As incoming President, I’m overwhelmed at the thought of leading such a large group of highly trained, skilled, intelligent people. What can I do to help continue the tradition of excellence that has been the standard for the Alabama Section of ITE? The answer is nothing. I can do absolutely nothing by myself. It takes a concerted effort by a large group of determined individuals to make this Section work. All I can hope to do is to follow the plan of action prepared by those before me, and attempt to clearly describe the next step of that plan to the Section so that we can continue moving forward.

To Richard Caudle, I applaud you sir, for the hard work and long hours you put in as President for the betterment of the Section. My job this year will be much easier because of the way you have organized the position, and the tools you have given me. You did a great job last year, and I hope that I will not disappoint you or the Section.

As for this year, we need to find that group of “determined individuals” to chair committees, and to get those committees active. If you didn’t know, I’m a member of a Southern Baptist Church, so I’m familiar with committees. Our situation is not unlike the situation at my church (and probably yours). We have many committees, and all have a purpose. However, unless they meet routinely and effectively, they won’t accomplish much.

As you read this newsletter, you’ll find a list of the committees and their chairs. Most of the committees are single purpose committees, such as the Nominating Committee. They are automatically filled by past-presidents, and have the duty of nominating individuals for the Section to vote on for incoming positions. However, there are committees that are not so straight-forward. That’s where we need the most help.

My main concern at this time is the Service Projects committee. As a Section, we have shown that we care about assisting the incoming class of traffic engineers by the gracious support of the Scholarship Program. It amazes me that this rather small group of individuals has been able to provide over $100,000 to the scholarship fund in such a short time. For that, we should all be commended. Now, while we are busy patting ourselves on the back, what have we done beyond that for our friends, the community, or society in general? A couple of years ago we assisted with a child seat inspection program, but haven’t really done anything since.

We need two things. One, we need a person to step up and chair this committee, and two, we must define a need. As Richard suggested recently, it doesn’t have to involve transportation. It could be volunteering to pick-up trash, assisting with a school clean-up, providing meals, or something that will make someone’s day brighter, a situation safer, or a small section of the earth healthier. Please put some serious thought into this. Are you the person who can lead this effort? Do you know of a need that is not being fulfilled? I look forward to hearing from you. DTurner@bkiusa.com
How Has That Manual Changed, Anyhow?

While traffic engineers keep the traffic flowing, a small, yet often unnoticed group of their peers are behind the scenes setting the course for the future. Not the course of the traffic, mind you, but the practice. Standards and practices of traffic engineering are dynamic not static and the MUTCD is certainly no exception. The MUTCD defines the standards used by engineers and practitioners nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations. Revisions to the MUTCD are made, to a large extent, by recommendations from the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) to the FHWA. The NCUTCD is made up of volunteers from twenty-one sponsoring groups representing public and private organizations and institutions (AAA, AASHTO, APWA, ATSSA, IMSA, ITE, and NACE, to name a few). Routinely, revisions to the MUTCD are born out of the Technical Committees of the NCUTCD. These changes are sent to the sponsoring groups for comment before consideration by the National Committee. Upon passage by the Committee, FHWA reviews and edits each change as needed. A Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) is published in the Federal Register with a typical six month comment period. This is the opportunity for all parties to weigh-in on the merits and direction of change. FHWA then issues a Final Rule in the Federal Register after a review. A Final Rule carries the full weight of the law and is incorporated into the MUTCD with each new edition. The next edition is scheduled for a 2009 release.

Items of recent interest: Approved by NCUTCD in January 2007 and likely to appear in the next NPA and 2009 MUTCD are: New Chapter 4M Traffic Control Beacons for Pedestrians – According to research these devices have a driver compliance rate of greater than 95% which surprisingly is higher than a Traffic Control Signal. Revisions to Chapter 2C dealing with Horizontal Alignment and Advisory Speed Signs – This change provides much needed clarity on the use of Advisory speed plaques, chevrons, and curve and turn signs.

Speed differential (posted or statutory minus advisory) will be used to determine the level of treatment for changes in horizontal alignment on roadways and ramps.

Levels will range from nothing to a full complement of signs, advisory speed plaques, chevrons, etc. **Experiments****: FHWA has canceled further installations and experimentations of fluorescent yellow-green pavement markings at school crosswalks. Extensive Chicago studies found no measurable benefits. **Final Rules and Interim Approvals**: Interim Approvals (IA) are issued as a means to allow use of a traffic control device or treatment prior to a Final Rule. Experimentation, studies, and research are typical pre-requisites for issuance of an IA. Agencies must request to participate under the IA procedures. **Use of Clearview fonts** – research shows improved legibility over standard highway fonts (A through EModified) on positive contrast guide sign copy.

