

OCTEC Gazette

The Official Newsletter of the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Fellow OCTEC Members and Future Members,

As I conclude my term as President of the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council (OCTEC) for FY 2025/2026, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve this incredible organization and the transportation professionals who make it such a special community.

It is remarkable to reflect on how OCTEC has influenced my career and personal growth. When I graduated from BYU and then moved to Orange County for an entry-level traffic engineering position, I was unsure how I would fit in since I did not graduate from a local university. I then decided to attend my first OCTEC meeting as a young professional. Over the years, I have realized that OCTEC is far more than a professional organization for me—it is a community of friends, trusted mentors, and transportation professionals committed to helping one another, as well as the communities in which we live and work.

This year, OCTEC continued its tradition of excellence through:

- Strong membership participation (257 total members, highest on record!)
- Engaging technical presentations
- Sold-out networking events, including our annual OCTEC Golf Tournament in May (huge shout out to the Golf Committee!)
- Student Presentation Night jointly hosted with ITE SoCal in which \$8,000 was donated to the local student chapters
- Most importantly, we continued to provide opportunities for professionals at every stage of their careers to connect, learn, and grow

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our amazing Board members (Maider Vang, Liz Turner, and Kevin Riley), as well as our sponsors and members. Your commitment to OCTEC's mission is what allows our organization to thrive year after year.

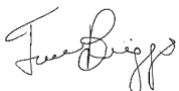
I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to my family, as well as my employers - Kimley-Horn and Chen Ryan Associates, Inc. - for providing the flexibility and support that allowed me to serve on the Board. I would also like to thank the past OCTEC leaders who mentored me throughout my journey. Their guidance, encouragement, and example helped prepare me for this role and reinforced the importance of investing in future generations of transportation professionals. One of the greatest strengths of OCTEC is its culture of mentorship, and I hope I have been able to contribute to that tradition during my time on the Board.

As I pass the gavel to Maider Vang, I am confident that the organization is in excellent hands under her leadership as OCTEC president. This year, we have two great nominees running for the 2026-27 OCTEC Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator position: Ms. Mingmin Liu and Mr. Javier Ruedas. If you are a 2026 OCTEC member, please look out for an email from Election Runner. Voting results will be announced via e-mail.

OCTEC's future is bright because of the talented professionals who continue to volunteer, lead, and support its mission. I encourage every member to stay involved, attend events, support our students and young professionals, as well as continue building the relationships that make OCTEC such a valuable part of our careers.

Serving as OCTEC President has been a tremendous honor and a privilege that I will always cherish and I look forward to remaining involved and supporting the organization that has given me so much.

Thanks!



Trevor Briggs, OCTEC President 2025-2026

OCTEC LUNCHEON

June 25, 2026

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Orange County Mining Co
10000 S Crawford Cyn Rd
Orange, CA 92705

Lunch Fees:

At-the-door: \$50

Please register via Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octec-june-2026-luncheon-tickets-1990808677345?aff=oddtcreator>

If you have any questions,
please contact
Kevin Riley, at
kriley@newportbeachca.gov

THIS MONTH'S LUNCH IS SPONSORED BY:



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June Presentation:

From Pilot to Corridor: Leveraging Previous Project Outcomes with SMART Grant

Speakers:

John Thai, PE, NTCIP Joint Committee Chair

Jane Keely, PE, Principle Traffic Engineer, City of Anaheim



John Thai, PE, is a nationally recognized leader in intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and connected vehicle technology. He retired from the City of Anaheim last year after working as the Principal Traffic

Engineer since 1997, he oversees traffic signal infrastructure, ITS design, fiber communications, and high-profile event management for major venues like Disneyland, Angel Stadium, and the Honda Center. Previously, he designed and built the City of Irvine's Traffic Management Center. A heavy hitter in industry standards, Mr. Thai serves as the Chair of the NTCIP Joint Committee and co-chairs multiple national working groups, including the Connected Intersection and Transit Signal Priority initiatives. He holds a B.S.E.E. from CSU Northridge and an M.A. from Loyola Marymount University.



