



# INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

# NEWSLETTER

2013 – 2014, Issue No. 8

May 2014

## President's Message

*Sri Chakravarthy, PE, TE*



ITE election time is upon us. You may have already received your e-ballot for our section. We have two fine candidates that are running for separate positions – Jay Dinkins, P.E., for the Secretary position and Dean Lehman, P.E., for the Treasurer position. If you recall, we have split the secretary/treasurer positions through our recent by-laws revisions to enable us to distribute the workload among Board Members better. Please show your support by voting for these candidates. We also have the Western District elections that will be open early next week and Matt Weir, P.E. (<http://www.mattweirite2014.com/>) and Mark Spenser, P.E. ([http://www.westernite.org/candidates/2014/Mark\\_Spencer.pdf](http://www.westernite.org/candidates/2014/Mark_Spencer.pdf)) are running for the District Secretary/Treasurer positions. I strongly encourage all of you to exercise your ITE vote to the candidate of your choice.

*Save the Date*

**Wednesday, June 18,  
8:30 AM  
Mini Workshop, Annual  
Business, and Joint  
Meeting with ITS SoCal**

***Preparing for today's and  
tomorrow's ITS  
Deployments in California***

Monterey Hill Restaurant  
3700 West Ramona  
Boulevard  
Monterey Park

We had two very successful joint ITE/OCTEC events this month – the Golf Tournament and the Student Presentations Night. As we get closer to the end of our Section's ITE year, preparations for our Annual Business Meeting and Joint Workshop with ITS SoCal on June 18<sup>th</sup> are in full swing. The theme for the workshop would be "**Preparing for today's and tomorrow's ITS Deployments in California**" with presentation topics on Connected and Autonomous Vehicles with speakers ranging from Federal, State, and Local levels. I hope to see many of you at this meeting. Thank you to Iteris, Inc. for their generous support in sponsoring this newsletter. Have a safe Memorial Day weekend.

## Brief Look Ahead

### June – July 2014

- Mon June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wed June 4<sup>th</sup>, West Coast Rail Conference in San Francisco, [www.ushsr.com](http://www.ushsr.com)
- Wed June 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM, Mini Workshop, Annual Business and Joint Meeting with ITS So Cal, Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park
- Sun June 29<sup>th</sup> – Wed July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Western District Annual Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, [www.westernite.org](http://www.westernite.org)

### August 2014

- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> – Wed 13<sup>th</sup>, Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Seattle, [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)

## The "Grow America" Act - David M. Schwegel, PE

On Thursday, May 22, 2014, the Federal Transit Administration ([www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov)) held a webinar on The "Grow America" Act. This act is under consideration by Congress as a sequel to Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21). Grow America is a 4 year, \$302 billion multi-modal transportation funding package to heavily invest in the transportation infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate 100 million additional Americans by 2050. Compare this with *Vision California* ([www.visioncalifornia.org](http://www.visioncalifornia.org)) that provides specific growth scenarios for accommodating 20 million additional Californians by 2050. One Grow America emphasis is transit investment to draw down our nation's \$86 billion annual transit backlog, with heavy emphasis on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Another emphasis is Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation (FAST). Key elements include: (a) Buy America, (b) local employment, (c) high performing metropolitan planning organizations (MPO's) (greater than 200,000 people), (d) rural area assistance (less than 50,000 people) programs, (e) workforce development, (f) public transportation safety, and (g) improved mobility for senior citizens and citizens with disabilities. Go to [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov) starting May 29 for webinar slides and additional information.

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**Opportunities for Newsletter Advertising and Sponsorship**

*Julia Wu, PE, PTOE (Port of Long Beach)*

The monthly newsletter is a perfect venue for advertising your products and services, as it is circulated nine (9) times a year to approximately 800 ITE recipients all over Southern California. Advertisements are priced reasonably for the benefit of our members.

<b>May-14</b>	Iteris
<b>Jun-14</b>	(Available)
<b>Sept-14</b>	(Available)
<b>Oct-14</b>	Minagar Associates

Please contact **Julia Wu** at **(562) 283-7882** or [Julia.wu@polb.com](mailto:Julia.wu@polb.com) to submit an ad and/or sponsor a monthly newsletter or luncheon.

**Career Opportunities**

*Jessica Wohl, RBF Consulting*

RBF Consulting seeks a Transportation Technical Manager in Carlsbad to: (a) manage projects, and (b) grow the transportation practice in Southern California. [www.mbakercorp.com/careers](http://www.mbakercorp.com/careers); IRC47021

RBF Consulting also seeks a Traffic Engineer (Civil Engineer II) in Irvine to prepare traffic and ITS work products. [www.mbakercorp.com/careers](http://www.mbakercorp.com/careers); IRC47647.

**Legislative Analysis**

*Martin Varona, EIT, UCLA*

**SB 1267: Traffic Devices: Nuisance Abatement Costs**

Specific prohibited signs, signal devices, or lights are considered public nuisances. This bill would hold anyone placing or maintaining such a device liable for sign removal and nuisance abatement costs.

