



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

NEWSLETTER

2013 – 2014, Issue No. 9

June 2014

President's Message

Sri Chakravarthy, PE, TE



Thank you for your generous support and encouragement for the past 3 years as I served the Section in different roles on the Board. As my one year term as the President of our wonderful Section comes to an end next week, I feel very confident about the ability of the officers lined-up to serve you. I will continue to be actively involved as the First Past President, and I have several tasks ahead of me to fulfill in this role. We have accomplished quite a bit this year – starting with our **migration to eventbrite** to efficiently and cost-effectively manage our monthly events. The **attendance at our**

meetings has significantly increased over the last several months due to outreach about the events and also the quality of the presentations and topics that catered to a variety of professionals. We had our **first ever Holiday Mixer in December** jointly celebrated with OCTEC and RSBITE that was a great success. We also successfully **updated our by-laws**, spearheaded by Andrew Maximous and Erik Zandvliet, to align our by-laws with our parent organization. This provided us the opportunity to split the Secretary and Treasurer roles, and e-vote for our Section elections. We **supported our students** generously by way of scholarships through our student night presentations in partnership with OCTEC. Neelam Sharma put together a solid 'Section Activity Report' that was picked as the **Best Section Activity Report** by the Western District. We have now "bagged" this award consecutively for the last two years and hope to continue our tradition. Lastly, this newsletter, which we use as the main communication tool for our Section, was restructured to provide "more bang per page" as we implemented measures to make the monthly **newsletter more effective and concise**.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board, especially Neelam and Giancarlo, and to our Committee Chairs for providing great support and leadership for ITE. Thank you to our newsletter sponsor, **Kimley-Horn**, for their generous support. Have a great summer and look forward to seeing you at our June Mini Workshop and Annual Business Meeting on the 18th.

Brief Look Ahead

June – July 2014

- Wed June 18th, 8:30 AM, Mini Workshop, Annual Business and Joint Meeting with ITS SoCal, Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park
- Sun June 29th – Wed July 2nd, Western District Annual Meeting, Rapid City, South Dakota, www.westernite.org

August 2014

- Sun 10th – Wed 13th, Annual Meeting & Exhibit, Seattle, www.ite.org

October 2014

- Tues 14th – Thurs 16th, ITS California Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara, www.itscalifornia.org (see page 3)

Next Meeting

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

Register here:

<https://ite-its-jun2014.eventbrite.com/>

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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.

May-14	Iteris
Jun-14	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Sept-14	(Available)
Oct-14	Minagar Associates

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.

West Coast Rail Conference Highlights

David M. Schwegel, PE

The US High Speed Rail (HSR) Association (www.ushsr.com) held a West Coast Rail Conference June 2-4 at the Autodesk Gallery in San Francisco featuring presentations from transportation planners, elected officials, students, and general contractors.

- **HSR Authority CEO Jeff Morales** emphasized the high transit ridership characteristics and environmental stewardship values of Millennials (born between 1982 and 2000).
- **Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal** underscored the positives of engineering fixed works such as the Bay Bridge, an "engineering marvel."
- **Peter Calthorpe** discussed how California "growing smart" vs. "business as usual" saves enough water to fill the San Francisco Bay 15 times between now and 2050 in *Vision California* (www.visioncalifornia.org).
- **Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford** discussed Palmdale's transit center and station area development plans, and underscored the quality of life implications of reducing daily commute times from four hours behind the wheel to one hour via HSR.
- **Former Assemblymember Fiona Ma** facilitated an I Will Ride HSR (www.iwillridehsr.com) student panel discussion featuring **Bianca Rodriguez** (CSU Fresno), **Andrew McLane** (CSU San Francisco), **Molly Ruhl** (CSU San Francisco), and **Matt Kreizenbeck** (CSU San Francisco). Electrical Engineering Professor **Dr. Nilgun Ozer** (CSU San Francisco) and I Will Ride HSR President **Michael Lomio** (UC Merced) were also in attendance.
- **Clark Construction Vice President Kris Manning** discussed the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) slated for opening in fall of 2014, with a proposed people mover system to the Magic Kingdom in the early planning stages.

Go to www.ushsr.com for selected presentations and www.hsr.ca.gov for upcoming HSR Authority Board Meetings (public comment participation encouraged among those not already working under contract with the Authority). Transportation professionals are especially encouraged to become educated and weigh in heavily on station area development topics.

