

## 2024 ITE Canada Section Report – Southwestern Ontario Section

### Regular Meetings (10 points)

Our section executive meets monthly, with most meetings occurring virtually. In May 2024, we did meet and hold our executive meeting in-person, meeting in Woodstock, Ontario.

In 2024, we held four events, noted below.

1	2024-04-10	Windsor (Charter bus started in Waterloo with pickup in London)	Various staff, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority	Sold out Charter bus tour originating in Waterloo, picking up attendees in London and Windsor. Included a perimeter bus tour on the Canadian side of the under-construction Gordie Howe International Bridge as well as buffet dinner/network at a nearby restaurant in Windsor.
2	2024-09-28	Elmira/West Montrose	Informal, Various ITE Section Members	Recreational Bike Ride along portion of Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail, with ride starting/ending in Elmira. Ride ended with networking/drinks at local brew-pub in Elmira.
3	2024-10-17	London	Jennie Dann, Ardian Spahiu, Andrea Hamilton, City of London	On-site Tour of first BRT platform constructed in London. Follow-up presentation and social event at local entertainment centre for networking/food/drinks.
4	2024-11-28	London	Patrick Anckaert, City of St. Thomas & Martin Van Haren, RVA Associates Inc.	AGM for ITE Southwestern Ontario Section; project summary/update on Volkswagen battery plant in St. Thomas included revised road network changes and road widening needed to support this future development.

In April 2024, we hosted the likely largest non-conference event in the Section's history, which was a great success and we heard very positive feedback on. Our bike ride in September resulted in lower attendance than we had hoped with only four participants. However, both London events in Fall 2024 were well attended and overall we heard positive feedback. A number of our section executives were able to be present at the Hamilton 2024 national conference, where we were awarded the Section Momentum Award for the first time in the Section's history. Pedram (president of ITE Canada) was present at our AGM and was able to provide an update from both the District and ITE International.

### **Student/Younger Member Support (15 points)**

- We continue to have three student chapters within our section, with student chapters present at the University of Windsor, Western University and the University of Waterloo.
- In February 2024, ITE SW Ontario supported the 2024 Tri-Section Student Presentation competition, in partnership with ITE Hamilton and ITE Toronto section, hosted by the Toronto section. As part of that support, our President reviewed abstracts for the presentations.
- In September 2024, our University of Waterloo Student Chapter was able to celebrate its 50th anniversary and our President and Vice-President were both available to attend/support the event.
- In November 2024, our Secretary was a guest speaker at an ITE University of Waterloo Student Chapter event and covered multi-resolution and transportation simulation modeling.
- Chris Bachmann continued to act as our student liaison to the executive. Chris has also been the faculty advisor for the Waterloo student chapter. Chris hosted periodic meetings with the student presidents to keep in touch with their progress, successes, and areas of concern.
- Aim to cross-post student chapter events on section's LinkedIn page.
- Our President was a guest speaker at the Principles of Transportation Engineering course at Western University in November 2024, discussing the initiatives of ITE especially in Southwestern Ontario as well as relevant transportation projects, activities, careers, etc.
- Separate from Chris Bachmann's work, we have continued to make and maintain contact with our student chapter presidents to offer our experience and advice, if they choose to ask.

### **Application of Technical Knowledge (10 points)**

Presentation and review of transportation related developments/changes as described above. This included a tour of one of the largest infrastructure projects happening today (Gordie Howe Bridge), a presentation on one of the largest development projects happening today (Volkswagen Battery Plant in St. Thomas) and an on-site walkthrough of one of London's largest capital projects in its history (BRT bus stop platform). Our Vice President assisted the 2024 Hamilton Conference Technical Committee by reviewing/approving abstracts for the Technical Sessions.

### **Networking Events (10 points)**

All of our events typically include a networking component, with either a meal, appetizers and/or drinks being available and time for attendees to connect/network. Our Guelph to Goderich rail trade ride was primarily set up for networking both on the trail and at the venue post-ride. We also provided printed name badges at our AGM so all attendees would know the names of other attendees, and aim to provide this at future events, particularly as all our events registration happens online, in advance of the event (through ITE Canada website).

### **K-12 STEM Outreach (10 points)**

No STEM activities in 2024.

### **New Member Recruitment (10 points)**

As of early 2025, we had 70 active members, which included 14 students. As of the time of writing this report, a number of members (particularly students) have not yet renewed their membership. In December 2024, our section sent out a renewal reminder to all members with expiring membership, which has helped increase renewals to a certain degree.

### **Diversity and Inclusion (5 points)**

Although we have not done any targeted events, we have maintained an open and welcoming environment for everyone. When considering the demographics of our attendees, our student membership in particular is reflective of the diverse demographics at the post-secondary schools our student chapters represent. Most of our events are partially or fully subsidized by the sections to reduce costs for our attendees, with higher discounts provided to our student members. In addition, our Gordie Howe Bus Tour provided a bus that provided access to our members across the section areas.

### **Training/Professional Development (5 points)**

Given the technical content included in our tours and events this year, most events were eligible for PDH, as confirmed by ITE International. PDH was offered for the Gordie Howe Bridge Tour, the London BRT Bus Stop On-Site Review and our 2024 AGM.

