

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Prepared by

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2024 ITE TORONTO SECTION PRESIDENT



TORONTO

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ITE TORONTO AT A GLANCE



Institute of Transportation Engineers Toronto Sections



Founded in 1974



Toronto, Peel, York, Durham, Halton, Barrie, Thunder Bay and all other portions of Ontario not covered by separate Section Charters



Toronto Metropolitan University, University of Toronto, York University, and Lakehead University



800+ Members

133 new members added this year.



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Strategic Plan

GUIDING OUR PATH: VISION & MISSION

VISION

To empower the Toronto transportation community by offering opportunities to learn, connect, and grow, ensuring the development of safe, sustainable, innovative and healthy mobility solutions for the region.

MISSION

To advance the transportation profession by fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among industry professionals, students, and public agencies. ITE Toronto is committed to promoting safe, sustainable, and equitable mobility solutions that enhance the livability of our communities. Through technical excellence, professional development, and advocacy, we empower transportation professionals to shape the future of mobility in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

2024 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



President:
Azadeh Heydari



Vice President:
Stephanie Pham



Treasurer:
Heather Hector



Secretary:
Jocelyn Wallen



**Immediate Past President/
ITE Canada Director:**
Erik Nevland

Project of the Year Committee

- Subcommittee Chair: Mehemed Delibasic

Innovation of the Year Committee

- Subcommittee Chair: Azadeh Heydari

Student Engagement Committee

- Chair: Kevin Gingerich
- Presentation Competition Subcommittee Chair: Sean Nix

Nominating Committee

- Chair: Erik Nevland
- Committee Members: Jason Dahl (2021 President) and Julia Salvini (2009 President)

Activities Committee

- Chair: Nixon Chan
- Lead: Haniyeh Ghomi
- Member: Sina Semnarshad

Communication Committee

- Chair: Jordan Hart-Bishop
- Lead: Andrew Shan
- Website Director: Andrew Shan

Awards Committee

- Chair: Jason Dahl

MEETINGS

ITE Toronto provided professional development and networking opportunities through a variety of engaging events throughout the year. Below is a summary of key meetings and highlights from 2024:



1. Career Connect with Kate – Live at the University of Toronto (Jan 22, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Hosted by ITE Toronto & ITE University of Toronto Student Chapter and sponsored by: Alta Planning + Design.
- A career-focused panel discussion and networking session for transportation students and professionals in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). Provided job-seeking strategies, industry insights, and mentorship opportunities for emerging professionals. Brought together students, early-career professionals, and experienced industry leaders to discuss career pathways in transportation.



2. Project of the Year (Feb 21, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Featured Usman Ahmed (University of Toronto) presenting the Electric-Cargo Pilot Study.
- Discussed a successful e-cargo tricycle delivery demonstration with Purolator Inc., replacing trucks on the University of Toronto St. George campus.
- A free in-person event allowing professionals to explore sustainable urban logistics solutions.



3. Joint Student Presentation Competition (Feb 21, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- The Toronto, Hamilton, and Southwest Ontario Sections' Joint Student Presentation Competition.
- Held jointly between the Toronto and Hamilton sections since 1996, with the Southwest Ontario section being added in 2009.
- The competition offers students an opportunity to present a topic of interest in transportation before their peers and practicing transportation professionals.



4. Vehicle-for-Hire Data Management Webinar (Apr 12, 2024) – Virtual

- Matthew Lee (City of Toronto) presented on the impact of ride-hailing services on congestion, transit, and curb space.
- Explored data analysis techniques to assess taxi and ride-hail effects on city operations.
- Interactive discussion on potential applications in other jurisdictions.



5. Downtown Bike Tour (Apr 24, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Sonya De Vellis (City of Toronto) led a sold-out cycling infrastructure tour.
- Showcased cycle tracks, bike boxes, contra-flow lanes, and a future protected intersection.
- Provided an immersive learning experience on Toronto’s bicycle safety and urban mobility initiatives.



6. Summer Luncheon (Jun 27, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Networking event with a buffet lunch and two distinguished speakers:
- Naama Blonder (Architect & Urban Planner) – Spoke on affordable housing, urban sustainability, and reducing car dependency.
- Professor Jeffrey Casello – Discussed challenges in North American transportation networks and the importance of sustainable, equitable transport systems.
- Attendees earned 2 professional development hours (PDH).



7. Webinar: From Speed to Access: Redefining Urban Planning Strategies (Jul 25, 2024) – Virtual

- Todd Litman (Victoria Transport Policy Institute) discussed the shift from mobility-based to accessibility-based planning. Covered strategies to reduce vehicle dependency and promote multimodal transport.
- Don Hubbard (GHD) introduced a GIS-based tool for evaluating Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in rural and small-town planning.



