

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Fellow OCTEC Members, Future Members, Colleagues, Friends, and Family,

Thank you for the honor, the privilege, and the opportunity to serve as president of the Orange County Traffic Engineering Council (OCTEC) for the 2023/2024 year. These past four years just flew by, and there is a good reason for that. I would like to thank my fellow OCTEC Council – **Adrian Rodriguez, Trevor Briggs, and Mai Vang**; without you everything would not have gone as smoothly. A special thanks to our recent past presidents – **Ryan Calad and Olga Polunin**, whom instilled their knowledge and helped guide us. It would be remiss of me to say that this is not a job for the faint of heart, but at the end of the day it is all quite rewarding.

We lost a dear friend this year, **Ron Keith**, you were the driving force behind the Golf Tournament and made it what it is today. Ron was the OCTEC Golf Chair, and has been for many years. I would also like to give a special acknowledgement to the rest of the Golf Committee, without you the Golf Tournament would not have been the successful event that it was this year and the success that it will be in the foreseeable future.

There were so many memories this year, and I would say some of my favorites are:

- A continued tradition of great membership numbers, we are still 213 strong this year
- The Artesia Great Boulevard project update during our January luncheon
- Sold Out February joint luncheon with ITS-CA with the I-405 Improvement presentation
- Sold Out Golf Tournament, where if you leave your breakfast burrito sitting on the golf cart, it will become breakfast for the squirrels (yes, the whole burrito)
- Student Night jointly hosted with ITE SoCal in which \$14,000 was donated to the Student Chapters

As I reflect back on this year and pass the gavel onto **Adrian Rodriguez**, I know that OCTEC will be in great hands under his leadership as OCTEC president. This year we also have a great nominee running for the 2024/2025 Sponsorship & Membership Coordinator position, **Liz (Aziz) Turner**. I have confidence in knowing we have a strong OCTEC Board this coming year.

Lastly, and certainly not least, I would like to extend a very special thank you to all of you and our most generous sponsors, without you we could simply not do everything that we do. I feel very honored to have served this council, all of its members, and contributed to its continued success.

"That's all folks!", and know that this is certainly not a goodbye but simply a new beginning for great things to come in the future. I will see everyone in September and will be watching from the "Past President's" round table where I look forward to what is in store for tomorrow and beyond.

Sincerely,



Michael Plotnik
OCTEC President FY 2023-2024

Next OCTEC Meeting:

Thursday, June 27, 2024
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

Lunch Fees:

At-the-door: \$30

Please register via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octec-june-2024-luncheon-tickets-919782513257?aff=oddtcreator) at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octec-june-2024-luncheon-tickets-919782513257?aff=oddtcreator>

If you have any questions,
please contact
Mai Vang, at
mvang@cityofirvine.org

**THIS MONTH'S LUNCH
IS SPONSORED BY:**

Kimley»Horn

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Address</i>	1
<i>Program, Speaker Bios, April 2024 Meeting Recap</i>	2
<i>OCTEC 2024 Golf Tournament</i>	3
<i>In Remembrance of Ron Keith</i>	4
<i>OCTEC & ITE SoCal Joint Student Night Recap</i>	5
<i>Local, Regional, & National News</i>	6
<i>Local, Regional, & National News continued Job Announcements</i>	7
<i>Newsletter Sponsors</i>	8
<i>OCTEC & ITE SoCal Summer Mixer</i>	9
<i>OCTEC Candidate Statement Affiliated Org. Upcoming Events</i>	10
<i>Sponsors and OCTEC Officers</i>	11

JUNE PRESENTATION:

AI - Based Mobility Monitoring System and Analytics Demonstration Pilot

Blake Lane, Ph.D. Advanced Power and Energy Program, University of California, Irvine



Speaker Bio:

Blake Lane is a Senior Scientist at the Advanced Power and Energy Program of the University of California, Irvine where he manages the Vehicle and Fuel Research Operations. Blake has initiated research thrusts for cooperative driving automation impacts on zero emission vehicle technologies within the HORIBA Institute for Mobility and Connectivity². Additional research foci are optimal rollout of alternative fuel and vehicle technologies, techno-economic and market projections for alternative fuels, and the analysis and integration of the transportation sector with the electricity and hydrogen power grids. Blake earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of California, Irvine, where he also earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Blake was awarded the National Science Foundation's Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship in 2015.

tion's Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship in 2015.

