



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

NEWSLETTER

2024, Issue No. 4

Winter Quarter 2024

President's Message

Saly Heng, PE, Los Angeles World Airports



2025 is officially here. While I wish we could rejoice reflecting on an amazing 2024, Southern California's 2025 was greeted with a harsh dry winter and strong winds leading to these ongoing wildfires. We are all heartbroken seeing the loss across the region and we want to thank all first responders, volunteers, and organizers who are providing support to the families in need. It is during these tremulous times that agencies emphasize the need for resiliency in our aging infrastructure. As transportation professionals, I know many of us will be considering lessons learned in future planning, design, and operations of our transportation system. As I've shared in previous articles, refurbishing and rehabilitating the region's existing facilities should continue to be prioritized.

With that said, I still want to recognize our membership and partners who made 2024 a successful year for ITE Southern California. Thank you to everyone who attended the student traffic bowl, our end-of-year business meeting, and the sold-out Holiday Mixer with OCTEC, RSBITE, and ITSCA. I commend the board and all of the chairs for curating a year of fun activities, informative technical sessions, and keeping our membership informed on ITE and transportation industry news.

Congratulations to Gene Kim, HDR Engineering for being elected as our new Section Treasurer. I know you will bring leadership a fresh set of eyes and ideas on where to take our section next. We have Jason Xu at the helm, and I have zero doubt he will lead ITE SoCal to another successful year of events for our section.

Thank you all again, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Western District Meeting in Long Beach! If you haven't yet, registration is OPEN!

Inside This Issue

Brief Look Ahead – **Pg. 3**

2025 Newsletter Schedule **Pg. 3**

Social Media Discussion Questions – **Pg. 3**

November 2024 Business Meeting – **Pg. 3**

ASCE Dream Big Event – **Pg. 4**

Jackets For the Homeless Drive – **Pg. 4**

SoCal ITE Joint Holiday Mixer - **Pg. 5**

2025 ITE Student Leadership Summit – **Pg. 5**

ITE International Update – **Pg. 6**

ITE Western District Update – **Pg. 6**

Hot Topics at Caltrans District 7 – **Pg. 6**

Hot Topics at Caltrans District 12 – **Pg. 6**

Hot Transportation Topics from the Southern California Association of Governments – **Pg. 7**

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Brief Look Ahead

- ❖ January 31 - February 02, Western District Student Leadership Summit, more information [here](#).
- ❖ February 27, Signal Timing Webinar, more information [here](#).
- ❖ March 25 - 26, ITE Virtual Spring Conference, more information [here](#).
- ❖ June 29 - July 2, 2024, 2025 Western District Annual Meeting (Long Beach, CA), more information [here](#).

Newsletter Schedule

Angelo Pastelin, Co-Newsletter Editor
(Kimley-Horn)

The Quarterly Newsletter is an excellent opportunity to expand and showcase your technical knowledge before a large audience of top-notch Transportation Planning & Engineering professions. Currently, the Section has around 700 members and growing. The Section has consistently won the top Outstanding Section award by ITE International, thereby underscoring the value of having articles published in the Newsletter. To submit articles or to offer suggestions on article topics of interest, please email Jason Xu at jxu@iteris.com, Angelo Pastelin at angelo.pastelin@kimley-horn.com, or David Schwegel at davidmschwegel1@gmail.com. Please be sure to provide your content by the content deadline, as it is very much appreciated, and it makes the work of the Section Board and Chairs a lot easier. Here is the projected Newsletter schedule for the first half of Calendar Year 2025:

Quarter	Content Deadline	Approximate Publication Date
Spring	Friday, March 21	Monday, March 31
Summer	Friday, July 11	Friday, July 18

For suggestions on Section activities including webinar topics, please email SoCal Section President Jason Xu at jxu@iteris.com.

Social Media Discussion Questions

Editor's Note: To make our quarterly Section Newsletters more interactive and encourage more participation on the Section's LinkedIn page, here are the discussion questions for this issue. Section Members are encouraged to weigh in on these and other discussion topics. Please email Angelo Pastelin at angelo.pastelin@kimley-horn.com, or David Schwegel at davidmschwegel1@gmail.com to weigh in on discussion topics.

1. Which Webinar topics would you like to see more of?
2. Which ITE Event are you looking forward to most in Calendar Year 2025?
3. How will you try to onboard more people to ITE SoCal?

November 2024

ITE SoCAL Business Meeting

Jason Xu, ITE SoCal Vice President (Iteris)

In our November meeting, we celebrated great achievements in 2024, beginning with the presentation of the Individual Excellence Award to Emilio Murga, in recognition of his outstanding contributions. Additionally, we were thrilled to honor Eric Shen, with the Lifetime Achievement Award, acknowledging his remarkable and enduring impact in ITE community.

The 2024 Board Reports highlighted significant achievements and growth in various areas. The Treasurer's report revealed an increase in both revenue and expenditure compared to CY 2023, attributed to the success of in-person events. Furthermore, the report showcased that a high contribution to student scholarships was maintained from the previous year, resulting in higher scholarship awards. This financial success underscores our commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of student members and young professionals.



