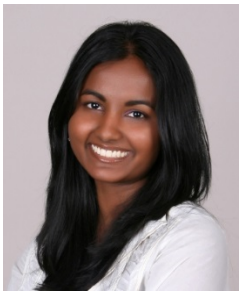
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

NEWSLETTER

2014 – 2015, Issue No. 4 **January 2015**

President's Message

Neelam Dorman, TE



Happy New Year!

2014 has been a great year for the Section and we owe that to our incredible board, chairs, and members. Thank you all for being an integral part of our Section and I hope that you will continue to support ITE in 2015.

It's the beginning of the year which means it's time to renew your ITE membership. Renewal emails as well letters by mail have been sent out by International. Please pay your dues and please remind those around you. Also, note that young professionals (30 years and under) have a significantly discounted rate so please take advantage of it. Also, Agency Memberships provide an easy to manage and discounted rate for agencies of all sizes. If you need more information please contact our Membership Chair Amy Kim.

We are launching our new website in beta http://www.socalite.org/! Our Webmaster, Saly Heng, has been hard at work to provide you with easier access to the Section through the website and would appreciate your input.

Our next meeting will be on January 14th at the Monterey Hill Restaurant joint with City Traffic Engineers (CTE). Please note that the date has been moved up a week from the original calendar. Valerie Watson, Assistant Pedestrian Coordinator with City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation - Active Transportation Division, will be presenting on People St: Community Partnerships and Lasting Transformations.

We hope you will also support the Riverside San Bernardino Section and attend their Vendor Show on January 21, 2015.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2015: launching a new website; joint meetings with CTE, Central Coast Section, San Diego Section, OCTEC, and ITS SoCal; Student Traffic Bowl; ITE/OCTEC Golf Tournament; Student Presentations Night; Elections and new board installation; and, the Western District Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

As always, the board and chairs are here to make sure that the Section meets your needs. So please let us know how we can make the Section better.

Here's to another great year!

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 11:30 AM
Section Meeting

People Street: Community Partnerships and Lasting Transformations
Valerie Watson (Assistant Pedestrian Coordinator, LADOT)

Monterey Hill Restaurant
3700 W Ramona Blvd
Monterey Park

REGISTER HERE!

Brief Look Ahead

January 2015
Sun 11th - Thu 15th, Transportation Research Board 94th Annual Meeting, Washington DC - www.trb.org

April 2015
Tue 21st - Thu 23rd, US High Speed Rail Association Conference, Washington DC - www.ushsr.com

July 2015
Sun 19th – Wed 22nd, Western District Annual Meeting, Planet Hollywood Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada - www.lvite2015.com

August 2015
Sun 2nd – Wed 5th, ITE 2015 Annual Meeting and Exhibit, Westin Diplomat, Hollywood, Florida - www.ite.org

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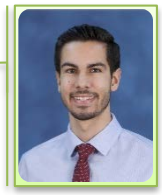

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Scribe Report

Angel Morales, EIT

The Institute of Transportation Engineers Southern California (ITE-SoCal) Section Joint Meeting with Riverside-San Bernardino ITE (RSBITE) Section was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at the Kellogg Restaurant, Cal Poly Pomona. The topic of this meeting was "Alleviate Congestion and Improve Safety Around College Campus - Applying the "Five E's", presented by Mr. Ronald Chen, Senior Engineer at the City of Pomona. The joint meeting began with announcements from ITE-SoCal President - Neelam Dorman, RSBITE President - John Kerenyi, and ITE Western District President - Carlos Ortiz. The following announcements were made:

ITE-SoCal announcements:

- ITE-SoCal along with EWB and ASCE needs 10 volunteers to adopt an intersection at CicLAvia on Sunday, December 7th. Eric Dunlap, who is ITE-SoCal activities chair, is coordinating this event and could be contacted in this regard.
- Next event will be hosted jointly with RSBITE and OCTEC and is the Holiday Mixer to be held on Wednesday, December 10th at Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park.
- There is a change on the calendar of events for the January meeting; RSBITE is having a vendor show on the 21st, so ITE-SoCal lunch meeting has been moved to January 14th. It will be joint meeting with CTE to be held in Monterey Park.
- A reminder to renew ITE memberships.

RSBITE announcements:

- Newest edition of California MUTCD is available for download.
- Exhibit hall is open for registrations for the vendor show on January 21st. Vendor show will be at Double Tree Hotel, Ontario.

