PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:
by Mark Jugar PE, TE, PTOE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and got time to spend them with family and friends. Those who attended our annual Holiday Dinner Dance at the Kona Kai Resort & Marina in December surely ended the 2014 year with a bang (check out some of the pictures in this newsletter or our website).

First, I’d like to say I’m very excited to serve as President of the ITE San Diego Section for 2015! Having volunteered for several chairperson positions since 1995, as Newsletter Chairperson (my first chair position), I still vividly remember the days of having to print, fold, collate, staple, stick address labels, postage stamp and mail out hardcopies to all members (yes, in that order on a monthly basis). 20 years later, I am now honored to be serving as our Section President. I guess time does fly when you are having fun.

I would like to extend a big “Thank you” to Kathy Feilen for her leadership as our 2014 Section President. She did a wonderful job and look forward for her continued guidance as our Past President. I am also privileged to serve with our 2015 Executive Board Members to help lead our section:

Ryan Zellers – Vice President
KC Yellapu – Treasurer
Ali Shahzad – Secretary

My appreciation also goes out to all our chairpersons who continue to volunteer their time and effort to help keep this organization running. It truly is a team effort.

“I’m very excited to serve as President of the ITE San Diego Section for 2015!”
For 2015, in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly luncheon meetings (held on the first Thursday of the month), here are some of the anticipated highlights for this year:

- Joint Meeting with ITE Southern California Section – Friday, March 20, 2015, San Juan Capistrano
- Annual ITE San Diego Section Golf Tournament – Friday, April 17, 2015, Twin Oaks Golf Course
- ITE San Diego Section Workshop/Vendor Show – October
- Joint Meeting with ITE San Diego State University Student Chapter – September
- ITE San Diego Section Holiday Dinner Dance – December

Please be on the lookout for these and other events via email announcements or by checking out our website at: sandiegoite.org

I look forward to a fun and successful year for ITE in 2015, and hope to see you all at our next event!
I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. After finishing the eighth grade, I moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin when I was 13 years old to join my parents who arrived first. Within months, I began attending Riverside University High school.

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison; I started as a Civil Engineering major but switched half way through school and graduated with an Agricultural Engineering Degree (currently referred to as Biological Systems Engineering). I am, however, happy I did not choose to work in this field.

Since I transferred out of Civil Engineering major prior to taking transportation or traffic engineering classes, I didn’t really know much about this field during school. I began my career at Rick Engineering Company in Land Development and worked for six years until work slowed down in our department. I was temporarily transferred to the traffic engineering department and through the support and mentoring of the traffic group, especially my direct supervisor Mark Jugar, this eventually turned into a full time position. While in the traffic group, I was able to obtain my Civil P.E. and T.E. licenses.

ITE has given me opportunities to network with fellow Engineers in the Transportation/Traffic field and learn more about this profession through various monthly technical events and workshops.
**Describe a memorable/unusual experience/event in your life**

My most memorable experience was flying from Ethiopia to the U.S. by myself at 13 years old. I flew from Addis Ababa to Frankfurt, Germany where I spent the entire day wandering around the massive airport until my night flight departure to America. I arrived in Chicago in the middle of August and had my first experience with extreme humidity and I hated it immediately, not knowing that extreme cold weather was waiting for me a few months later.

**What are some of your hobbies or interests?**

I’ve been kick boxing for almost ten years and added yoga to the routine, a couple of years ago. I also enjoy running, hiking and traveling to tropical islands.

**What is the craziest thing you have ever done?**

I went sky diving a few years ago, that was both the craziest and the scariest thing I’ve ever done. I probably would do it one more time but I may have to get a different diving partner since my husband swore his days of jumping out of airplanes are behind him.

**What interesting talent do you possess?**

I’m not sure if this is considered a talent since it’s just through repeated practicing but I can do a head stand on the days I feel balanced and centered.

