

**BYLAWS FOR GREATER HOUSTON AREA SECTION  
(Draft January 2009)**

**ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1.1 - The name of this organization shall be the Greater Houston Area Section of District 9, Texas District, of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Section 1.2 - The purpose of the Greater Houston Area Section shall be to enable engineers and other professionals with knowledge and competence in transportation and traffic engineering to contribute individually and collectively toward meeting human needs for personal mobility, goods movement and safety, and to promote professional development, public awareness, exchange of professional information, and maintenance of a central point of reference and action.

Section 1.3 - The Section shall:

- 1) Advance the objectives of the Institute.
- 2) Foster closer association of Institute Members.
- 3) Encourage Members to prepare or discuss papers.
- 4) Prepare suggestions on matters of policy to the Institute Board of Direction.
- 5) Consider local transportation and traffic engineering issues.
- 6) Cooperate with other local engineering and other professional groups on matters of common interest.
- 7) Present the transportation and traffic engineering point of view consistent with established Institute policies.
- 8) Encourage the introduction of transportation and traffic engineering courses in colleges, universities and technical schools in the Section.

**ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2.1 - Membership of the Section shall consist of those Institute Members as specified in the Charter of the Section.

Section 2.2 - Persons who fall into one of the following classifications may be affiliated with the Section as Section Affiliates:

- (a) Professional/Technical Section Affiliate
  - Engineers in the transportation and traffic profession who lack sufficient experience for Institute membership or who have yet to apply for such membership; or,
  - Persons engaged in transportation and traffic engineering support work.
  - Professionals in related fields who by virtue of stature or official position are in a position to contribute to the work of transportation and traffic engineers.
- (b) Commercial Section Affiliate
  - Persons engaged in commerce or industry who come into frequent contact with transportation and traffic engineers and who thus have an interest in the profession and are in a position to work with and assist transportation and traffic engineers; provided, however, that the total

number of Section Affiliates of this classification shall not exceed 50 percent of the total number of Institute Members in the Section.

(c) Life Section Affiliate

- Retired Section Affiliates of all classifications meeting the following requirements:
- 65 years or older and 25 years of services as a dues paying Affiliate of the Section; or,
- 55 years or older and retired from previous full-time employment and have not more than \$10,000 annual income from transportation engineering relating service and/or product sale.

Section 2.3 - An applicant for the grade of Section Affiliate shall submit an application on a form approved by the Officers. This form shall contain a statement of the applicant's professional training and experience and list the names of three references to whom the applicant is personally and professionally known. All such references shall be affiliated with TexITE and at least one shall be a voting member of the Institute.

Section 2.4 - The Section Officers shall process the applications for any type of Section Affiliate.

Section 2.5 - Election of Section Affiliates shall be by a majority vote of the Officers of the Section.

Section 2.6 - Any Institute Member or any Section Affiliate may resign from the Section.

Section 2.7 - Any Institute member whose Institute membership has been forfeited shall automatically forfeit membership in the Section. Said person may make a request for Section Affiliate status along with supporting justification or reason to the Section Officers. Such downgrading from Member to Section Affiliate will require a majority vote of the Officers. Any Member of the Institute who is placed on inactive status by the Institute Board of Direction may also be placed on inactive status at the Section level at the discretion of the Section Officers.

Section 2.8 - Any Section Affiliate who, by reason of any change in occupation or profession, shall cease to be in contact regularly and frequently with transportation and traffic engineers or the transportation and traffic engineering profession shall forfeit affiliation with the Section without prejudice.

Section 2.9 - The Section officers shall have a periodic review made of the qualifications of Section Affiliates. Any Section Affiliate meeting minimum qualifications for Institute membership shall be encouraged to apply for such membership.

Section 2.10 - Any Section Affiliate who advertises, uses or attempts to use identification with the Section in any manner whatsoever with intent to derive personal gain therefrom shall forfeit affiliation with the Section.

Section 2.11 - The Officers of the Section shall consider the expulsion of any Section Affiliate (a) upon information coming to their notice, or (b) upon the written request of five or

more members, and for the cause set forth, a person identified as Section Affiliate may be expelled. The Section officers shall thereupon follow the procedure set forth in the Institute Constitution. In the event such a charge is brought against a Member or Affiliate of the Institute, the Section Officers shall immediately refer the matter to the Institute board of Direction for handling as provided in the Institute Constitution.

### ARTICLE III - FEES, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 3.1 - An Application or entrance fee, not to exceed 50 percent of the annual dues, may be assessed by the Section Officers.