Western District Legislative Report

Tom Mericle, Western District Legislative Chair

The Western District Legislative Committee monitors profession-specific legislation in each of the District's 13 states, and advises members accordingly. Check out the following site for California-specific activity: <http://westernite.org/aboutus/legislation/>

Please notify me of any missing relevant activity you come across at mericleman@me.com. Thank you.

Section Legislative Report

Martin Varona, EIT, UCLA

SB 486: Department of Transportation: Goals and Performance Measures

This bill would expand on existing California Transportation Commission (CTC) goals - (a) effective transportation system operations, (b) state highway system maintenance, and (c) greenhouse gas emissions reduction - by having CTC and Caltrans collaborate to identify performance measures and annual evaluation metrics.

SB 1137: School Transportation

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, between 2014 and 2021, to allocate to each school district, county office of education, or transportation providing entity; funding for student transportation for either: (a) a specified annually increasing percentage of its approved transportation costs for the prior fiscal year, or (b) 100% of its school transportation apportionment for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, whichever is greater.

ITE, a Roundabout, and AB 1447

David M. Schwegel, PE

ITE Members are encouraged to testify as individuals on hot transportation topics to reinforce our role as transportation infrastructure experts and emphasize our responsibility for "protecting the public health, safety, and welfare". Here are two recent success stories.

Oak/Washington Roundabout (Roseville)

On March 20, 2013, the Roseville City Council heard a presentation from engineering consultants Mark Thomas & Company and Fehr & Peers on the traffic impacts of converting an existing downtown signalized intersection into a roundabout. The presentation included a video showing the favorable Glens Falls, New York Roundabout experience. The engineers justified the sufficiency of the proposed inscribed diameter by indicating that it is actually larger than that of the existing Glens Falls Roundabout. The presentation also simulated the projected half-mile long backups in Roseville under the "do-nothing" alternative. Two members from the Nor Cal ITE Community led off public comment. The five public comments that followed were all positive. This represented significant progress over the negative press in the Roseville *Press Tribune* one week prior voicing concern over the perceived high cost and atypical intersection layout. City Council approved the roundabout. Now, fifteen months later, the Oak/Washington Roundabout is under construction.

AB 1447: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reductions Fund: Traffic Synchronization

The ITE Western District (www.westernite.org) has issued a letter of support on this bill that would deem signal synchronization as an air emissions reduction mechanism. This would boost the eligibility of signal synchronization-type projects for greenhouse gas reduction funds. AB 1447 passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee three months ago. Bill language was revised requiring proof that signal synchronization does in fact reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically the revised bill language reads:

"Sustainable infrastructure projects may include traffic signal synchronization when the project is designated and implemented to achieve cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and includes specific reduction targets and metrics to evaluate the project's effects."

Special thanks to the transportation professionals, including some from our own ITE SoCal Community, who testified as individuals during the Monday, April 28, 2014 Hearing at the Capitol in Sacramento. The Committee approved the bill unanimously, advancing it to the next stage. Keep an eye on it.

Career Opportunities

Kimley-Horn has opportunities in our growing offices in **Downtown Los Angeles and Orange!** *Los Angeles:* We are seeking an experienced Transportation Engineer/Planner with ITS knowledge/background and a Transportation/Roadway Engineer with 5 – 10 years' experience. *Orange:* We have an exciting opportunity for a Senior Transportation/Roadway Engineer with 10+ years' experience. Join "One of the 100 Best Companies to Work for in America" and work on exciting projects with a collaborative team! We have positions available in many of our offices throughout California. See our announcement included in this month's newsletter. Contact Anne Bologna for more information: anne.bologna@kimley-horn.com.

ITS California Annual Meeting



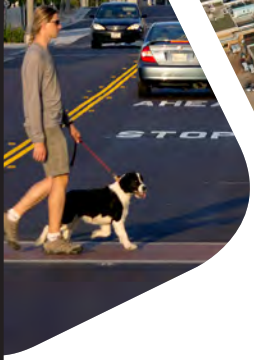
Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION
October 14 – October 16, 2014
HYATT REGENCY SANTA CLARA

Join us this fall for an outstanding show! 2014 Annual Meeting highlights:

- Extended 2 1/2 day schedule (Tuesday - Thursday)
- Technical tours
- Focus on connected and autonomous vehicles
- FHWA Training on Connected Vehicles

ITS/CA Intelligent Transportation Society of California
www.itscalifornia.org



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