

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**James J. Valenta, PE, MSCE, FITE**  
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*I am an experienced highway safety engineer with two engineering science degrees and over 44 years' experience in traffic safety research, highway and traffic engineering design, roadway maintenance and traffic data analytics. I have taught at the University of Michigan and the Engineering Society of Detroit. I hold a certificate in Accident Reconstruction for Engineers from Northwestern University's Transportation Institute and I am a Professional Civil Engineer. My litigation experience includes more than 120 personal injury cases in 28 states since 1996.*

*I have significant experience in designing, constructing, and maintaining urban intersections, including the design, construction, operation and maintenance of traffic control devices. When I was employed as a senior traffic engineer at Midwestern Consulting, LLC I was the designated lead design engineer approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation to design intersection improvement projects including application of geometric design standards. When I was employed as Director of Transportation for the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan I was responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of all traffic control devices in that city. I am knowledgeable in the application of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*

**Areas of Expertise:** *Roadway Hydroplaning Analysis, Guardrail, Highway Design, Highway Maintenance Defects, Highway Construction Zone Design and Safety, Highway Construction Contract Administration, Roadside Safety, Traffic Engineering and Intersection Safety, Pedestrian Safety, Accident Reconstruction, Heavy Truck Crashes, Motorcycle Crashes, Highway Rutting Analysis, Site Plan Traffic and Parking Impact Studies, Parking Facility Maintenance, Parking Facility Safety, Traffic Signal Timing and Design.*

**Litigation Summary:** *Retained as an Expert Witness in over 120 lawsuits since 1996. Provided deposition or trial testimony in over 60 lawsuits.*

## **Education:**

*BSCE, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1974*

*MSCE, Municipal Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1981*

## **Professional Licenses:**

*Professional Engineer, Ohio #57376, 1991*

*Professional Engineer, Michigan #33539, 1988*

## **Transportation and Traffic Engineering Experience**

### **2017 to Present:**

*Traffic and Highway Safety Consultant*

### **2015 to 2017:**

*Midwestern Software Solutions, LLC. Senior Project Manager for traffic data analytics including volume, speed, crashes, weigh-in-motion and transportation improvement plan tracking software.*

### **1999 to 2015:**

*Midwestern Consulting, LLC. Senior Project Manager responsible for project management and business development in the municipal and transportation service lines.*

Updated March 31, 2019

**1996 to 1999:**

*HNTB Michigan, Inc. –Detroit Office Manager and Senior Project Manager at HNTB, responsible for design project performance: primarily in the transportation and community planning areas.*

**1991 to 1996:**

*Finkbeiner, Pettis and Strout, Inc. Served as project manager for several development studies and transportation design assignments*

**1987 to 1991:**

*City of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Appointed Director of Transportation for the City of Ann Arbor in September of 1987. Act 51 Street Administrator, responsible for the administration, operations, planning and engineering function of five operations divisions.*

**1977 to 1987:**

*City of Ames, Iowa. Appointed by the City of Ames as a Civil Engineer in January of 1977. Performed general civil engineering design of subdivision plans, utility projects, and performed engineering investigations as assigned by the City Engineer. In July of 1978 promoted to the position of Traffic Engineer, responsible for all traffic engineering, parking operations and signing and signal operations. In 1982 promoted to the position of Transportation Engineer, and became responsible for street maintenance and aviation in addition to duties as Traffic Engineer*

**1976 to 1977:**

*City of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Hired by the City of Cedar Falls in September of 1976 as a Civil Engineer. Performed general civil engineering design and analysis for subdivision and street paving projects. Late 1976 was promoted to the position of Hydraulics Engineer and was responsible for the preparation of storm water drainage improvements including an aggressive program of flood control in two flood-prone residential areas. In early 1976 promoted to the position of Traffic Engineer and was responsible for traffic assessments of new developments and the engineering of the community's traffic signal systems.*

**1974 to 1976:**

*Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Missouri. Assistant Traffic Engineer at the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City. Part of a traffic safety research team investigating access control to arterial highways, the effectiveness of roadside safety improvements and impaired driving performance and safety.*

**Teaching Experience**

**1989 to 1999 - University of Michigan:**

*Appointed as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where teaching responsibilities included development of a course in transportation and traffic engineering. Taught this course to undergraduate candidates in the College of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In 1999 the University offered this course through Michigan State University and in-person instruction was no longer needed.*

**2000 to 2014 – Engineering Society of Detroit**

*Appointed as a course instructor for transportation design and for traffic engineering review courses. The courses were developed to prepare students for the National Board of Engineering Examiner's examination as is required in order to achieve registration as a professional civil engineer. Left this assignment due to expanding expert witness practice commitments.*

**Business Development and Marketing Experience**

**1999 to 2015:**

*Midwestern Consulting, LLC. - Responsible for market development in the municipal and transportation service lines of Midwestern Consulting, LLC. Started a new line of professional services for expert witness litigation defending government transportation agencies, and others.*

**1996 to 1999:**

*HNTB Corporation, Detroit, Michigan - Director of Operations, responsible for preparation of annual business development plan, marketing to potential municipal and public and private sector clients, preparation of letters of interest, proposals and presentations.*

**1991 to 1996:**

*Finkbeiner, Pettis and Strout, Inc., Novi, Michigan - Office Manager from July 1991 to March 1996, responsible for client relationships, marketing and business development to public sector clients, preparation of letters of interest, proposal writing and participating in presentations to gain new clients.*

**Professional Society Memberships:**

*Since 1972 - American Society of Civil Engineers, Life Member*

*Since 1987 – Michigan Section American Society of Civil Engineers*

*Since 1978 - Institute of Transportation Engineers – Fellow Grade and Member of Forensics and Risk Management Council*

