in place, we remain committed to expanding professional development opportunities, strengthening student engagement, and continuing to provide valuable networking experiences for our members. We look forward to another successful year of growth, collaboration, and innovation within ITE Hamilton.



From Left to Right: Steve Molloy, Maria Espinosa, Julia Pannolino, Omar Shams, Jill Juhlke & Yashesh Gandhi

Acknowledgments

The ITE Hamilton Section extends its gratitude to all members, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to another successful year. Your support enables us to continue driving excellence in transportation and inspiring the next generation of professionals.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.itecanada.org/sections/hamilton/ or contact us at hamilton@itecanada.org