



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

NEWSLETTER

2020 Issue No. 1

August-September 2020

President's Message

Ed Alegre, PTP, LA Metro



On behalf of the ITE SoCal Board, I hope that everyone had a great summer and are healthy and safe. I understand that there is a lot going on in today's society, and we hope the best for our members through these times. In the past couple of months, the Board and Chairs have been meeting to start planning for 2021 and beyond. Expect to see some good changes and additions to the Section as we try and transform the way we do business.

One program we are excited to pilot is "**All Aboard the MentorSHIP**", ITE SoCal's Mentor/Mentee program. I wanted to give credit to our Professional Activities Chair **Nora Chin** and our newly appointed Chair **Joceline Suhaimi**, for developing this program for our membership. This Mentor/Mentee program will be open to our members only; and will select only 10 mentors and 10 mentees during this pilot. We will be kicking off the application process in mid-October.

I would also like to mention some additional changes to our Chair positions. First, I am happy to announce the addition of the **STEM Outreach Chair** position, which was appointed to **Ruben Hovanesian**. Ruben took the initiative a few years ago to get the Section involved in STEM activities. I would like to thank Ruben for his contributions to the Section and want to congratulate him on his appointment of this Chair position. Lastly, I would like to congratulate **Emilio Murga** who will be transitioning from the Sponsorship Chair to Student Chapter Liaison.

We also have virtual meetings from now until the end of the calendar year. This month, we are happy to offer a webinar on "**Local Deployments of Adaptive Traffic Control Systems**", scheduled for **September 23rd from 11:00am to 12:00pm**. We have a great moderator, **Alicia Yang from OCTA**, that will lead the presentations and discussion of 3 local deployments in the **cities of Arcadia (Kevin Merrill), Brea (Dave Roseman), Culver City (John Fisher), and Diamond Bar (Christian Malpica)**. We look forward to your participation in this free webinar. In addition, we will be accepting donations for the webinar to help support our Student Chapters in their upcoming Traffic Bowl and Student Presentation Night. Any support is much appreciated.

In October, we will be hosting our first **Virtual Trivia Night!** Please join us for a night of trivia questions and prizes for our top winners. Also, ITE SoCal will be having a Joint Virtual Meeting with the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council (OCTEC) on October 22nd. Stay tuned for more information on both October events.

Lastly, I wanted to recognize one of our own, **John Fisher**, who was the recipient of the Western ITE Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you to **Neelam Dorman**, Western District President, for providing a wonderful tribute for John in this newsletter.

With that, we hope that our membership continues to stay engaged with our Section activities, and that everyone remains safe and healthy.

ITE SoCal September 2020 Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Local Deployments of Adaptive Traffic Control Systems

Moderator: Alicia Yang, OCTA

Presenters:

Kevin Merrill, City of Arcadia
Christian Malpica, City of Diamond
Bar

Dave Roseman, City of Brea
John Fisher, City of Culver City

[Registration](#)
See Flyer

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Brief Look Ahead

- ✦ July 18-21, 2021: Joint ITE International and Mountain and Western District Annual Meeting and Exhibition, Hyatt Regency Portland and the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR: [Annual Meeting Information](#)

Title Acts, An Infrastructure Bank, and an HSR Section

David M. Schwegel, PE (RK Engineering Group)

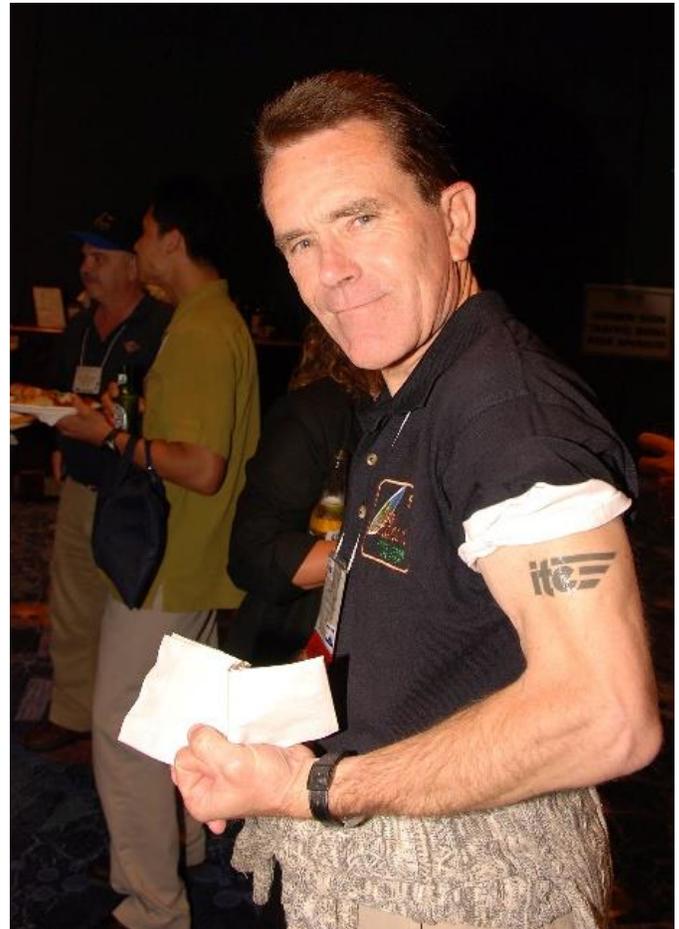
Title Acts: California has a two-tiered licensing system in the provision of professional engineering services. The top tier, consisting of civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering has both titles and practices protected. The bottom tier, consisting of agricultural, industrial, metallurgical, chemical, control systems, fire protection, nuclear, petroleum, and traffic engineering has only the titles protected. Anyone can practice in these fields. The challenge comes when sounds decision making by title act professionals may not be as respected as it would if the playing field were more even. To raise awareness, the spotlight can be shined on California's record-breaking heatwaves and wildfires, and the approximately 4,000 lives lost on California's roadways annually.