**AB 1669: Orange Park Acres: Equestrian Trails**

This bill would authorize Orange County to consider equestrian safety among other safety factors when conducting an engineering and traffic survey within the unincorporated community of Orange Park Acres.

**AB 666: Automated Traffic Enforcement**

This bill would require that violations recorded by automated traffic enforcement technologies be cited as civil violations. Such violations would thereby be subject to civil penalties, administrative processes, and Superior Court appeals, as well as the assessment of delinquency fees and the serving of notices of delinquent automated violation.

## Scribe Report

Amy Kim, EIT, URS



1st Place: UC Irvine (\$3,850)



2nd Place: Cal Poly Pomona (\$2,750)



Third Place: UCLA (\$1,925)

The Institute of Transportation Engineers Southern California Section held an annual joint meeting with OCTEC for the annual **Student Chapter Presentation Night** on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel in Buena Park. Over 100 people attended, including approximately 80 students. The meeting featured

the following presentations from Student Chapters:

- **Cal Poly Pomona: "I-15 Improvement Project in the City of Lake Elsinore, California"**: Students worked with Caltrans on the improvement of the existing interchange at Railroad Canyon Road and the design of a new interchange at Franklin Street in Lake Elsinore, CA. Deliverables include a project study report, traffic modeling/simulation, geometric drawings, advance planning studies, construction staging, an environmental analysis, cost/benefit analysis, and website.
- **CSU Fullerton: "Traffic Sign Inventory of Various Streets within California State University, Fullerton"**: Study of traffic regulatory and warning signs within CSU Fullerton
- **UC Irvine: "Joshua Tree National Park Transit Feasibility Study"**: The National Park Conservation Association asked the UCI ITE Student Chapter to conduct a Transit Feasibility Study for Joshua Tree National Park. There were five groups, each focusing on a different aspect: (1) Sustainability, (2) Survey Demand, (3) Funding and Finance, (4) Transit Routing, and (5) Infrastructure.
- **UCLA: "Trip Generation and Parking Occupancy Studies at Neighborhood Grocery Stores"**: UCLA students collected trip generation and parking occupancy data collection at two urban Whole Foods Grocery Stores. Data collected will be compared with National ITE Data.
- **USC: "Capturing a Golden Opportunity for Transit-Oriented Development in Duarte"**: This presentation summarizes the current market conditions, policies, and transportation infrastructure of the City of Duarte and ultimately proposes policies and strategies that complement the introduction of light rail and facilitate the station's success and development.

The night was a success and the students were rewarded for their hard work. Together with OCTEC's contribution, scholarships were awarded to each of the Student Chapters for additional activities. Special thanks to the students and assisting professionals for making this event such a success.



The Annual OCTEC/ITE Golf Tournament was held on May 9th at the Green River Golf Club in Corona. The event had a great turn-out

of 140 participants. It was a great day for golf and everyone seemed to have a great time. Thank you to all our sponsors and participants!

## High Speed Rail: Education, Messaging

David M. Schwegel, PE

I met with ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) ([www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)) San Francisco Bay Area Section President Daren Stevan Gee on Saturday, May 17, 2014 to discuss strategies for boosting Civil Engineer's engagement in High Speed Rail (HSR): the "world's largest infrastructure project" (Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, International Union of Railways). Education and messaging were two of the challenges we identified.

Education: Go to the US High Speed Rail Association [www.ushsr.com](http://www.ushsr.com) for the national picture and the California High Speed Rail Authority [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov) for the local picture. Watch Richard Arena's (Association for Public Transportation) and Matthew Hobby's (Standard and Poor's) presentations from the May 2012 California (San Francisco) Conference for financing strategies ([www.ushsr.com](http://www.ushsr.com), videos). Watch the two-minute trailer "The Koch Brothers Exposed: the Film" on You Tube for why after half a century America is still without a true HSR system. Check out Vision California ([www.visioncalifornia.org](http://www.visioncalifornia.org)) and watch Peter Calthorpe's "Statewide TOD Vision" presentation from the May 2012 San Francisco Conference.

Messaging: Subscribe to news briefs such as "California High Speed Rail" Google Alerts, ASCE Smart Briefs, and your local *Business Journal* to identify hot topics related to HSR. Respond to these topics with carefully crafted messages on "public health, safety, and welfare protection" over job creation. Convey these messages via editorials, newsletter articles and social media. If you are not already working under contract with the Authority [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov), participate in public comment at monthly Authority Board Meetings by giving them your best in 250 words (two minutes) or less. Let HSR decision makers know the value that transportation planners and engineers bring to HSR projects. Plenty of decision makers, including Authority CEO Jeff Morales and Transbay Joint Powers Authority ([www.transbaycenter.org](http://www.transbaycenter.org)) Executive Director Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan, will be speaking at the June 2 (Mon) – 4 (Wed) US High Speed Rail [www.ushsr.com](http://www.ushsr.com) Conference at the Autodesk Gallery (One Market Street, Second Floor) in San Francisco. Network with key HSR players at the Conference and book them as speakers at upcoming professional association meetings.

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# Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION

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- FHWA Training on Connected Vehicles



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