

# OCTEC Gazette

The Official Newsletter of the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council

## President's Message

Dear OCTEC community,

Thank you all for being a part of another year of OCTEC. I wanted to thank everyone from members to presenters, and sponsors to those that might not be members but participated in one of our events. It has been a challenging year, but everyone made my job easier, and I am glad we were able to make the most of it and still provide interesting and informative topics for our monthly events.

We were able to hold our monthly meetings virtually on the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. And thanks to the efforts of the golf committee, we were able to hold the annual golf tournament once again. Although still virtual, last month was the annual Student Night in collaboration with SoCal ITE and RSBITE. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and members, OCTEC contributed \$10,000 to the different universities that participated in the event and the traffic bowl.

Unfortunately, I will be the first OCTEC president to not hold any of our lunch meetings in-person. But hopefully I will be the only one. One positive is that I did not have to wear a suit for over a year. With the way things are currently trending we are hoping to resume luncheons at Orange County Mining Company starting in September. And along with that the return of social mixers and possibly other events.

With the end of my time on the OCTEC Board comes a new member. This year we have two great nominees running for the 2020-21 OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator position: Mr. Trevor Briggs and Mr. Adrian Rodriguez. If you have registered to be an OCTEC Member by the June 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline then you are eligible to vote in the election. Voting will commence on June 28<sup>th</sup> and close on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please look for an email from Election Runner. Voting results will be announced via e-mail.

Finally, I want to thank the rest of OCTEC Board for which without their help, none of this would have been possible. Olga Polunin will be the OCTEC president for 21/22. I have complete confidence that she will continue OCTEC's excellence.

I hope you all have a great summer, and everyone stays safe and healthy. I can't wait to see everyone again in September!

Sincerely,

Archie Tan

OCTEC President 2020-2021

## June Luncheon Meeting:

June 24, 2021

Virtual Meeting

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

### Fees:

Members: FREE

Non-Members: \$5

Registration Ends 6/23 @ 5 pm

Please register via [Eventbrite](#)

If you have any questions,  
please contact

Michael Plotnik, at

[mplotnik@lahabraca.gov](mailto:mplotnik@lahabraca.gov)

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS SPONSORED BY:



### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Program and Speaker Bios	2
National, Regional & Local News	3
OCTEC News	4
Job Announcements & Recaps	5
Newsletter Sponsors	6
Sponsors and OCTEC Officers	7
OCTEC Candidate Statements	8

## June Presentation

**HNTB****EQUITY AS AN EMERGING TOPIC ON EXPRESS LANES/ROAD PRICING PROJECTS****MATTHEW CLICK, AICP | NATIONAL CONGESTION PRICING PRACTICE LEADER**

Matthew has 25 years of congestion pricing, equity, policy and communications experience. His first express lanes project in 2004 was the 95 Express Lanes in Miami, Florida where he successfully secured \$106 million in federal grant funding necessary to implement the project. Since then, He has worked on over 20 express lanes in nine states. Matt's portfolio of congestion pricing project experience includes priced express lanes, interstate tolling, RUC/VMT and cordon pricing. Matt has developed and implemented equity policies and programs for congestion pricing projects in New York City, Miami, Atlanta, Virginia and California. Matt works with public sector clients to think through and deliver start-up congestion pricing projects. (mclick@hntb.com)

**CHERIE GIBSON | PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST**

Cherie is a senior communications director and external affairs officer with more than 20 years of experience in strategic communications, marketing and public involvement and equity programs for tolling, transit, planning and mega infrastructure projects. Her work as a project spokesperson and communications strategist has played a major role in shaping public understanding of transportation planning and has helped strengthen relationships between public agencies and the communities they serve. Cherie serves as the office's Equity and DBE firm outreach and engagement program coordinator to ensure diversity and inclusion in HNTB's local projects and programs particularly those working with DOTs. Cherie currently leads external affairs functions for the DMVW geography and projects including partnerships and programming with TransSTEM Academy at Cardozo High School, National Association of Black Women In Construction (NABWIC), and Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure+ Inc. (cgibson@hntb.com)