8. Webinar: Killed by a Traffic Engineer with Wes Marshall (Aug 22, 2024) – Virtual

- Wes Marshall explored how traditional engineering standards can unintentionally create unsafe environments. Stressed the importance of human-centered approaches in traffic engineering. More than 165 attendees participated, reflecting the strong demand for the event.



9. Safety Panel: Achieving Vision Zero (Sep 3, 2024) – Toronto, ON (Hybrid)

- Panelists included Russell Brownlee (TNS), Sheyda Saneinejad (City of Toronto), Geni Bahar (Navigats), and Peter Park (York University).
- Discussed Safe System approaches to improving urban road safety.



10. Human Transit with Jarrett Walker (Sep 12, 2024) – Virtual

- A deep dive into public transit system design, focusing on frequency, simplicity, and connectivity. Insightful discussion on creating user-friendly transit networks.



11. Transit Priority Measures in the City of Toronto with TTC (Oct 28, 2024) – Virtual

- A TTC-led session exploring Transit Priority Measures (TPMs), including: Dedicated transit lanes, transit signal priority, and enforcement policies. How TPMs improve surface transit speed and reliability. More than 120 attendees participated, reflecting the strong demand for the event.



12. Accessibility and Inclusion in the Built Environment (Nov 19, 2024) – Virtual

- Focused on universal design principles and making transportation systems more inclusive and accessible.
- Included interactive discussions on community engagement for equitable urban planning.



13. 50th Anniversary Gala & AGM (Dec 6, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- A special milestone celebration honoring ITE Toronto's 50 years of contributions.
- Reflected on past presidents' legacies and discussed future growth of ITE Toronto.
- A highly attended networking event, closing the year on a high note.

STUDENT/YOUNGER MEMBER SUPPORT

ITE Toronto remains committed to supporting students and younger members by providing mentorship opportunities, scholarships, networking events, and financial assistance to help students engage with the transportation profession. In 2024, we facilitated several initiatives to foster student leadership and professional development, including the following events: Career Connect with Kate – Live at the University of Toronto, Joint Student Presentation Competition. Discounted student tickets were also available for both the Summer Luncheon (June 27, 2024) and the 50th Anniversary Gala & Annual General Meeting (Dec 6, 2024). These events provided students with direct engagement with industry professionals, allowing them to build connections and learn from leaders in the transportation field.

Financial Support for Students

ITE Toronto allocated funding to support students in attending conferences and professional development opportunities, including:

- \$500 - McMaster University, ITE Student Leadership Summit (SLS) Funding.
- \$400 - ITE Conference Reimbursement – Lakehead University.
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- \$1,100 - Student Presentation Competition (Five Prizes).

Through these initiatives, ITE Toronto continues to invest in the next generation of transportation professionals, ensuring that students have access to mentorship, career-building opportunities, and financial support.

APPLICATION OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

IITE Toronto remains committed to fostering technical knowledge and professional development through research, knowledge-sharing, and discussions on pressing transportation issues. In 2024, we contributed to industry knowledge and engaged members in reflecting on past advancements and current challenges through the following initiative:

50th Anniversary Presentation: 50 Years of ITE Toronto & Transportation Evolution

- As part of ITE Toronto's 50th Anniversary Gala & Annual General Meeting (Dec 6, 2024), we hosted a special presentation highlighting five decades of transportation advancements.
- The presentation traced the evolution of ITE Toronto from its founding in 1974 to its role in shaping transportation in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.
- Included a historical analysis of key transportation developments, such as:
 - The growth of public transit systems in Toronto.
 - The evolution of traffic safety and Vision Zero initiatives.
 - The rise of sustainable and active transportation solutions.
 - The impact of technological advancements, including big data and mobility-as-a-service.
- Discussed contemporary challenges facing transportation, including:
 - Congestion management and transit reliability.
 - Equitable and accessible mobility solutions.
 - The role of emerging technologies such as automated enforcement, AI-driven traffic modeling, and e-mobility.
- The session served as both a celebration of progress and a forward-looking discussion on how ITE Toronto can continue driving innovation and policy improvements in the coming years.

This initiative showcased ITE Toronto's long-standing impact on the profession while encouraging members to reflect on past successes, learn from challenges, and contribute to the future of transportation.

NETWORKING EVENTS

ITE Toronto prioritizes creating opportunities for members to connect, share insights, and build professional relationships. In 2024, several key events incorporated dedicated networking portions, allowing students, young professionals, and industry leaders to engage in meaningful discussions.

Key Networking Events in 2024

1. Career Connect with Kate (Jan 22, 2024) – University of Toronto

- A networking event that connected students and early-career professionals with industry leaders. Attendees participated in small-group discussions and one-on-one networking to explore career paths and job opportunities in transportation.

