

ITE AT UCLA STUDENT CHAPTER AWARD 2025-2026

The UCLA ITE Student Chapter has 34 elected officers and held 18 meetings during the last year.

President Ryan Matson

External Vice President Dominic McGuire

Internal Vice President Kyra Koh

Treasurer Spencer Suzuki

Secretary Justin Xu

Membership Chair Orisha Lamon

Project Managers Rudie Paraiso, Robert Belli

Project Directors Joseph Augello, Gabriela Navarro

Field Trip Coordinator Hanson Zhao, Alejandro Murillo

Media Director Blas Resendez

Social Chair Janeli Cruz

Historian Riley Harrison

Urban Planning Liaison Jacob Lawson

ITS Liaison Yu Hong Hwang

WTS Liaison Janeli Cruz

Policy/Education Chair Yina Marin, Jana Saadeh

Interns Darren Schuttinger, Wesley Hon, Lisa Seo, Frank Yin, Kate Morales, Elliott Masterjohn, David Trigueros, Rishi Bansal, Vincent Vaughan, Joseph Booth, Cristina Gonzalez, Vinessa Goh, Victoria Lopez, Rachel Nguyentu, Sanika Kumar

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

Meeting	Date	Location	Presentation	Speaker	Joint Meeting
1	March 6th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Biking Around Town... and Making a Career Out of It	Carlos Hernandez (City of Santa Monica)	No
2	April 1st, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Spring General Meeting	ITE at UCLA Officer Board	No
3	April 16th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Kimley-Horn Info Session	Selina Han, Vivian Chong	No
4	April 25th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Exploring Urban Planning Research	Dr. Paloma Giottonini, Dr. Craig T. Olwert (CSUN), Samuel Speroni, Yu Hong Hwang (UCLA)	Luskin Undergraduate Student Association, Urban Planning Students of Northridge
5	April 29th, 2025	Virtual	Singapore Technologies Engineering Info Session	Eugene Lam	No
6	May 15th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Transportation Politics	Kerry Sempelsz (ITE at UCLA)	No
7	May 20th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Boats, Trams, and Monorails	Matthew Lee (TEA at UCLA)	Themed Entertainment Association at UCLA
8	May 28th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	AtkinsRealis Info Session	Devin Louie, Arya Rais-Firouz	No
9	September 30th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Fall General Meeting	ITE at UCLA Officer Board	No
10	October 20th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Made in LA: CEO Journeys in Transit	Nadine Lee (DART), Debra Johnson (RTD-Denver), Darren Kettle (Metrolink), Kerry Sempelsz (YPT LA)	International Association of Public Transport and Young Professionals in Transportation LA
11	November 6th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Internship Roundtable	ITE at UCLA Students	No
12	November 13th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Transportation Litigation: Law, Policy, and the Battle Over Mobility	Jarret Thompson (LA CD5), Jon Christensen (UCLA)	UCLA Pre-Law Litigation Club

13	November 20th, 2025	Los Angeles, CA	Transportation Careers	Walter Okitsu (LA28)	No
14	January 8th, 2026	Los Angeles, CA	Winter General Meeting	ITE at UCLA Officer Board	No
15	February 5th, 2026	Los Angeles, CA	HNTB Info Session	Joshua Dungca, Elena Le, Emma Santos	No
16	February 11th, 2026	Virtual	Streets for People - Working Together to Reclaim the Public Realm	Robert Lipka (City of Edmonton)	No
17	February 12th, 2026	Los Angeles, CA	Iteris Info Session	Deepak Kaushik, SungWoo Jo	No
18	February 19th, 2026	Los Angeles, CA	SB79 and the Future of Transit Oriented Development in LA	Dr. Adam Millard-Ball, Ellen Schwartz (UCLA), Connor Webb (North Westwood Neighborhood Council)	Luskin Undergraduate Student Association

In October 2025, ITE brought 19 UCLA students to Made in LA, a panel featuring transit CEOs who shared their professional journeys. LA Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins and fellow leaders spoke about their career paths, professional development, and how working in Los Angeles has shaped their opportunities. The panelists also engaged thoughtfully with audience questions, offering candid insights and advice. This was many attendees' first event with us, and they had the opportunity to connect directly with industry leaders during a networking reception, including with the CEOs themselves. Since then, those students have become some of our most consistent members.