The Alabama Department of Transportation has requested use of the Font and will implement it on street name signs on overpasses above all interstate highways. Some others are IA-4R Automated Flagger Assistance Devices, IA-9 Display of Twelve Business Logos For a Single Service, and IA-10 Use of Flashing Yellow Arrow for Permissive Left Turns.

To stay abreast, visit the following websites periodically: MUTCD IA: [http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm) NPA’s & Final Rules: [http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-notices.htm](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-notices.htm) NCUTCD: [http://ncutcd.org/](http://ncutcd.org/) If you do, you can then take some measure of comfort in knowing you’re a little ahead of the curve on all those Manual changes. Moreover, if you respond to the NPAs or volunteer to serve on a Technical Committee you might just have impact on the course trajectory for your profession.

**Thanks to Tim Taylor with ALDOT for contributing this article.**
SR-160 Traffic Study Completed

The Alabama Department of Transportation has completed a study of traffic operations on SR-160 in western Blount County. Sain Associates was selected to conduct the study in anticipation of a state-funded project to widen SR-160. The objective of the study was to evaluate traffic operations along SR-160 near I-65 and in the vicinity of the Hayden schools. Working closely with ALDOT and Almon Associates, the consultant selected to design the SR-160 widening plans, geometric improvements were identified for incorporation into the design of the project.

Additionally, the study recommended immediate improvements in the vicinity of the Hayden schools in an attempt to ease congestion on SR-160. There are currently three schools in a one-half mile segment of SR-160. A fourth school less than one mile to the east on SR-160 will be opening for the 2007-2008 school year. Congestion and school traffic flow patterns were evaluated during the peak periods on SR-160 and the school grounds. The study identified physical improvements and adjustments to school traffic flow patterns that could be implemented by ALDOT and Blount County Schools for immediate relief prior to the SR-160 widening project.

Public hearings for the SR-160 widening project are expected to be scheduled in Spring 2007.

Thanks to Jeff Stephenson with Sain Associates for this article.

MAGIC 65 Recommended Actions

Based on the screening analysis completed for the MAGIC 65 study, no “fatal flaws” were identified that would prevent the implementation of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes or Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the I-65 / US 31 Corridor. The Project Steering and Technical Committees held a joint meeting on Thursday, January 25 to review and discuss the recommendations from the MAGIC 65 Study. Based on planning level screening analysis, HOV lanes and BRT are feasible on I-65 and BRT is feasible on US 31. The feasibility recommendations were developed for segments of the corridor and range from Immediate Feasibility (Feasible today), Near Future Feasibility (Feasible in ten to fifteen years) and Long Range Feasibility (Feasible in 30 years). For more information on the Recommended Actions, visit www.magic-i65.com or contact Mary Grace Lewandowski, Project Manager at 205-264-8444 or mgl@rpcgb.org. The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, in cooperation with the ALDOT, is studying the issues and challenges with potential highway and transit options on I-65 and US 31.

Thanks to Mary Grace Lewandowski with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham for contributing this article.
**News From Sain Associates**

Sain Associates is pleased to announce the addition of Scott Cothron, P.E. to its Traffic Engineering Division. Scott was previously employed as Traffic Engineer for the City of Longview, TX, and spent several years as a research engineer with the Texas Transportation Institute. Scott has a Bachelor of Science from Belmont University and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee. He is a native of Nashville, TN.

Sain Associates is also pleased to announce that Diane Callahan was promoted to Project Manager in the Traffic Division and Jeff Stephenson was promoted to Senior Project Manager in the Traffic Division.

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**Huntsville Appoints New Traffic Engineering Director**

Richard P. Kramer, PE, Fellow ITE, is back in the harness again after a 15 year retirement and is now serving as Huntsville’s Director of Traffic Engineering under Urban Development Director Dallas W. Fanning. When hired in 1964 as City TE he was the youngest City Department Head at age 23. When hired back on Feb 1, 2007, he became the oldest new department head hired by the city at age 67. Kramer can’t say he was the best Traffic Engineer Huntsville ever had, but he can claim to be both the youngest one and also the oldest one they ever hired. Kramer concludes that Mayor Loretta Spencer and Urban Development Director Fanning decided “It was better the Devil they know, than the Devil they don’t”, and is most appreciative of this opportunity to resume his career in public service.