ITE Western District announcements:

- Brief update on financials
- New website will be launched within the next 4 to 5 months.
- A new ITE chapter will be opened in Fairbank, Alaska. Currently, the only state chapter is in Anchorage. New student chapters will be opened in California State University, Fresno and Utah State University, Logan.
- ITE Western District 2nd Annual Student Summit will be held from February 13-15th in Cal State Sacramento.
- 2015 Western District Meeting will be held at the Planet Hollywood resort in Las Vegas, from July 19-22.

Our speaker of the meeting, Mr. Ronald Chen, talked about applying the "Five E's" to an intersection improvement project located in the City of Pomona. He explained that the five E's are the following principles: Evaluation, Engineering, Education, Encouragement and Enforcement.

Legislative Analysis

Martin Varona, EIT

SB 1077: Road Usage Charge Pilot Program: The revenues currently available for highways and local roads are inadequate to preserve and maintain existing infrastructure and provide funds for improvements that would reduce congestion and improve service. SB 1077 would require the Chair of the California Transportation Commission to create a Road Usage Charge (RUC) Technical Advisory Committee in consultation with the Secretary of the Transportation Agency. Other states have begun to explore the potential for a road usage charge to replace traditional gas taxes, including the State of Oregon, which established the first permanent road user charge program in the nation. This technical advisory committee would be tasked with studying RUC alternatives to the gas tax and to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Transportation Agency on the design of a pilot program. Based on the recommendations of the technical advisory committee, the Transportation Agency would be required to implement a pilot program in California by January 1, 2017. This bill was approved by Governor Brown in late September.

AB 28: Bicycle Safety: This bill would require that a bicycle operated during night time on a highway, sidewalk, or bikeway be equipped with a white flashing light on the rear that is visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, or, in lieu of the white flashing light, reflective gear worn by the bicyclist. According to the Governors Highway Safety Associations' report, California had the highest bicyclist fatality rate at 338 deaths between 2010 and 2012. Because bicyclists frequently travel across city boundaries, their safety should be a regional and state issue. In this regard, the Legislature urges bicyclists to wear reflective vests, in addition to helmets, to ensure

their safety. This legislation was tentatively scheduled to be heard in committee on January 1, 2015.

AB 417: CEQA: This bill, until January 1, 2018, would exempt from CEQA a bicycle transportation plan for an urbanized area and would also require a local agency that determines that the bicycle transportation plan is exempt under this provision to file notice of the determination with the OPR and the county clerk. This legislation was tentatively scheduled to be heard in committee on January 1, 2015.

SB 743 Update

Erik Ruehr, VRPA Technologies
Chair, ITE California SB 743 Task Force Chair

SB 743 refers to legislation enacted in the fall of 2013 that will change the way that transportation analyses are conducted for environmental studies prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The new guidelines will reduce emphasis on roadway capacity/level of service and will increase emphasis on alternative performance measures, such as vehicle miles travelled (VMT). This brief update on SB 743 includes a summary of next steps in the SB 743 process and a summary of ITE's key comments on the Draft SB 743 Guidelines that were prepared by the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in August of 2014. A copy of the entire ITE comment letter is available on the ITE Western District website at www.westernite.org.

NEXT STEPS IN THE SB 743 PROCESS

OPR is currently reviewing comments on Draft SB 743 Guidelines issued in August. Over 200 comment letters were received and the comment review process is expected to extend into February. OPR expects to issue a revised set of Draft Guidelines for review and comment before Final Guidelines are issued. Implementation of SB 743 will occur six to ten months following the issuance of Final Guidelines. It appears unlikely that implementation will occur until 2016 at the earliest.

Although implementation of SB 743 is not anticipated prior to 2016, SB 743 could apply to ongoing projects if the draft environmental document is to be published after the implementation of SB 743. CEQA guidelines are unclear regarding the status of ongoing projects. Depending on how the guidelines are interpreted, projects could be considered to require use of the guidelines that were in place at the time that the notice of preparation was issued or the use of guidelines that were in place at the time that the draft environmental document was issued.

