

EDUCATION
COOPERATION
UNIFORMITY

OCTEC Bazette

The Official Newsletter of
the Orange County Traffic
Engineering Council

2011-2012 — Issue 1
September 2011


Our September Program: Moreno Valley TRANSIMS—Micro-Simulating the SCAG Model By John Kerenyi, PE, Senior Engineer, City of Moreno Valley

Program:

The September 22 meeting will feature a presentation on the City of Moreno Valley's experience using TRANSIMS to micro-simulate the SCAG model.

TRANSIMS is an open-source, activity-based, micro-simulating travel demand model. In 2008 the City of Moreno Valley was awarded a contract to develop a TRANSIMS traffic model of the Southern California region based on the current (2004) MPO's TransCAD travel-demand model, to research the impacts were a large portion of the City to be re-zoned for high-cube warehouse use. The analysis consisted of converting the RivTAM TransCAD model (which is based on the current SCAG model) for use with TRANSIMS, preparation of base and future (2035) models, including three Year 2035 alternatives, and use of the Year 2035 models to gauge the impacts of the rezoning, including truck-specific impacts. The results of the project will be presented, along with applicability of the dataset elsewhere in Southern California. ***This presentation is highly recommended for local agencies as it has applicability elsewhere.***

Speaker:

Mr. John Kerenyi, PE, is a Senior Engineer with the City of Moreno Valley, a position he has held for five years. He received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont in 1993. He has worked in both the private and public sectors and has delivered projects involving transportation planning, traffic engineering, and traffic operations. John is also a past president of OCTEC. 

From the President Ron Keith

First of all, Welcome to the 2011 – 2012 year of OCTEC.

We have acquired a lot of new members over the course of the last few years. Many of you are unaware of the history of our organization. So, with that said here is an excerpt from the history and by-laws of our organization.

In 1959 a very small group of Traffic Engineers in Orange County started meeting during their noon hour once each month. It had become quite evident that a dire need existed within the county for a forum within which all persons engaged in the Traffic Engineering function might periodically gather, discuss individual or mutual problems, and arrive at solutions which reflect the combined talents of the professionals and the public. The organizers were soon joined by representatives of other firms or agencies who sought to either lend their talents or become recipients of professional assistance. The ORANGE COUNTY TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COUNCIL did indeed become the desired forum.

At the outset it was obvious that a crying need existed for a uniform set of Traffic engineering practices within the County. The original function of the Council was therefore amplified to include the

(Continued on Page 2)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be at :

JT Schmid's
September 22, 2011
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

2610 E. Katella Ave
Anaheim, CA 92806

Members: \$20
Non-Members: \$25

VIP Express Lane for check-in to the luncheon. No more waiting in a long line! Space is limited, so make sure to reserve a spot.

Please go to: <http://octecseptember2011.eventbrite.com/>

OR

Please RSVP to Alicia Yang at
axy@iteris.com

Membership Drive Begins January 2012

**Membership does have
its privileges!
(look for exciting details
in future Newsletters)**

Inside this issue:

Program, Speaker, & From the President	1
From the President (Continued)	2
OCTEC Proposes Committee	3
Replacing Traffic Signs	4
Other News	5
Sponsors	6

From the President (continued)

development and promulgation of uniform policies and practices in the field of Traffic Engineering in Orange County. Some of these policies and practices took the form of a Policy and Procedural Manual developed and concurred in by the membership. However, this manual has not been updated and has since been superseded by Caltrans' and other pertinent Manuals. While OCTEC may continue to update informational materials and guidelines such as the "Protected/Permissive Left-Turning Phasing Design and Operational Guidelines," such materials act as guidelines only and each user of such materials shall use their own judgment and experience in applying such information in the profession. Any such guidelines do not necessarily represent the opinions of all members or organizational officers and such guidelines are not intended as a substitute for engineering knowledge, experience or judgment. Such information shall be considered in addition rather than in lieu of other pertinent and generally accepted manuals. Additionally, such information is intended to serve as an aid in the solution of various traffic situations but it is not intended that any standard of conduct or duty toward the public shall be created or imposed by such information produced on behalf of OCTEC.