Section 3.2 - Annual Section dues may be established by the Officers. Such dues, if any shall be payable at the beginning of the fiscal year which shall be as determined by the Officers. Dues of new Members and Section Affiliates shall be payable on election. Retired Life Members of the Institute and Life Section Affiliates are exempt from payment of Section dues.

Section 3.3 - Any eligible voter whose Section dues are more than six months in arrears (dating from the beginning of the fiscal year) shall lose the right to vote. Should the dues of any Institute Member or Section Affiliate become one year in arrears, that person's connection with the Section shall be forfeited. The Section Officers, however, may for a cause deemed by them sufficient, extend the time for payment and for the application of these penalties. Unpaid dues shall become an obligation to be paid before the delinquent can be restored to good standing in the Section.

Section 3.4 - Special assessments may be made by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the eligible voters present at any regular meeting or two-thirds of the eligible voters voting on a mail ballot, on-line, or electronic ballot.

### ARTICLE IV - NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECTION REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Section 4.1 - The Officers of the Greater Houston Area Section shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The office of Secretary/Treasurer shall be designated as Vice President-Elect to automatically run for the office of Vice President at the Expiration of the Vice President's term of office. Additionally, the office of Vice President shall be designated as President-Elect to automatically run for the office of President at the Expiration of the President's term of office. Officers shall be elected annually to assume office on January 1st for a term of one year or until a successor takes office. Only members of the Institute of Transportation Engineers shall be eligible to serve as a Section Officer.

#### Section 4.2 - Section Representatives

There shall be one or more Section Representative(s) to represent the Section on the District Board in accordance with the District Charter and Bylaws. The outgoing President shall become Section Representative in those years when the previous Section Representative's term expires. Newly elected Section Representatives shall take office at the beginning of the year following election.

Section 4.3 - The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Section Representative(s), and the living Past President whose term has most recently expired and still resides with the Section, unless such Past President is serving as Section Representative. The Editor of the Section Newsletter shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Board. A majority of the Section Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4.4 - No Member shall occupy the same elective office for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4.5 - In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the unexpired term shall be filled by the Vice President. In the event of a vacancy occurring in any other elective office, the Section Executive Board may appoint a Member to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4.6 – Each year, the Past President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three voting members. The Nominating Committee composed of three or more voting Members of the Institute who are not Officers of the Section. The Nominating Committee shall select two or more candidates for Secretary/Treasurer and one or more for Vice President and President. The chairman of the Nominating Committee shall report its list of nominees to the Secretary/Treasurer before November 30. Consent to hold office must be received for each person nominated by a member of the Nominating Committee.

Section 4.7 - Not later than November 28th of each year, the Secretary/Treasurer shall announce to the membership by meeting announcement, e-mail, electronic message, or posted mail, a list of the candidates nominated by the nominating Committee. Additional nominations for any office may be made by petition, signed by not less than five members. Each such petition shall be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee and must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer not later than December 1. If a member is nominated for more than one office, the Member shall be considered a candidate only for the one office preferred.

Section 4.8 - Elections for officers shall be held at the annual business meeting or by electronic balloting. For electronic balloting, no later than December 3rd each eligible voter shall receive a final ballot, listing the candidates nominated for Officers. Final ballots will be due 1 day prior to the Annual Business Meeting. All ballots returned by eligible voters shall be canvassed before the Annual Business Meeting by a tellers committee consisting of three Institute Members appointed by the presiding Officer. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote, the voting members attending the Annual Section Business Meeting shall choose between the two candidates receiving the highest total votes by means of a secret ballot and the candidate receiving the majority of votes will be elected.

Section 4.9 - The membership, by petition to the Executive Board, may initiate a vote of the eligible voters to determine the removal of any elected officer from current office. The petition must contain the legible signatures of no less than twenty percent (20%) of the eligible voters. The Executive Board shall cause the petition to be validated or invalidated within 30 days and, if validated, shall submit a secret ballot to eligible voters the question: "Shall (name) be removed from the office of (office)?" Should the affirmative carry a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible votes cast, the office shall be declared vacant and the vacancy filled in the manner prescribed in Section 4.5 of these Bylaws.

## ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 5.1 - An Annual Business Meeting shall be held each year in the month of December. Special meetings may be called by the Section Officers. No action affecting the Section shall be taken at any special meeting, however, unless at least 14 days notice concerning the matter has been transmitted to all Members. Such notice may be sent by regular mail, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Section 5.2 - Meeting places shall be determined by the Section Executive Board.