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**2007 Transportation Safety Award Nominations**

The ALSITE Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2007 Transportation Safety Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions to Transportation Safety in Alabama. The individual may be a member of ITE or any other individual who has made contributions to Transportation Safety in Alabama. A nomination form is provided at the end of this newsletter. If you would like a Nomination Form in Word format, please contact Scott Rumble at osrumble@pbsj.com. Nominations are due by March 23, 2007 to:

**Richard L. Caudle, P.E.**

Immediate Past President, ALSITE

3644 Vann Road, Suite 100

Birmingham, Alabama 35235
Get Involved with ITE!

The Alabama Section and the Southern District of ITE have several meetings scheduled for 2007 and we would like to encourage everyone to attend and Get Involved with ITE!

Our first meeting of the year is being held on March 1st in Montgomery. There is still time to make plans to attend. See page 7 of this newsletter to get more details about the meeting and the proposed agenda.

Coming up in April, the 55th Southern District Annual Meeting will be held in Knoxville, TN on April 22-25, 2007. For more information visit the website at www.sdite2007.org.

55th Annual Meeting of ITE’s Southern District

In June, the Alabama Section Annual Meeting will once again be held in Gulf Shores, Al the 6th through the 8th. This year’s meeting will be held at the Beach Club (the same place as last year) on Fort Morgan Road. More details about the meeting will be forthcoming by email and in the next installment of this newsletter. Make plans now to attend.

And finally, the Alabama Section Fall Meeting will be held at the Barber Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Alabama on Thursday, October 4, 2007. The meeting will include a continental breakfast, lunch, and an opportunity to tour the museum at will. The meeting is anticipated to last from 8:30 – 2:00, and the museum will remain open until 5:00 p.m. Family/friends/guests can also visit the museum for $10 adults/$6 children, but not until 10:00 a.m. The meeting room has a view of the track and we have been informed that the Porsche Driving Experience will be operating on the meeting day. Please visit their website at www.barbermuseum.org for more information.

Double Your Donation

Donations from individuals to the Harold M. Raynor ALSITE Scholarships, Inc. will be matched by an anonymous donor. Please help support our two scholarships: Charles E. Alexander Memorial Transportation Engineering and Billy Jones Memorial Traffic Engineering.

Make checks payable to HMR ALSITE Scholarships, Inc. and send to:

David R. Griffin, Treasurer
Harold M. Raynor ALSITE Scholarships, Inc.
City of Tuscaloosa
P.O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2089
UTCA Symposium, Tuscaloosa, AL, November, 2006

On November 13, 2006 UAB ITE student chapter members and the faculty advisor Dr. Sisiopiku traveled to Tuscaloosa for the University Transportation Center for Alabama symposium. During the event three UAB students were recognized as the winners of the UTCA student paper competition award and received funding to attend the 86th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. These include Stephanie Watson, Walter Anderson and Ian Hosch. As part of the program Johnnie Waid offered a presentation on “Available Options for Financing Highways” and a poster on the “Development of a Dynamic Traffic Assignment Model to Evaluate Lane Reversal Plans for I-65”. Stephanie Watson presented a poster on “Critical Transportation Infrastructure Protection in Alabama” and Dr. Sisiopiku gave a presentation on “Assessment of Transit Options in Birmingham, AL and the Potential Impact of Transit Priority”. Moreover, UAB organized a half-day workshop on “Dynamic Traffic Assignment” as part of the program.

86th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington D.C., January 2007

The UAB ITE Student chapter had a great presence at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington, D.C. on January, 2007. UAB students who attended the conference included: Johnnie Waid, Stephanie Watson, Walter Anderson, Charles Robinson, Ian Hosch, and Ozge Cavusoglu. Johnnie Waid was honored at the CUTC banquet on Saturday, January 20th as the Alabama 2006 UTCA Outstanding Student of the Year. It was a great honor for her to get to meet Former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, at the event. The UAB ITE chapter was excited to have several presentations at this year’s meeting. A list of UAB papers included in the 2007 TRB program follows.

3. Akin, D., and Sisiopiku, V.P. “Pedestrian Crossing Compliance Characteristics At-grade Signalized Crosswalks: Case study in a Downtown-university Campus Environment”,
5. Akin, D., and Sisiopiku, V.P. “Modeling Interactions between Pedestrians and Turning-vehicles at Signalized Crosswalks Operating under Combined Pedestrian-Vehicle Interval”
6. Waid, J.C., and Sisiopiku, V.P. “Alternate Financing Sources for Alabama Highways: The Heavy-Truck Road User Fee”

