



**ALASKA SECTION
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS
DISTRICT 6**

**MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 27, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER: President **Laurie Kozisek** began the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: 36 members and guests were present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: 1) None.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) **Laurie Kozisek** reminded the membership that the Alaska Section ITE has a web site and that the web site contains meeting minutes and guest speaker schedule. The web site address is <http://communitynews.adn.com/ite> and is also located at the bottom of the meeting announcements.
2) **Melissa Mormillo** announced that the UAA Student ASCE Chapter is looking for monetary donations to help send students to compete in the steel bridge competition in Colorado.
3) Laurie announced that the Alaska ITE Section is seeking nominations for Secretary. Nominees need to be a current member.

PRESENTATION: “**Design, Construction, and Operational Aspects of Roundabouts on Dowling Road at the Seward Highway Interchange**” by **Joel Stout, P.E.** Mr. Stout has worked for Lounsbury and Associates for the past 14 years. He received his Civil Engineering degree from UAA and was the ITE Alaska Section 2002 nominee for Engineer of the Year.

The Dowling Road and Seward Highway Interchange roundabout is the first multi-lane roundabout in Alaska. The notion of using roundabouts in Alaska was brought up by Ourston and Doctors in 1998. Constructing the roundabout alternative at Dowling and Seward Highway resulted in savings of over \$1 million dollars in comparison to the bridge widening/traffic signals alternative.

Mr. Stout spoke about his trip to research the Vail and Avon roundabouts in Colorado. The safety records for the 11 Colorado roundabouts show that the injury accident rate declined by 86%. After a roundabout is first constructed, research has shown that accident rates may stay the same or increase in the first 12-24 months of operation. Afterwards, accident rates tend to decrease.

Public Involvement Issues

Roundabouts are frequently confused with traffic circles. One roundabout in Clearwater, FL had 500 accidents in the first year of operation. The roundabout did solve their queuing problem. Although designed to handle 32,00 vehicles per day, on one spring break day, 56,000 vehicles and 6,000 pedestrians past through the roundabout.

To combat negative publicity, the Dowling Road project launched an aggressive PR campaign that consisted of: a. Using a web site based animated video; b. Media outreach; c. Local government coordination; d. Radio spots; and e. Newspaper ads.

ADDED NOTES: Free Lunch: Congratulations to **Pat Butler**, winner of the free lunch drawing at today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: President **Laurie Kozisek** adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.