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**Let’s Get Social**

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**Monthly Luncheon**
FEB 5 – 11:30 AM
Diverging Diamond Interchanges
Tyler Frisby + Steve Gomez of Wilson & Company Inc.
(stay tuned for more details)

**Joint Meeting w/ ITE Southern CA**
MARCH 20 – 10 AM
@ San Juan Capistrano

**ITE Golf Tournament**
APRIL 17 – 11:30 AM
@ Twin Oaks Golf Course
(see attached flyer)

**ITE Workshop/Vendor Show**
OCTOBER

**Western District Conference**
JULY 19-22
@ Planet Hollywood
Las Vegas, NV

**Joint Meeting w/ ITE SDSU**
SEPTEMBER
SB 743 refers to legislation enacted in the fall of 2013 that will change the way that transportation analyses are conducted for environmental studies prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The new guidelines will reduce emphasis on roadway capacity/level of service and will increase emphasis on alternative performance measures, such as vehicle miles travelled (VMT). This brief update on SB 743 includes a summary of next steps in the SB 743 process and a summary of ITE’s key comments on the Draft SB 743 Guidelines that were prepared by the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in August of 2014. A copy of the entire ITE comment letter is available on the ITE Western District website at www.westerite.org.

Next Steps

OPR is currently reviewing comments on Draft SB 743 Guidelines issued in August. Over 200 comment letters were received and the comment review process is expected to extend into February. OPR expects to issue a revised set of Draft Guidelines for review and comment before Final Guidelines are issued. Implementation of SB 743 will occur six to ten months following the issuance of Final Guidelines. It appears unlikely that implementation will occur until 2016 at the earliest.

Although implementation of SB 743 is not anticipated prior to 2016, SB 743 could apply to ongoing projects if the draft environmental document is to be published after the implementation of SB 743. CEQA guidelines are unclear regarding the status of ongoing projects. Depending on how the guidelines are interpreted, projects could be considered to require use of the guidelines that were in place at the time that the notice of preparation was issued or the use of guidelines that were in place at the time that the draft environmental document was issued.

Key ITE Recommendations

Following is a summary of key recommendations on SB 743 guidelines, as stated in ITE’s comment letter dated November 21, 2014:

- For land development projects that are inappropriate for VMT analysis using a regional transportation model (either because they are too small or outside the geographic area of a model), a different or refined methodology should be developed to determine the significance of VMT impacts. The VMT models and methodologies that are currently available do not achieve the level of accuracy that would be desirable in order to determine project trip length and VMT for the wide variety of project types and project locations that would be analyzed under CEQA.

- For small land development projects and small transportation projects, a methodology should be developed to analyze the significance of VMT impacts and mitigate those impacts (if appropriate) without going through the long and expensive process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report. Although lead agencies (not OPR) will be responsible for the determination of significance thresholds, the agency writing the guidelines (i.e. OPR) has a responsibility to provide guidelines that can be reasonably and efficiently implemented.

- For lead agencies who are currently using CEQA roadway capacity/LOS analysis as the methodology for requiring land development projects to provide roadway improvements, an alternative methodology should be developed. Ideally, OPR would facilitate this discussion. At a minimum, OPR should limit the implementation of SB 743 to transit priority areas until others have provided a methodology for lead agencies to obtain roadway improvements as a condition of the implementation of land development projects.
2015 ITE San Diego Section
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

date: Friday, April 17, 2015
location: TWIN OAKS GOLF COURSE
1425 Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92069
(760) 591-4700 www.jrgolf.com
time:
11:30am Check-in;
12:00-12:30 Lunch;
12:30pm Shotgun Start;
Awards, Raffle & BBQ Dinner after Golf

Sponsorship Sign-Up:
- Hole Sponsor: unlimited $100 Each
- Prize Sponsor: unlimited $100 Each
- Beverage Cart Sponsor: 2 Available $150 Each
- Food Sponsor: 2 Available $150 Each

Registration Deadline is April 10, 2015!
Sign-Up includes Lunch & 2 Drink Tickets.
Lunch without golfing is $30.

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Please RSVP!
You may pay at the door or make checks payable to ITE and mailed, along with this completed form, to:

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