



MASITE interconnect

Volume 21

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www.masite.org

Spring 2017

President's Message:

Happy Spring!

Spring is here in full force, and summer will be here before we know it. Spring is a time for growth, renewal and fresh starts. Before you think I am getting philosophical on you, I will also say that it is a time for baseball and beer gardens. Both of which I have taken advantage of in the past few weeks, including the great weather we had recently in Baltimore.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who helped out with the Mid Colonial District 2 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Their conference committees planning and efforts, along with the moderators and volunteers are always appreciated, and led to a successful and informative meeting. Great job.

The MASITE-ITSPA Golf outing is fast approaching, and while I will not be able to be there this year, I wish all you golfers good luck!

I hope to see some of you at the upcoming ITE Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada this year. There are a lot of great things going on at ITE International, including the Transportation Camp, and of course the final of the Traffic Bowl. The deadline for early bird pricing is June 16th.

Preparations for the MASITE Annual Meeting are well under way with experienced Co Chairs Lindsey Klein (Imperial Traffic & Data Collection) and Peter O'Halloran (Urban Engineers) stepping up to the plate to plan another amazing meeting in an awesome location. This year's meeting will be held in New Jersey, at the Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City on October 1st and 2nd.

Yes.... You read that correctly, we will be meeting at a winery... and I can tell you we will have some exciting social events lined up! Lindsey and Peter have a great committee of volunteers already, but there are always opportunities for others to get involved, so if you are interested, let me know. In the meantime, keep a look out for the official "Save the Date" and call for Abstracts!

Between now and then, can someone please fix this,



so I don't have to sit in this every weekend... to get to this....



Have a fantastic summer, and hope to see you all at some local events soon!

As always, feel free to drop me a note anytime

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Orla Pease

2017 MASITE President

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MASITE NEWS

Eastern Area

NJ DOT HOP-Access Permit Introduction Class – 9/20/16

Richard (Dick) Dube, P.E., the manager of the NJDOT Bureau of Major Access Permits, began the class by providing a historical description of the NJDOT permitting process, and explained how the process has evolved over the years to help attendees understand how the process got to where it is today. Then, he presented details of the most common permitting issues at NJDOT including, but not limited to:

- Right-of-Way and jurisdiction,
- Types of permits (Major with Planning, Major, Minor) and how to determine which applies,
- Types of permits for expansions and change of use,
- Permits for work within the Right-of-Way,
- Letter of No Interest,
- Grandfathered permits,
- The Access Code of 1976,
- Applicant requirements,
- Two step process of permitting (completeness and technical review),
- Permits involving traffic signals,
- NJDOT trip generation rates,
- Non-conforming lots,
- Access levels (1-limited access, through 6-full access),
- DTS – Desirable Typical Sections, and
- NJDOT's plans for future permitting processes.

Mr. Dube's presentation was followed by brief presentations by his support staff and a spirited and informational question and answer session.

Central Area - Mike Davidson

For our first event this year, Doug Tomlinson, PE, Chief of Traffic Operations at PennDOT Central Office, presented on PennDOT's Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Efforts. Doug spoke about PennDOT's self assessment of its TSMO program, use of big data, and other initiatives within the department, such as the new 511PAConnect emergency communications tool. Thanks again Doug for a great presentation.

Be on the lookout for upcoming event announcements throughout the summer. But before that, don't forget to register for the 13th Annual MASITE vs ITSPA Golf Challenge. It's being held on May 16 at the Dauphin Highlands Golf Course. Even if you don't golf you can purchase a "dinner only" ticket. Better yet, you can volunteer and receive free dinner, beverages and snacks.

MASITE SPONSOR NEWS

Urban's Silvia Scheuermann included in the Philadelphia Business Journal's most recent 40 Under 40 class

As a leading team member behind Urban Engineers' Traffic Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems on-call contract with the City of Philadelphia, Silvia Scheuermann, PE, has demonstrated her talents. She has made an unmistakable mark in the city as a traffic engineer through her initiative, intelligence, creativity, and passion. Given these facts, it is no surprise that the MASITE member was selected by the Philadelphia Business Journal as a 40 Under 40 award winner! The 40 Under 40 program spotlights 40 dynamic up and coming leaders, who are under the age of 40, for their professional accomplishments and community involvement. Silvia will be recognized at an awards program and profiled in a special print supplement inserted in the Philadelphia Business Journal.



