



# 2025-2026 Annual Report

University of Southern California  
Institute of Transportation Engineers  
Student Chapter



# University of Southern California Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter

## 2025-2026 Annual Report

### Message from the Board

February 2026

Dear Mr. Andrews,

I am delighted to share with you the impressive year USC ITE has had. In our 15th year of operation, we saw remarkable growth in our membership and sponsorship, while also hosting a total of 22 events with record-breaking attendance. The report below details the ins and outs of all our wins, but I want to start by offering a glimpse into our proudest accomplishments from the past year.

We had a record-breaking recruitment season this past Fall. We recruited 118 new members, bringing our total membership to 158 students. While this 114% increase in membership from this time last year is a feat in its own right, I am equally proud of the academic diversity we achieved in our member base. With 48 graduate students and 110 undergraduate students from 32 majors, our club continues to trailblaze what it means to be a transportation professional. We had the privilege to share our recruitment tactics with other student chapters at the 2026 Student Leadership Summit.

Thanks to our successful sponsorship campaign in July, we have been able to accommodate this newfound, large member base. In our second year of offering corporate sponsorship, we secured 5 sponsors, resulting in our largest sponsorship revenue to date. Securing these sponsorships has not only enabled greater financial freedom but also strengthened our connection to employers. We were able to call on these sponsors to assist with a Resume Review this past January, furthering our students' connection with post-graduation opportunities.

One of my favorite quotes is “We don’t learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience” (John Dewey). We have reflected on previous years, replicated our successes, and addressed our shortcomings, and now that it is time to reflect on this year, I can confidently say our chapter is on the right trajectory. I cannot wait to see how our chapter continues to grow and mature.

Sincerely,

Andrew Keefer

2025-2026 **USC** **ITE** President

**Andrew Keefer**  
Chapter President

**Sabrina Bluml**  
VP, Internal Affairs

**Ivy Tan**  
VP, External Affairs

**Mila Mattson**  
Recruitment Chair

**Clare Bailey**  
Secretary

**Chris Tse**  
Treasurer

**Emerson Sonoda**  
Project Manager

**Vaahin Mehta**  
Project Manager

**Tyler Milliren**  
Event Planner

**Juliet Chang**  
Communications Chair

**Alex Wang**  
Immediate Past President

**Eric C. Shen, PE, FITE, PTP**  
Faculty Advisor

**Executive Summary:** The 2025–2026 academic year marked a transformative period for USC ITE. We experienced record membership growth, expanding to 158 members across 32 majors, while strengthening retention, sponsorship, and technical engagement. We hosted 16 on-campus events, six technical site tours, multiple professional development workshops, and continued our fifth year of K-12 STEM outreach. Our students earned recognition at regional competitions, presented research at professional conferences, and deepened partnerships with industry sponsors and alumni. Through intentional recruitment, thoughtful programming, and strong leadership development, USC ITE has built a larger, more connected, and more professionally engaged chapter poised for continued growth.

**Chapter Administration:** We hosted 16 on-campus events this past year, providing our students with consistent access to the many facets of the transportation industry. Eight of these events were for our monthly Speaker Series, where we invite transportation professionals to speak to our students about their work, experience, and advice for the next generation of transportation professionals. We invite a wide range of guests, ensuring our engineering, planning, and policy students all have the opportunity to see what their future might hold. A highlight from last year was hosting Stephanie Dougherty, the Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). We hosted this meeting over Zoom and invited other ITE student chapters to attend, including members from UCI, UCLA, CPP, CSUF, CPSLO, and CSULB.

In addition to our Speaker Series, we also hosted general meetings and social events to give our members a chance to connect outside the classroom. Most notably, we collaborated with the USC Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) to throw a tailgate for the USC vs. Michigan State football game. This event was early in the Fall semester, giving our students a chance to foster friendships that truly connect them to our chapter.

### On-Campus Events

| ID | Meeting Type    | Speaker/Event                                                               | Date       | Notes |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| 1  | Speaker Series  | Ryan Chamberlain<br><i>CEO, Transportation Corridor Agencies</i>            | 03/06/2025 |       |
| 2  | Speaker Series  | Stephanie Dougherty<br><i>Director, California Office of Traffic Safety</i> | 03/26/2025 | *     |
| 3  | General Meeting | March General Meeting                                                       | 03/27/2025 |       |
| 4  | Speaker Series  | Lisa Derderian<br><i>Public Information Officer, City of Pasadena</i>       | 04/17/2025 |       |
| 5  | General Meeting | End-of-Year Banquet                                                         | 04/24/2025 |       |
| 6  | General Meeting | September General Meeting                                                   | 09/15/2025 |       |
| 7  | Social          | USC ITE x IISE Football Tailgate                                            | 09/20/2025 | **    |
| 8  | Speaker Series  | Robert Campbell<br><i>Senior Manager, Metro</i>                             | 09/24/2025 |       |
| 9  | General Meeting | October General Meeting                                                     | 10/15/2025 |       |
| 10 | Speaker Series  | Patrick Gibson<br><i>Director Of Venue Transportation, LA28</i>             | 10/20/2025 |       |
| 11 | Social          | Pumpkin Painting Social                                                     | 10/28/2025 |       |

