

## **2010 Transportation & Planning Symposium Highlights / 2010 Annual NY Upstate Section Meeting**

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the ITE New York Upstate Section was held in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation and Planning Symposium. The meeting was held at the Century House in Latham (Albany County, NY) on October 25 and 26, 2010. ITE cosponsored the two-day conference with the Albany Society of Engineers (ASE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Capital District Planners Association (CDPA), and NYS Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE). Nearly 100 transportation planners and engineers benefited from technical sessions, a FHWA training program, interesting keynote speakers and professional networking.

Each year at the Symposium, FHWA sponsors a training session specifically targeted to continuing education for professional engineers. Thirty people attended this year's FHWA workshop on Road Safety Audits (RSA). The training provided practical information on how to conduct an RSA, select a location, and build an independent, multi-disciplinary team. Participants learned how to improve transportation safety by applying a new proactive approach that emphasizes using low cost safety improvements as well as understanding the interaction between the highway and all users.

NYSDOT Region 1 Regional Director Mary Ivey provided the opening remarks for the Symposium and set the tone for the conference. Region 1 maintains 5,300 highway lane-miles and over 800 state bridges. They are also responsible for inspecting approximately 1,900 bridges. Ms. Ivey spoke about some of the challenges facing the Department and the transportation industry including financing transportation improvements and some of the opportunities we have when we work collaboratively.

ITE, ASE, ASCE, CDPA and NYSSPE each sponsored one technical session with a panel of speakers. Session topics included Greening of the Highways; Crown Point/Lake Champlain Bridge; Subsurface Utility Engineering; Urban Highway Reconstruction, and the ITE-sponsored session on Modern Toll Collection Alternatives. A total of 9.5 professional development hours were available at the conference.

The annual banquet was held on Monday evening. The keynote speaker was Jeffrey W. Kolb, P.E., FHWA Division Administrator of the New York Division Office. Mr. Kolb spoke about some of the initiatives at FHWA and his predictions for the next surface transportation legislation. The Section's annual award ceremony was also held during the banquet. ITE NY Upstate President Tim Trabold accepted the 2010 Leadership Appreciation Award; Mike Wieszchowski received the Carol A. Keck Award; Mark Sargent accepted the Transportation Project of the Year Award, and Shan Huang received the Young Transportation Professional of the Year Award.

The guest speaker during lunch on Tuesday was NYS Assemblyman Tony Jordan from the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Mr. Jordan encouraged attendees to contact their local representatives regarding issues important to the industry.

In all respects, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation & Planning Symposium was a big success. It offered continuing education for engineers and planners as well as an opportunity for professionals to network with colleagues. Thank you to the sponsoring organizations, the corporate sponsors, all of the fantastic speakers and the Symposium Planning Committee for another great meeting.