Silvia and Urban's traffic team have worked to help combat congestion and keep traffic flowing throughout Philadelphia by retiming 270 signals along various corridors. This program required a substantial data collection effort. Silvia was instrumental in developing and fine-tuning Urban's data collection techniques. She also created custom spreadsheets for the city to streamline the process of developing clearance and pedestrian timings. These spreadsheets also facilitated the QA/QC process. All of these innovations enabled Urban to provide the City of Philadelphia with the highest quality product. In addition, Silvia and the team hosted a "Best Practices" meeting with the city and other consultants to discuss the various techniques used and lessons learned to improve the retiming processes across all of their projects.





KMJ Consulting, Inc. educates aspiring engineers through experience and insight



Drexel Class of 1982 Alumni, Karen Jehanian, PE and Darin Gatti, PE (Chief Engineer and President of the Board of Surveyors for the Philadelphia Streets Department) along with several KMJ staff members brought their expertise and

work experience to Drexel's Urban Transportation class. This marks the fifth year KMJ has guest lectured at Drexel and as always, it was a learning experience for both KMJ's staff and Drexel's engineering students.

KMJ brought real-world situations to the various topics below, giving students a greater understanding on the ever-changing world of engineering.

- Communication
- Presenting one's self
- ADA Curb Ramps
- Connected and Automated Vehicles
- Innovative Intersections

"Students were engaged and interested in our first-hand experience in both the technical and communication presentations" – Karen Jehanian, President

RK&K

Jonathan Mize, EIT has been promoted to Associate Engineer in RK&K's Pennsylvania Traffic Group. Jonathan has a BSCE from Villanova University. He has 2 years of experience, all with RK&K. He is responsible for providing traffic signal, traffic control, pavement marking, and signing design for PennDOT and PTC projects. Jonathan's most significant projects include the I-76 Hard Shoulder Running Feasibility Study, Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Toll Plaza Sign Replacements Project, and the SR 0100 Corridor Safety Improvements Project.

RK&K congratulates the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission on the conversion of the Beaver Valley Expressway (I-376) to Cashless Tolling at the end of April. Throughout the process, RK&K provided signing design and conversion support activities, and over the conversion weekend, Mahmood Shehata and Matt Ehlinger provided observational and on-site support as needed for the conversion. Many congratulations go out to the Commission, their program manager, and the dedicated contractors on-board to make the conversion a successful one!

JMT

NFL Draft: JMT Philadelphia's Charlie Denny and Karen Colello led the development of a four-phase Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) plan on behalf of the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets for the 2017 NFL Football Draft Experience. The plans included MPT and Detour plans for the construction of the event facilities in the weeks preceding the Draft event and also to help vehicles get in and around the 4-day event on April 27th – 30th with full street closures in place.

Birth Announcements:



Congratulations to Gillian Bruno, P.E. PTOE, from the Delaware Traffic Department and her husband welcomed baby Jayce Joseph Bruno on March 21, 2017 at 3:19 pm. Jayce weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Mom and baby are recovering well.

Congratulations to Kate Russo (JMT, Philadelphia, PA) and her husband on the birth of their baby, Maxwell Alexander Russo. He was born on February 17, 2017 and weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces. The family (mom, dad, Nick (5) and Max) are doing well!





SAVE THE DATE!

MASITE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2017
Renault Winery in Egg Harbor, New Jersey



Meeting Location:

Renault Winery
72 North Bremen Avenue
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215



Conference Co-Chairs:

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AS ALWAYS, PLEASE GO TO www.masite.org TO VIEW THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Ringling Bros. circus train waiting on Susquehanna River bridge at Harrisburg the morning of April 4th. This was the last time it ever passes through Harrisburg. The circus went out of business in May.