Jane Keely, PE, is a seasoned transportation leader specializing in traffic engineering, signal operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). As a Principal Traffic Engineer for the City of Anaheim, she

manages critical traffic signal infrastructure, fiber communications, connected vehicle integration, and high-profile event operations for major venues including Disneyland, Angel Stadium, and the Honda Center. Over her two-decade tenure with Anaheim, she has progressed from Associate Engineer to Principal, establishing a strong record of multi-stakeholder collaboration. Earlier in her career, Ms. Keely worked as a consultant and eventually served as an Assistant Engineer for the City of Downey, where she successfully designed and built the city's TMC, secured federal funding, and prepared complex PS&E packages. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Irvine.

April 2026 MEETING RECAP

The sixth OCTEC luncheon of the 2025-2026 year was held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at the Orange County Mining Company. Ramin Nikoui (City of Costa Mesa) presented on the Adams Avenue and Pinecreek Drive Intersection Multi-modal Improvement Project, which implemented innovative pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at one of the City of Costa Mesa's busiest bicycle and pedestrian intersections. For those that were unable to attend the meeting, please email any of the board members for more information.



2026 OCTEC GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTEC wants to thank everyone who participated in our annual Golf Tournament this year on May 8th at Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita. A special thank you to our hard working Golf Tournament Committee (Brad Sommers, Janna McKann, Ryan Calad, Michael Plotnik, KT Burns, Adrian Rodriguez, OCTEC Board) for another fully packed turnout, and of course, all of our sponsors who made this tournament possible! We'll see everyone at the next one.



2026 OCTEC GOLF TOURNAMENT (CONT'D)



OCTEC & ITE SOCAL JOINT STUDENT NIGHT RECAP

OCTEC and ITE SoCal held its Annual Student Presentation Night on Thursday, April 30, 2026 in which six (6) student chapters presented their annual projects to a panel of judges.

We would like to thank everyone who was able to join us, with a special shout out to our OCTEC sponsors for the event: Fehr & Peers and FPL and Associates, Inc. Congratulations to USC for first (1st) place, UCI for second (2nd) place, Cal Poly Pomona for third (3rd) place, as well as CSU Fullerton, UCLA, and CSU Long Beach on their outstanding and informative presentations.



LOCAL, REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

OCTA's Wave Fare Payment System Helping More Riders Easily Access OC Bus and Save

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Wave fare payment system continues to see strong adoption, with approximately 61% of OC Bus boardings now using Wave cards or contactless payment options as OCTA advances efforts to modernize fare collection and improve the transit experience for riders. Since launching in October 2025, the Wave system has steadily replaced previous fare media with faster, more flexible payment options designed to streamline boarding, improve reliability, and help riders more easily access fare discounts and cost-saving benefits.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

Caltrans Awards \$23 Million to Strengthen Climate Resiliency and Improve Safer Mobility for All Californians

Caltrans announced it has awarded \$23.6 million in planning grants to 58 local projects statewide that will enhance climate resiliency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and increase natural disaster preparedness throughout California. The projects selected focus on multimodal transportation and help improve mobility options for under-resourced communities. Nearly \$14 million comes from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

Metrolink adding special service for World Cup events

Metrolink announced it will add special rail service during World Cup events in Los Angeles, including match days at SoFi Stadium and fan events at Union Station. The expanded service will operate on the 91/Perris Valley, Antelope Valley, Orange County, San Bernardino and Ventura County lines during eight Los Angeles match days and four fan fest dates scheduled between June and July.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

New speed cameras roll out across LA amid push to reduce fatal crashes

Beginning this summer, approximately 125 speed cameras will be installed across Los Angeles neighborhoods, from San Pedro to Van Nuys. The cameras will be placed along what transportation officials describe as "priority safety corridors," which have some of the city's highest rates of crashes and speeding violations.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

