

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Current/Future Members and Colleagues,

June's meeting will mark the end of an era for me, as my four-year term on the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council (OCTEC) board comes to a close. With a mix of emotions, I pen this farewell message to all of you, the esteemed members of this great council.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each one of my fellow board members I have served with over these four years. Serving alongside such a talented and dedicated group of professionals has been an absolute privilege. I have witnessed the unwavering commitment and passion that drives this council and our industry forward. Together, we have accomplished remarkable feats; entering Covid, adjusting to work from home and the virtual world (the new normal), and emerging from Covid to return to business as usual.

I am immensely proud of the time I spent on the board, the progress we have made in our operations, the growth of our membership, the quality of our very generous speakers, and the engagement of our members. Some positive notes from this past year:

- Membership: **230+** (highest on record)
- In-person Joint Holiday Mixer with ITE SoCal/ITS-CA/RSBITE (first since 2019)
- Average in-person Meeting Attendance: **91** (back to pre-Covid numbers)
- OCTEC LinkedIn Company Page (**220** people have smashed that follow button!)
- Sold Out Golf Tournament (**\$7,000+** donated to Student Chapters)

As I transition from my role on the board, I am confident that the future OCTEC board will continue to thrive under the capable leadership of my esteemed colleagues and new president, **Michael Plotnik**, PE, TE. I have every faith in your ability to carry forward the council's mission and further elevate the field of traffic engineering in our county.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire membership of OCTEC and our very generous sponsors. It has been an honor to serve as a member of this esteemed council and contribute to its success. The memories, experiences, and friendships forged during my time here will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you all for an amazing four years, I'll see you in September at the round tables with my "Past President" name badge!

Cheers,

**Ryan Calad, PE, TE**  
OCTEC President

Next OCTEC Meeting:

**Thursday, June 22, 2023**  
**11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Orange County Mining Co**  
10000 S Crawford Canyon Rd  
Orange, CA 92705

### Lunch Fees:

Member (by 5pm on 6/20): \$20  
Non-Member (by 5pm on 6/20): \$25  
Student (by 5pm on 6/20): \$10  
At-the-door: \$30

Please register via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octec-june-2023-luncheon-tickets-648771150977) at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octec-june-2023-luncheon-tickets-648771150977>

If you have any questions,  
please contact  
**Trevor Briggs**, at  
[trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com](mailto:trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com)

## THIS MONTH'S LUNCH IS SPONSORED BY:



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JUNE PRESENTATION:

Status of ITS and Connected Vehicles

John Thai, TE, EE, Principal Traffic Engineer, City of Anaheim



Speaker Bio:

John Thai is a Principal Traffic Engineer, working in the Traffic Management Center, for the City of Anaheim (since 1997). He is a registered Electrical and Traffic Engineer in the State of California. Mr. Thai has been with the City of Anaheim for over 25 years and has extensive experience with signal timing, operations, and signal systems and communication infrastructure. Prior to working at the City of Anaheim, Mr. Thai worked with the City of Irvine and the City of Los Angeles.

APRIL 2023 MEETING RECAP

The sixth OCTEC luncheon of the 2022-2023 year was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the Orange County Mining Company, and it was quite the turnout as there was a very interesting topic that everyone can certainly relate to and appreciate. The topic was, "Federal Funding Acts: Requirements, Strategies, and the latest from Capitol Hill", and was presented by Shane L. Silsby (Silsby Strategic Advisors). As this is such a broad topic there were plenty of great questions asked as federal funding requirements seem to change all the time. For those who were unable to attend the meeting please feel free to e-mail any of the Board members and the presentation slides can be made available.



## OCTEC 2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTEC wishes to thank everyone able to participate in our annual Golf Tournament on May 12th at Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita. A special thank you to our hard working Golf Tournament Chair, Ron Keith, for another fully packed turnout, the Golf Committee Members for helping prepare everything for the event, and of course, all of our sponsors who make this tournament possible! We'll see everyone at the next one.



## 2023 OCTEC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

# Renew your 2023 OCTEC Membership

Members enjoy discounted tickets to events.

Join via **Eventbrite** at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-octec-membership-tickets-506636201517>

As a reminder, only OCTEC Members will be allowed to vote in June 2023 for the election.

To Do List:

- ✓ **Sign up** for the June Luncheon
- ✓ **Show up** for the June Luncheon
- ✓ **Vote** for the OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator



## OCTEC & ITE SOCAL JOINT STUDENT NIGHT RECAP

OCTEC and ITE SoCal held it's Annual Student Presentation Night on May 18, 2023 in which five (5) student chapters presented their annual projects to a panel of judges including our own OCTEC Board members Ryan Calad and Michael Plotnik.

We would like to thank everyone who was able to join us. Congratulations to UCLA for first (1st) place, UCI for second (2nd) place, Cal Poly Pomona for third (3rd) place, as well as USC and CSUF on their outstanding and informative presentations.