2. Project of the Year Showcase (Feb 21, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- This in-person event provided a platform for professionals and students to discuss sustainable urban logistics following the presentation on the Electric-Cargo Pilot Study.

3. Joint Student Presentation Competition (Feb 21, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Students had an opportunity to connect with practicing transportation professionals, gain valuable career advice, and showcase their research in an engaging setting. The event fostered cross-chapter collaboration, bringing together participants from Toronto, Hamilton, and Southwest Ontario.

4. Downtown Bike Tour (Apr 24, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- A sold-out event that combined a guided infrastructure tour with informal networking.

5. Summer Luncheon (Jun 27, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- A flagship networking event, featuring a buffet-style lunch and presentations from Naama Blonder and Professor Jeffrey Casello. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with industry professionals, city planners, and fellow transportation engineers in a relaxed setting.

6. Safety Panel: Achieving Vision Zero (Sep 3, 2024) – Virtual

- Included a discussion-driven networking session, where attendees engaged with panelists from academia, consulting, and public agencies. Encouraged knowledge-sharing on Safe System Approaches and cross-sector collaboration.

7. 50th Anniversary Gala & AGM (Dec 6, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- The most well-received networking event of the year, bringing together past presidents, long-time members, and emerging professionals to celebrate ITE Toronto’s five decades of impact.
- The gala format encouraged meaningful discussions, allowing attendees to reflect on transportation advancements, connect with industry leaders, and strengthen professional relationships.
- Many attendees noted this as a memorable and valuable networking opportunity.

ITE Toronto’s 2024 networking events successfully brought together professionals, students, and researchers, fostering collaboration, mentorship, and career growth. The 50th Anniversary Gala was particularly well received, reinforcing the importance of in-person engagement and community-building in the transportation sector.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

ITE Toronto saw strong membership growth in 2024, welcoming approximately 133 new members to the section. This growth was driven by targeted outreach efforts, free virtual events, and increased engagement opportunities for prospective members.

Key Recruitment Strategies in 2024

1. Hosting Free Virtual Events

- These events attracted non-members who were introduced to ITE's professional development and networking opportunities.
- Many non-members provided positive feedback, noting the quality and relevance of ITE's programming.

2. Volunteer Recruitment & Increased Involvement

- The strong attendance at free events not only converted attendees into new members but also led to an increase in volunteer participation.
- Several newly recruited members expressed interest in joining ITE Toronto committees and getting involved in future events and initiatives.

3. Networking Opportunities Leading to New Memberships

- Key in-person networking events such as the Summer Luncheon (Jun 27, 2024) and the 50th Anniversary Gala (Dec 6, 2024) provided opportunities for non-members to connect with ITE members.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ITE Toronto is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the transportation field by ensuring that events, discussions, and opportunities are accessible and representative of a broad range of perspectives. In 2024, we focused on several key initiatives to encourage engagement from underrepresented groups, including women, younger members, planners, and public agencies.

Key Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives in 2024

1. Focus on Women's Safety in Webinars

- ITE Toronto hosted webinars that included transportation safety issues affecting women.
- These discussions highlighted the challenges women face in transit and urban mobility and explored policy and design solutions to create safer, more inclusive transportation systems.

2. Dedicated Diversity & Inclusion Event

- ITE Toronto hosted an event focused exclusively on diversity and inclusion in transportation.
- This event encouraged conversations on equitable access, representation in the industry, and inclusive mobility planning.

3. Lower-Priced Tickets for Younger Members

- To remove financial barriers, ITE Toronto offered discounted tickets for younger professionals and students at major events
- This initiative allowed more early-career professionals and students to attend, network, and engage with industry leaders.

4. Student Subsidies for Event Attendance

- Financial support was provided to students attending ITE events. These subsidies helped reduce financial barriers, ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds could actively participate in professional development opportunities.

FIELD TRIPS/TECHNICAL TOURS

ITE Toronto organized a technical tour in 2024 to provide members with hands-on learning experiences and real-world insights into transportation infrastructure and planning.

Downtown Bike Tour (Apr 24, 2024) – Toronto, ON

- Led by: Sonya De Vellis (City of Toronto).

Overview:

- A sold-out technical tour showcasing Toronto's cycling infrastructure.
- Included site visits to observe and discuss:
 - Cycle tracks and protected bike lanes.
 - Bike boxes and contra-flow lanes.
 - Sharrows and neighborhood greenways.
 - A future protected intersection.
- Participants gained a deeper understanding of urban cycling infrastructure design, safety considerations, and implementation challenges.

The technical tour was well received, offering members a firsthand look at active transportation projects and fostering discussions on best practices for integrating cycling infrastructure into urban environments.