2017 CANDIDATES FOR ITE INTERNATIONAL BOARD



Ken Ackeret, P.E., PTOE, Ph.D.

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Volunteers Moving ITE Forward

I am passionate about our ITE members who volunteer for the success of our profession. They are the backbone of the ITE Community and ensure the sustainability, visibility, strength, and growth of our organization. With my strong focus on volunteerism, backed by my 30+ years of active ITE membership, together we will Move ITE Forward as a leader in the global transportation community. I will support and encourage our volunteer efforts to be focused on the four cornerstones of ITE—**Recognized, Relevant, Value-added, Connected.**

I have been fortunate to serve at all levels of ITE leadership including, Western District Technical Chair and President, International Director, and Traffic Bowl Chair and Transportation Professional Certification Board Chair. This experience has given me the knowledge, ability, and excitement to effectively work with our volunteers to ensure we are:

- **Recognized as leaders in the transportation community**
- **Focused on work relevant to our profession**
- **Adding value to our members and the profession**
- **Connecting globally to strengthen our worldwide community**

As a principal at Kimley-Horn for 25 years, I have brought diverse groups together to work toward common goals by applying my unique blend of academic and applied transportation knowledge. This experience will serve as my foundation to ensure our volunteers at all levels are working to Move ITE Forward.

In addition to my ITE volunteerism, my community volunteerism includes serving as Scoutmaster with Boy Scout-Wood Badge, Leadership Las Vegas, and Corvette Club President to name a few. As your International Vice President, I will be a servant leader to our diverse volunteers and will successfully implement plans, programs, and ideas at the international level to ensure that ITE grows as a leader in the global transportation community. Thank you for your support.



Bruce Belmore, P.Eng., PTOE, AVS, FITE

Western Canada Transportation Planning Manager, WSP Group, Regina, SK, Canada

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Who am I? I am a **devoted transportation professional** with over 25 years of experience and **passionate about ITE**. I have served ITE at the Section, District, and International levels. My involvement includes recently completing a three-year term on the International Board of Direction. Further, I give back to the engineering community as an adjunct professor at the University of Regina. I intend to **build upon the hard work and initiatives already started**, and **continue to develop ITE as a leading organization** in operating and delivering services to members.

Goals:

1. **Communication** – we need to reflect how members like to communicate and receive information today. Whether it’s through the ITE Community, social media platforms, or cloud-based document sharing, we need to **ensure that information is timely, relevant, and readily accessible** by our members.
2. **Collaboration** – we need to **work more closely with other transportation organizations**. By sharing knowledge and resources, we can produce technical reference documents faster, at a shared cost, and with full recognition of our members’ contributions.
3. **Knowledge** – we also need to **streamline the approval and release of technical documents** so that valuable resource materials are in our members’ hands quicker.
4. **Growth** – we need to **grow our membership to remain a healthy, vibrant organization**. Key to this growth and our long term stability is developing new student chapters and encouraging highly active sections. We also need to start new sections outside of North America where there is growing interest in ITE membership.
5. **Member development** – we need to **develop the skills of members, including technical skills, soft skills, and leadership skills**. We need well-rounded transportation professionals in our industry; ITE can lead in the growth of members’ skills.

I have the **desire to see ITE grow and succeed**. Simply, **I have something to contribute**.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE****PENNDOT APPLIES TO MAKE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL 'PROVING GROUND' FOR AUTOMATED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES**01/03/2017 www.penndot.gov

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently applied to a U.S. Department of Transportation solicitation to be designated as an Automated Vehicle Proving Ground Pilot to facilitate the safe and innovative development of these technologies.

"This application further illustrates that we're a national leader in supporting automated vehicle development with safety and flexibility in mind," PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards said. "We've put in significant work on this issue with our task force, with our partners in the legislature, and through close collaboration with the industry."