The 2025 ITESoCal Board (Photo Credit: ITE SoCal)

The Secretary's report expressed gratitude and recognition for the outstanding efforts of Committee Chairs, including Vanessa Wong for Website, Kenny Pham for Social Media, and Bryan Luong, Jonathan Delgado, Marcel Kurniawan for Scribes. The Event Promotion section highlighted the success of our outreach efforts, with 38 correspondences sent and a rising open rate and click rate. Particularly noteworthy was the 2024 Summer Mixer, which achieved the highest open rate at 56%. The Vice President's report provided a comprehensive overview of both virtual and in-person events, underscoring our commitment to knowledge-sharing and networking within the transportation communities.

Finally, the meeting concluded with notable highlights, including the election of Gene Kim for Treasurer, and the installation of the 2025 Board by Doug Smith, ITE Western District Vice President.

December 2024
ASCE Dream Big K-12 STEM Event
Langdon Teh, STEM Outreach
(LADOT)

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, ITE SoCal and RSBITE hosted a Mini Figures Workshop at the 7th Annual Dream Big: A K-12 Civil Engineering Outreach Event hosted by ASCE CSULB. The "LEGO Figure Workshops" is a project management type activity and professional volunteers spoke at the event. Thank you to all the volunteers for sharing your passion for engineering with the next generation at ASCE CSULB's K-12 STEM Workshop! The students had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of engineering-related workshops, gaining valuable insights into the civil engineering industry. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

December 2024
Jackets For the Homeless Drive
Zaki Mustafa

Yesterday, The Salvation Army-The Way In hosted their annual Christmas holiday party! 🌲 It was a joyful celebration with community, great food and special presents for all of our program participants. Presents included warm jackets, hygiene bags, backpacks, footwear and clothing for everyone. A big thank you to our donors: ITE SoCal, OCTEC, rsbITE, TransformingaLife, YBCharter-Home Sweet Home, and New Clothes 4 God's Kids for their support and helping this event be possible.



Participants of the Jacket Drive (Photo Credit: ITE SoCal)

December 2024
SoCal ITE Joint Holiday Mixer
Angelo Pastelin, Co-Newsletter Editor (Kimley-Horn)

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, ITE SoCal, OCTEC, and RSBITE came together for an amazing Holiday Mixer. Held at the Anaheim Marriott Suites, we had professionals from all over Southern California, and beyond. The event included Casino Night activities, photobooths, and thousands of dollars worth of raffle prizes. Thank you to all that attended and special thanks to the event organizers for putting on such a great joint event!



A portion of the 2024 Holiday Mixer attendees (Photo Credit: ITE SoCal)

2025 ITE Student Leadership Summit
UCLA ITE

ITE at UCLA is hosting the annual ITE Western District Student Leadership Summit from January 31st to February 2nd. We project 250 students in attendance from 13 university student chapters, including the fledgling UC Riverside chapter, Oregon State University, and University of Washington. ITE at UCLA's 10th Annual Student-Professional Mixer will be part of the Student Leadership Summit on Friday, January 31st at 5:30PM. Other highlights of SLS include workshops, professional panels, a career fair featuring our event sponsors, and the first in-person ITE Traffic Bowl since the pandemic. If you are interested in volunteering and helping to run some of these events, please reach out to Justin Lue at justinlue479@g.ucla.edu. This is an exciting opportunity to reach 250+ students from across ITE Western District to form the next generation of leaders at the largest Student Leadership Summit to date. Please find more information about event specifics on our website, and please register here if you would like to attend (\$120 professional registration). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact our SLS chair Evan Cho at SLS2025.ucla@gmail.com or our

External Vice President Henry Tang at external.iteucla@gmail.com.

ITE at UCLA is hosting the 2025 Student Leadership Summit!



Save the date!
**Friday, January 31st -
Sunday, February 2nd**



ITE at UCLA is hosting the 2025 Student Leadership Summit!



ITE at UCLA invites you to join 200+ transportation students and professionals from across the West Coast for an unforgettable three-days of learning, mentorship, and connection.



ITE International Update

1. Review the ITE international events calendar, [here](#).
2. ITE learning hub provides [certificate training programs](#) that are available and added monthly.
3. New [resources and publications](#) are available and added monthly.

ITE Western District Update

1. Review the [events calendar](#) for future western district events.
2. The Western District has eleven Sections over two Regions. Region 1 consists of Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. Region 2 consists of Central California and Southern California. For hyperlinks to each of the twelve Sections, Student Chapter, Helpful Section Links, and Section Awards, go to [Section Links](#)
3. Current Newsletter – [see here](#)

Hot Topics at Caltrans District 7 (Los Angeles)

1. Interstate 5 (I-5) Freeway [Preservation Project](#)
2. Interstate 605 (I-605) [Freeway Enhancements Project](#)
3. Interstate 405 (I-405) Western Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard [Auxiliary Lanes Project](#)

Hot Topics at Caltrans District 12 (Orange County)

1. State Route 91 (SR-91) [Improvement Project](#) -
2. Interstate 5 (I-5)/ El Toro Road [Interchange Improvement Project](#)
3. State Route 1 (SR-1) [Bike Lane Project](#)

**Hot Transportation Topics from the
Southern California Association of
Governments (SCAG)**

1. SCAG [Grant Opportunities](#)
2. For information on upcoming meetings including the Transportation Committee and the Social Committee on Equality & Justice, go to [SCAG Committee Meetings](#).
3. For information on Transportation Models, go to [SCAG Transportation Models](#).
4. For the Upcoming Events Calendar, go to [SCAG Events Calendar](#).

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Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing our successful partnership in 2025!

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