



CANDIDATE *for* ***District 10/FSITE Secretary***

Melissa Bollo Gross, PE
InNovo, President and Co-Founder

Candidate Statement

My nomination as a candidate for the 2019 FSITE Secretary position is a monumental honor. I sincerely want the opportunity to serve our organization and my fellow members, and if elected, I am completely committed to advancing the mission of the ITE.

My path to transportation engineering was not direct, I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Central Florida (Go Knights!) and was looking for an opportunity to work as systems engineer, a search that led me to traffic engineering. I became a member of ITE when I started my first job as a Traffic Engineer at an A&E firm in Portland, Oregon. At the time I had no idea what a traffic engineer did, but quickly discovered I had found my career in traffic analysis and planning. Being a member of ITE over those first few years provided me the invaluable network of resources, education in the transportation planning and engineering field. Perhaps most important was the opportunity to meet mentors and transportation professionals allowing me to grow as a “plangineer.” While my UCF education was invaluable, all my transportation and planning related training was on the job and the education and networking opportunities provided by ITE was priceless. My career path has taken me through many roles as a transportation engineer, and in 2017, my business partner and I started our transportation technology firm, InNovo Partners.

Considering how instrumental ITE has been to my own professional development, I believe that ITE can and must: continue to advance the education of transportation engineering professionals; contribute to the technical evolution of our field; and continue to support the growth of our future workforce.

If elected as 2019 FSITE Secretary, I pledge to be an active member of the Florida section, while fulfilling the duties of secretary and future positions. I will support the current FSITE board by promoting continued communication between the board and Florida section members, foster participation and membership, and that ITE continue to:

- » promote the research of new methodologies and/or technology in our field
- » educate our members on our quickly evolving industry
- » provide tools for communicating with the public on transportation issues
- » lead, organizing and employ consensus standards within the industry
- » support college chapters of ITE to encourage engineering and urban planning students to join the field of transportation engineering
- » provide mentorship and foster the professional development of our members

Serving on the FSITE board is not only a privilege but also my opportunity to give back to the organization that contributed so much in shaping my career.