OCTEC operates as a non-profit organization. Recognizing that any organization must remain viable and alert to the demands and the changes of time, the Council, at the beginning of its fifty second year, has now critically analyzed its membership, the requirements of the present and of the forthcoming years and decades, and herewith reiterates its objectives, policies, and procedures.

This is the beginning of the 52nd year of OCTEC. I promised you at the end of last year that this upcoming year was going to be the best it could possibly be. I know the Board is committed to this end.

We cannot do this by ourselves. We need your assistance. If you have ideas for speakers, committees, policies, projects of interest that will benefit OCTEC and its members, please feel free to approach a Board member or e-mail one us. All of our contact information is included with each newsletter.

Our sponsorship endeavors are going to be once again stepped up a notch to include vendor/consultant's subsidizing the lunches. This way, we can have the meetings at a better place with better food, etc. if you are a consultant or a vendor that wishes to help us in this manner, please contact Alicia Yang, our Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator

Our first meeting is to be held at JT Schmid's in Anaheim with John Kerenyi, a former OCTEC President, as the

speaker. (See the front page for info)

Our second meeting, in October, is a special one to be held at the Orange Hill Restaurant atop the hills above Chapman Avenue in Orange. Our speaker that month is John Albeck of Traffic Ware fame. He will be giving us insights on the new Synchro 8 Suite and the relationships to the new Highway Capacity Manual 2010.

We will be dark as usual for the holiday months of November and December.

In January 2011, we start off with Kimley – Horn and advanced Parking techniques and systems they have employed in Santa Monica and other locations.

In May, we will have our annual golf tournament which promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Remember, everything we do benefits the colleges and universities, that have transportation programs, in the form of scholarships and equipment.

OCTEC is an unusual organization. We are not tied to any national or international organization with a code of ethics that prohibits official stands or statements on controversial issues. We make ourselves heard.

We are also a small organization that is close and wants to remain that way. The Board of Directors is committed to this end.

Finally, I promise not to write these letters every month, as I find them usually boring and I don't like my current picture. LOL

Welcome to OCTEC, let's have a great year. Ron Keith



Remember when?

OCTEC Proposes Committee for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety at Traffic Signals

At the July OCTEC Board meeting the Board discussed the formation of a special committee to study pedestrian and bicycle crossing rates at traffic signals, specifically, to determine optimum safe crossing times for pedestrian and bicyclists at intersections controlled by Traffic Signals within Orange County, California. The final report will be delivered to the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) for their review and consideration.

Previously, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) was at the forefront of discussion and support for analysis of bicycle timing standards and pedestrian crossing time standards specified in the CA MUTCD and Federal MUTCD, respectively. OCTA does not own or operate any traffic signal systems; therefore, OCTA has recommended that OCTEC take the lead in this matter.

The formation of this committee will be voted on by the general membership at the OCTEC October lunch meeting.

The following is the preliminary committee structure and study approach:


Committee Members:

City/Agency Members - 2; Consultant Members - 2; Caltrans Members - 1; Bicycle Advocacy Members - 1. Total = 6? Adequate, Less, or More?

Technical Analysis:

California State Polytechnic University - Pomona; University of California, Irvine. Standardized analysis of raw video footage.

Data Collection Methods:

Video Counting over a 72-hour period at specified high pedestrian/high bicycle volume locations on Project P corridors during the months of October and November 2011, and January, February, and March 2012. The six corridors led by OCTA are guaranteed. Eleven other corridors will be requested of Lead Agency Cities at ITS Roundtable on October 5, 2011. 

No More Deadlines for Replacing Traffic Signs

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 that the Obama Administration is eliminating dozens of burdensome regulations on traffic signs, which cash-strapped state and local governments expect will save them millions of dollars. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is proposing that communities replace traffic signs when they are worn out rather than requiring signs to be replaced by a specific deadline. The proposed changes will eliminate 46 deadlines mandated by federal traffic control regulations.

In January, President Obama called for an unprecedented government-wide review of regulations already on the books. The purpose was to identify rules that needed to be changed or removed because they were unnecessary, out-of-date, excessively burdensome or overly costly.