National Infrastructure Bank: Alexander Hamilton pioneered the concept of a National Infrastructure Bank for our nation. John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt carried on that legacy. However, back in the 1960's, the US lost focus, while much of the rest of the industrialized world moved aggressively to fund infrastructure through such a bank. Now in 2020, H.R. 6422 is going through Congress. If successful, it would create a National Infrastructure Bank that would leverage a \$4 trillion investment in infrastructure. For more information, see the [National Infrastructure Bank](#).

Los Angeles to Anaheim: Environmental efforts on this 30-mile High-Speed Rail Project Section connecting Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) and the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) are currently underway. Intermediate stations would be located at Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and Fullerton. The project would add High-Speed Rail tracks, positive train control, and intrusion protection barrier systems to this shared corridor consisting of passenger and freight rail systems. For more information, see the [Los Angeles to Anaheim Section](#).

Celebrating John Fisher: ITE Western District Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Neelam Dorman, PE (Kittelson & Associates)



John Fisher shows his dedication to the profession with the ITE Logo "tattooed" to his arm (Photo Credit: Neelam Dorman)

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the District's highest honor and recognition of professional accomplishment and service to the District, ITE and the profession of transportation engineering and/or planning. Eligible nominees must be active or retired members of the Western District whose achievements have spanned a period of not less than 20 years.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to present this award to someone from my home Section this year. This year, our very own John Fisher was awarded the District's highest honor. John has over 47 years of experience in our industry with almost 40 years with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT). John is an expert in the application of traffic

control devices, traffic engineering design, traffic operations and traffic safety on arterial streets. He has served on the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) for an extensive number of years and has served as the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Fisher has served the LADOT for thirty-nine years with thirteen years as Assistant General Manager. He is a voting member of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) and leader of the Delegation of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), which advises the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on traffic management innovations for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).



John Fisher and Colleagues at the ITE SoCal Steak Fry at the LA Police Academy (Photo Credit: Neelam Dorman)

Mr. Fisher is also an Advisor to the FHWA on evaluating new signs and pavement markings through the Traffic Control Devices Pooled Fund Study and ITE on connected vehicle technology. Mr. Fisher is a past chairman and a current member of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) which advises Caltrans on traffic management innovations for the California MUTCD. John is also currently a member of the City of South Pasadena Board of Public Works.

John has written over 15 articles and papers for ITE publications and presented at over 17 meetings.

As one of Los Angeles's City Attorney's said: "John is one of the best expert witnesses he has ever worked with. When questioned about a section of the CA MUTCD, John would humbly say, 'yes, that is correct--I wrote it.'" His calm demeanor in all circumstances is also uniquely admired along with his impeccable and consistent professionalism. John's career has helped

guide numerous transportation professionals who have had the opportunity to meet him and see his expertise and innovation in action. His mentorship is also attributed by his interest in the history of our transportation engineering profession.

To quote a few others who have had the pleasure to work with John over the years:

"John you have done so much for our profession and especially for me; and if it wasn't for you John, there is no way in the world I would have been able to serve ITE like I have been able to do. Thank you for all of your encouragement and support, not just at work, but also with ITE." – Zaki Mustafa



John Fisher and Zaki Mustafa at an ITE SoCal Meeting in Monterey Park (Photo Credit; Neelam Dorman)

"You have maintained professionalism in your work at the City and participated in ITE including the establishment of the Classic Transportation Engineer Award for the SoCal Section and your work on the Uniform Traffic Control Devices Committee." – Wes Pringle

Congratulations John on this much deserved recognition. We are all looking forward to congratulating you in-person at the next SoCal Section meeting.