*Since 1987 – Michigan Section Institute of Transportation Engineers*

**Professional Development:**

*Temporary Traffic Control Plan Development Workshop, Wayne State University-Transportation Research Group, FHWA Work Zone Safety Grant, February, 2014*

*Advanced Synchro7 and SimTraffic Certificate, April 2008*

*Law School for Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, February 2005*

*Accident Reconstruction Certificate, Northwestern University, June 2000*

*Roadway Design for Elderly Driver, FHWA, February 1999, Troy, Michigan*

*Intelligent Transportation Systems Certificate, Georgia Technological University, 1996*

*ITS Certificate, University of Michigan, 1992*

*Highway Capacity Manual Short Course, FHWA, March 1986*

*Pavement Maintenance and Paving with Asphalt, The Asphalt Institute, November 1985*

*SIGOP III Signal Timing Optimization, FHWA, June 1984*

*Management Theory and Development, University of Iowa, November 1983*

*Microcomputers in Traffic Engineering, FHWA, November 1983*

*Productivity and the Management of Change, Drake University, December 1982*

*Small Urban Area Transportation Planning, FHWA, September 1981*

*Pedestrian and Bicycle Considerations in Urban Areas, Northwestern University, November 1980*

*Design of Urban Streets, FHWA, November 1979*

*Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Iowa State University Engineering Extension, April 1979*

*Traffic Safety in Construction Zones, Iowa State University Engineering Extension, March 1979*

*Positive Guidance, Federal Highway Administration, March 1979*

*Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Improvement Program, FHWA, September 1978*  
*Grievance Administration/Arbitration, US Department of Labor, August 1978*  
*Culvert Design, Iowa State University Engineering Extension, February 1977*  
*Urban Drainage, American Public Works Association Education Foundation, December 1975*

**Publications:**

*Thorson, Bruce and James J. Valenta, Evaluation of the Traffic Operational Effectiveness of Access Control Techniques, Technical Memorandum Number 9, Project DOT-FH-11-8121, Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City Missouri, September 1974.*

*J.A. Azzeh, B.A. Thorson, J.J. Valenta, J.C. Glennon. Techniques for the Control of Direct Access to Arterial Highways FHWA-RD-76-85. Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, August 1975.*

*J.C. Glennon, J.J. Valenta, B.A. Thorson, J.A. Azzeh Technical Guidelines for the Control of Direct Access to Arterial Highways – Volume I General Framework for Implementing Access Control Technique. FHWA-RD-76-86. Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, August 1975.*

*J.C. Glennon, J.J. Valenta, B.A. Thorson, J.A. Azzeh, Technical Guidelines for the Control of Direct Access to Arterial Highways – Volume II Detailed Description of Access Control Techniques”,. FHWA-RD-76-86. Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, August 1975.*

*J.J. Valenta, Coordination of Fully Actuated Traffic Signals without Utilizing Dedicated Interconnect Cable, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1981*

*J.J. Valenta, Using Precoated Aggregates to Extend Seal Coat Project, Iowa State University Engineering Extension Service, Ames, Iowa, 1987*

*J.J. Valenta, Privatization: The Government Perspective, National Parking Association Journal, NPA Washington, DC, May, 1992*

**Presentations:**

*"Time Based Signal Coordination", Annual Traffic Engineering Conference, Champaign, Illinois, October 1982*

*"Land Use Planning and Airport Compatibility", Iowa Airport Conference, Ames, Iowa, April 1983*

*"Microcomputer Applications for Transportation Engineering", Iowa City Manager's Meeting, Ames, Iowa, June 1984*

*"Snow Removal Policy", 3rd Annual Iowa Snow Conference, Ames, Iowa, October 1984*

*"Flashing Operation of Traffic Signals", Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, June 1985*

*"Pre-coated Aggregate Performance", Asphalt Paving Conference, Ames Iowa, February, 1987*

*"Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems", Michigan Parking Association 10th Annual Meeting, Ypsilanti, Michigan September 1991*

*"Privatization of Municipal Services", Michigan Parking Association Conference, Dearborn, Michigan April 1992*

*"Intelligent Vehicle Transportation Systems", American Public Works Association - Ohio Section Spring Conference, Toledo, Ohio, April 1993*

*"Today's University Engineering Graduates - What Are They Looking For?" Institute of Transportation Engineers, Michigan Chapter Annual Spring Meeting, April 1999, Lansing, Michigan.*

*"Responding to Older Drivers Needs" 6th Annual Midwest Leadership Conference, Women in Government, August 1999, Mackinac Island, Michigan.*

*"Establishing Highway Defect Claims - Engineering and Design Issues" The Institute for Continuing Legal Education – University of Michigan, February 2000, MSU Management Education Center, Troy, Michigan.*

*"Township Road Management in the 21st Century" Michigan Township Association, February 2000, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

*"Accident Reconstruction - Roadway and Traffic Design Implications", Michigan Society of Professional Engineers October Meeting, October 2000, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

*"Geographic Information Systems Applications for Traffic Engineering Database Management" Ohio County Engineers Conference, September 2002, Columbus, Ohio.*

*"Traffic Signal Geographic Information System Development - the Tale of Two Counties" ITE District 3 Annual Meeting, April 2003, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.*

*"Traffic Crash Experience at Modern Roundabout Intersections Constructed in Washtenaw County, Michigan" ITE Great Lakes District Meeting, April 20, 2017 Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

*"Traffic Crash Experience at Modern Roundabout Intersections Constructed in Washtenaw County, Michigan" ITE Texas District Meeting, April 21, 2017 Frisco, Texas.*