During the meeting, the ITE UAB Student Chapter hosted an informal reception at a local restaurant. Another night, the student chapter officers attended the reception at the ITE National Headquarters. It was a nice opportunity to meet and network with students across the country. Overall, TRB was a successful event for the UAB ITE student chapter, especially in terms of exposure, networking, learning, and fun!
8:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. ALSITE Welcome  
   David Turner, President  
   City of Montgomery Welcome  
   Mayor Bobby Bright

**TECHNICAL SESSION I**
Presiding: Chris Reeves, Vice President
9:10 a.m. At-Grade Rail Crossing Signal Control: Planning, Design and Construction  
   Richard L. Caudle, Skipper Consulting, Birmingham
9:40 a.m. Level of Service Methodologies For Sidewalk Assessment  
   Virginia P. Sisiopiku, University of Alabama – Birmingham
10:10 a.m. BREAK

**TECHNICAL SESSION II**
Presiding: Doug Peterson, Secretary – Treasurer
10:40 a.m. Wireless Backbone Network for Police, Fire and Traffic  
   Bubba Bowden and Alan Miller, Traffic Engineering, City of Montgomery
11:10 a.m. I-65 Reverse Laning Wireless Network  
   Stacey N. Glass, Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery
11:30 a.m. Auburn Game Day Traffic  
   Mickey Hall, Skipper Consulting, Birmingham
11:50 a.m. BREAK
12:00 p.m. LUNCH
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting
1:30 p.m. Adjourn
I. Call to Order
President Richard Caudle called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Auburn University Dixon Hotel and Conference Center.

II. Minutes
A motion was made by Ken Cush and seconded by Walter Dorsey to approve the Annual 2006 Business meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. Officer’s and Director’s Reports
A. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
Secretary/Treasurer Chris Reeves announced the Treasurer’s Report as follows:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>6/08/06</td>
<td>Terrence Williamson (Student Travel Reimbursement)</td>
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<td>Yeager &amp; Christain P.C. (Tax Preparation)</td>
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<td>7/27/06</td>
<td>Pradeep Rao (Southern District Meeting Reimbursement)</td>
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<td>8/03/06</td>
<td>ALSITE (Annual Meeting Shortfall)</td>
<td>$ 1,897.24</td>
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Total Expenses $ 5,656.52

A motion was made by Bubba Bowden and seconded by Rodney Long to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

(continued)
B. Vice President's Report

Vice President David Turner reported on actions taken by the board during the Annual Board meeting held on Monday, October 2, 2006 at the Civil Engineering Conference Room located in the Harbert Engineering Building at Auburn University. These actions are as follows:

1. Approval of the June 6, 2006 – October 2, 2006 Secretary/Treasurer's report.
2. Discussion continued from the annual board meeting as to how to increase student participation at the District meetings. The next event is April 22-25, 2006 in Knoxville, Tennessee. To further encourage student participation, a motion was approved to provide $500 per student for up to three participants and one alternant to attend for 2007 only. Another motion was approved for ALSITE to provide the students an additional $500 each in 2007 if they win the Traffic Bowl competition.
3. The Board reviewed one new membership application for Scott Rumble. This application was approved by the Board. The membership applications for Basil Hall, Greg Sheehan and Dan Vincent were also accepted as per the stipulations from the June meeting.
4. The Board denied the request from Math Counts for financial support.

C. Immediate past President's Report

Immediate Past President Walter Dorsey had no report.

D. District 5 Representative's Report

District 5 Representative Robby Anderson was not present. President Richard Caudle reported that members provide Mr. Anderson with input for the Annual Section Report that he will be submitting to District 5. Mr. Caudle asked that this information be provided no later than December 15, 2006. Mr. Caudle also mentioned that the next District 5 meeting will be held in Knoxville Tennessee in April 2007.

E. Affiliate Director's Report

Affiliate Director Jeff Webb was not present. President Richard Caudle reported that Mr. Webb had no report.

F. Assistant Affiliate Director

Assistant Affiliate Director Darrell Vines was not present. President Richard Caudle reported that Mr. Vines had no report.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Legislative Report

Dale Lenoir, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, had no report.

B. Membership Committee Report

Ken Cush, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced that the Board approved the application of Scott Rumble (Member), Basil Hall (Affiliate I), Greg Sheehan (Affiliate I) and Dan Vincent (Affiliate I) during the Board meeting on October 2, 2006.

C. Newsletter Committee

Doug Peterson, Newsletter Editor, had no report. President Richard Caudle announced that this would be Mr. Peterson’s last newsletter and asked for volunteers to fill this position.

D. Service Projects Committee

President Richard Caudle reported that a search is still ongoing for a Service Projects Chairman and reported he had no report.

(continued)
E. Strategic Planning Committee

Strategic Planning Chairperson Becky White was not present. President Richard Caudle reported that Ms. White had no report.

