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OCTEC Gazette

The Official Newsletter of
the Orange County Traffic
Engineering Council

2012-2013 — Issue 2
October 2012

Our October Program: Handling Beach Traffic – Improving Seasonal Traffic Flow on the Balboa Peninsula By Brad Sommers, City of Newport Beach

The October 25, 2012 meeting will feature a presentation on “**Handling Beach Traffic— Improving Seasonal Traffic Flow on the Balboa Peninsula**” where **Brad Sommers, of the City of Newport Beach**, will detail the challenges and traffic engineering solutions deployed by the City to reach the goal of improving seasonal traffic flow on the Balboa Peninsula in recent years.

The Balboa Peninsula is home to approximately 12,000 residents and is a tourist destination for those looking to escape the summer heat by visiting the beach. This leads to a seasonal influx of up to 100,000 visitors on a nice day. During summer months and peak weekends, the peninsula is under great demand by vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Access to the peninsula is limited to two arterials - Newport Boulevard and Balboa Boulevard, which converge at the “Mix-Master” intersection near the Newport Pier. This convergence handles the majority of the residential, beach and business traffic on the peninsula, proving essential to maintaining flow movement on the Peninsula.

To meet the City’s goal, several engineering, traffic signal, and outreach/education strategies were deployed while coordinating with the project stakeholders.

The success of the project has been measured by improved traffic flow onto and off of the Peninsula, lead to better public understanding of Traffic Engineering, and has helped staff gain support in pursuit of future Traffic Engineering projects.

This project was a candidate for the 2011-2012 OCTEC Project of the Year award as it incorporated several aspects related to traffic engineering, including observation, planning, design, construction, modification, education, outreach, and coordination.

Brad Sommers, City of Newport Beach:

Born and raised in Orange County, Brad has over 20 years of Traffic Engineering Experience. Beginning counting cars shortly after getting his driver’s license, Brad has worked part time for Weston Pringle and Associates, Austin-Foust Associates and the City of Newport Beach. Upon graduation from the University of California, Irvine, with a BS in Civil Engineering, Brad took a full time position with RBF Consulting and later moved back to the City of Newport Beach. Brad is a registered Professional Civil and Traffic Engineer within the State of California, has served on the OCTEC Board and currently works as a Senior Civil Engineer, overseeing the City’s Traffic Operations Division and Traffic Management Center.



OCTOBER MEETING

Join us:

Orange Hill Restaurant
October 25, 2012
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

6410 East Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92869
714/997.2910

Members: \$20
Non-Members: \$25
\$30 at the door without an RSVP for all attendees

Please go to: [http://
octecoctober2012.eventbrite.com/](http://octecoctober2012.eventbrite.com/)

If you have questions, please contact
Ed Alegre

THIS MONTH’S LUNCH IS SPONSORED BY:




**Kimley-Horn
and Associates, Inc.**

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News...


Milestone for High Speed Rail

“For the first time on a key Midwestern route between Chicago and St. Louis, an Amtrak passenger train topped 110 mph Friday...” http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/1st-illinois-amtrak-train-to-hit-110-mph-in-modest-milestone-for-obamas-high-speed-rail-plans/2012/10/19/8170a62c-19bb-11e2-ad4a-e5a958b60a1e_story.html 

OCTA Board Votes on I-405 North Project Alternative

On Monday, October 22, the OCTA Board voted to move forward with adding capacity to the I-405 between I-605 and Euclid without adding new express lanes. One general purpose lane will be added in each direction. The tolled lane option was debated at length and in the end, a lack of clarity as to how excess toll revenues would be spent led to a defeat. <http://www.ocregister.com/news/toll-375363-lane-lanes.html> 

Signal Synchronization in Orange County Boasts Success

“Drivers are seeing a significant increase in travel speeds and green lights following the recent completion of the Katella Avenue signal synchronization project.” <http://www.octa.net/News/Freeways/Drivers-on-Katella-Avenue-Seeing-Green-With-Traffic-Lights-Now-in-Synch/> 

THANKS! Our first OCTEC SOCIAL MIXER was a big success!

As a part of a new initiative to further the networking opportunities available to its members (and potential members!), OCTEC held our first social event—an evening Fall social mixer was held at Dave and Busters at The Block in Orange on October 9. Over 50 members (and several people new to OCTEC) turned out for drinks, appetizers, free pool and shuffle board, and a raffle. A great time was had by all while relaxing and spending time with friends and colleagues in the industry. The low introductory cost of only \$7 with RSVP or \$10 at the door was made possible through generous sponsorships from CT West, Inc.; Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; RBF A Baker Company; NexTech; and OCTEC. Raffle prizes were donated by KOA Corporation; Advantec Consulting Engineers; Iteris, Inc., Albert Grover and Associates, and OCTEC. Thanks to everyone for making this event a success! Watch for details on our next mixer coming soon!

Happenings...

2013 Membership Drive Begins December 2012

Membership has its privileges!

- ◆ **Discounted luncheons!**
- ◆ **Opportunities to win free stuff!**
- ◆ **Professional pride!**
- ◆ **A chance to give back to the next generation of traffic engineers**

ONLY \$25!

***Membership is per individual, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2013.**

****Stay tuned for this year's raffle prize! Last year, we raffled off a Kindle Fire! Each member with dues paid in full prior to midnight on January 23, 2013 will be entered into the drawing. (Current Board members are not qualified to enter.)**

This month's newsletter is brought to you by:

W.G. ZIMMERMAN ENGINEERING, INC.

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Thank you for making OCTEC a success!

OCTEC would like to give a special thanks to all of our generous 2012/2013 sponsors!

Newsletter Sponsors

Meeting Sponsors

September 27, 2012

*Advantec Consulting Engineers
Minagar & Associates, Inc.*



October 25, 2012

*Sensys Networks
WGZE*



November 2012

No meeting, no newsletter

n/a

December 2012

No meeting, no newsletter

n/a

January 24, 2013

*Iteris, Inc.
LSA Associates, Inc.*



February 28, 2013

*RBF A Baker Company
Space available*



March 28, 2013

*KOA Corporation and
Hartzog & Crabill*

Space available

April 25, 2013

*Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Arch Beach Consulting*



May 10, 2013

OCTEC/ITE Golf Tournament

Sponsorship opportunities available

May 22, 2013

OCTEC/ITE Joint Meeting—Student Night

n/a

June 27, 2013

*Albert Grover and Associates
Kunzman Associates, Inc.*



July 2013

No meeting, no newsletter

n/a

August 2013

No meeting, no newsletter

n/a

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ed Alegre, Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator, (714) 560-5738 ealegre@octa.net

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