OCTEC and ITE SoCal made a combined total contribution of **\$14,000** (\$7,000 for Student Presentation Night and \$7,000 for the Student Traffic Bowl Winners) which was then awarded to each of the student chapters.



## LOCAL, REGIONAL, & NATIONAL NEWS

### City Searching for Permanent Solution to Address Casa Landslide

City officials on Tuesday evening, June 6, acknowledged the need for permanent repairs to stabilize the hillside below the Casa Romantica Cultural Center & Gardens, which experienced a landslide on Monday, June 5—the second in recent weeks.

“We don’t have any plans for any immediate work right now,” Kiel Koger, city engineer and director of public works, told councilmembers during a briefing on Monday morning’s landslide. “We think more permanent repairs need to happen to secure the building site at this point.”

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### 91 Express Lanes bonds upgraded by Moody’s

ORANGE – Moody’s Investors Service announced today that it has upgraded the rating on the Orange County Transportation Authority’s 91 Express Lanes senior lien toll revenue bonds debt from an A1 to an Aa3 rating.

In upgrading the bonds to an Aa3 rating with a stable outlook, Moody’s noted that it anticipates OCTA, which owns and manages the lanes, will “continue to manage the road in a prudent and conservative manner that will support a resilient credit profile.”

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Biden administration awards \$39.6M to grade separate L.A. County rail crossings

On June 5, the Federal Railroad Administration announced more than \$64.5 million in funding awards which will go toward seven grade separation projects within the State of California. Of that total, roughly \$39.6 million is set to go toward projects in Los Angeles County.

“Every year, commuters, residents, and first responders lose valuable time waiting at blocked railroad crossings – and worse, those crossings are too often the site of collisions that could be prevented,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in a news release. “As part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, we’re improving rail crossings in communities across the country to save lives, time, and resources for American families.”

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Studebaker Road project, now projected to cost \$38M, could break ground in 2024

A long-planned revamp of Studebaker Road in East Long Beach has gotten more expensive, and its start date has been pushed back, which has led the city to seek funds to pay for repairs that were more complicated than expected, city officials said Tuesday.

Studebaker runs from Second Street to Los Coyotes Diagonal within the city and is one of four major corridors the city has identified for major renovations, which include Market Street...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Amtrak submits applications for nearly \$7.3B to fund 14 projects

Amtrak recently submitted applications to the Federal Railroad Administration for nearly \$7.3 billion in Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program grants to fund 14 proposed Northeast Corridor projects.

“In order for Amtrak to continue advancing a new era of passenger rail, we must make generational investments that require federal funding,” Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner said. “Securing these grants would help reaffirm our commitment to...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Amtrak announces plans to expand services throughout the South

SHREVEPORT, La. - A series of briefings are happening this week, re-introducing the expansion of Amtrak in northern Louisiana.

The first event is happening at 2 p.m. Wednesday, in Shreveport at the Government Plaza foyer on Travis Street. The second is at 4 p.m. in Ruston, near the Farmer’s Market on Mississippi Avenue. A third briefing is happening Thursday in Monroe.

Amtrak and partners have been contemplating the idea for more than 20 years, but the passage of the infrastructure investment and jobs act in 2022 is giving NWLA the opportunity to believe in the potential expansion of Amtrak’s long-distance service.

If funded, and if a sufficient business plan can prove a direct...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



The **City of Irvine** is seeking a seasoned and innovative professional to lead the City's Signal Maintenance division. The Senior Transportation Engineer oversees the City's signal maintenance engineers, analysts, technicians, and specialists and is responsible for fiscal and procurement management.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/irvine/jobs/4066063/senior-transportation-engineer>



The **City of Newport Beach** seeks highly motivated individuals to join the Public Works Department. Currently there are two flexibly staffed vacancies that may be filled at either the Junior Engineer or Associate Civil Engineer level depending on the applicant's qualifications. Successful candidates will be placed on an eligibility list that may be used to fill future full-time and part-time vacancies as they occur.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/newportbeach/jobs/4067843/junior-engineer-associate-civil-engineer-ft-pt>



The **City of La Habra** is seeking to fill the position of Clerk in the Engineering Division within the Public Works Department and to establish an eligibility list for future openings.

Under general supervision, performs general and semi-complex clerical duties for the Engineering Division within the Public Works Department including record keeping, typing, filing, computer data input, administrative duties, and field investigations as required; provides direct staff support to the Engineering Division and performs related duties as required.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lahabraca/jobs/4070469/clerk-engineering?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>



The **City of Seal Beach** is seeking as Assistant Engineer. Under general supervision, performs basic professional and technical engineering work, such as engineering public works, development, water, street, storm drain, sewer construction, maintenance, and traffic signal projects; assists in reviewing grading plans, collecting field data, issuing permits, using computer-aided design and drafting software to prepare and update maps and plans; and does related work as required.