The application outlines the benefits and possibilities for testing within the state that already exist and offer an array of environments and topography under varying degrees of testing. The proposal includes testing facilities:

- in Pittsburgh, building on the city's leadership in development and testing for these vehicles and offering an urban environment, connected signals and multiple bridges and tunnels;
- at Penn State University, which has a closed track where commercial, transit and other vehicles can be tested at low speeds and with controlled incidents; and
- at the Pocono Raceway, which offers a closed track and is ideal for testing higher speeds, multiple connected vehicles (platooning) and other options.

"We're thrilled to be a partner with PennDOT on this application, and continue our leadership as a laboratory for innovation that benefits all residents," said Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto.

The proposal also underscores Pennsylvania's innovative cooperation among government, industry and academia by:

- Offering a unique and scalable approach to this technology with the varied stakeholders and testing facilities included.
- Highlighting the department's active and ongoing Autonomous Vehicle Policy Task Force, which recently issued its recommended guidance to assist with testing policies, which not only demonstrates investment in this innovative mission, but also illustrates the collaborative framework necessary to make testing proving grounds a success.
- Establishing PennDOT as the lead agency on this issue in the state, aligning with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Federal Automated Vehicles Policy (September 2016).

- Including technical and research partners – the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the University of Pennsylvania and Carnegie Mellon University – in addition to the testing partners.

For more information on the task force and to review the guidance for which public comment is being accepted through January 12, visit www.penndot.gov.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES IN PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO AND MICHIGAN FORM 'SMART BELT COALITION' TO COLLABORATE ON AUTOMATED, CONNECTED VEHICLES01/17/2017 www.penndot.gov

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) have formed the Smart Belt Coalition – a first-of-its-kind collaboration – with transportation agencies in Ohio and Michigan that will focus on automated and connected vehicle initiatives.

The coalition, which includes transportation and academic partners, brings together leaders on these technologies to support research, testing, policy, funding pursuits and deployment, as well as share data and provide unique opportunities for private-sector testers.

"I'm excited for us to continue our efforts in fostering safe and effective development of this technology," PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards said. "This multi-state partnership not only offers fantastic collaboration opportunities, but will also bring some consistency to testing scenarios that will help the private sector as they develop these technologies."

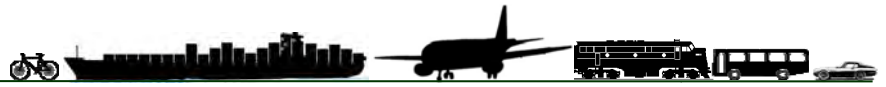
While coalition membership may expand in the future, participating agencies and universities include:

- Pennsylvania: PennDOT, PTC and Carnegie Mellon University;
- Michigan: Michigan Department of Transportation and University of Michigan; and
- Ohio: Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, The Ohio State University and Transportation Research Center.

"This new coalition recognizes that automated and connected vehicle initiatives transcend state boundaries and spur emerging technologies," PTC CEO Mark Compton said. "Working together, we will be able to more effectively advance these emerging technologies for all motorists."

With similar climates, commercial truck traffic and active work on these technologies in the participating states, the coalition will be a resource for transportation stakeholders and the private sector alike. The coalition is developing its strategic plan which initially focuses on:

- Connected and automated applications in work zones, including uniform work-zone scenarios offering consistency for testers as well as technologies offering better information to motorists.



- Commercial freight opportunities in testing, including platooning (connecting more than one vehicle) and potential coordination on interstates.
- Incident management applications providing better information to and infrastructure for emergency responders and other agencies.

"We look forward to this real-world test bed to further our research in the safe deployment of connected and automated technology and its associated policies," said Carnegie Mellon Professor Raj Rajkumar.

Moving forward, the coalition will finalize a strategic plan outlining the framework for participants and opportunities for private-sector testers.

The coalition is the latest example of Pennsylvania's commitment to safe and innovative development of these technologies and complements the Autonomous Vehicle Policy Task Force, which is chaired by PennDOT. Learn more about the task force, which includes government, academic and private-sector members, at www.penndot.gov under "Projects & Programs" and then "Research and Testing."

NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE VOTE TO MOUNT TRAFFIC CAMERAS ON SCHOOL BUSES STATEWIDE

1/23/17, by Christie Duffy www.pix11.com

TRENTON, N.J. — The New Jersey State Senate voted 30-1 to install outward-facing cameras on every school bus in the state.

If you pass a bus illegally while it's stopped off-loading kids, the camera would automatically take a picture of your car and a ticket would be mailed to your address.

"That would be a good idea," said Eileen, a crossing guard in Bayonne, who did not give her last name. "The way some of these cars fly around, they know it's a school area and they speed up. They don't care."

State Senator James Holzapfel, a republican from Ocean County, is the bill's key sponsor.

"The problem is a bus driver who is paying attention to the children getting on and off the bus. When someone blows past that school bus, the potential of them getting a license plate is next to nothing," he said.

But not everyone is on board. Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon, a republican from Monmouth County, called the bill "a disaster."

"The only thing this bill does is open the door to automated enforcement," he said. Calling it: "government-sanctioned theft masquerading as concern for our children."

The bill would increase fines for drivers who illegally pass a school bus. Currently the penalty is \$100 and up to 15 days in jail. The bill proposes a fine of \$300-\$500 and five points on your license.

A portion of the proceeds from these fines would go to schools, another portion would go directly to private companies for running and installing the school bus cameras.

The state assembly still needs to vote on the bill before Governor Christie can consider it.

2017 BRINGS ENHANCED CELL SERVICE TO PITTSBURGH'S TUNNELS

January 27, 2017 www.penndot.gov

Pittsburgh, PA – PennDOT District 11 is announcing that a new distributed antenna system (DAS) to enhance wireless coverage and reduce the number of dropped calls is near completion in the Fort Pitt, Squirrel Hill, and Liberty Tunnels.

"Restoring cell service to the tunnels in Pittsburgh will help improve safety and eliminate connectivity issues," said PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards. "PennDOT reminds motorists to use a hands-free device when behind the wheel and never text while driving."

Construction on the project began in June, 2016 and required the addition of antennas across three and a half miles of tunnels, as well as, installation of specialized communication equipment and power sources at each tunnel.

The installation of the DAS in the tunnels is a result of the significant capital investment made by AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. The consortium of the nation's four largest carriers, which negotiated the agreements with PennDOT to design and deploy the DAS, was led by Verizon. Currently, the Department and Sprint are finalizing their agreement before their service can be activated. Additionally, the carriers are responsible for assuring the system remains online and operational. No tax payer money is included in the project.

The DAS system is complete in both the Liberty and Squirrel Hill Tunnels and is currently being tested. Work continues in the Fort Pitt Tunnel and is anticipated to be activated in the first quarter of 2017. The DAS will support the latest 4G LTE technologies, as well as, legacy 1X and 3G for the more than a quarter million vehicles that use the tunnels daily.

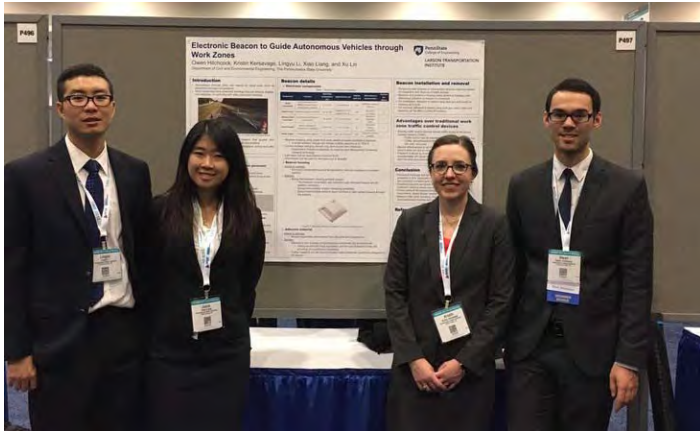
Motorists can check conditions on major roadways by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 770 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.



Civil engineering graduate students win national transportation competition

February 2, 2017 <http://news.psu.edu>

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — A team of five Penn State civil engineering graduate students recently won the 2017 Traffic Control Device Challenge sponsored by the Transportation Research Board and the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).



