



# INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

# NEWSLETTER

2015 – 2016, Issue No. 3

November 2015

## President's Message

*Giancarlo Gandini, TE*



Dear ITE Southern California Members ,

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we held our first joint lunch meeting with OCTEC at the Orange Hill Restaurant in Orange. **Alan Clelland's** presentation on "The Impacts of Connectivity in Transportation" gave us a look into the future, which is fast-approaching with much of the technology already here. The meeting drew over 100 attendees and we look forward to partnering with OCTEC again for next year's event.

Our annual joint meeting with the Riverside-San Bernardino Section is on November 18<sup>th</sup> at The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch in Pomona. Please join us for a presentation on "Planned Metrolink Expansion and Improvements" by **Patricia Watkins**, Interim Director of Engineer and Construction at Metrolink.

Please mark your calendars for the joint Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We will continue our tradition of raffles and casino games at the Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park with our friends from OCTEC and Riverside-San Bernardino ITE.

**Call for Volunteers:** The Section is still in need of a co-scribe for our meetings in the Orange County area. Responsibilities include documenting and writing brief summaries of our events for the newsletter (see page 3 for an example). This is a great position to ease into, especially if you are already attending meetings. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact me or any of the Board members.

Lastly, thank you to our newsletter and meeting sponsor, **Iteris, Inc.**, for their continued support.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 18,  
11:30 AM  
ITE SoCal/RSBITE Meeting

### *"Planned Metrolink Expansion and Improvements"*

Patricia Watkins  
Interim Director Engineering &  
Construction, Metrolink

The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch  
Cal Poly Pomona

[REGISTER HERE](#)

See 2015-2016 ITE SoCal Annual  
Calendar for upcoming events!

## Brief Look Ahead

### November 2015

Wed 18<sup>th</sup>, Joint Meeting with Riverside-San Bernardino ITE

### December 2015

Wed 9<sup>th</sup>, Holiday Mixer: ITE SoCal, Riverside-San Bernardino ITE, and OCTEC  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup>-Fri 11<sup>th</sup>, High Speed Rail Conference, Los Angeles, [www.ushsr.com](http://www.ushsr.com)

### January 2016

Sun 10<sup>th</sup>-Thu 14<sup>th</sup>, Transportation Research Board, 95th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. [www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)

### August 2016

Sun 14<sup>th</sup>-Wed 17<sup>th</sup>, ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit, Anaheim, [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)

**ITE Southern California Section**  
[www.socalite.org](http://www.socalite.org)

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### Legislative Analysis

*Martin Varona, KOA Corporation*

**AB 323:** Until January 1, 2016, public safety improvement projects within a city or county of less than 100,000 people, that repair, maintain, or make minor alterations to an existing roadway are exempt from CEQA. This bill would extend this exemption date to January 1, 2020 with the intention of streamlining the approval process in rural counties.

**AB 779:** Local jurisdictions must prepare a deficiency plan when highway or roadway Level of Service (LOS) consistently falls below acceptable standards along segments or at intersections. Such a plan includes: (a) an analysis of the cause of the deficiency, (b) a list of improvements necessary to maintain an acceptable LOS, and (c) an estimated cost for these improvements. This bill would replace the deficiency in LOS metric with a determination of non-conformance to the congestion management plan for requiring a deficiency plan. This bill would also drop requirements for including: (a) the list of improvements and (b) their estimated costs in the deficiency plan. This bill would exempt: (a) improvements to facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and public transportation; (b) traffic generated by a transit priority project; and (c) traffic generated by a mixed-use development located within a transit priority project area or infill opportunity zone, from the deficiency cause analysis.

**SB 491:** This bill would:

(1) Change the definition of a Class IV bikeway (cycle track), from a bikeway “protected from vehicular traffic” to a bikeway “separated from vehicular traffic.”  
 (2) Prohibit motor vehicle and bicycle operators from wearing earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in both ears. Current law only prohibits wearing: (a) a headset covering both ears, or (b) earplugs in both ears.

**SB 491:** This bill would prohibit imposing: (a) a vehicular parking ratio exceeding 0.5 spaces per bedroom on a development that: (i) has the maximum percentage of low- and very low-income units, and (ii) is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop; and (b) a vehicular parking ratio exceeding specified amounts per unit on a development: (i) where 100 percent of the units are either affordable or lower income households, (ii) is within one-half mile of a major transit stop with unobstructed access, and (iii) is geared towards elderly (62+ years old) or special needs residents.

