



# Kaskaskia

Engineering Group, LLC

Where Ordinary People Accomplish Extraordinary Things

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## Kaskaskia Chosen to Test FHWA's New Interchange Safety Analysis Tool (ISAT)

Cori Stanczyk

Last year KEG was given the opportunity to use a new program developed and provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) called the Interchange Safety Analysis Tool (ISAT). This tool was created to better predict crash patterns and the safety of the existing interstate systems. KEG used ISAT as an integral part of the crash analysis for the Access Justification Report (AJR) for a proposed new interchange along Interstate 64 at Rieder Road in St. Clair County, Illinois.

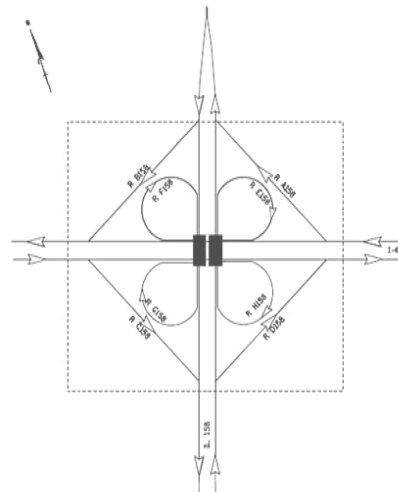
ISAT provides engineers with an automated tool for assessing the safety effects of geometric design and traffic control features at an existing interchange and adjacent roadway networks. ISAT can also be used to predict the safety performance of design alternatives for new interchanges, as in the case of the proposed interchange at Rieder Road. ISAT gives quantifiable results to the engineer by predicting crashes for an entire interchange area and grouping the crashes by interchange element (mainline, ramps, crossroads, etc.), by year and by collision type.

ISAT makes use of previous and ongoing safety research and data from various states in the United States to formulate its statistical models. ISAT allows a user to adjust the default calibration coefficients within the program based on an agency's own crash data to better reflect local safety experience. KEG first ran the crash prediction analyses using

the program's default calibration coefficients; however, the results of these models did not reflect the crash patterns of the project area. Because KEG was the first in Illinois to use this tool, we took on the challenge of modifying the calibration coefficients in order to better simulate the crash patterns of the project area. In order to calibrate the program, FHWA suggests using data from the entire state, but because of the unique nature of the local interstate system in the Metro-East area, KEG again had to explore uncharted waters as we focused on calibrating the program to reflect traffic patterns of the local interstate and interchanges.

The inclusion of a crash prediction model like ISAT as part of a crash analysis helps the engineer make conclusions regarding the safety of existing and proposed interchanges. KEG is proud to be one of

the first to use ISAT for preparation of a crash analysis. It is with new advances such as ISAT that we can all contribute to creating a safer and more efficient roadway system.



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## Delmar Loop Trolley

Mary Lou Goodpaster



In the mid-1800s, horse drawn trolleys were common along city streets throughout America. Horse drawn trolleys have played a key role in the development of the St. Louis region since the first clang, clang along Olive Street in 1859. But in 1888 electrification began to occur, allowing the trolleys to be bigger and carry more people. From 1888 until 1966, electric trolleys (streetcars) crisscrossed the streets of St. Louis. Trolleys were the primary form of transportation in the pre-auto-dominated era.

Streetcar lines were extended to the western edge of St. Louis to get millions of fair goers to the 1904 World's Fair in Forest Park. For a nickel, you could ride all the way across the city. Judy Garland would later memorialize the trolleys and the Fair in the 1944 movie "Meet Me in St. Louis."

Trolley service was an integral part of the success of the Delmar Boulevard commercial district. In the 1960s, the trolley service was discontinued and replaced with a bus service that continues today. As the use of personal vehicles became more

common and citizens moved to the suburbs, the area around Delmar Boulevard fell into decline. However, thanks to private investment and the personal vision of Delmar businessmen, this decline has been substantially reversed.

Today, the Loop is a center of activity offering unique galleries, boutiques, live entertainment, and multicultural cuisine. The Loop, recently named "One of the 10 Great Streets in America" by the American Planning Association, is an established destination for tourists and attracts students from the nearby universities and residents of neighboring communities.