The purpose of the challenge was to promote innovation and stimulate ideas within the traffic control devices research area, with the goal of improving operations and safety. This year's focus was on traffic control device designs, ideas, enhancements and standards that supported advanced vehicle technologies, connected vehicles or autonomous vehicles.

The team, which included Owen Hitchcock, Kristin Kersavage, Lingyu Li, Joyce Liang and Xu Lin, developed an electronic beacon that helps guide autonomous vehicles through work zones without the use of pavement markings.

“Autonomous vehicles rely on pavement markings for lane guidance, but work zones often have poor pavement markings,” said Hitchcock. “This issue hinders the widespread adoption of autonomous vehicles.”

The team had to create a poster that communicated their ideas and present it at the Transportation Research Board’s annual meeting, held Jan. 8 to 12 in Washington, D.C.

Submissions were evaluated based on four criteria: ability of the idea to address the problem, ease of understanding, applicability and feasibility for implementation.

“We felt proud to represent Penn State as the winner of the competition,” said Hitchcock. “When we entered, we hoped to win. So from the very beginning, we were focused on producing a quality entry.”

As the first-place winner, the team will present their concept in a “Traffic Talk” at the ATSSA Convention and Traffic Expo, set for Feb. 12 to 14 in Phoenix, Arizona. The team will also receive a \$1,500 cash prize and a plaque.

The Traffic Control Device Challenge is open to individual high school, junior college, college or university students

or teams of students with an interest in transportation and an understanding of traffic control devices.

E-ZPass signal lights will be removed along Pennsylvania Turnpike

MARCH 18, 2017 - <http://www.phillyvoice.com>

Toll booths along the Pennsylvania Turnpike will soon have a different look as crews install upgraded technology.

On Friday, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission revealed plans to remove the feedback-signal lights in E-ZPass lanes. The red, yellow and green lights were introduced in 2001 to allow drivers to know that payment was received.

Craig Shuey, the commission's chief operating officer, said the technology has become "outdated and cumbersome." The lights are now prohibited by federal guidelines.

“As the commission prepares to update toll equipment in the lanes with more modern hardware and software, we are incorporating new federal signage standards,” Shuey said. “While the removal of signals may cause some initial confusion, it will soon become the norm as our customers adjust to the change.”

Workers started decommissioning signals Friday at the Harrisburg West Interchange (Exit 242). The entire 550-mile system is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

At "E-ZPass Only" interchanges in the Philadelphia suburbs and the Harrisburg area, drivers will see light stations wrapped in yellow plastic.

Motorists are reminded to continue traveling through E-ZPass lanes at the posted speed limits.

OLI: Grade-crossing fatalities rose 13.7 percent in 2016

<http://www.progressiverailroading.com> – 3/22/2017

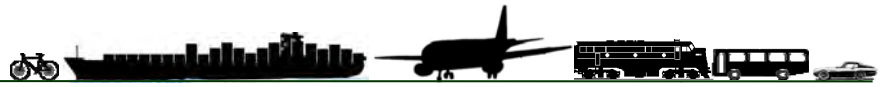
The number of vehicle-train collisions at U.S. railroad crossings fell 2.4 percent in 2016, but the number of fatalities increased 13.7 percent compared with 2015, Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI) announced yesterday.

Also, the number of deaths due to trespassing on train tracks rose 12.8 percent last year compared with 2015, OLI President and Chief Executive Officer Bonnie Murphy said, citing preliminary statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Office of Safety Analysis.

In 2016, U.S. crossing collisions fell to 2,025 from 2,075 in 2015; crossing-related fatalities rose to 265 from 233; and crossing injuries dropped 22.7 percent to 798 from 1,032, according to an OLI press release.

Trespass deaths and injuries climbed to 994 in 2016 from 868 in 2015; trespass deaths rose to 511 from 453; and trespass injuries grew to 483 from 415.