KEY ITE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SB 743

Following is a summary of key recommendations on SB 743 guidelines, as stated in ITE's comment letter dated November 21, 2014:

- For land development projects that are inappropriate for VMT analysis using a regional transportation model (either because they are too small or outside the geographic area of a model), a different or refined methodology should be developed to determine the significance of VMT impacts. The VMT models and methodologies that are currently available do not achieve the level of accuracy that would be desirable in order to determine project trip length and VMT for the wide variety of project types and project locations that would be analyzed under CEQA.
- For small land development projects and small transportation projects, a methodology should be developed to analyze the significance of VMT impacts and mitigate those impacts (if appropriate) without going through the long and expensive process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report. Although lead agencies (not OPR) will be responsible for the determination of significance thresholds, the agency writing the guidelines (i.e. OPR) has a responsibility to provide guidelines that can be reasonably and efficiently implemented.
- For lead agencies who are currently using CEQA roadway capacity/LOS analysis as the methodology for requiring land development projects to provide roadway improvements, an alternative methodology should be developed. Ideally, OPR would facilitate this discussion. At a minimum, OPR should limit the implementation of SB 743 to transit priority areas until others have provided a methodology for lead agencies to obtain roadway improvements as a condition of the implementation of land development projects.

Message from UCLA ITE Student Chapter

The ITE Student Chapter at UCLA would like to invite you to our first annual "Student and Professional Mixer" event in February. This event aims to encourage students to further explore the field of transportation and gain networking experience that is crucial in the engineering field. Our goal is to give an opportunity for both students and professionals to be comfortable and socialize without any formalities. We hope you can join us for this event next month. More details would be included in the February newsletter.

An Inauguration and a Groundbreaking

David M. Schwegel, PE

On Monday, January 5, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown expressed his commitment to multi-modal transportation infrastructure in his Inaugural Address. "Equally important is having the roads, highways, and bridges in good enough shape to get people and commerce to where they need to go. It is estimated that our state has accumulated $59 billion in needed upkeep and maintenance." He also identified ambitious sustainability goals by 2030 such as getting half of our energy from renewable sources and reducing petroleum use by fifty percent. Governor Brown also mentioned how California is building the first true high speed rail system in the nation – a system that would be "powered 100% by renewable energy sources".

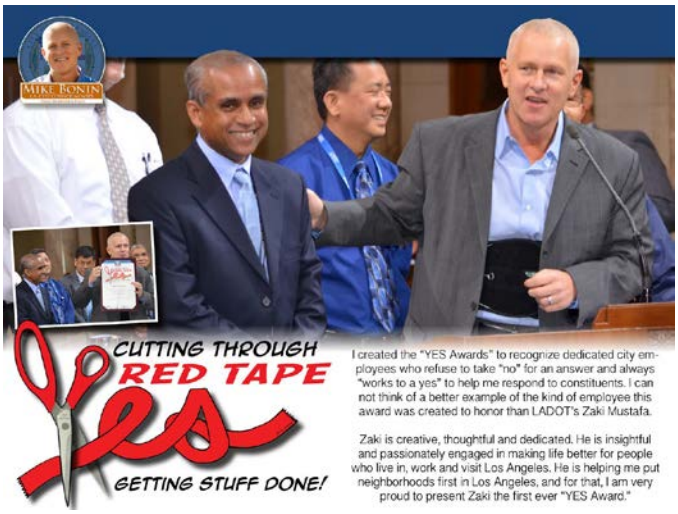
On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, the California High Speed Rail (HSR) Authority (www.hsr.ca.gov) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the HSR project at the future Fresno HSR Station. This groundbreaking comes 60 years after Southern Pacific Railroad deemed connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles via HSR "an excellent idea" and 50 years after Japan launched the world's first HSR system. Authority Board Chairman Dan Richard served as Master of Ceremonies. Presenters included Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Bianca Rodriguez of CSU Fresno, Michael Lomeo of UC Merced, Congressman John Mica, Federal Railroad Administration Chief Joseph Szabo, US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Robbie Hunter of the California Building and Construction Trades Council, and California Governor Jerry Brown.

At the December 2-4, 2014 US High Speed Rail Association (USHSR) (www.ushsr.com) Conference at Los Angeles Metro Headquarters, California HSR Authority CEO Jeff Morales emphasized the importance of transportation professionals educating the public on the connectivity, opportunity, and sustainability benefits of California's ambitious project. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is a major emphasis at USHSR Conferences and an area where ITE offers tremendous expertise. Of the nearly 200 Conference delegates, 27% represented architectural and engineering consultants, 14% represented suppliers, 13% represented other consultants, 13% represented municipalities, 9% represented nonprofit organizations, and the balance represented a combination of legislators, media/publications, labor organizations, commuter rail agencies, educational institutions, and metropolitan planning organizations.