Section 5.3 - A report of the financial condition of the Section shall be made by the Secretary/Treasurer at each meeting. Committee reports and reports by the President may be made at any meeting.

Section 5.4 - Section Meetings may be held at any time not in conflict with District Meetings.

Section 5.5 - The Section Executive Board shall meet at the discretion of the President or upon request of two members of the Section Executive Board.

## ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT

Section 6.1 - The Section Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Section in conformity with the provisions of the District Charter, District Bylaws, Section Charter and Section Bylaws, and the policies of the Institute.

Section 6.2 - The President shall preside at Section meetings and at meetings of the Section Executive Board. However, if the President is unable to do so, the Vice President shall preside at such meetings and discharge the duties of the President. If the Vice President is unable to do so, the Secretary/treasurer, the Immediate Past President, the Section Representative, shall preside at such meetings and discharge the duties of the President, in that order.

Section 6.3 - The President shall be an ex officio Member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Section 6.4 - The President shall appoint the Chairperson and Members of Standing Committees and such special committees as may be desirable. Standing Committees shall include, but not be limited to: Membership, Program, and Technical. The President, with concurrence of the Executive Board, may appoint a Newsletter Editor.

Section 6.5 - The President may appoint an Advisory Council as deemed necessary for the purpose of advising Section Officers on general programs, direction and policies of the Section.

Section 6.6 - The Vice President shall be an ex officio Member of the Technical and Program Committees and shall be responsible for the Technical portions of Section Meetings.

Section 6.7 - The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget for Section operations. Subject to review and concurrence by the Executive Board, the budget shall be presented to the membership for approval at the annual business meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the Membership Committee.

Section 6.8 - The President shall prepare a written annual report and shall submit the report to the District Board at least two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Institute. The report shall include a summary of the Section's activities for the previous year and a roster of the Section's active membership showing grade and type of each member.

Section 6.9 - The following functions and activities may be undertaken by the Section: (1) Technical meetings, exhibits, tours, research and projects; (2) Training programs; (3) Social events; (4) Section newsletter; and (5) District newsletter input.

Section 6.10 - The following activities are not permitted: (1) Any activity or function that would be in violation of Section or District charter, District or Section bylaws, District or Section policy, or Institute Constitution or policy; or (2) Any activity which might compromise the existing or potential tax-exempt status of the Institute, District, or Section.

## ARTICLE VII - VOTING AND VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Section 7.1 - Voting for Section Officers, for Section Representative(s) and for amendments to these Bylaws, and for other matters which affect the relationship of the Section to the Institute shall be by voice vote or secret ballot.

Section 7.2 - When such a secret ballot is required, ballots shall be provided to all eligible voters, On-line or electronic balloting shall be considered as an acceptable alternative for voting. The choice of voting ballots shall be determined by the current Section Officers at the time of the ballot. If electronic or on-line ballots are utilized, printed ballots must still be made available for individual voting members without electronic or on-line access and submitted to a Section Officer. The electronic on-line balloting shall follow provisions in Section 7.4. The tellers committee will compile the results of all the ballots cast and returned via all methods utilized.

Section 7.3 - Any Member of the Institute in good standing, excluding Student Member, shall have voting privileges in the Section.

Section 7.4 - The following provisions shall govern on-line or electronic ballots. Access to the on-line ballot shall be secured by user login name and password. The web based system shall insure that a member can only cast one on-line ballot.

Section 7.5- Section Affiliates will be afforded all rights and benefits of the Section except for holding elective office and the voting privilege.

## ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 8.1- Proposals to amend these Bylaws or to petition amendments to the Charter may be made by resolution of the Officers of the Section or by written petitions signed by at least five (5) voting Members.

Section 8.2 - Proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be announced to the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting or submitted by e-mail or electronic message to the membership and shall be on the order of business of the next regular meeting occurring not less than 30 days subsequently. Such amendments may be amended by majority vote of the meeting in any manner pertinent to the original amendment. The amendments, as originally proposed or as amended at this meeting, shall be submitted as prescribed in Article VII, Section 7.2 of these Bylaws within 30 days of the meeting and canvassed not less than 30 nor more than 45 days following such submission by three tellers appointed by the President.

Section 8.3 - An affirmative voice vote or vote of two-thirds of all ballots cast shall be necessary to the adoption of any amendments to the Bylaws.

Section 8.4 - Amendments to the Bylaws so adopted shall take effect when approved by the District Board, as provided in the Charter.