A particularly well-received informational session we hosted was with HNTB in February 2026. Students were thrilled to reconnect with the company representatives, all of whom were ITE at UCLA Alumni (Joshua Dungca '23, Elena Le '24, and Emma Santos '25), and learn about their day to day projects and work. They ran a workshop allowing each attendee their own experience with designing curb ramps, railroad switches, and other transportation infrastructure. As a result of the heavy alumni presence, industry relation, and interactive workshops, students were particularly engaged, asking questions, and grew in their interest for transportation engineering.

NETWORKING EVENTS

Our October 2025 Career Fair was one of our premier events, connecting 57 of our future transportation professionals to 20 industry representatives. We invited both private companies and public agencies that work across transportation disciplines from engineering to planning to meet our students. Students were given the opportunity to gauge their interest in the culture, projects, and disciplines of each company, while each company could search for interested talent. Students were able to develop important soft skills while getting to know future professionals in the industry.

In February 2026, we hosted the ITE at UCLA Student Professional Mixer. This was another premier event which allowed our members to connect and network with professors and professionals in transportation over food, discussion questions, and a keynote speaker, former LA Metro Community Relations Executive Jody Litvak. 53 students were able to meet 18 professionals and share conversations with familiar faces, alumni, and distinguished professionals alike to discuss the transportation industry.

Additionally, our Alumni Panel event in May 2025 invited UCLA Alumni in the transportation industry to share their experiences in the industry with current students. Ashley Yao (Lochner), Joshua Dungca (HNTB), Ben Baker (GFT), and Carlos Hernandez (City of Santa Monica) returned to the UCLA campus and shared the wisdom they gained as college students and transportation professionals. Audience members were then free to ask questions to the panelists during the event and further network with them afterwards.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

After our '25-'26 board was elected in April 2025, both outgoing officers and incoming officers set out on a weekend retreat for team bonding, presentations, and effective transitioning of responsibilities. Throughout the year, officers gained experience in tracking finances, hosting events with the industry, handling logistics, and delegating tasks and responsibilities by leading a team of interns. In particular, our internship program, largely freshmen and sophomores, gave 15 interns the opportunity to work closely under the wings of other officers, expanding the horizons of many new transportation enthusiasts by partaking in officer duties, such as reaching out to speakers from the industry. Additionally, interns would go above and beyond by planning their own events, such as hosting a comprehensive Transportation Class Planner Workshop. Many interns continue to stay on our officer board, a testament to our leadership development process.

We were able to send over 40 members to professional conferences this year, including the 2025 ITE Western District Annual Meeting in Long Beach as well as the 2026 ITE Western District Student Leadership Summit in Irvine, for the chance to learn from professionals, connect with other ITE student chapters, and grow more confident in leading our own chapter as a result. Students also benefited from attending TRB in Washington, D.C. in January 2026, representing ITE at UCLA on the national level and connecting with other student leaders from across the US.

K-12 STEM OUTREACH

ITE at UCLA presented on Traffic Engineering and signage concepts to over 150 middle school students from Beverly Vista Middle School in Beverly Hills in April 2025 with the ITE Sign the Way activity. Our members taught the importance of signage, regulatory/warning/guidance distinctions, retroreflectivity, and their implications for safety. In January 2026, ITE at UCLA participated in Experience UCLA Engineering, in which we reprised the ITE Sign the Way workshop to over 180 students from Geffen Academy, Pio Pico Middle School, Le Conte Middle School, and Johnnie Cochran Middle School.

We also visited Venice High School twice last May to teach high school students about transportation engineering and urban planning. We led special lessons on Micromobility, Transit, and Climate Change, which were customized topics based on their chosen interests. Our officers worked to make examples relatable and digestible for first time learners and asked lots of questions to encourage open discussion about their personal experiences with transportation. Students were able to discuss the history, pros, and cons of various transportation projects and think critically like an engineer.

APPLICATION OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Our ITE at UCLA Technical Project Team prepared a technical report and project proposal for the design of the future Rancho Cucamonga Brightline West Station for the Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS) in April 2025, winning third place. Project engineers gained experience in analyzing Level of Service on roadways and intersections, VMT, mode split, parking requirements, and using AutoCAD to create design plans for the immediate station area.

