

ITE Advocacy Guidelines for Taking a Position

ITE is an international educational and scientific association of transportation professionals who are responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs. ITE facilitates the application of technology and scientific principles to research, planning, functional design, implementation, operation, policy development, and management for any mode of ground transportation. Through its products and services, ITE promotes professional development of its members, advocates, supports and encourages education, stimulates research, develops public awareness programs, and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information.

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is the act of speaking or writing on behalf of or in support of transportation issues, projects, recommendations, transportation safety, laws, or policies for the benefit of the public and system users consistent with ITE and its policies. This also includes advocating for ITE and its members.

Advocacy Guidance

ITE Districts, Sections, and Chapters may take a position on transportation related issues, regulation, and/or legislation if:

- It is in conformance with ITE Policies, and
- There is leadership consensus at the District, Section, or Chapter level.

ITE Districts, Sections, and Chapters shall not:

- Support or oppose any candidate for public office;
- Make a statement regarding any candidate for public office that could in any way be perceived as biased or partisan;
- Spend ITE funds or devote human resources in support of a candidate for public office;
- Exceed IRS section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit limits by “devoting a substantial part” of its activities to influencing legislation (refer to <http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Lobbying>); or
- Violate any federal, provincial, state, territorial, or municipal laws, regulations, or policies with respect to lobbying or political activity by non-profit or non-governmental organizations. Note that ITE Districts, Sections, and Chapters operating outside of the USA may be subject to rules that are different than those provided in these guidelines.

ITE Districts, Sections, and Chapters should:

- Provide objective legislative and regulatory updates;
- Become familiar with ITE Policies and share with members;
- Consider taking a position on issues, regulations, and legislation in conformance with ITE Policies;
- Present pros and cons objectively even when there is no consensus to take a position;
- Provide expert testimony when invited by a legislative or regulatory body;
- Provide transportation-related questionnaires to all candidates running for a position and share results in an objective manner;
- Offer all candidates an opportunity to present on transportation issues in an equal manner; and
- Consult with the Advocacy Committee by posting on the ITE Advocacy Network.

ITE members are encouraged to be advocates and develop working relationships with elected and appointed officials. ITE members can be the liaison between decision-makers and the transportation profession.

The Advocacy Network Library, part of the ITE Community, provides these resources:

- Advocacy Committee Mission Statement
- Advocacy Committee Sample Letters
- Other advocacy presentations, webinars, and resources

ITE HQ and the Advocacy Committee are available to consult regarding these guidelines and on specific advocacy committee issues or positions. For any positions taken, please copy ITE’s CEO at jpaniati@ite.org. Position letters should also be posted on the ITE Advocacy Network.