



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

NEWSLETTER

2013 – 2014, Issue No. 6

March 2014

President's Message

Sri Chakravarthy, PE, TE



Spring is finally here – I hope everyone got adjusted to the time change quickly. I am glad that the flu season is behind us. It is now time to turn our attention to all the activities and opportunities that lie ahead of us this in the next few months. Dan Mitchell, Assistant general Manager for Project Delivery at LADOT will be speaking at our April meeting on Wednesday the 16th on "Transforming City of Los Angeles Street Network." ITE at its core is an organization of transportation professionals that can work together for advancement of the industry, but doing that while having fun is great. On that note, I want to invite each and every one of our members to join us in Corona for OCTEC/Socal ITE golf tournament on May 9th. You can enjoy natural beauty and luxury, not to mention an award winning golf course and a whole array of prizes and giveaways.

This year has been great so far for us transportation professionals as we wait to see how the recovering economy impacts our companies, businesses, universities and communities. This certainly might have some people thinking about elevating their involvement in ITE SoCal, and we have heard from at least half a dozen members just within the last few weeks some strong expressions of interest in participating in the different committees we have. This is an opportune time to step up and take a more active role in this organization, especially for younger professionals. As a chapter, we have made great strides in catering to our member needs but we need your continued support to keep the momentum rolling through the year.

Lastly, please remember to VOTE! Our WesternITE and International ITE candidates have worked hard for you, so please take the time to vote for the member you think will best represent us.

Have a good rest of the spring and I hope to see you next month and at the Corona golf course in May!

Brief Look Ahead

May 2014

- Fri 9th, 7:30 AM, OCTEC/ITE SoCal Golf Tournament, 5215 Green River Road, Corona (see flyer); Sponsorship Deadline: April 11; Registration Deadline: April 28; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-octecso-cal-ite-golf-tournament-tickets-9869311376>

Meeting Announcement

Wednesday, April 16, 11:30 AM
Monterey Hill Restaurant
3700 West Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park
(323) 264-8400

RSVP by: 12 Noon, Friday, April 11
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ite-socal-april-meeting-tickets-11117977169>

or contact

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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.

Mar-14	(Available)
Apr-14	(Available)
May-14	(Available)
Jun-14	(Available)

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

High Speed Rail Update

David M. Schwegel, PE

Check out the following avenues that demand our expertise:

- 1. What are some upcoming opportunities for networking with like-minded professionals?** The next US High Speed Rail (www.ushsr.com) Conference takes place June 2 (Mon) – 4 (Wed) at Autodesk Studios (1 Market Street, San Francisco). Check the California High Speed Rail Authority website (www.hsr.ca.gov) for upcoming Board Meetings (public comment) and Industry Forums (contracting).
- 2. How can we offer our financial expertise?** The California High Speed Rail Authority (www.hsr.ca.gov) just released its *Draft 2014 Business Plan*. Transportation professionals not already working under contract with the Authority are encouraged to comment on this financial feasibility document especially from the standpoint of boosting private sector engagement in providing funding solutions. Commenting avenues include: (a) online at www.hsr.ca.gov; (b) direct to 2014businessplancomments@hsr.ca.gov, 916-384-9516, or California High Speed Rail Authority, 770 L Street, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA, 95814; or (c) during public comment at the April 10 Authority Board Meeting.

At the April 10 Meeting, the Board will recommend edits for adoption, so they can revise and submit to the Legislature by May 1.
- 3. Why should we weigh in on such a controversial project?** Public criticism over the \$2 million stipend to be paid to each of the unsuccessful proposers on the \$2 billion design/build Construction Package 2/3 clearly underscores the lack of public awareness and appreciation for our profession. The Authority's \$8 million investment (\$2 million to each of the unsuccessful proposers) for Construction Package 1 paid for itself many times over through bid competitiveness. The winning bid came in \$0.515 billion under the engineer's estimate. The California High Speed Rail experience has many parallels to that of the Golden Gate Bridge (2,000+ lawsuits, widespread opposition from ferries and other competing interests, dubbed an "upside down rat trap that will mar the beauty of the Bay.").