In preparation for the 2026 PSWS at Cal State LA, our project team has been focusing on redesigning the I-710 stub from I-10 to Valley Boulevard on the eastern edge of Los Angeles, focusing on bicycle and pedestrian friendly design. Our members were able to plan complete streets with StreetMix, research PROWAG and ADA guidelines and standards, as well as placement/design of bike trails to dramatically increase the mobility options between the CSULA campus, City of Alhambra, Valley Boulevard, and a new connection across the Metrolink train tracks to the North.

ITE at UCLA collaborated with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation on the Westwood Boulevard Safety and Mobility project, a project to redesign the main arterial into UCLA and the school's main connection to the LA Metro rail network. Through the creation of an informational video in the form of a race demonstrating three different modes of transit down Westwood Boulevard (car, bus, and bike), we were able to effectively engage UCLA students in the public comment process. Our video, receiving over 100,000 views on Instagram, clearly illustrated first hand challenges that roadway users might experience on the roads, such as cars double parked in the bike lane, and highlighted transportation engineering solutions such as protected Class IV Bicycle Lanes and Transit Signal Priority.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

ITE at UCLA made its presence known through tabling at numerous events throughout the year. In September 2025, at the UCLA Enormous Activities Fair, we reached over 1,000 students from the entire school by highlighting the overarching relevancy of transportation for everyone and distributing infographics on How to Get Around Los Angeles Without a Car. In order to focus our outreach to engineering students, ITE at UCLA tabled at Engineering Welcome Day, welcoming over 800 new freshmen and transfer students majoring in Engineering. Additionally, ITE at UCLA tabled at the Luskin Grill 'n' Chill, a welcome event for the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, in which we were able to recruit undergraduates and graduate students studying Geography, Urban Planning and other Public Policy fields. Our outreach continued throughout the year by tabling in the UCLA Sustainable Transportation Fair in October 2025 and at FAC Fest, an accessibility-themed event in the UCLA Residential Halls in January 2026. In April 2025, ITE at UCLA also connected with newly admitted freshmen students at the Discover UCLA Engineering event. For all of these tabling events, we shared posterboards featuring our work from previous projects, gave out free merchandise, and had officers make personal connections with prospective members by sharing how ITE and transportation has inspired them.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Through our efforts of connecting newsletters, job opportunities, and events with UCLA's Institute of Transportation Studies and Luskin School of Public Affairs, carrying a large population of Urban Planning and Public Policy students, ITE at UCLA has a more diverse member base than ever, with 63% Engineering students, 10% Urban Planning/Public Affairs, 6% Geography students, and 21% students from other disciplines. Our Urban Planning Liaison also consistently delivers events geared towards Urban Planning, such as a panel on the effects of SB79, well received by planners and engineers alike. Additionally, 73% of our officer board are either women or persons of color, and we partner closely with the Women's Transportation Seminar at UCLA to promote events and initiatives.

One key way we've engaged students from a wider range of majors has been through our new informational campaign to show UCLA students—especially those not already studying transportation-related fields—how to get around LA without a car. We collaborated with True Bruin Welcome's First Year Experience team to create a video demonstrating how to get from

LAX to UCLA via bus, train, and Uber, reaching over 160,000 views on Instagram. Our tabling events have also become opportunities to inspire students to find their own transportation freedom by handing out postcard guide maps. Not only have these postcards and videos expanded our membership to include students from across campus that see the importance in transportation, but they have also created space for students majoring in and/or interested in graphic design, videography, and editing to be involved in ITE at UCLA through transportation outreach.

TRAINING / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of ITE at UCLA's main goals is to train and prepare students for a professional career in the transportation industry. To do so, we hosted a Resume and Recruiting Workshop, giving students practical, approachable strategies for navigating company info-sessions and career fairs, developing clear elevator pitches, asking thoughtful open-ended questions, and how to succeed in professional networking—learning how to continue conversations and build connections beyond a first interaction. The event concluded by connecting each student with an ITE alumni working in their area of interest, and letting them set up an introductory meeting.