### Scribe Report

*Yiota Georgalis, Kimley-Horn*

On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, ITE Southern California Section and OCTEC held a sold-out joint meeting at the Orange Hill Restaurant sponsored by Kimley-Horn & Associates. With approximately 130 people in attendance, this meeting was a great success. Alan Clelland, Senior Vice President of Iteris, Inc., presented the “Impacts of Connectivity in Transportation”. The presentation explored the “world of connected vehicles” and the inclination toward multi-modal development as residents continue to move away from a previously auto-centric transportation world. This new technology would entail: (a) connected ridesharing, (b) shorter trips, and (c) modal development. Data collected from mobile devices and apps provides real time data that would be used to foster connectivity and consecutively optimize corridors and enhance accessibility.



*Alan Clelland presenting at the  
Joint ITE-SoCal/OCTEC October Meeting*

Our next meeting will be on November 18, 2015 at The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch, Cal Poly Pomona.

### Student Chapter Spotlight: UCLA

*Janet Ye, UCLA ITE President*

UCLA ITE exposes students to the transportation engineering profession by hosting events and providing connection opportunities with industry professionals. The Chapter also provides valuable technical training, as the large university currently does not offer a transportation academic focus. Students also gain hands on industry experience and exposure as they learn about projects of local and regional significance.





**UCLA ITE hosted its First annual Student Professional Mixer Last Winter**

Chapter activities expose participants to career opportunities through networking with industry professionals at high-profile events. The Chapter recently hosted its first annual Student Professional Mixer along with several guest speaker seminars to garner interest in transportation while cultivating students' professional identity and interpersonal skills. Technical tours of the Long Beach Airport and an HNTB Corporation office gave participants an in-depth exposure to new technologies and design innovations. Students also participated in projects related to collecting parking occupancy and trip generation data along with conducting corridor studies. The Chapter placed fourth at the ITE SoCal/OCTEC and second at the Riverside-San Bernardino Student Presentation Nights showcasing their traffic corridor study of Washington Boulevard in Culver City.



**UCLA ITE at the SoCal/OCTEC Student Presentation Night**

A primary goal is expanding the Chapter membership base beyond the Civil Engineering Department. The Chapter plans to collaborate with like-minded organizations including other ITE student chapters, on-campus engineering clubs such as ASCE and CalGeo,

and graduate-level Urban Planning and Public Policy programs. The Chapter is also planning an ITE Alumni Panel as an additional avenue to strengthen connections with industry. A panel of alumni members will discuss their professional experiences to broaden students' insights of the industry workplace.

### **Legislators and Subject Matter Experts Discuss "California's Transportation Funding Challenge"**

*David M. Schwegel, PE, Precision Civil Engineering*

On Friday, October 16, Honorable Jim Beall and Honorable Jimmy Gomez convened a hearing on "California's Transportation Funding Challenge" in the Capitol. Honorable Beall noted how inclement weather forcing the closures of I-5 and SR 58 underscores the threat of climate change. Honorable Gomez emphasized the urgency of reversing the decades-long trend of "kicking the can down the road" as "transportation is the backbone of the economy".

1. **Secretary Brian Kelly** identified key priorities in the Governor's Transportation Funding Plan as follows: (a) "Fix it First", (b) invest in target areas, (c) continue state and local partnerships, (d) adopt specific performance measures, (e) avoid impacting the General Fund, and (f) ensure new dedicated revenue sources for transportation. This plan would cost individual motorists \$85 per year.
2. **Jessica Peters (Legislative Analyst's Office)** identified typical revenue proportions as follows: 25% federal, 25% state (focus of this hearing), and 50% local.
3. **Jim Earp (California Alliance for Jobs)** identified deferred maintenance shortfalls (not including new capacity) as follows: \$59 billion on the state system and \$78 billion on the municipal (city and county) system.
4. **Lucy Dunn (California Transportation Commission)** indicated that for the six key Southern California counties, the typical revenue breakdown is 17% federal, 13% state, and 70% local.
5. **Jennifer Whiting (League of California Cities)** encouraged taking action now, as the pavement index has degraded from 68 in 2008 to 66 (a "tipping point" for escalated degradation) in 2015, with a projected reduction to 55 by 2025.
6. **Kristin Connelly (East Bay Leadership Council)** suggested allowing Caltrans to hire based on 5-year workload projections instead of the current 1-year, and making goods movement projects eligible for Cap and Trade funding.
7. **Cesar Diaz (State Building and Construction Trades Council)** emphasized how the ongoing era

of “inaction by Congress” gives states the opportunity to formulate creative solutions.

- 8. **Daniel Himmick (CC Myers)** indicated how this general contractor relies heavily on the roadway network to move personnel (many commuting 50 miles one way) and goods (wear and tear from one truck comparable to 10,000 cars).

