

2024 COUNCIL IMPACT AWARD

Peter Savolainen, Ph.D., P.E.



ITE—A Community of Transportation Professionals is pleased to announce that **Dr. Peter Savolainen, P.E. (F)**, has been awarded a [2024 Council Impact Award](#). This award recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the transportation industry and the communities they serve. They celebrate excellence across various disciplines, including Complete Streets, Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), Traffic Engineering, Planning, Safety, and Education, as well as recognizing contributions from the Public Agency, Consultants, and Industry Councils.

Dr. Savolainen is honored for his exemplary work in advancing traffic safety programs, innovative contributions in transportation engineering and planning, and his dedication to community and inclusivity. His leadership embodies the core focus of the ITE Council Impact Awards.

Innovation and Leadership. Dr. Savolainen has significantly influenced the field of transportation through his pioneering research and academic leadership. As a professor and researcher, Dr. Savolainen has focused on transportation safety, integrating real-world applications into undergraduate programs, and advancing the practice of transportation engineering. His leadership in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), exemplifies his commitment to innovation. Through this program, he provides students with hands-on research experiences, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to tackle complex transportation challenges.

Dedication to Safety and Community. Dr. Savolainen's work in transportation safety has garnered over \$12.4 million in competitive external funding. His initiatives, such as dynamic speed feedback signs and emergency vehicle alert systems, have had a tangible impact on traffic safety programs and technologies. As an Associate Chair for Graduate Studies at Michigan State University, he has shaped the curriculum to address the evolving needs of the transportation industry, particularly in safety. His collaborative approach has fostered partnerships with government agencies, industry stakeholders, and community organizations, ensuring the practical application of research findings to improve traffic safety and reduce injuries and fatalities.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. A champion of DEI, Dr. Savolainen has implemented recruitment and mentorship strategies to support students from underrepresented groups. His partnerships with minority-serving institutions and mentorship initiatives have broadened the pipeline of diverse talent in transportation. Dr. Savolainen's advocacy for inclusive policies within academic institutions and professional organizations demonstrates his commitment to creating a more equitable environment for all stakeholders.

Visit [here](#) for more information on ITE's Awards Program and to see the other 2024 award recipients.