



**Vishal S. Kakkad, PE PTOE**

**County Traffic Engineer**

**Manatee County Public Works Department**

**Candidate Statement:**

It is my honor and privilege to be nominated as your 2018 District 10/FSITE Treasurer candidate. I look forward to serving our excellent organization in furthering the purpose and growth of our profession. I am fortunate enough to be presented with this opportunity and am committed to the time and effort required to serve on the Board in collaboration with a very dedicated group of professionals.

ITE has been an integral part of my over 13 years in the traffic and transportation engineering profession; both in the private and public sectors. I was first introduced to ITE as a student while pursuing my graduate studies at the University of Florida. Over the past several years, I have been active in various roles with the FSITE ranging from Student Poster Competition Judge, Speaker, Moderator, Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) assistance to being the Chair for the Student Traffic Bowl Committee during the 2017 Summer Meeting. I have had the pleasure to work alongside and interact with a very committed and awesome group of professionals throughout these years.

If you have attended any of the District's meetings over the past five years, then you will agree that our Board has worked very hard to bring "value" to the meetings beyond the excellent technical program. There have been innovative ideas, such as technical & multi-modal tours and early morning recreational activities, which have been well received. In addition, we have moved to the electronic delivery of the FLITE magazine and annual ballot thus reducing the overall fiscal burden and delivering services to the members efficiently. If elected, I plan to find ways to continue to enhance the overall experience for our members and highlight these initiatives to attract new members. I will also expand on our collaboration with other professional organizations such as ITS Florida, WTS and IMSA to facilitate the exchange of ideas between the members beyond hosting the joint meetings. We live in a collaborative world and by leveraging technology, we should be able to enhance our profession as we move towards the exciting future of transportation.

Speaking of the future, I firmly believe that we need to develop tomorrow's professionals and leaders from today's students. To this end, I will promote the recently announced ITE's Mentorship initiative at the state and local level. As an organization, we have a history of encouraging student participation through various activities and scholarships. Let us come together to shape the future of our profession by sharing our experience with them. Something as simple as reviewing their

resume or helping with the preparation for an upcoming job interview will go a long way in starting them on the right path.

I am confident that my professional journey would not have been as rewarding and enriching if not for the Institute and the various opportunities and professionals that I came across along the way. With your support, I look forward to contributing to our profession and continuing the rich legacy of our organization by following the footsteps of those before me to pave a way for those who will follow us.

Please remember to vote, make your voice count!

### **Recent Professional Organization Activities:**

- 2017: Executive Member and District 10 Representative to the ITE's Traffic Engineering Council
- 2017: District 10 Student Traffic Bowl Committee Chair
- 2014 – 2016: Associate Member and Newsletter Contributor for the ITE'S Traffic Engineering Council
- 2014: Reviewer – Traffic Engineering Handbook, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition
- 2013 – Present: ITE Reviewer of Proposed Changes to the MUTCD
- Presenter:
  - 2017 IMSA Technical Conference
  - 2016 NOCoE Webinar – ITE TSM&O Council Best Project Award
  - 2016 District 10/FSITE Annual Meeting
  - 2016 FSITE Summer Meeting
  - 2015 i3 Florida's Transportation Showcase
  - 2013 ITS Florida Technical Conference
- Moderator for FLUTEC Sessions (2015 & 2016)
- 2013: Student Poster Competition Judge (District 10 Annual Meeting)

### **Awards:**

- 2014: Robert L. Hill Jr. FSITE Young Transportation Engineer of the Year
- 2016: ITS Florida Professional of the Year
- 2016: ITE TSM&O Council – Best Project