In the closing deliberation among legislators, it was emphasized that: (1) The Governor’s Transportation Plan should serve as a foundation for bipartisan negotiations to identify points of agreement; (2) Gas Tax revenues have declined significantly since 1994 with average vehicle fuel consumption dropping from 521 to 400 gallons annually while construction costs have increased; and (3) Advanced Mitigation, pioneered in Orange County, should be used as a model moving forward.

To view the Governor’s Transportation Plan, go to:

<http://www.transportationca.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Governor-Browns-Transportation-Funding-Plan.pdf>

**UCLA Student Chapter Tours Santa Monica Bike Center and Bike Infrastructure**  
*Jay Dinkins, PE, City of Santa Monica*



**UCLA Students at the Santa Monica Bike Center**

On October 23rd, the City of Santa Monica hosted a Bike Center and bike infrastructure tour for the UCLA ITE Student Chapter. The students took a ride around town to see all of the new bike lanes and infrastructure that the City had installed over the past three years. Then, these students got a “behind-the-scenes” look at the state-of-the-art Santa Monica Bike Center. The overall tour covered: (a) the Marvin Braude Beach Bike

Trail, (b) the Bike Skills Area, (c) “green” bike lanes on Ocean Park Blvd and Main St, and (d) two new “bike only” traffic signals installed near Santa Monica High School. These students also got to see first-hand the challenges of designing bicycle facilities while balancing the needs of all other roadway users. The Bike Center, the largest of its kind in the country, provides secure bicycle parking for 350 bikes, showers, bike rentals, a full service repair shop, and bike valet.

**Opportunities for Newsletter Advertising and Sponsorship**

The monthly newsletter is a perfect venue for advertising your products and services, as it is circulated to approximately 700 public and private transportation professionals throughout Southern California. Please contact Melissa Countryman at 310-544-5256 or [melissac@rpv.com](mailto:melissac@rpv.com) to submit an ad and/or sponsor a monthly newsletter or luncheon. Advertising/sponsorship prices are as follows:

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*1/8 Page (Business Card) Ad:	\$50

\*Ask about discounts for advance purchases of two or more newsletter ads.

**Message from Student Liaison Chair**

We are always looking for professionals who are willing to present to our student chapters on topics relating to the transportation industry and career development. If you are interested in speaking to one of our student chapters, please contact Hassan Ahmed at [hahmed@gibsontrans.com](mailto:hahmed@gibsontrans.com).

**Career Opportunities**

**Iteris, Inc.** is recruiting nationally for the position of Discipline Leader in Transportation Systems. These nationwide leadership positions are available in the practice areas of freight/goods movement, transport analytics, transit/BRT, and signal system operations. [Click here for more details on this job and qualifications required.](#) The firm is headquartered in Santa Ana, California with offices nationwide and abroad.

# ADVANCED



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# 2015-2016 CALENDAR

INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION



<p><b>AUGUST 2015</b> ITE Annual Steak Fry <b>Wed. Aug 19, 2015</b> Dinner – 5:30pm</p> <p>Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b> Regular ITE Meeting <b>Wed. Sept 16, 2015</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b> Joint Meeting with OCTEC <b>Thurs. Oct 22, 2015</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>Orange Hill Restaurant, Orange</p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> Joint Meeting with Riverside- San Bernardino Section <b>Wed. Nov 18, 2015</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch, Cal Poly Pomona</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b> Holiday Mixer with RSB ITE &amp; OCTEC <b>Wed. Dec 9, 2015</b> Appetizers – 5:30pm</p> <p>Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park</p>	
<p><b>JANUARY 2016</b> Joint Meeting with City Traffic Engineers <b>Wed. Jan 20, 2016</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY</b> Joint Meeting with Central Coast Section <b>Tues. Feb 16, 2016</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>TBD, Thousand Oaks</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b> Joint Meeting with San Diego Section <b>Fri. March 18, 2016</b> 10:00a – 2:00p Workshop, 12:00p Lunch</p> <p>El Adobe Restaurant, San Juan Capistrano</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b> Regular ITE Meeting <b>Wed. April 20, 2016</b> Lunch – 11:30am</p> <p>Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park</p>	<p><b>MAY</b> Student Chapter Night Co-sponsored by OCTEC <b>Wed. May 18, 2016</b> 4:00p Student Job Fair, 5:00p Dinner</p> <p>Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel, Buena Park</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b> Mini-Workshop/Annual Business &amp; Joint Meeting with ITS SoCal <b>Wed. June 15, 2016</b> 8:30a – 12:00p Workshop, 12:00p Lunch, 1:00p Business</p> <p>Monterey Hill Restaurant, Monterey Park</p>

NOTE: Calendar was last updated August 2015. Some information is subject to change.