The resurgence of the "Delmar Loop" has led to a reevaluation of trolley service as a way to enhance the unique character of the area. In 1997, the Cities of St. Louis and University City, Bi-State Development Agency, Arts in Transit, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Commercial Development committee, and community and local business leaders began discussing how to better connect the Delmar MetroLink Station with the Loop and surrounding communities while enhancing the visual appeal and pedestrian friendliness of the area. A feasibility study completed in 2000 showed returning trolley service to this area would stimulate economic development, produce greater ridership for public transit and be an attraction to the St. Louis region. A streetcar would better connect Forest Park and The Loop to the Forest Park and Delmar Loop MetroLink Stations. The trolley route would extend from Trinity Avenue to DeBaliviere Avenue along Delmar Boulevard. At DeBaliviere Avenue, the route would turn south toward

Forest Park, where it would loop around the Missouri History Museum. The 2000 feasibility study concluded that the proposed 2.2 mile trolley line would cost approximately \$32 million to build. The cost figure will be updated in 2009.

Citizens for Modern Transit and The Loop Trolley Company, local non-profit organizations, have received a grant and raised private money to restore two trolleys for eventual operation along the 2.2 mile line.

Kaskaskia Engineering Group is assisting CH2M Hill and a consultant team including HDR, with more in-depth planning and preliminary engineering studies of the proposed trolley service. KEG has completed an inventory of environmental features of the project corridor and will assist in evaluating impacts of the proposed construction. If federal funding is to be obtained for the project, this evaluation will serve as the basis for preparation of an environmental assessment. KEG is pleased to be a part of this important project which will enhance the aesthetic, social and economic environment of this historic part of St. Louis.

For more information on the Loop Trolley project, visit [http://www.cmt-stl.org/metrolink/trolley\\_loop.html](http://www.cmt-stl.org/metrolink/trolley_loop.html)

# KEG in the Community

## KEG and Zonta Partnering

Mary Ann Lopez



KEG employee Mallory Bradley models one of the dresses donated for the prom dress sale.

While working in a prominent role at the Buffalo Express newspaper in the early 1900's, at a time when women rarely held leadership positions, playwright and journalist Marian de Forest conceived the idea of a strong network of women in executive positions who would work to take their rightful place in the professions next to men.

By March of 1919, five women organized to achieve this mission and chartered the first Zonta club in Buffalo, New York,

USA. Membership grew rapidly. A confederation of nine Zonta clubs formed with 600 members. These members were among the first generation of college-educated women, the first generation of North American women to vote, and a part of the growing legion of women entering the workforce.

The name Zhonta, meaning honest and trustworthy, is derived from the Lakota (Teton Dakota) language of the Native-American Sioux peoples. The spelling was changed to Zonta and the word's meaning was incorporated into the Zonta emblem.

Zonta International supports women's equal rights through local and global projects that promote economic self-sufficiency, political equality, access to education and health, and the prevention of violence against women. Each year, Zontians dedicate hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours and millions of dollars.

The Belleville Zonta Organization held a prom dress sale at Merle Norman on Frank Scott Pkwy in Shiloh during regular business hours, Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The money from the sale of dresses, shoes and purses went to Zonta's various charities including sponsorship of a SAVE resi-

dence for women and a scholarship to SWIC. Over 35 brand new dresses were donated for the sale. Merle Norman also gave away a free makeover to anyone who purchased a dress!

As a women owned firm with Native American roots, it was a natural partnership for many of our KEG employees to belong to Zonta. Geri E. Boyer, Cori D. Stanczyk, Kelly Simpson, and Samantha Soto were sworn in on March 5, 2009. They continue to recruit new members through their enthusiasm for the organization and ongoing projects. "As a new member of Zonta I am excited and proud that I have made a commitment to help women in need on a local and global scale. I have already seen the local impacts of Zonta by the various fundraisers I have participated in, and have great satisfaction in knowing that a percentage of all our fundraising efforts goes to the international Zonta organization to help women worldwide. Not to mention I am having a blast attending the monthly meetings and getting to know my fellow Zontians. Who knew, a little effort can go such a long way!", commented Cori. Expect to see more from KEG and Zonta!