California Invests \$540 Million to Support Zero Emission Projects, Transit System Improvements, Storm Resiliency and Walkable Communities

The California Transportation Commission (CTC or Commission) allocated approximately \$540 million in transportation investments to improve travel times, shore up aging facilities and add new layers of safety around schools and community centers. Guided by Governor Gavin Newsom's Build More, Faster – For All initiative, this support also fuels alternative transit options, maintains critical transportation assets such as bridges and freight corridors, and generates nearly 6,000 new jobs.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

OCTA Presents Historic Railroad Bridge Plaque to San Juan Capistrano for Preservation

A piece of Orange County's rail history found a new home as the Orange County Transportation Authority presented a historic cast-iron plaque from the original San Juan Creek railroad bridge to the San Juan Capistrano City Council. The plaque, which adorned the original bridge built in 1917 by the American Bridge Company, was formally presented by OCTA Chair Jamey M. Federico during the city's Council meeting as a lasting tribute to a structure that served rail passengers and freight traffic through South Orange County for more than a century.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

Please contact [Trevor Briggs](#) 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.

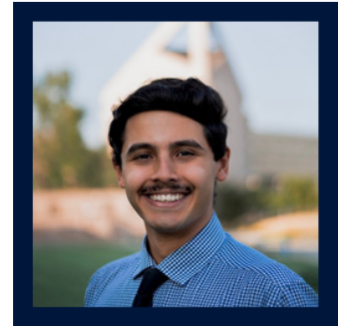
Visit our [WEBSITE](#) for the latest job posts, newsletters, and presentations from current and past meetings.

Follow Us on Social Media:



OCTEC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

JAVIER RUEDAS




OCTEC MEMBERSHIP / SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR CANDIDATE



HONORED TO BE NOMINATED. COMMITTED TO SERVE.

Honored to be nominated for OCTEC Membership/Sponsorship Coordinator. As a Cal Poly Pomona graduate and active OCTEC member since 2019, I've seen how the organization connects and grows professionals across Orange County. OCTEC has played a key role in my development, and I'm excited for the opportunity to give back.



BUILDING SMARTER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.

As a Traffic/ITS Engineer at Michael Baker International, I work on solutions that improve mobility, safety, and efficiency, with a focus on ITS, signal systems, and agency coordination across Southern California.



LEADERSHIP. COLLABORATION. SERVICE.

At Cal Poly Pomona, I served as Concrete Canoe Paddling Captain and held multiple leadership roles with ASCE and ITE. These experiences taught me the value of teamwork, mentorship, and giving back, values I bring to OCTEC every day.



MY COMMITMENT TO YOU



GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP -
Continue to increase membership base.



STRENGTHEN SPONSORSHIPS -
Pursue additional sponsorship opportunities.



COLLABORATE & PARTNER -
Deepen relationships with ITE SoCal, ITS California and other organizations to create joint opportunities and visibility.



BE ACCESSIBLE AND DEDICATED -
Be a reliable resource and advocate for all members, and ensure your voice is heard and your needs are met.

HIGHLIGHTS



B.S. in Civil Engineering
Cal Poly Pomona (2022)



Engineer-In-Training (EIT)
California #179734



4+ Years of
Professional Experience



Public & Private
Sector Experience



Active OCTEC Member
since 2019



Passionate about innovation,
collaboration, and building a
smarter, more connected
Orange County

CONTACT



Javier Ruedas, EIT



Michael Baker International



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**LET'S ROLL
WITH RUEDAS!**

OCTEC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

MINGMIN LIU RSP, PE SENIOR ENGINEER



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 8+

EDUCATION

MS, Civil Engineering, Purdue University

BS, Mechanical Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

AFFILIATIONS

Institute of Transportation Engineers

Women in Transportation Seminar



OCTEC SPONSORSHIP/MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR CANDIDATE

It is my honor to be nominated to serve on OCTEC as Sponsorship/ Membership Coordinator. I am an active member and always enjoying attending the OCTEC events. I am truly glad we have built this professional community and looking forward to getting more involved.