APRIL 2024 MEETING RECAP

The sixth **OCTEC** luncheon of the 2023-2024 year was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Orange County Mining Company. The topic was, "The Future of Infrastructure Engineering", and was presented by David Woo, PE (AYCE Consulting Engineering). The presentation covered multiple implementations of Interactive Digital Twins in Transportation Engineering and their impacts on the Future of our industry. 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 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTEC wishes to thank everyone able to participate in our annual Golf Tournament on May 3rd at Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita. A special thank you to our hard working Golf Tournament Committee for another fully packed turnout and of course, all of our sponsors who make this tournament possible! We'll see everyone at the next one.



IN REMEMBRANCE OF RON KEITH

11/9/1949 – 5/16/2024

OCTEC President 2011-2012

OCTEC Golf Chair

You were a friend to us all and we'll miss you dearly, but know that you had an impact on all of the lives you touched - whether it was work, at fun events such as the Golf Tournament, playing & listening to music, or just chatting on the phone. You had the biggest heart and lived life to the fullest, which is all we can really ask for.



To all that have known Ron Keith,

Ron was a menacing soul but had a heart of gold. He was passionate about OCTEC, Traffic Engineering, and the advancement of the field into the next generation of ITS. His insight and wisdom always amazed me in traffic operations. We had long discussions about signal timing parameters, the best ways to move traffic and of course the new technologies of the day.

I was proud to call him my friend! His sense of humor paralleled mine and I am sure to the disgust of everyone. We would have pun-offs til we could not stop laughing at each other over a glass of wine. He was a talented keyboard player, loved music, and most of all loved everyone in the industry.

I was saddened to hear of his passing. I know he was sick but promised me he would get better so we could have our pun-offs over lunch soon. He was my friend, and I will deeply miss him.

Love to his family and to all in traffic engineering.

In memory of Ron,

Bill Zimmerman,

Friend

OCTEC & ITE SoCal JOINT STUDENT NIGHT RECAP

OCTEC and ITE SoCal held it's Annual Student Presentation Night on May 9, 2024 in which student chapters presented their annual projects to a panel of judges including our own OCTEC Board members Trevor Briggs and Michael Plotnik.

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.

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.

Always awesome to see these innovative solutions from the next generation!



LOCAL, REGIONAL, & NATIONAL NEWS

Ghost trains' in San Juan Capistrano become less frequent after Metrolink updates

Was it an exorcism or just an update from Metrolink? Either way, the over decade-long haunting of San Juan Capistrano's "ghost train" may be fading away.

At the start of the month, Metrolink unveiled what's called "smart crossing" technology at the Del Obispo Street crossing. The new feature will prevent the crossing's gate arms from descending even when no Metrolink trains are zooming past, a phenomenon that has caused vehicle congestion and safety concerns for years...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

OCTA Approves \$1.76 Billion Balanced Budget for FY 2024-25

ORANGE – The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors today approved a balanced budget of \$1.76 billion for the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1.

The budget keeps essential transportation improvements moving forward while responsibly planning for a balanced and sustainable transportation future for Orange County...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

CicLAvia held on long stretch of Western Avenue in South LA

The third full-scale CicLAvia event of 2024 is being held Sunday in South Los Angeles, where 5 miles of Western Avenue will be closed to motorized vehicles.

The 53rd in the series of street festivals that began in 2010 will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Western and Exposition Boulevard south to Western and Century Boulevard...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

Slow Down: Anaheim to Lower Speed Limits on Major Roads

Anaheim officials are moving to slow drivers down across 169 segments of roadway in Anaheim including parts of Brookhurst Street, Lincoln Avenue, State College Boulevard and Katella Avenue under a new speed limit law.