If you are interested in joining Zonta, or seeing what it

is all about, you are welcome to join everyone at the monthly meetings held the first Thursday of every month at Fischer's in Belleville. For more information, please feel free to contact KEG.

\*Zonta information provided by [www.zontabelleville.org](http://www.zontabelleville.org)

**"As a new member of Zonta I am excited and proud that I have made a commitment to help women in need on a local and global scale."**



## KEG in the Community

# OUR CORE VALUES

FAITH

RESPECT FOR  
INDIVIDUAL

TRUST

STRIVING FOR  
ULTIMATE  
POTENTIAL

GRATITUDE

SERVICE TO  
HUMANITY

PARTNERSHIP

### KEG Food Drive

Gerri E. Boyer



Among the recession's many victims, perhaps none have been more painfully hurt than those who find themselves not only out of work but hungry as well. With the difficult economic times, many families are now relying on the local food pantries to subsidize their grocery bill. Local food pantries are in dire need of support to meet the continually growing needs in their communities.

During the Season of Lent, Kaskaskia Engineering Group collected food and non perishable items for our local food pantries. Just adding a few canned goods to weekly grocery shopping for each employee yielded a substantial amount of food. Another way to give food for the needy with very little expense is to use coupons while shopping. Many food pantries recommend

using [www.thegrocerygame.com](http://www.thegrocerygame.com) and [www.cutouthunger.com](http://www.cutouthunger.com). With the help of these coupon sites, you can buy one free or low-cost item with a coupon each week and donate the item. Donating to area food pantries is an easy way to get involved in serving your local community.

### "Uniquely Me"

Mary Ann Lopez



Girls Scouts participate in KEG's hands on activity "boat float"

Do you ever wonder what makes you unique and what inspired you to choose the career path you chose?

The Girl Scouts of River Bluff Council had the

opportunity to explore their uniqueness and open up the doorway of opportunity to a career path that is unique for them at the "Uniquely Me" event.

KEG employees took part in the event again this year. Last year's hands-on activity, created by Collena Ahrens of KEG, was so popular that they decided

to include hands-on activities at all of the stations this year! This event is one of many events scheduled at Southwestern Illinois College to commemorate Women's History Month.



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## Message From the Board Room

Marsia Geldert-Murphey

At each staff meeting we begin with the question, "What are we grateful for?" I want to begin by saying how grateful we are for all of you, our clients and friends. Gratitude is one of our core values: We want to be honest with ourselves about our values and strive to make them a part of our daily lives here at KEG.

Another core value is striving for ultimate potential. We believe a company needs to provide an environment which encourages each of us and each of our projects to reach our ultimate potential. We have found that living this core value requires a paradigm

shift. In the consulting engineering world, the word "competition" often has a negative or derogatory connotation. A lot of energy and focus is spent on competition; who is the competition, what is the competition doing, how can we overcome the competition? However, we believe our energy and focus need to be on strengths, shared values, and strategic co-opetition in order to reach our ultimate potential.

The concept of co-opetition was explored by Adam Brandenburger and Barry Nalebuff, professors at the Harvard Business School and the Yale School of Management, respectively,

in their book, titled Co-opetition. The concept basically recognizes the rapid changes in technology and its effect on the economy and how successful companies evolve over time and leverage the relationships within their network to create added value and accelerate their success.

This philosophy has been a very exciting and rewarding aspect of our business. We all rely so heavily on our network of contacts, friends and colleagues. It is so much more fulfilling to approach projects from a strategic co-opetition perspective than the old "winner takes all" approach.

## Employee Spotlight

Mary Lou Goodpaster



Bryan Cross was installed as a new Board member at the recent annual conference of the Illinois Lake

Management Association. The purpose of the Lake Management Association is to promote understanding and comprehensive management of lake and watershed ecosystems. Bryan has been active in ILMA for many years, and has presented papers on lake restoration and use of floating wetlands for nutrient re-

duction, shoreline erosion control and habitat enhancement at previous conferences. Bryan is a Senior Biologist in our Taylorville office, focusing on wetlands delineation, permitting and mitigation and environmental restoration.