"A specific deadline for replacing street signs makes no sense and would have cost communities across America millions of dollars in unnecessary expenses," said Secretary LaHood. "After speaking with local and state officials across the country, we are proposing to eliminate these burdensome regulations. It's just plain common sense."



The regulations establishing deadlines for street and traffic sign replacement came from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is a compilation of national standards for all pavement markings, street signs and traffic signals. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which has published the manual since 1971, updates it periodically to accommodate changing transportation needs and address new safety technologies, traffic control tools, and traffic management techniques. FHWA today issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments to eliminate 46 of the deadlines in the manual.

"Local and state transportation agencies are best-equipped to determine when they need to replace signs and other items in the course of their daily work," said FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez. "We are proposing these changes to give them the flexibility they need to balance their many responsibilities and make the best use of taxpayer dollars."

The deadlines requiring that certain street name signs be replaced by 2018 to meet minimum retroreflectivity standards and requiring larger lettering on those street name signs are among the series of deadlines eliminated under the amendment proposed today. The proposal would also eliminate deadlines for increasing the size of various traffic signs, such as 'Pass With Care' and 'One Way,' as well as warning signs, such as 'Low Clearance' and 'Advance Grade Crossing.' Instead, communities will be able to replace and upgrade these signs when they reach the end of their useful life.

The DOT has retained twelve deadlines for sign upgrades that are critical to public safety. These safety-critical sign upgrades include installing "ONE WAY" signs at intersections with divided highways or one-way streets and requiring STOP or YIELD signs to be added at all railroad crossings that don't have train-activated automatic gates or flashing lights.

The FHWA has developed a sheeting ID guide and has posted it at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/night_visib/

Other News....

2011 LA / OC Traffic Signal Association (TSA) Vendor Show and Social Night

It's time for the annual TSA Vendor Show and Social Event! See attached flyer for details.

On August 17, 2011, the U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced \$417.3 million in discretionary grants for state highway projects nationwide. Of these, California had been awarded \$29.6 million in grants for the highway projects. Some of these projects include Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Program funds to help expand and improve the Santa Ana River Trail along the area immediately bordering the east side of Anaheim and funds for the California Department of Transportation to provide specialized training for highway construction-related skills. A full listing of these projects can be viewed at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa1137/fhwa1137ca.htm>

Additional information is available at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/>

Upcoming Technology Transfer Program Courses

To register and for more information: <http://www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu/index.php>

TITLE	DATE	LOCATION
Maintaining Retroreflectivity at Required Levels	September 21, 2011	Online Course
California Traffic Engineering License Exam Review	September 28—October 5, 2011	Online Course
Asphalt Pavement Maintenance for Local Agencies	October 18—20, 2011	Online Course
Bicycle Transportation: On-Street Design and Implementation	October 25—27, 2011	Online Course
Improving Safety at Intersections	December 12—14, 2011	Online Course
Traffic Flow Principles for Practitioners	January 10—12, 2012	Online Course
Bicycle Transportation: Planning, Policy, and Liability	February 14—16, 2012	Online Course
California MUTCD Update Workshop	March 15, 2012	Costa Mesa, CA
Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering	June 4—7, 2012	Costa Mesa, CA

This month's newsletter is brought to you by:



Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Quality and personalized service you would expect from a local company, with the resources of a nationally-ranked engineering firm.

- Transportation Planning
- Traffic Engineering
- Transit Planning & Design
- Roadway Design
- Traffic Signal Systems

- ITS
- Land Development
- Water Resources
- Environmental Services
- Aviation Planning & Design

Kimley-Horn has 64 offices nationwide with 9 in California.

Riverside
1700 Iowa Ave.
Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92507-2479
Phone: (951) 782-0941
Fax: (951) 782-0949

Orange
765 The City Drive
Suite 400
Orange, CA 92868
Phone: (714) 939-1030
Fax: (714) 938-9488

Los Angeles
5550 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Suite 250
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Phone: (818) 227-2790
Fax: (818) 227-2797


Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
www.kimley-horn.com



MINAGAR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ITS - Traffic Engineering - Transportation Planning - CEM



- **Traffic Engineering**
- **Transportation Planning**
- **ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems)**
- **Homeland Security**
- **Construction Engineering Management**

18 Years of Excellence

MINAGAR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

18662 MacArthur Blvd., Airport Business Center, Suite 435
Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 727-3399

Tel: (949) 553-0222

Fax: (949) 727-4418

Fax: (949) 553-0232

Web: www.minagarinc.com



Thank you for making OCTEC a success!