**SHAUMIK PAL, AICP | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER – PLANNING**

Shaumik has 17 years of experience in the fields of traffic, managed lanes, toll, transportation planning and transit studies. He has a track record of managing long-range planning, toll feasibility and managed lane projects in the southern California region. In the past couple of years, Shaumik has been supporting SANDAG projects related to the Regional Plan, Corridor Multimodal plans, and congestion pricing projects. Social equity has been an extremely important aspect in each of these projects, especially related to Managed Lanes. Shaumik has been helping SANDAG by providing the most helpful and exhaustive analysis for them to make fair decisions related to equity, including but not limited to, pricing, access to multimodal choices, and public outreach. (spal@hntb.com)

**SAMANTHA SOULES | DEPUTY PRACTICE LEAD – TOLLING AND EMERGING MOBILITY SOLUTIONS**

Sam Soules has 17+ years of experience in tolling, starting as a deputy project manager for TxDOT's first toll program which underwent a rapid conversion to all-electronic tolling and created the state's first initiative to address tolling inequity in unbanked and underbanked populations. Since then, Sam has supported toll projects in several states, all of which included a form of equity or environmental justice initiatives. Currently, she is working with BATA on affordability-based barriers to the FasTrak program and with SFCTA on Treasure Island's tolling equity policies and program. Before joining HNTB, Samantha served as the program manager and strategic advisor for BAIFA's Toll System Manager team, leading toll program development, procurement of a system integrator, and implementation of the first 90-mile phase of BAIFA's network of managed lanes. (ssoules@hntb.com)

**LACY VONG | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

Lacy has over 20 years of experience and has analyzed government requirements and regulations for a wide range of programs, including those administered by FTA, FHWA, and state DOTs, resulting in recommended actions. Lacy recently joined HNTB as Senior Project Manager, providing leadership on tolling, emerging mobility solutions, and transit projects. She is currently working on the San Mateo US 101 Express Lanes Project providing strategic advice on its equity study, including working closely with the client on the community engagement strategy and contributing to the development of program alternatives. She is also assisting the Bay Area Toll Authority in developing a customer focused equity action plan to improve services to historically underserved customers. Prior to joining HNTB, she was an Assistant Director of Field Operations for the US GAO, where she was also a certified Diversity and Inclusion facilitator and served on agency committees and employee associations to further diversity, inclusion, and equity goals. (lvong@hntb.com)

**DARIN WELCH | GEOSPATIAL AND VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT SOLUTIONS MANAGER**

Darin is the national geospatial manager in HNTB's Technology Solutions Center, and leads a team of talented support staff for many of HNTB's most significant geospatial analytics and virtual public involvement (VPI) initiatives. He brings a substantial level of knowledge and thought leadership through his strong technical background in technology systems integration and project management, application development, and inclusive public engagement solutions. Darin has been with HNTB for 22 years, refining his skills in the geospatial arena with a focus on leveraging existing software investments, configuration over customization, emphasizing the importance of the end-user experience. Most recently he has led the development and continued refinement of HNTB's Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA) which provides public agencies with a comprehensive system for managing all aspects of VPI, including, providing an accessible utility for the public to participate, and the ability to measure equity through an actionable lens. (dwelch@hntb.com)

## NATIONAL, REGIONAL & LOCAL NEWS

### Senate Commerce Panel OKs \$78 Billion Highway Safety Bill

Legislation that would dedicate \$78 billion over five years for freight, trucking and rail safety programs was advanced by the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee June 16.

The panel approved the Surface Transportation Investment Act, sponsored by committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), by a vote of 25-3.

Democrats in Congress are promoting the bill as a pillar of President Joe Biden's multitrillion dollar infrastructure policy agenda. The measure advanced to the floor, where Senate leaders will look to include it in a larger multiyear highway policy package.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### CARBAJAL SECURES \$20 MILLION FOR CENTRAL COAST INFRASTRUCTURE

Congressman Salud Carbajal (CA-24) announced that he has secured \$20 million in direct funding for local priorities in the House's transportation and infrastructure package, the INVEST in America Act, and advanced several measures designed to create jobs, improve quality of life for Central Coast residents, and tackle the climate crisis.