[Award Video Link](#)

September 2020 Legislative Analysis
Tyler Lindberg (Iteris, Inc)



*Inside the Assembly Chambers
 (Photo Credit: David Schwegel)*

Midnight on September 1st marked the end of this year's legislative session in Sacramento, and due to the unforeseen events surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the legislature was effectively sidelined for much of the year - first for 45 days as stay-at-home orders persisted through April and May, and again for 3 weeks in July as lawmakers began testing positive for COVID-19. With less time to debate and gather public input and a crushing \$54.3 billion deficit from the pandemic's effect on the economy, few meaningful bills were passed this year, including on transportation legislation. While some legislators have expressed interest in being called back to session between the Labor Day holiday and Election Day, there is little indication that Governor Newsom will act on this idea, despite the mounting crises facing communities across the State.

Below is a selection of transportation legislation that were enrolled or passed during the recent legislative session:

SB 288 (Wiener) - allows certain transportation projects to be exempt from CEQA requirements, including the institution or increase of new bus rapid transit, bus, or light rail services, bicycle infrastructure, and projects for the designation and conversion of general purpose lanes, HOT and HOV lanes, and transit prioritization and zero emissions vehicle projects. The bill includes specific language regarding the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the need for recovery in traffic volumes to be balanced among transportation modes, creating jobs for transportation workers, and done so in

an equitable fashion. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

AB 1286 (Muratsuchi) - would require shared mobility service providers (electric scooter, electric bikes, etc.) to enter into an agreement with or obtain a permit from the city or county with jurisdiction over the area of use. Would require that the provider maintain a specified amount of commercial general liability insurance. Would require a city or county that authorizes shared mobility devices to adopt operation, parking, and maintenance rules regarding their use. (Status: Enrolled September 1, 2020)

AB 2141 (Mathis) - would bring state law into alignment with current federal regulations by requiring a person to pass a knowledge test instead of a written test before being issued a commercial driver's license, and waive requirements for both the knowledge test and driving skills test for current and former members of the United States Armed Forces who meet certain specified requirements based on driving experience in the Armed Forces. (Status: Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 2172 (Petrie-Norris) - would authorize commission to relinquish to the City of Laguna Beach a specified portion of State Route 133. (Status - Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 2006 (Fong) - would authorize commission to relinquish to the County of Kern and City of Bakersfield a specified portion of State Route 184. (Status - Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 2038 (Committee on Transportation) - omnibus bill that would: 1) require change transmitting procedure for \$3 levy on parking penalties to Treasurer for deposit into Trial Court Trust Fund; 2) delete an obsolete reporting requirement for California Highway Patrol to report to legislature implementation of an emergency medical dispatch training program; 3) repeal provisions relating to 2-year pilot program for recommendations requiring emergency road service organizations; 4) correct an obsolete cross-reference, and; 5) provide that any section of any act enacted by the Legislature during the 2020 calendar year and affects any existing section of the law would prevail over this act. (Status: Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 2932 (O'Donnell) - would authorize the City of Long Beach to use the design-build contracting process for its contracts for curb ramps compliant with ADA. (Status - Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 408 (Frazier) - would require DMV to accept a certificate from a county veterans service or VA that certifies an applicant that is a disabled veteran for a

special license plate or placard for purposes of certain parking privileges. (Enrolled August 31, 2020)

AB 3277 (Jones-Sawyer) – would change rules surrounding the collection of unpaid parking penalties, increasing the total amount that can be paid in installments to \$500 and the time over which penalties and fees can be paid to 24 months. Would require payment plans for indigent persons to allow them 120 calendar days to file said request; and would require a link to the processing agency’s payment site to be readily accessible on a prominent location on the citation payment. (Status: Enrolled August 27, 2020)

SB 895 (Archuleta) – would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, within the limits of available funds, to provide technical assistance and support for the development of zero-emission fuels, fueling infrastructure, and transportation technologies. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

SB 146 (Beall) – would recharacterize Regional Transportation Plan development workshops as public engagement gatherings and would authorize these informational meetings, public engagement gatherings, and public hearings to be conducted by electronic means. (Status: Enrolled September 3, 2020)

AB 841 (Ting) – would require Public Utilities Commission to come to final decision by March 2021 over new zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, such as EV charger for electric cars, essentially requiring all charging stations to have separate charging meter infrastructure by mid-2021. It would also expedite the approval of new electric vehicle charging stations. The bill also includes provisions for greening HVAC systems in schools. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

AB 2800 (Quirk) – would require state agencies to take into account the economic damage and financial liabilities associated with the impacts of climate change when planning, designing, building, operating, maintaining, and investing in new infrastructure. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