The next USHSR Conference takes place April 21-23, 2015 in Washington DC.

Awards and Honors

Congratulations to Mr. Zaki Mustafa, LADOT for receiving the first ever "Yes Award" from LA City Council Member, Mike Bonin.



Career Opportunities

The City of Orange invites applications for the position of Manager of Transportation Services/City Traffic Engineer. To review job bulletin and to apply visit, http://agency.governmentjobs.com/orange.

Iteris, Inc. is seeking Transportation professionals at all levels for various US locations to help support and grow their Transportation Practice. Please use this link to explore and apply for open positions: Apply Here.

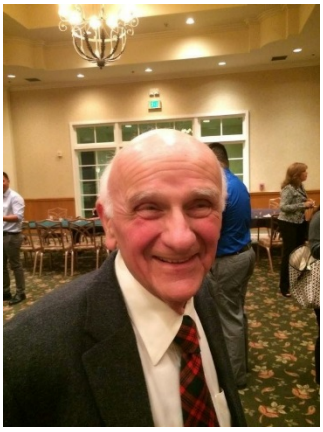
Opportunities for Newsletter Advertising and Sponsorship

The monthly newsletter is a perfect venue for advertising your products and services, as it is circulated nine (9) times a year to approximately 700 ITE recipients all over Southern California. Advertisements are priced reasonably for the benefit of our members.

Please contact Melissa Countryman at 310-544-5256 or melissac@rpv.com to submit an ad and/or sponsor a monthly newsletter or luncheon.

Holiday Mixer 2014

The annual Holiday Mixer jointly hosted by ITE-SoCal, RSBITE and OCTEC was held on December 10th at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park. Thanks to our sponsors and to all who could join us, without whom this event wouldn't have been a success. Since pictures speak a thousand words, here is a look-back at the event through the lenses.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