F. Technical Committee

Bob Vecellio, Chairman of the Technical Committee, reported that there were five (5) presentations by six speakers at the Fall 2006 meeting.

G. ALSITE Scholarship Committee

David Griffin, chairman of the Technical Committee, was not present.
Dan Turner reported that the scholarship fund had a balance of $113,781.

H. Alabama Technical Transfer Center

Rod Turochy, Liaison with the Alabama Technical Transfer Center reported that upcoming seminars will be placed in the ALSITE newsletter and on the website.

I. Local Arrangements

Rod Turochy, Local Arrangements Liaison, reported 91 registrations, of which 20 were students, attended the fall 2006 meeting.

V. Old Business

President Richard Caudle reported that a memorandum has been issued to all Local Arrangement on how to handle future registration fees as discussed at the Annual meeting.

VI. New Business

Waymon Benefield discussed the Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

VII. Site Selection

The following Site Selections were announced for upcoming 2007 ALSITE meetings:

Spring Meeting: The 2007 Spring ALSITE Meeting will be held at The Mann Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

Annual Meeting: The 2007 ALSITE Annual Meeting will be held in June at the Beach Club in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The 2007 Annual meeting will be ALSITE only. President Richard Caudle announced that ALSITE has been invited to participate in a joint annual meeting in 2009 with the Deep South Section. A motion was made by John McCarthy to deny this request and seconded by Darrell Skipper.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dan Turner and seconded by Bob Vecellio to adjourn the business meeting. Motion passed on voice vote. President Richard Caudle adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Reeves, P.E.
Secretary/Treasurer
Scott Rumble, P.E.
Editor, ALSITE NEWS
PBS&J
1400 Urban Center, Suite 400
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35242

Mark Your Calendars
Alabama Section & Southern District Meetings

**ALSITE Spring Meeting**
March 1, 2007 / Montgomery, AL

**Southern District Meeting**
April 22-25, 2007 / Knoxville, TN

**ALSITE Annual Meeting**
June 6-8, 2007 / Gulf Shores, AL

**ALSITE Fall Meeting**
October 4, 2007 / Birmingham, AL

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*The mission of the Alabama Section Institute of Transportation Engineers is to provide a leadership role in providing a transportation system in Alabama that improves mobility and safety for the traveling public. Activities of the Section focus on advancing the transportation profession and developing our members through education and training.*

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2007 ALSITE Standing Committees, Representatives & Liaisons

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<th>Member and Affiliate Services</th>
<th>Past Presidents</th>
<th>Professional Development</th>
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<td><strong>Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Richard Caudle*</td>
<td>Dan Turner*</td>
<td>Becky White*</td>
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<td>James Brown</td>
<td>205.349.2100</td>
<td>Darrell Skipper</td>
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<td>Tim Taylor</td>
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<td>Dale Lenoir*</td>
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<td>James Foster</td>
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<td><strong>Meeting Arrangements, Program &amp; Site Selection</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ALDOT Relations</strong></td>
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<td>John McCarthy*</td>
<td>205.349.0240</td>
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<td>Jeff Webb*</td>
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<td><strong>Past Presidents</strong></td>
<td>Richard Caudle*</td>
<td></td>
<td>251.943.2645</td>
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<td></td>
<td>205.655.8855</td>
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<td>ITE Student Chapters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Walter Dorsey</td>
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<td>Walter Dorsey (Auburn)</td>
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<td>334.705.5450</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tim Westhoven</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Meads (UAB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>205.444.7762</td>
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<td>205.940.6420</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ken Cush</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alabama Safety Coordinating</td>
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<td>256.234.8495</td>
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<td>Waymon Benefield</td>
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<td>334.353.6404</td>
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<td>Alabama Technology Transfer Center</td>
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<td>Rod Turochy</td>
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<td>334.844.6271</td>
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</table>

*Committee Chair
**Committee Co-Chair

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Spring 2007
ALABAMA SECTION SDITE
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Position Title: _____________________________________________________________

Employer’s Name: ___________________________________________________________

Business Address: ___________________________________________________________

Immediate Supervisor’s Name: ________________________________________________

Briefly state this individual’s contributions to transportation safety.

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

The Nomination Committee may be interested in discussing this with you. Please provide the following information.

Name of Nominator: _________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

Telephone Number: _________________________________________________________

Relationship to Nominee: ___________________________________________________

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

Richard L. Caudle, P.E.
Immediate Past President, ALSITE
3644 Vann Road, Suite 100
Birmingham, Alabama 35235
Fax (205) 655-8825