Our November 2025 CEE1 Workshop event was an educational opportunity for new members of ITE at UCLA to see firsthand transportation engineering principles on the streets around them. The workshop included curb ramp and street measurements, traffic counts, and a walking tour of transportation infrastructure around the UCLA campus. Throughout the year, we also host additional workshops, training our members in AutoCAD, Complete Streets, and Plan Reading. Furthermore, our weekly project team meetings provide consistent opportunities for members to develop and exercise skills in transportation planning, design, AutoCAD, and report writing on a mock-project for our annual PSWS competition.

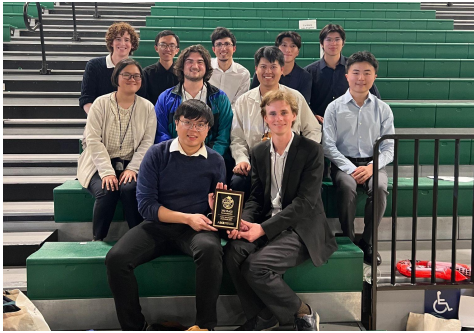
FIELD TRIPS / TECHNICAL TOURS

ITE at UCLA has proudly brought our members on successful and engaging field trips, including trips to Downtown Pasadena for an Urban Planning-lens Walking Tour and the grand openings of the LAX/Metro Transit Center and Foothill Gold Line Extension stations in 2025. In January 2026, members joined LA Metro for a technical tour of the new Rail to Rail Bike Path in South LA, and our project team later visited the I-710 northern stub near CSULA to survey existing conditions of our 2026 PSWS competition project prompt.

SERVICE PROJECTS

ITE at UCLA served our community through a pedestrian and roadway safety campaign. In January 2026, at the FAC Fest accessibility event, students engaged other students through a “Who Has the Right of Way?” quiz, reminding students of the importance of following traffic control, signage, and respecting trains at grade crossings. Additionally, through social media videos, in-person outreach, and the creation of field trips to community events to increase the accessibility of attending community hearings, ITE at UCLA participated in community outreach for increased awareness of mobility projects directly affecting students—namely the Sepulveda Transit Corridor, Westwood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project, and the Ohio Avenue Safety and Mobility Project. In particular, our field trip to the Metro Headquarters in Downtown LA to speak at their board meeting helped solidify the unanimous vote in favor of the heavy-rail Locally Preferred Alternative chosen by Metro Staff in January 2026.

PHOTOS



PSWS 2025 at Cal Poly Pomona



Exploring Urban Planning Research



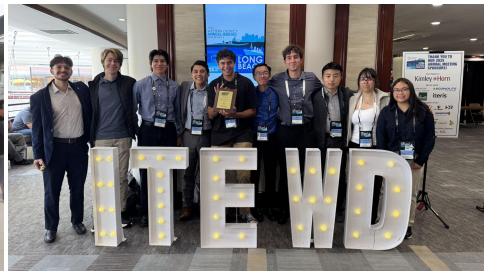
Beverly Vista Middle School Outreach



Alumni Panel 2025



LAX/Metro Transit Center Opening Field Trip



2025 ITE Western District Annual Meeting



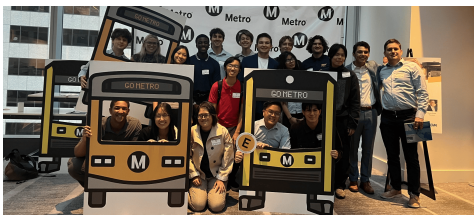
Fall General Meeting



UCLA Sustainable Transportation Fair



8th Annual Career Fair



UITP x YPT x ITE Made in LA: CEO's Journey in Transit



Transportation Careers with Walter Okitsu



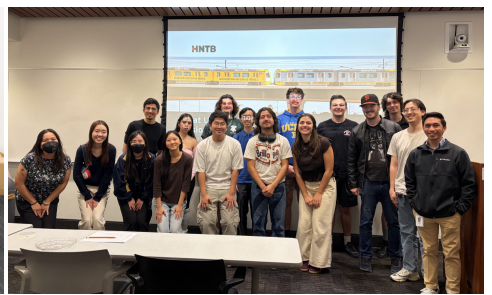
11th Annual Student Professional Mixer



Sepulveda Transit Corridor Meeting Field Trip



2026 ITE Western District Student Leadership Summit



HNTB Info Session