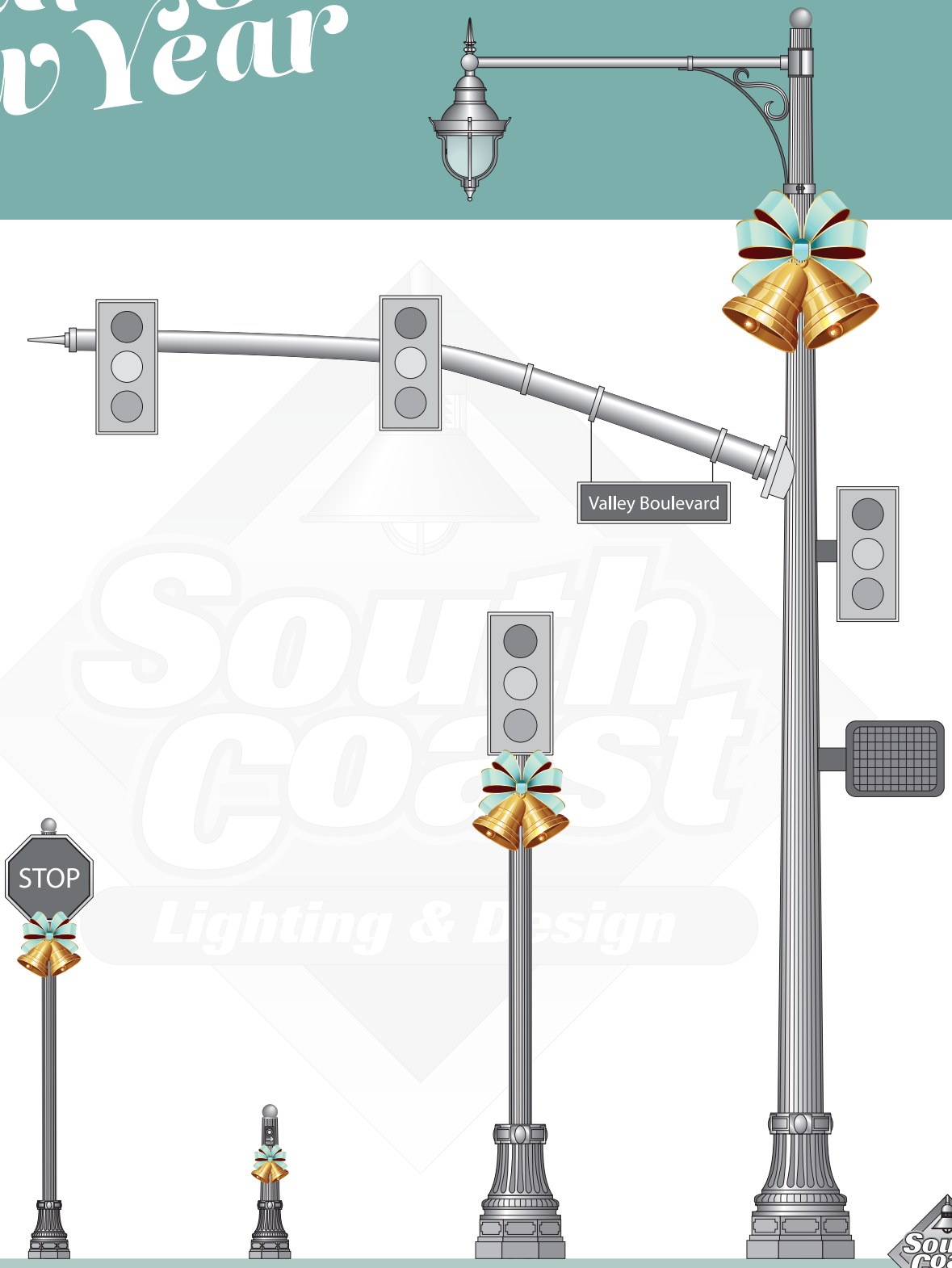
2014-2015 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2014 **ITE ANNUAL STEAK FRY BARBEQUE** **Wed. Aug 20, 2014** Monterey Hill Restaurant Monterey Park **Dinner – 5:30pm**	**SEPTEMBER** **REGULAR ITE MEETING** **Sept. 17, 2014** Monterey Hill Restaurant Monterey Park **Lunch – 11:30am**	**OCTOBER** **REGULAR ITE MEETING** **Wed. Oct. 15, 2014** Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel Buena Park **Lunch – 11:30am**
NOVEMBER **JOINT MEETING RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO SECTION** **Wed. Nov. 19, 2014** Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch Cal Poly Pomona Campus **Lunch – 11:30am**	**DECEMBER** **HOLIDAY MIXER** **Wed. Dec. 10, 2014** Los Coyotes, Buena Park **5:30 PM** 	
JANUARY 2015 **JOINT MEETING CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEERS** **Wed. Jan. 14, 2015** Monterey Hill Restaurant Monterey Park **Lunch – 11:30am**	**FEBRUARY** **JOINT MEETING CENTRAL COAST SECTION** **Tues. Feb. 17, 2015** Los Robles Greens Thousand Oaks **Lunch – 11:30am**	**MARCH** **JOINT MEETING SAN DIEGO SECTION** **Fri. March 20, 2015** El Adobe Restaurant San Juan Capistrano **10:00am – 2:00pm Workshop, 12:00 lunch**
APRIL **REGULAR ITE MEETING** **Wed. April 15, 2015** Monterey Hill Restaurant Monterey Park **Lunch – 11:30am**	**MAY** **JOINT MEETING OCTEC Student Chapter Presentations** **Wed. May 20, 2015** Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel Buena Park **Dinner – 5:00pm**	**JUNE** **MINI-WORKSHOP ANNUAL BUSINESS AND JOINT MEETING WITH ITS SOCAL** **Wed. June 17, 2015** Monterey Hill Restaurant Monterey Park **8:30am – 2:00pm Workshop, 12:00 lunch**

NOTE: Schedule was last updated July 2014. Some information is subject to change.

Happy New Year

from South Coast Lighting



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INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

Southern California Section

CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEERS

PRESENT

Our Joint January Meeting

at

Monterey Hill Restaurant
3700 W Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, CA 91754

WEDNESDAY

01.14.2014

11:30 AM

PEOPLE STREET: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND LASTING TRANSFORMATIONS

VALERIE WATSON

ASSISTANT PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR,
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS ON WEDNESDAY 1/7

Please register online at http://ite-january2015.eventbrite.com

For questions or student discount code, please contact:

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ITE Southern California Section
jay.dinkins@smgov.net

Early Registration $30 | Late Registration $35 | Students $10