States with the most crossing collisions in 2016 were Texas, California, Illinois, Indiana and Georgia. States with the most trespasser casualties (deaths and injuries



combined) in 2016 were California, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

"While we are encouraged to see highway-rail crossing collisions and injuries continuing their downward trend, we are very concerned about the increase in crossing deaths, trespass deaths and injuries," said Murphy.

OLI is working with the FRA, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration — along with freight, passenger and commuter railroads and other community partners — "to give Americans important information on how to keep themselves, their friends and their families safe near tracks and trains," she added.

Those efforts will include the first U.S. Rail Safety Week, which will be Sept. 24-30.

"The Federal Railroad Administration shares a concern about increasing trespass deaths and injuries and crossing fatalities in 2016," said Karl Alexy, director of FRA's Office of Safety Analysis. "We will continue to address these safety challenges, working with Operation Lifesaver and all our partners and stakeholders, until we reach our ultimate goal of preventing these tragedies."

SEPTA taps Chinese rail-car maker for 45 new coaches

<http://www.progressiverailroading.com> – 3/27/17

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) late last week approved a \$137 million contract with CRRC MA Corp. for 45 multilevel commuter-rail coaches.

The contract includes an option to buy 10 additional coaches, according to a SEPTA press release.

CRRC MA Corp. is a subsidiary of China Railway Rolling Stock Corp. (CRRC). The new units will be built primarily at the company's main U.S. manufacturing plant in Springfield, Mass.

The coaches will meet "Buy America" requirements, with 60 percent or more of the parts, labor and fabrication originating in the United States, according to SEPTA. The units will be paired with SEPTA's new electric locomotives, which are being built by Siemens.

The agency evaluated proposals from CRRC, Bombardier and Hyundai Rotem; CRRC's bid was the lowest of the three.

The fleet upgrades play a key role in advancing SEPTA's Regional Rail service improvement program, said SEPTA General Manager Jeffrey Knueppel.

"SEPTA's Regional Rail ridership has grown by more than 50 percent over the last 15 years," Knueppel said. "The addition of new multilevel coaches and electric locomotives are critical for expanding capacity and meeting the needs of our riders."

CRRC also is building rail cars for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the Chicago Transit Authority

and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

PennDOT Intelligent Transportation System Will 'Learn' Over Time to Improve Traffic Flow

<http://www.govtech.com> – 3/27/2017

(TNS) -- Anybody sitting in McKnight Road traffic who shouts for the "stupid" red light to change will need to find a more accurate expletive.

New traffic signals recently installed along the busy corridor are actually pretty smart.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently completed installation of a \$1.35 million Intelligent Transportation System at nine intersections along the three-mile stretch between Evergreen Road in Ross and Peebles Road in McCandless.

The system along McKnight will be integrated into the Western Regional Transportation Management Center to allow for "real-time monitoring, management and event decision making to improve highway efficiency, safety, mobility, and travel time reliability through the corridor," according to a news release from the agency.

The project also includes the use of a closed-circuit TV monitoring system and "dynamic message" signs at key intersections.

"Over the next several weeks, the system's software will detect and gather information about traffic patterns throughout the day," said Steve Cowan, spokesman for PennDOT's District 11 office. "Once the patterns have been identified, the timing of the signals will automatically change to help improve the flow of traffic."

1 in 4 drivers who crashed were using phone just before, study finds

<http://www.bostonglobe.com> 4/3/2017

About one in four drivers involved in a crash in recent months around the country were using a smartphone within one minute before the accident occurred, according to a new analysis of data from hundreds of thousands of drivers' phones.

"I find that to be pretty scary," said Sam Madden, founder and chief scientist at Cambridge Mobile Telematics, which announced its findings Monday.

"It may not be a super surprising, but still disturbing, trend: That people are using their phones a lot, and that's playing a role in the accidents," added Madden, who is also a computer science professor at MIT.

The company's research also found that significant phone distraction occurred on nearly one-third of trips, regardless of whether they ended in an accident, and that significant distraction lasting more than one minute occurred on about one in every 10 trips.