February 2014 Scribe Report

Clinton Quan, LA DOT, ITE So Cal Scribe

The Institute of Transportation Engineers Southern California Section held a joint meeting with the California Central Coast Section on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 in the Conejo Valley at Los Robles Greens Golf Course in Thousand Oaks. There were 46 people who attended the meeting from both sections. The program topic was "Complete Streets Performance Measures – Pasadena's Approach", and it was presented by Frederick Dock, Director of the Department of Transportation at the City of Pasadena. He discussed some of the initiatives Pasadena is working on to implement their complete streets policies.

Frederick Dock explained how Pasadena developed a limited growth strategy to protect the historic neighborhoods in the Central District and embraced transit oriented development potential along the Gold Line. Since the opening of the Gold Line, there has been an increase in mixed-use and multi-family residential in the Central District.

Some of Pasadena's mobility objectives include: (a) enhance livability; (b) encourage walking, biking, transit and other alternatives to vehicles; and (c) create a supportive climate for economic viability.

In order to align metrics and policies, there has been an increased emphasis on: (a) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (b) elevating priorities for transit, pedestrian and bicycle travel; and (c) focusing on network performance including travel time reliability and speed management.

The following announcements were made:

The date for the Southern California Section joint meeting with the San Diego Section was changed from Friday, March 21, 2014 to Friday, March 14, 2014 due to a conflict in schedule with the ITE Riverside-San Bernardino Golf Section Tournament.

The Joint Western/Midwestern ITE District Annual Meeting will be held from June 29 to July 2, 2014 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

March 2014 Scribe Report

Amy Kim, EIT, URS Corp, ITE So Cal Scribe

The ITE Southern California Section monthly meeting was held jointly with the San Diego ITE Section on Friday, March 14, 2014 at El Adobe Restaurant in San Juan Capistrano. There were 94 people who attended including 65 from the SoCal Section. This was a mini-workshop/luncheon meeting that focused on the Senate Bill 743 and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Intersection Control Evaluation. Our guest speakers included:

- **Chris Ganson**, with *California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)* provided a presentation regarding the **"SB 743: Updating Transportation Metrics in CEQA"**
- **Dawn Wilson**, PE, TE, with *Fehr & Peers* provided a presentation regarding **"How SB 743 May Change CEQA Practice and Transportation Planning"**
- **Erik Ruehr**, with *VRPA Technologies, Inc.* and *Chair of ITE Western District California SB 743 Task Force* presented **"ITE Comments on SB 743 Implementation"**

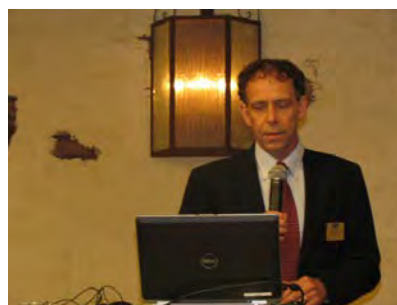
- **Karen Jewel**, *Branch Chief, Traffic Engineering & Analysis, Caltrans District 11* and **Jerry Champa**, *Traffic Safety & Operations Liaison, Caltrans Division of Traffic Operations* presented **"Caltrans Intersection Control Evaluation Procedures"**



Mr. Ganson opened this well-attended mini-workshop with his presentation on Senate Bill 743 requiring the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to provide an alternative to Levels of Service (LOS) for the evaluation of

transportation impacts in Transit Priority Areas (TPA). The presentation covered: (a) the shortcomings of the LOS evaluation metric; (b) what SB 743 does and does not do; (c) alternative evaluation metrics; (d) overview of the comments provided by the ITE Western District California SB 743 Task Force; and (e) the background on CEQA principles. The draft of the CEQA guidelines will be released for public review in late spring/early summer. OPR will then submit the draft guidelines to Resource Agency by July 1, 2014. These guidelines would be finalized by early 2015.

The second presenter, **Ms. Wilson**, gave an overview of how the SB 743 may impact CEQA practice and transportation planning in California. Regulatory changes have occurred and will continue to evolve and Traffic Engineers and Planners will need to adapt. She also points out that there is a time and place for LOS, but it will not be used in CEQA analysis in TPA and that Traffic Engineers and Planners will need to assess methods to address access and operational issues.