IF ELECTED AS YOUR NEXT OCTEC SPONSORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR, I AM COMMITTED TO:

1

Facilitating events to provide continuing education and mentorship for the next generation transportation professionals.

2

Providing platform for industry vendors, consultants and public agencies to **connect, collaborate and build success together.**

3

Finding opportunities to share industry best practices to **support professional development and serve back to the community.**

With over eight years of industry experience as a traffic engineer, Mingmin has led traffic operation and design projects in California for Kittelson and Associates. Mingmin is well organized, responsive, and dependable. Outside of work, you will find her enjoying beach walks with her two playful chow chows.

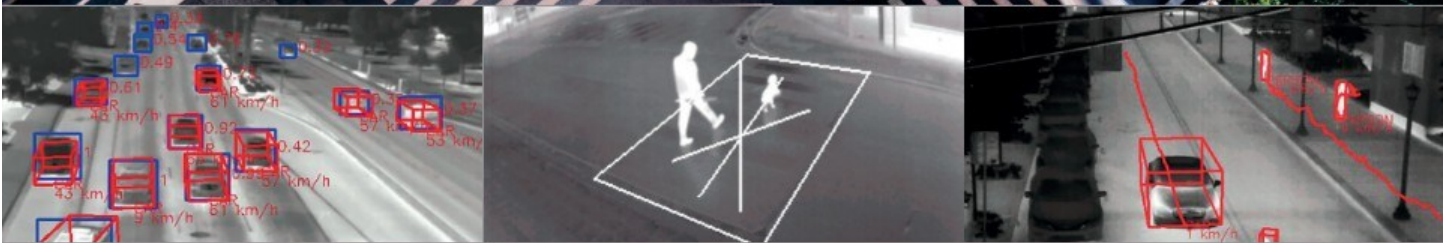


Orange County Traffic Engineering Council

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONORED BY



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BALANCING MOBILITY WITH LIVABILITY

GTS brings together tested principles and techniques with creative out-of-the-box tools and products to enhance the means by which we move around. We assist communities and organizations by providing solutions and technologies to balance mobility (freedom of movement) with livability (sense of place).



TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS



MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



TRAFFIC ENGINEERING



PARKING



**FAST.
SMART.
EFFICIENT.**



WE ARE HIRING!

 jackie.barker@gentecsol.com  949 302 8288

 [linkedin.com/company/gentecsol](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gentecsol)

 213 267 2332

2025-2026 SPONSORS

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

Meeting Date

Newsletter Sponsors

Lunch/Meeting Sponsors

September 25, 2025

Iteris, Inc.
CT West, Inc.



October 23, 2025
Joint Meeting — ITE SoCal

Linscott, Law, & Greenspan, Engineers
Teledyne FLIR



January 29, 2026

Counts Unlimited
Minagar & Associates



February 26, 2026
Joint Meeting with ITS-CA

Western Systems
Arcadis



March 26, 2026

Econolite
Chen Ryan Associates



April 23, 2026

NexTech Systems, Inc.
Western Systems



May 8, 2026

OCTEC Golf Tournament
SoCal ITE/OCTEC Student Chapter Night

<Sponsorship Available>

June 25, 2026

General Technologies and Solutions
Teledyne FLIR



For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kevin Riley at (949) 644-3329 or kriley@newportbeachca.gov

OCTEC 2025 - 2026 Officers



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President

Chen Ryan Associates
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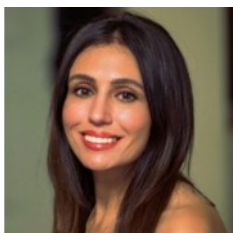
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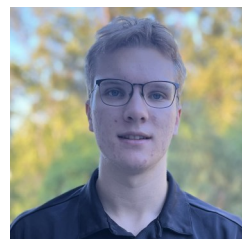
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Javier Ruedas
Social Media Chair

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Mark Polunin
Webmaster

mark.polunin@gmail.com

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