On trips in which significant phone distraction occurred, 29 percent of the distraction occurred at speeds over 56 miles per hour.

“One of the things that’s so frightening about distraction is you think you’re just looking down for a second, but when you do that you lose the awareness of cars and everything else around you, and after you look back up it takes quite a few seconds to reorient yourself,” Madden said.

The findings, released to coincide with the start of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, come on the heels of national studies that say phone distraction is a significant factor behind why roads have become increasingly deadly in recent years for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

The company collected the data over about the past 18 months — and tracked about 1,000 accidents in the process — via software it developed that is installed on a few hundred thousand smartphones nationwide, Madden said.

Some drivers download the software directly from the company, in the form of a smartphone app called DriveWell.

For this full story, go to <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/04/03/drivers-who-crashed-were-using-phone-just-before-study-finds/2DAO6rdvSTokFWQlfwJmiP/story.html>



New Jersey targets distracted drivers after rise in deaths

By The Associated Press 04/06/17

TRENTON >> New Jersey will become one of the first states in the nation to send warning letters to distracted drivers.

Attorney General Christopher Porrino on Thursday announced the warning letters as part of an initiative to expand the use of the #77 phone alert system in the wake of an 8 percent increase in traffic deaths last year. Previously, motorists called the number to report aggressive drivers. Now they can use it to report motorists using handheld cellphones, not paying attention or those who are impaired.

Callers are urged to give the make, model and license plate of the vehicle. Warning letters may be mailed to the vehicle’s owner.

Traffic deaths in New Jersey rose from 562 in 2015 to 604 in 2016, mainly because of distracted driving.





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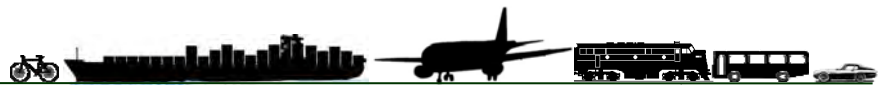
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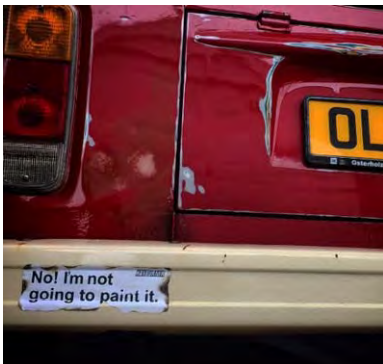
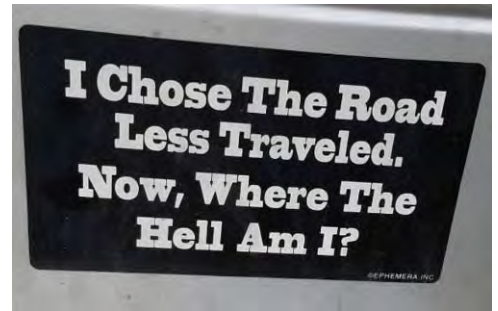
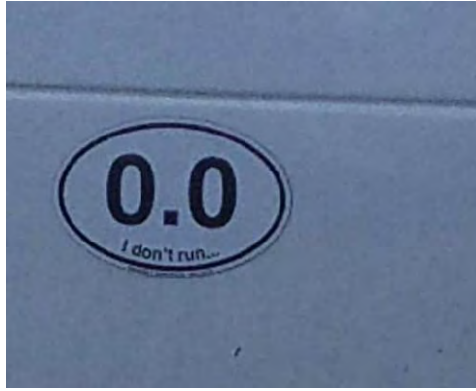
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INTERCONNECT ENDINGS

Funny, funny bumper stickers!!!!



Respectfully submitted,


Dean J. Kaiser, P.E., PTOE
2017 MASITE Newsletter Editor

MASITE Interconnect Info – Please feel free to comment liberally on this and any issue of the Interconnect. All news and noteworthy items are still greatly appreciated in the next couple of months as well as information relating to sponsor companies, organizations, MASITE members and other Section planned activities. The deadline for the July 2017 issue will be July 21st.