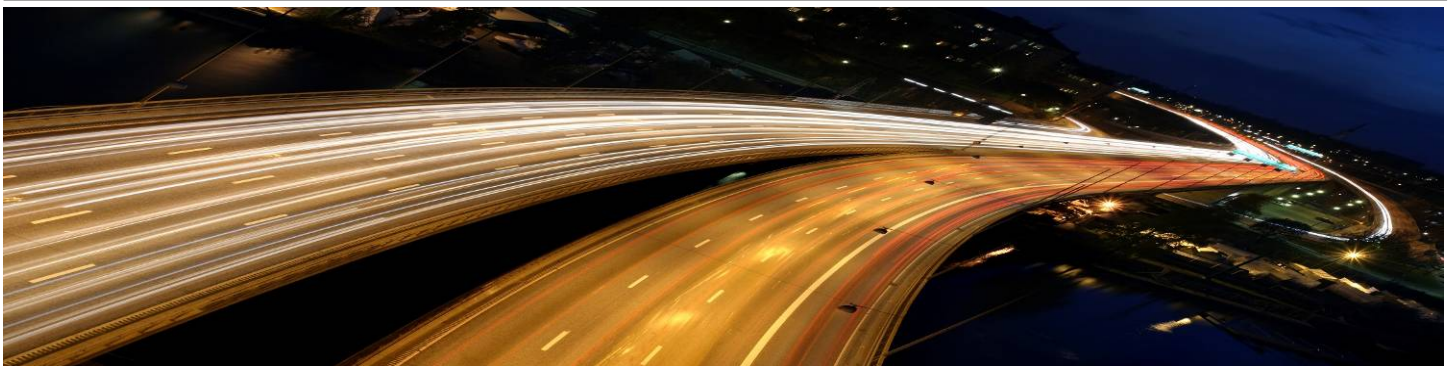
OCTEC
Gazette

Sponsorship

Everyone at OCTEC would like to give a special thanks to all of
our generous 2011/2012 sponsors!

September	Kimley-Horn and Associates, and Minagar & Associates	April	<i>Space Available</i>
October	Albert Grover and Associates, and Kunzman Associates	May	(Joint meeting with ITE & Golf Tournament)
January	<i>Stantec and Iteris</i>	June	<i>Space Available</i>
February	<i>Space Available</i>	July	No Meeting / No Newsletter
March	<i>Space Available</i>	August	No Meeting / No Newsletter

If you would like to be a sponsor, the cost is \$150. To reserve the next available newsletter, please contact:
Alicia Yang, Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator,
axy@iteris.com
(949) 270-9693



OCTEC 2011 -2012 Officers

Ron Keith, President
OCTA
550 S. Main Street
Orange, CA 92863
phone: (949) 560-5990
rkeith@octa.net

Mark Esposito, Secretary
Hartzog & Crabill, Inc.
275 Centennial Way, Suite 208
Tustin, CA 92780
phone: (714) 731-9455
mesposito@hartzog-crabill.com

Melissa Hewitt, Treasurer
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
765 The City Drive, Suite 400
Orange, CA 92868
phone: (714) 939-1030
Melissa.Hewitt@kimley-horn.com

Alicia Yang, Sponsorship/
Membership Coordinator
Iteris, Inc.
1700 Carnegie Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705
phone: (949) 270-9693
axy@iteris.com

LA / OC Traffic Signal Association

Along with OCTEC

Invite you to the

2011 Vendor Show and Social Night Diamond Bar

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. This year we have picked a location that is more centrally located for everyone. So head down for a lot of socializing.

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: Tuesday – October 25th, 2011

**Where: Diamond Bar Golf Course
22751 E, Golden Springs Drive
Diamond Bar**

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

Questions? Comments?

Please contact Dan Eichmann at 714.321.7513 or dan@ddltraffic.com

SEE YOU THERE!