Next, **Mr. Ruehr** gave a summary of the ITE California SB 743 Task Force comment letter in response to OPR's preliminary evaluation of possible metrics to replace LOS in transportation analyses. Mr. Ruehr has been appointed by ITE

Western District President Denise Aspin to lead the ITE California SB 743 Task Force to help coordinate comments and letters from interested members and California Sections/Chapters. The comment and letter authors expressed their willingness to work with OPR. He points out some of the concerns:

- Roadway capacity/LOS is still improvement dependent (even if not a significant impact under CEQA)
- Use caution on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and similar performance measures

- Limit new guidelines to Transportation Planning Areas (TPA's)
- Allow flexibility for projects in transition
- Relative difficulty in analyzing VMT for various types of CEQA projects

When the new guidelines take effect early 2015, lead agencies will have 120 days to incorporate and comply with the new guidelines.



The last presenters, **Ms. Jewel** and **Mr. Champa**, took us through Caltrans' Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Policy. The presentation informed members of the recent implementation that took effect at end of August 2013, provided

a high level non-technical overview of updated traffic engineering process, presented a few innovative intersection and interchange design examples (modern roundabouts, roundabouts at interchanges, and diverging diamond interchanges), and provided reference and support information to make it easier to evaluate innovative solutions/strategies.



On a special note, **Erik Ruehr** was awarded the Presidential Proclamation for his dedication in bringing together California ITE members to complete an official Western District ITE response letter to OPR regarding SB 743. The award was

presented by ITE Western District President, **Karen Aspelin**.

Special thanks to all the guest speakers. All the presentations can be found on our ITE Southern California Section website (www.itesocal.org).

ITE USC Guest Speaker: Ms. Monica Suter
Erica Fine, Student Chapter Newsletter Editor

On March 25, 2014 Ms. Monica Suter, PE, TE, PTOE was invited to speak to Professor Eric Shen's students and members of ITE at USC. Ms. Suter discussed her career history and shared with the students a more in-depth look into the transportation field and the types of career options available. She spoke on the subject of successfully working through any problems that may arise with the public or in the workplace, specifically using her "Feel, Felt, Found" method. An important take-away from this part of her presentation was the advice to "Work to understand others' perspectives, and your employer's." Further, Ms. Suter imparted valuable tips for interviewing and finding a job in the transportation field.

Ms. Suter is currently an International Director with ITE. She previously served as Western District President (2008-2009). She manages an engineering team for the City of Santa Ana with 26

years of private and public sector experience. Ms. Suter is a Signals Technical Committee Member of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. She was an ITE Associate Member of this committee in 2011. She is currently an APWA Associate Member.



ITE USC Guest Speaker: Ms. Jolene Hayes
Erica Fine, Student Chapter Newsletter Editor

On February 26, 2014, Ms. Jolene Hayes, AICP was invited to speak to Professor Eric Shen's students and members of ITE at USC. Ms. Hayes spoke of the career path she has taken up to the present, and thoroughly presented on the differences in the public and private sectors of the planning industry, as well as pros and cons of starting out in either one after graduation. The information she imparted to the students was very much appreciated.

Ms. Hayes is a Freight & Logistics Consultant at Parsons Brinckerhoff. She provides strategic consulting on a variety of transportation projects ranging from freight and goods movement to transit. Ms. Hayes specializes in local/regional/statewide long-range transportation planning, community/stakeholder collaboration, environmental analysis, policy, transportation funding, and project implementation. Parsons Brinckerhoff is a global consulting firm assisting public and private clients to plan, develop, design, construct, operate and maintain thousands of critical infrastructure projects around the world. Ms. Hayes previously served as Transportation Development Manager at the Port of Long Beach. During her four-year tenure, she managed the preparation of several major traffic impact studies and played a key role on the \$1 billion Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project procurement of the design-builder.





ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014

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ANNUAL OCTEC / ITE GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY – MAY 9, 2014

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