SB 1351 (Beall) – Bill would require each transportation planning agency and county transportation commission with multiple transit agencies within its jurisdiction to update every four years the rules and regulations concerning transfer policies, payment methods, and other relevant policy changes to ensure coordinated service exists between agencies. Bill would also place limits on the Director of Transportation from allocating an amount of greater than 5% of a transportation agency’s annual revenues toward planning and programming purposes. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

AB 2730 (Cervantes) – would authorize a county to enter into an agreement with an adjacent county for purposes of permitting the requesting county to borrow, for compensation, the county’s emergency management and transportation services in the event of an emergency that requires the evacuation and relocation of the access and functional needs population in the adjacent county. (Status: Enrolled September 1, 2020)

AB 2285 (Committee on Transportation) – would extend the requirement that 20% of the California Clean Truck, Bus, and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program, upon appropriation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, allocates no less than 20% of funding made available for that purpose to support early commercial deployment of existing zero and near-zero-emission heavy duty truck technology. Would also extend DMV authorization for a pilot program to evaluate the use of alternatives to stickers, tabs, and license registration cards for expiration of vehicle registration. Finally, would require a person driving on the highway approaching a stationary emergency vehicle to make a lane change away from it on all limited-access roadways. (Status: Enrolled September 1, 2020)

SB 1291 (Committee on Transportation) – would provide that an MPO or transportation planning agency is not required to submit an FTIP to the Department of Transportation, and that DOT is not required to submit to the secretary, for 2020. (Status: Enrolled September 4, 2020)

Highlights from ITE

Here are some highlights from ITE:

- September 2020 issue of *ITE Journal*: [ITE Journal](#)
- Webinar, September 14: [Smart Columbus Program](#)
- Webinar, September 15: [Pedestrian Safety, Travel Monitoring, and Relating the Two](#)
- Webinar, September 22: [Traffic Management for Planned, Unplanned, and Emergency Events](#)
- Webinar, September 24: [Mobility as a Service and Mobility on Demand during COVID-19](#)
- Webinar, September 29: [Exploring Ways to Simulate Roundabouts](#)
- Webinar, September 30: [Creating an Open & Secure Multi-Vendor Traffic Ecosystem](#)

For more ITE news, check your email inboxes for the latest issue of *ITE Spotlight*.

Thank you to our Sponsors for their support. Your contribution to the Section has helped us greatly to continue to do business and support our Student Chapters.

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September Virtual Meeting

**September 23, 2020
11:00AM to 12:15PM**

Local Deployments of Adaptive Traffic Control Systems

Moderator: Alicia Yang, OCTA

Presenters:

*Kevin Merrill, City of Arcadia
Christian Malpica, City of Diamond Bar
Dave Roseman, City of Brea
John Fisher, City of Culver City*

Registration through Eventbrite (Zoom Link will be provided with your confirmation email:

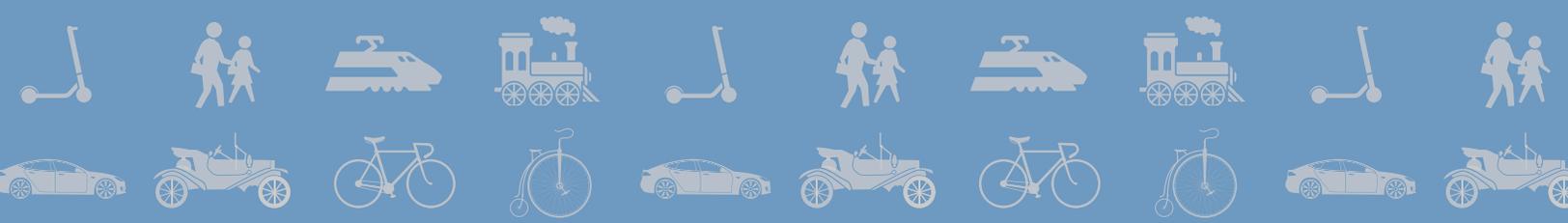
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ite-socal-september-2020-virtual-meeting-tickets-119388659695>

***Webinar is Free, however, Donations will be accepted to support
our Local Student Chapters***

For Questions, please contact:
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Secretary, ITE SoCal Section
marc.violett@mbakerintl.com

Webinar is Sponsored By:





All Aboard the MentorSHIP!

**Interested in boarding?
Fill out this survey!**

<https://tinyurl.com/SoCalITEMentorshipInterest>

Background:

ITE SoCal Professional Activities Chairs are developing a virtual mentorship program for 2021. With a year-long pairing, participating mentors and mentees will explore various career topics such as networking, career advancement, and work-life balance through one-on-one conversations and organized virtual events.