Last week, city council members voted unanimously to introduce a new law that will decrease the speed by 5-15 miles per hour across over 150 street segments in OC's largest city...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

Caltrans Seeks Volunteers for 'Road Charge' Pilot

Caltrans is looking for volunteers to participate in a statewide pilot program to test a "road charge" system to pay for critical infrastructure repairs. A road charge is a per mile fee where all drivers pay to maintain the roads based on how much they drive, rather than how much gas they buy. As the collection of gas tax revenue is estimated to decrease in the coming years, Senate Bill 339 (Wiener, 2021) established the pilot program to test the potential feasibility of alternative ways to maintain the state's roads, which could potentially show a net savings for some motorists under certain circumstances...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

SCAG Go Human Awards Over \$460,000 To 16 Community-Based Organizations For Traffic Safety Projects

SCAG has conditionally approved \$460,000 for 16 community-based organizations to implement equity-centered traffic safety and community engagement projects through the SCAG Go Human Community Streets Grant Program. Community Streets Program awardees will implement a wide variety of safety projects to increase the safety of people most harmed by traffic injuries and fatalities, particularly those walking and biking.

Earlier this year, SCAG's Transportation Committee and Regional Council approved the 2024 Go Human Community Streets Grant Program Guidelines, authorized staff to release a call for applications and authorized SCAG staff to enter into agreements with selected awardees.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

LOCAL, REGIONAL, & NATIONAL NEWS, CONTINUED

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAG Approves \$280 Million In Improvements For Regional Transportation Systems

Today, the SCAG Regional Council approved a project award list of 62 projects totaling \$279.7 million for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding. Collectively, the STBG/CMAQ/CRP programs will fund diverse multimodal transportation projects throughout the region to implement the mobility and sustainability goals from the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The federal STBG program funds projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of highways, bridges, public roads, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and transit capital projects.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

California voted to ban new diesel trucks at ports. Why did L.A. and Long Beach just add 1,000 more?

More than 1,000 diesel-powered cargo trucks — which should've been banned from serving California ports — were granted access to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach due to inaction from the Biden administration, according to harbor records.

In April 2023, the California Air Resources Board voted to ban fossil fuel-powered big rigs from obtaining new registrations to serve the state's 12 major seaports, a landmark rule that was slated to go into effect on Jan. 1...

[\[Continue here\]](#)

71 million people expected to travel over 4th of July holiday, AAA says

A record number of people are expected to travel over the 4th of July holiday this year.

Almost 71 million people will travel 50 or more miles, according to AAA. The record-setting projection is 5% more than 2023 and 8% more than 2019.

[\[Continue here\]](#)



City of Riverside is accepting applications for the position of Principal Transportation Planner. The City of Riverside is relatively unique amongst big cities in that it does not employ any dedicated transportation planners. The addition Principal Transportation Planner, coinciding with the update to the City's General Plan Update, will provide dedicated oversight to all elements of the City's transportation planning, allow the City to expedite the transportation CEQA & development review process, and improve the Department's ability to pursue grant funding.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofriversideca?page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs&jobId=4535775&jobName=principal-transportation-planner&tab=1>

Kimley»Horn

Kimley-Horn is seeking the following positions:

Practice Leader/Senior Project Manager to help lead and continue to grow our Tolling Practice in the California region.

<https://careers-kimley-horn.icims.com/jobs/12242/tolling-practice-leader/job?mobile=false&width=1860&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-480&jun1offset=-420>

Project Manager to expand our Roadway practice in Riverside, California (CA)

<https://careers-kimley-horn.icims.com/jobs/11591/senior-project-manager-practice-builder---municipal-roadway---%28riverside%2c-ca%29/job>

Traffic Engineer with 3+ years of experience to join their Transportation/Traffic team.

<https://careers-kimley-horn.icims.com/jobs/11674/traffic-engineer/job?mode=view&mobile=false&width=729&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-480&jun1offset=-420>

Please contact [Michael Plotnik](#) 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:



THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY:

**Psomas Is Proud to
Support the Orange County
Traffic Engineering Council**

**TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

- Multimodal Transportation
- Design
- Traffic Safety
- Transportation Modeling/Planning
- Agency Support



P S O M A S

Our work begins at the intersection of
community, creativity, and client relationships.