The bill passed out of committee last night on a bipartisan basis and will now head to the House floor for a vote.

"I am proud to have secured vital resources to improve quality of life for every resident on the Central Coast, including funding for three key local infrastructure projects that were included in the bill. In addition to these direct funds, several pieces of legislation I authored to protect public safety, support local infrastructure projects, and preserve transit options, have been included," said Rep. Carbajal. "The transportation sector is America's biggest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. It is crucial that we look to the future and modernize this sector of our economy so it is part of the solution to the climate crisis, not part of the problem." [\[Continue here\]](#)

### Free Rides Set for September on MTS Trolleys, Buses with Switch to PRONTO

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors approved a plan Thursday for passengers to ride free in September with PRONTO to help them smoothly transition from Compass Cards to the new PRONTO fare collection system scheduled to launch that month.

"Providing free rides during the entire month of September to those who switch to PRONTO accounts is a good way for riders to familiarize themselves with the new system and get the new PRONTO cards into their hands," said Nathan Fletcher, MTS board chair.

"This Board of Directors is committed to making transit in San Diego more convenient; and this new system will help increase accessibility to our trolleys and buses," he said. "Riders who participate in the free ride program this September will quickly realize the new system is easy to use and convenient, making for a better user experience." [\[Continue here\]](#)

### Flashing yellow arrows on traffic signals are here to stay

Q. Fullerton and other cities have had flashing amber signals for years. I, my wife and our friends don't like them and there are still drivers who don't know what to do when they come upon them. We respond to them like we would to any amber signal. I hope that's right. If it is a trial, when will it end? Some drivers are hesitant to even enter the intersection, until they get beeped from the car behind them.

— Don Schilling, Anaheim

A. Fifteen or so years ago, Fullerton was one of only a handful of cities in California that had the yellow flashing arrows on some traffic signals, part of an Uncle Sam test run with them.

They are meant to give the driver the opportunity to turn left — just reminding the motorist to be extra careful if he or she chooses to do so.

In December 2009, ol' Uncle Sam decided he liked them, and the U.S. Department of Transportation approved the strategy, Dave Roseman, Fullerton's traffic engineer, told Honk.

[\[Continue here\]](#)



## OCTEC NEWS - MAY GOLF TOURNAMENT RECAP



OCTEC would like to thank everyone who could participate in our annual Golf Tournament!

*Special thank you to all of our sponsors and the Golf Committee Members who supported this event and helped to deal with the uncertainty of the pandemic.*





## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OC Public Works/Traffic Engineering

OC Public Works is currently looking for a Civil Engineer to perform a variety of complex field and office engineering work. The incumbent will be an experienced and licensed professional by the state of California as a Civil Engineer and will be responsible for independent engineering analysis on the most complex and specialized assignments and projects. The incumbent will provide staff training, project leadership to lower-level staff, consulting in an area of specialty, and may independently review, complete, and approve County designed plans as the responsible engineer.

Please continue [here](#) for more information.

## OCTEC & ITE SOCAL STUDENT NIGHT PRESENTATION RECAP

The annual OCTEC and ITE SoCal Student Presentation Night was held on May 20, 2021(virtually). OCTEC and ITE SoCal contributed \$20,000 to support local ITE Student Chapters.

Congratulations to Cal Poly Pomona for winning the First Place, and congratulations to CSULB, CSU Fullerton, UCLA, UCI, and USC on great presentations!



Please contact [Archie Tan](#) 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.



THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS GRACIOUSLY SPONSORED BY



## ENHANCE YOUR TEAM WITH OUR EXPERTISE

CEQA Analysis/Peer Review ▪ Trip Generation Studies  
Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis ▪ Intersection Control Evaluation  
Sight Distance Evaluation ▪ Site Access & Circulation  
Collision History Analysis ▪ Crosswalk & Pedestrian Studies  
Traffic Calming Assessments ▪ Travel Time Studies  
VMT Analysis ▪ Parking Demand & Management



**GANDDINI GROUP INC.**  
(714) 795-3100 | [ganddini.com](http://ganddini.com)



**Signal System Operations Management**  
**Signal Design, Signing & Striping**  
**Traffic and Civil Engineering**  
**City Engineering Services**

17852 E. 17th Street, Suite 101  
Tustin, CA 92780  
[www.hartzog-crabill.com](http://www.hartzog-crabill.com)  
(714) 731-9455



7th HCI WAY

*Serving Southern California since 1993*



## 2020 -2021 Sponsors

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

### Meeting Date

### Newsletter Sponsors

### Lunch/Meeting Sponsors

September 24, 2020

Econolite  
RK Engineering



October 22, 2020  
Joint Meeting — ITE SoCal

General Technologies and Solutions  
Bear Electrical

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL

January 28, 2021

AGA Engineers, Inc.  
Mark Thomas

**iteris**<sup>®</sup>

February 25, 2021

Iteris  
RailPros



March 25, 2021

Wavetronix  
KOA Corporation

**ADVANTEC**  
Consulting Engineers

April 22, 2021

DDL Traffic  
Michael Baker International



May 7, 2021

OCTEC Golf Tournament, Tijeras Creek  
Golf Club, Rancho Santa Margarita

<Sponsorship Available>

June 24, 2021

Ganddini Group, Inc.  
Hartzog & Crabill Inc.



For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Michael Plotnik at (562) 383-4162 or [mplotnik@lahabraca.gov](mailto:mplotnik@lahabraca.gov)

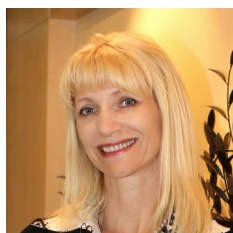
*Please vote in June for the next OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator!*

## OCTEC 2020 - 2021 Officers



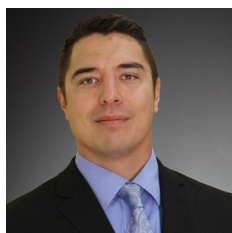
**Archie Tan**

**President**  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
550 South Main Street  
Orange, CA 92863  
(714) 560-5845  
[atan@octa.net](mailto:atan@octa.net)



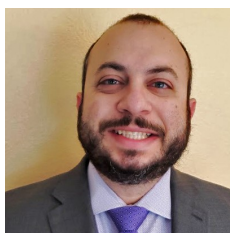
**Olga Polunin**

**Secretary**  
AimTD LLC  
155 N Riverview Drive,  
Suite 100  
Anaheim, CA 92808  
(714) 253-7888  
[opolunin@aimtd.com](mailto:opolunin@aimtd.com)



**Ryan Calad**

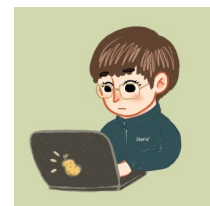
**Treasurer**  
Michael Baker International  
5 Hutton Centre Drive,  
Suite 500  
Santa Ana, CA 92707  
(949) 472-3453  
[ryan.calad@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ryan.calad@mbakerintl.com)



**Michael Plotnik**

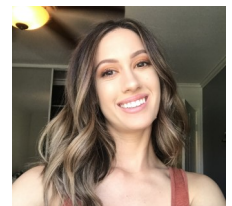
**Sponsorship/  
Membership Coordinator**  
City of La Habra  
110 E. La Habra Blvd  
La Habra, CA 90631  
(562) 383-4162  
[mplotnik@lahabraca.gov](mailto:mplotnik@lahabraca.gov)