<https://www.calopps.org/seal-beach/job-20394932>

### Michael Baker

#### INTERNATIONAL

**Michael Baker International** is hiring a Civil Associate (Traffic Engineering) will develop ITS, fiber optic, traffic signal, traffic control, signing, and pavement marking plans, as well as perform traffic operational analyses. The Traffic Engineer will utilize their knowledge and skills to support our project teams in the delivery of projects through planning and design.

[https://ebxs.fa.us2.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX\\_2/job/304030](https://ebxs.fa.us2.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX_2/job/304030)



**ADVANTEC** is hiring for Highway/Public Works Senior and Mid-level Project Managers; ITS Project Managers; ITS, Electrical, and Traffic Engineering Mid-Level Project Engineers; Graduating Transportation Engineers; and Inters.

<https://www.advantec-usa.com>

Please contact [Ryan Calad](#) or any Board member if you have any job listings that you would like posted to the OCTEC website or included in the next month's OCTEC newsletter.

Visit our [WEBSITE](#) for the latest job posts, newsletters, and presentations from current and past meetings.

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## 2022-2023 SPONSORS

OCTEC would like to give a special thanks to all of our generous sponsors!

Meeting Date

Newsletter Sponsors

Lunch/Meeting Sponsors

September 22, 2022

AGA Engineers, Inc.  
Michael Baker International

October 27, 2022  
Joint Meeting — ITE SoCal

General Technologies and Solutions  
LSA Associates, Inc.

January 26, 2023

KOA Corporation  
Bear Electrical Solutions, Inc.

February 23, 2023

DDL Traffic Inc.  
EtherWAN

March 23, 2023  
Joint Meeting with ITS-CA

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.  
NexTech Systems, Inc.

April 27, 2023

Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers  
RailPros, Inc.

May 12, 2023

OCTEC Golf Tournament  
SoCal ITE/OCTEC Student Chapter Night

<Sponsorship Available>

June 22, 2023

ADVANTEC Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Ganddini Group, Inc.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Trevor Briggs at (714) 786-6117 or [trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com](mailto:trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com)

### OCTEC 2022 - 2023 Officers

### OCTEC Committee Chairs



**Ryan Calad**  
President

Michael Baker Intl  
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[mpolunin@epdsolutions.com](mailto:mpolunin@epdsolutions.com)

Contact Any of the board members if you are interested in joining the OCTEC Team in the future.

## OCTEC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

# MAI DER VANG

## OCTEC Sponsorship / Membership Coordinator Candidate

It is a great honor to be nominated for the role of Membership/Sponsorship Coordinator. Over the past 6 years as an active member, I have reaped immense benefits from OCTEC events including the real connections I forged with fellow members. I am ready to take on additional responsibility to lead this organization into the next chapter.

If elected as your next OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator, I am committed to:

- **Inspire** our local students and young professionals to become active participants in the future of our unique and thriving organization.
- **Collaborate** with our OCTEC Board and partner organizations in Southern California to provide a rewarding and complimentary experience for all sponsors and members.
- **Empower** members to advance their network and elevate their professional career and technical expertise.

As a native of Fresno, California, I traveled to UC Irvine for my BS in Civil Engineering and fell in love with the beautiful Orange County. Having worked with both private and public entities, I have a unique blend of understanding of our members needs and I am the perfect candidate to leverage my network to maximize sponsorship opportunities. As a young professional, I offer a fresh perspective and a willingness to embrace new ideas and tools to engage our members.

I humbly ask for your support and the opportunity to give back to this community that has given me so much.

*MAI CHOICE IS VANG!*



- ▶ 6-year OCTEC Member
- ▶ BS, Civil Engineering, UCI



Contact:  
[mvang@cityofirvine.org](mailto:mvang@cityofirvine.org)



**OCTEC**

**VENDOR SHOW & SOCIAL NIGHT****LA / OC Traffic Signal Association****Along with OCTEC****Invite you to the****2023 Vendor Show and Social Night  
In Fountain Valley****It's time for our annual TSA Vendor Show and Social Event!****THANKS TO OCTEC FOR SPONSORING THE FOOD!!**

There will be plenty of hors-d'oeuvres served from 4:00 PM until the conclusion of the evening.  
Drinks will of course be available for purchase from our bar

This year's show will start at 4:00PM and end with the gala prize raffle starting at about 7:00PM.  
(Special pricing on raffle tickets for paid TSA Membership.)

**Vendors, don't forget to bring donations for the raffle, it's a great way to advertise your company and support TSA.**

**Mark your calendars - Please let your employees know!****When: Thursday – October 26 th , 2023**

**Where: Mile Square Golf Course  
10401 Warner Ave  
Fountain Valley, Ca 92708  
PH # 714-962-5541**

**Time: Social & Vendor Show - 4:00PM till 8:00PM**

Questions? Comments?

Contact

Dan Eichmann at [dan@ddltraffic.com](mailto:dan@ddltraffic.com) or 714.321.7513

Mike Beyke at [mikeb@rodfx.com](mailto:mikeb@rodfx.com) or 909-227-3731

**SEE YOU THERE!**