We travel daily on the roads we design, so we
take the time to understand what local needs
are before offering recommendations.



**Roads keep communities
connected, together and safe**

Visit [Stantec.com](https://www.stantec.com) to learn more.



Bluebird Canyon Drive Evacuation Route Widening | Laguna Beach, California

OCTEC & ITE SOCAL SUMMER MIXER

SUMMER MIXER

BALLAST POINT LONG BEACH, 110 N. MARINA DRIVE, LONG BEACH, 90803



OCTEC

THURS, AUG 15, 2024

5:30PM to 8:30PM

COST: \$40

(includes 2 drink tickets + food)

Space is limited so get your tickets today @

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ite-socal-and-octec-summer-mixer-2024-tickets-915760232507>



OCTEC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

OCTEC

Orange County Traffic Engineering Council



Liz Aziz
CT-West
Western Region Manager
(714) 595-0588
lizt@ct-west.com

I am so honored to be nominated for the role of Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator for OCTEC. I am an active member that has been attending meetings and events for a decade. I love this group and find so much value in being a regular participant. Of all the different groups in Southern California, OCTEC is my favorite!

Qualifications and Background:

- Active volunteer for the yearly golf tournament for 7 years.
- RSBITE Vendor Chair for 8 years.
- Past experience with obtaining sponsorship for vendor shows and golf tournaments.
- 10 years of traffic industry experience.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

2025
WESTERN DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 29-JULY 2

Sign-up HERE:
<https://forms.gle/Wt9EVMhJeh1xajch8>
Sign-up deadline for Chair Positions: April 30, 2024



2023-2024 SPONSORS

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

Meeting Date

September 28, 2023

October 26, 2023
Joint Meeting — ITE SoCal

January 25, 2024

February 29, 2024
Joint Meeting with ITS-CA

March 28, 2024

April 25, 2024

May 2024

June 27, 2024

Newsletter Sponsors

Michael Baker International
Mark Thomas

General Technologies and Solutions
ADVANTEC Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Minagar & Associate, Inc.
Hartzog & Crabill, Inc.

NexTech Systems, Inc.

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
DKS Associates

Ganddini Group, Inc.
KOA Corporation

OCTEC Golf Tournament
SoCal ITE/OCTEC Student Chapter Night

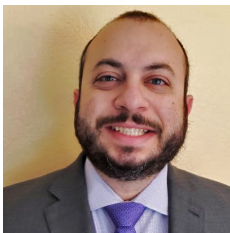
Stantec Consulting Services
Psomas

Lunch/Meeting Sponsors



For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mai Vang at (949) 724-7367 or mvang@cityofirvine.org

OCTEC 2023 - 2024 Officers



Michael Plotnik
President

City of La Habra
110 E. La Habra Blvd.,
La Habra, CA
90631

(562) 383-4162

mplotnik@lahabracal.gov



Adrian Rodriguez
Secretary

City of Anaheim
200 S Anaheim Blvd.,
Anaheim, CA
92805

(714) 765-5044

mplotnik@lahabracal.gov



Trevor Briggs
Treasurer

Kimley-Horn
1100 Town and Country
Rd., Suite 700
Orange, CA
92868

(714) 786-6117

trevor.briggs@kimley-horn.com



Mai Vang
**Sponsorship/Membership
Coordinator**

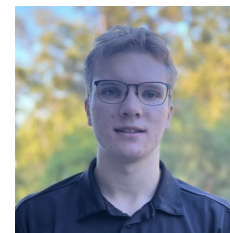
City of Irvine
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA
92606

(949) 724-7367

mvang@cityofirvine.org



Javier Ruedas
Social Media Chair
(949) 472-3475
javier.ruedas@mbakerintl.com



Mark Polunin
Webmaster
(714) 343-0601
mpolunin@epdsolutions.com

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