## OCTEC Committee Chairs



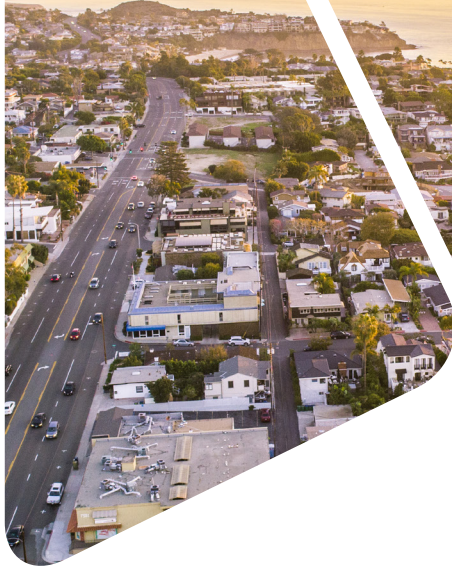
**Casey Hu**

**Webmaster**  
(949) 270-9521  
[chu@iteris.com](mailto:chu@iteris.com)



**Sonia Sanchez**

**Social Media Chair**  
(714) 992-2990  
[sonia@agaengineersinc.com](mailto:sonia@agaengineersinc.com)



## **Trevor Briggs, P.E.**

### *OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator Candidate*

**It is an honor to be nominated once again to serve on the OCTEC Board as Membership/Sponsorship Coordinator.** Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of working with several local agencies in Orange County and have been a committed member of OCTEC and ITE SoCal. Throughout my association with OCTEC, I have been impressed by the organization's ability to build and advance its members and community through quality events and opportunities. I am excited to take on more responsibility and serve this organization with enthusiasm.

#### **As your next Membership/Sponsorship Coordinator, I promise to:**

- Provide ingenuity, hard work, and collaboration with my fellow board members
- Promote the growth and interests of OCTEC, our members, and local industry (Public, Private, and Student)
- Coordinate and provide an accessible forum with which we can communicate and partner together
- Expand career growth and mentorship opportunities for the next generation of traffic engineering professionals
- Increase OCTEC's partnership with other local professional organizations such as ITE SoCal, ITSCA, and WTS

**My background, education, and leadership experience** have prepared me to be an effective member of the OCTEC Board. I want to affirm that I will have the resources and availability to fully commit my responsibilities as your Membership/Sponsorship Coordinator. Kimley-Horn fully encourages active involvement in local professional organizations and has continually supported the growth and success of OCTEC. I am immensely grateful for this nomination and eager to serve when elected.

## **ENDEAVOR WITH TREVOR!**

#### **Highlights:**

- Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Brigham Young University
- 8+ years of Professional Experience
- Professional Engineer in California #87664
- OCTEC Member for 7+ years
- ITE Member for 8+ years

**Kimley»Horn**

**D: 714-786-6117**

*trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com*

Kimley-Horn  
1100 Town and Country Road  
Suite 700  
Orange, CA 92868  
P: 714-939-1030

**OCTEC**  
Orange County Traffic Engineering Council



# VOTE ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ



**Candidate for:**



**Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator**

**Adrian Rodriguez, PE, TE**

**Associate Civil Engineer  
City of Newport Beach**

**“I'm honored to be nominated for the Sponsorship/  
Membership Coordinator and look forward to continuing  
the organization's role leading the advancement of  
Traffic and Transportation Engineering.”**

Adrian Rodriguez is an Associate Civil Engineer for the City of Newport Beach's Traffic Engineering Division. He has been with the City for over 3 years and has a total of 7 years of professional experience, previously working at RailPros Inc.

He graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2014 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. At Cal Poly Pomona, Adrian held several leadership positions, including ASCE Student Chapter President. During his Presidency term, the chapter successfully hosted the annual Pacific Southwest Conference for over 1,000 guests from 18 different universities across 4 states. The chapter was able to raise over \$15,000 for the chapter through creative sponsorship and efficient budgeting.

Adrian has been an OCTEC member for the last 5 years. Through that time, he gained an appreciation for the networking and education opportunities provided to him at the lunch meetings and social mixers. He has been impressed by the continued willingness of members to share their knowledge and experiences with the organization. It is something that truly makes OCTEC a unique and valuable organization.

As Sponsorship/Membership coordinator, he plans to use the skills he has acquired through his previous leadership positions and work relationships to increase active membership and sponsorship for all meetings and social events. Furthermore, he plans to continue the strong heritage of advancing Traffic Engineering in Orange County.