

Transportation Professional Certification Board, Inc.

Affiliated with the Institute of Transportation Engineers

Newsletter: March 31, 2015

Meet the 2015 TPCB Board of Direction

The [Transportation Professional Certification Board, Inc.](#) is a non-profit 501c3 organization and autonomous certification body affiliated with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The TPCB Board of Direction is comprised of 11 volunteer directors. Biographical information for the 2015 directors are now posted on the TPCB website [here](#).

Board members are either elected or appointed to a 2- or 3-year term, with a new Vice Chair position implemented in 2015 to better facilitate the board's leadership transition and continuity.

ITE staff provide support for TPCB activities separately from their ITE duties, with Thomas W. Brahms serving as TPCB Executive Director and CEO. This year, the TPCB will secure a new Executive Director upon Tom's retirement at the end of 2015. Tom has served ITE for 42 years and provided 16 years of service to TPCB since its inception.

Learn More About TPCB

TPCB board members will staff a booth at the upcoming [ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit](#) in Hollywood, FL, USA, taking place August 2-5, 2015. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask certification questions and invite colleagues to learn more about the Professional Traffic Operations Engineer® (PTOE) and Professional Transportation Planner® (PTP) certification programs. Unable to attend? Send inquiries to certification@tpcb.org.



Actions from the TPCB 2013 Survey

The TPCB board of directors thanks everyone who responded to the 2013 Survey of Current and Potential Certificants. Several actions are underway as a result of the survey, with a summary of the results available [here](#). There were three main topics identified for follow-up discussion and action based upon the survey results:

1. Certification Costs

The cost of taking and renewing PTOE and PTP certifications is based upon the break-even cost required to provide and maintain the certifications. The TPCB is a non-profit 501c3 organization led by a volunteer board of direction.

2. The Value of Certificates Versus Certifications

While often spoken about interchangeably, certificates and certifications have distinct differences. The article, "Certificate" vs. "Certification" By Adam Andrews, CIEC , available [here](#), provides an overview of these differences. More information on this topic will be provided in terms of the TPCB certification programs in upcoming TPCB newsletter articles.

3. Safety Certification

Nearly 80 percent of the survey respondents indicated interest in obtaining certification in transportation safety. The TPCB Board of Direction has taken action to pursue safety certification development as a result.

What Does Certification Mean to You?

The TPCB continues to invite certificants to share success stories based on experiences with the PTOE and PTP certification programs. Below are recent responses:

"My employer, AECOM, encourages full-time employees to increase their skills and knowledge. After obtaining prior approval from our office manager, we are reimbursed for certification exams and materials. The company emphasizes the number of PTOEs it employs in its letters of interest when responding to requests for proposals. We believe this distinction helps our team get selected for projects. Upon obtaining my PTOE, I was promoted to Civil Traffic Engineer 2."

Burak Konuk, P.E., PTOE, MBA
Transportation Engineer, Department of Traffic & ITS
AECOM

"As owners of Digital Engineering (DE), we encourage our employees to pursue advanced degrees, certifications, and graduate certificates by paying all fees and costs associated with professional advancement. This employee enrichment program encouraged staff in our transportation engineering and planning department to share with us their desire to become certified as Professional Traffic Operations Engineers and as a Professional Transportation Planner.

In the large yet connected world of engineering consultants, DE strives to set itself apart, and staff must continually enhance themselves to offer high quality services to our clients. We believe that the PTOE and PTP designations offer many of our governmental clients an expertise in the field of traffic and transportation engineering and planning. These designations further avail DE to multiple clients that require this expertise.

DE would like to acknowledge our two PTOEs, Frank Liang, P.E., PTOE and David LeBreton, P.E., PTOE, as well as our PTP, Ross Liner, AICP, PTP."

Kurt M. Evans, P.E., FITE

Thomas Hickey, P.E.

Digital Engineering (DE)

The TPCB newsletter will continue to share success stories and encourages certificants to spread the word on how certification has made a difference in their careers. Send your stories to certification@tpcb.org.

Spread the Word on 2015 Certification Exams

Professionals are more likely to pursue certification when they are encouraged by a colleague or mentor. **The application deadline for exams to be taken in the June 1 to 28, 2014 timeframe is April 15, 2015.** Complete exam information is available at www.tpcb.org/examschedule.asp. Application forms are available [here](#). For a list of available exam cities please click [here](#).

ITE Receives Approval as Continuing Professional Development Sponsor/Provider by LAPELS

On January 26, 2015, ITE was approved as a continuing professional development sponsor/provider by the Louisiana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (LAPELS). Engineers in Louisiana can review the LAPELS website for a list of ITE courses that provide PDHs which will most likely be accepted for state P.E. license renewal. The Louisiana Professional Engineers and Surveying Board is currently renewing firms, individual professional licenses, and intern certifications with licenses scheduled to expire on March 31, 2015.

RFPs Requiring PTOE and PTP Certification

PTOE and PTP certifications may not only provide an edge for request for proposal (RFP) respondents; these certifications may be required for interested firms to apply. For example:

The Town of Comox, British Columbia, USA includes a qualification requirement in its requests for proposals (RFPs) that states, "As a minimum the project is to be led by a professional engineer who is also certified as a professional transportation operating engineer."

Does your city, state, or local jurisdiction require PTOE or PTP certification for projects? Let us know at certification@tpcb.org. Collected responses will help provide examples for others looking to implement PTOE and PTP certification as a standard requirement.

The Transportation Professional Certification Board Inc. (TPCB), an autonomous certification body affiliated with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, offers the following certification programs: Professional Traffic Operations Engineer® (PTOE) and Professional Transportation Planner® (PTP). For more information, visit www.tpcb.org.

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