### **Field Trips/Technical Tours (5 points)**

Two of the four events/meetings our Section ran this year were technical on-site tours, and our April event provided a charter bus that allowed attendees to come from a large area within our section (i.e., Kitchener/Waterloo, London, and Windsor). Our Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail tour was an on-site tour between Elmira and West Montrose.

### **Service Projects (5 points)**

We did not pursue any service projects in 2024

### **Funding Support (5 points)**

Due to a healthy bank balance, our section is extremely fortunate to conduct member affairs and events without needing to seek outside funding at this time. Our events typically included a subsidy for all attendees to help reduce costs throughout the year. None of our events were sponsored.

### **LeadershipITE (5 points)**

Our Section had the distinction of having two members attend *LeadershipITE*'s class of 2024 and we gave each of our candidates a grant of \$1,000.00 CDN to assist with expenses for *LeadershipITE* obligations. We have not had any recent alumni from *LeadershipITE*. One attendee is the current District Director of ITE Canada; if her regular and ongoing commitments allow, we would welcome her

involvement with the executive again. The other attendee has not yet been involved with the Section executive.

One of our members is attending the LeadershipITE's class of 2025. This member declined an offer of financial support from the Section.

### **Advocacy (5 points)**

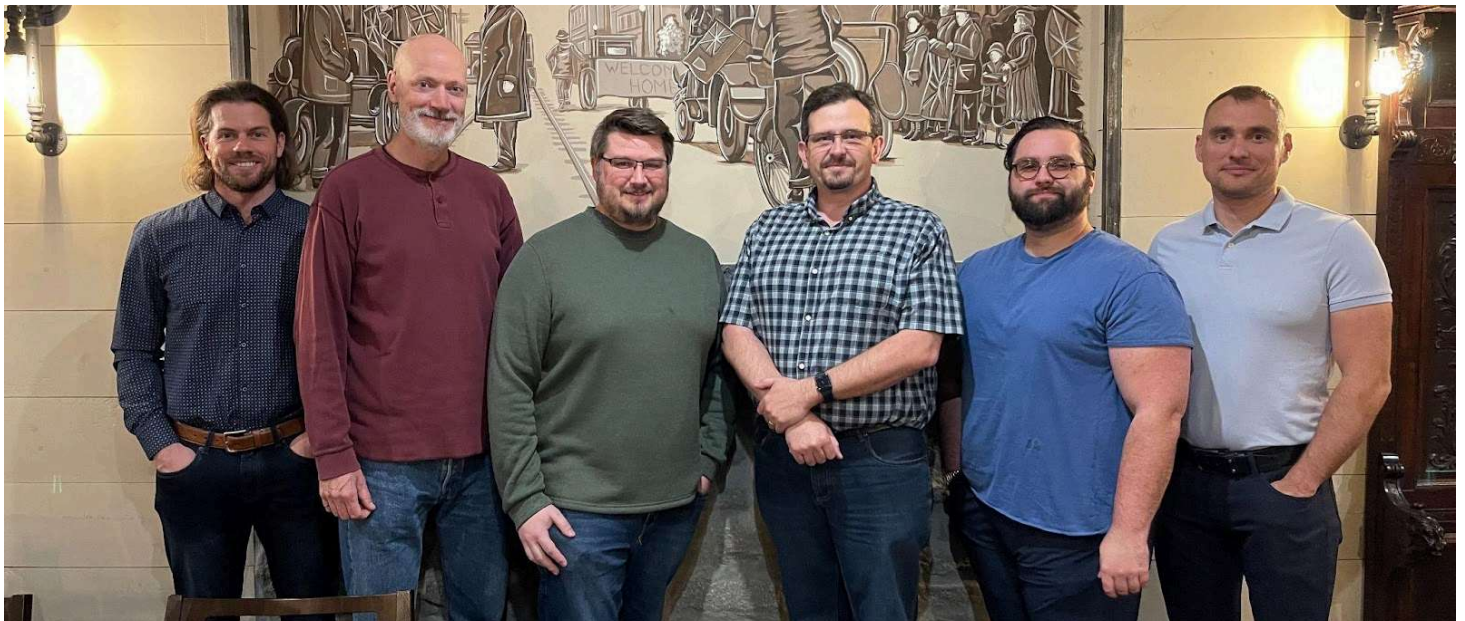
We did not engage in any specific advocacy efforts in 2024, although we briefly discussed potentially supporting an advocacy matter from one of the local student chapters.

The section has tentatively been awarded the 2028 national conference, with the conference being hosted in the City of London for the first time.

We continue to grow and expand our LinkedIn page to better market our events and share events by our student chapters and/or other nearby Sections (ITE Hamilton and/or ITE Michigan Section).

Our section was awarded the 2024 Section Momentum Award by ITE Canada for the first time in its history.

## **PHOTOS**



2024 Section Executive (L-R): Chris Bachmann, Student Liaison; Doug MacRae, Past President; Tim Kooistra, Vice President; Jeff Jongsma, President; Adam Morrison, Secretary; Paul Yanchuk, Treasurer



2025 Section Executive (L-R): Tim Kooistra, President; Jeff Jongsma, Past-President; Chris Bachmann, Student Liaison; Mavjot Kaur, Secretary; Adam Morrison, Vice-President; Ian Lindley, Treasurer.



2024 AGM Attendees



BRT Platform Tour in London, Ontario



Goderich to Guelph Trail Ride



Section Momentum Award at 2024 Annual Conference in Hamilton



Gordie Howe Bridge Tour Attendees