| ID | Meeting Type    | Speaker/Event                                                            | Date       | Notes |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| 12 | Speaker Series  | Lauren Deaderick<br><i>Senior Director of Customer Experience, Metro</i> | 11/13/2025 |       |
| 13 | General Meeting | Fall Semester Banquet                                                    | 11/20/2025 |       |
| 14 | General Meeting | January General Meeting                                                  | 01/22/2026 |       |
| 15 | Speaker Series  | Tim Lindholm<br><i>Chief Program Management Officer, Metro</i>           | 02/11/2026 |       |
| 16 | Speaker Series  | Tim McCune<br><i>Engineering Manager, Waymo</i>                          | 02/23/2026 |       |

\* Events open to other ITE Student Chapters

\*\* Events hosted with other USC organizations

**Networking Events:** In preparation for the 2026 Student Leadership Summit, we invited four USC ITE alumni to provide resume reviews for our students. Going to a professional conference for the first time can be daunting, and because we sent 25 first-time SLS attendees (in addition to 12 returners!), we wanted to ensure our students were aptly prepared for the career fair. Our members were able to talk to those who were in their shoes not too long ago, asking both for advice on how to improve their resumes and how to connect with professionals at networking events. In addition to the resume review, we also offered headshot photos, allowing students to update their LinkedIn profiles.

**Leadership Development:** It takes a village to raise a child, but it only takes ten committed USC students to run our chapter. We have always valued Leadership Development for our executive board, as the strength and commitment of our executive board directly reflects the quality of our events. To start each semester on the right foot, we host a retreat where we gather for three to four hours to set semester goals and lay out our event calendar. At the start of the Fall Semester, we set three guiding goals for the year: Member Retention, Sponsorship Growth, and Getting to Know Our Members. We have been successful in achieving these goals, as seen with our 114% increase in membership and our 83% increase in sponsorship revenue from \$1500 in the 2024-2025 academic year to \$2750 this academic year. Additionally, we regularly attend USC's Viterbi Presidents Council, a monthly series of meetings hosted by our school to provide leadership guidance and connect us with other USC student leaders.

**K-12 STEM Outreach:** This marks our fifth year of STEM outreach in partnership with USC Hybrid High School, teaching students in a historically underserved community in South Los Angeles. Our transportation-focused curriculum explores real-world policy, planning, and equity issues shaping students' own urban contexts. With four sessions spanning February through March, our programming highlights the future of transportation (high-speed rail, AVs, the LAX/Metro transit center), transportation investments tied to the LA28 Olympics, and diverse careers in transportation that connect classroom learning to professional pathways. We've incorporated interactive group activities to help students engage with topics such as major capital projects, complete streets design, and effective transit use.

**Application of Technical Knowledge:** USC ITE is proud to offer our students the opportunity to apply their education and experience to individual technical projects. Our Immediate Past President, Alex Wang, presented his research paper, *Improving Railroad Crossing Safety with Positive Train Control and*

*Autonomous/Connected Vehicles*, at the 2025 Western District Annual Meeting in Long Beach. He shared his findings at the Human-Centered Design Technical Session and was proud to be one of the youngest people in the room, audience included! Additionally, he won the 2025 Student Paper Award.

USC ITE also hosts multiple technical group projects, allowing our students to get transportation research experience early in their academic careers. To accommodate our diverse member base, we always ensure our projects offer opportunities for those interested in technical engineering work and those interested in planning and policy. For our technical design project, we investigated how different roadway conditions contribute to Autonomous Vehicle safety, using machine learning techniques to predict the features that are most related to collision severity. In early May, three of our students presented their findings at the Le Val Lund Student Symposium that was hosted at Caltech by the Los Angeles ASCE section. For our planning and policy-focused project, we produced a GIS Hazard app. Inspired by the rise of crowdsourcing apps, the GIS map created a one-stop shop for Los Angeles citizens to report road hazards, such as broken street lights and potholes, in an interactive map accessible to public works employees and the general public. We presented this project at the 2025 RSBITE Bob Crommelin Student Luncheon, winning 1st place, and the SoCal ITE Student Presentation Night, winning 3rd place.

**New Member Recruitment:** We had a momentous recruitment season in both our Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters. Using insights from previous recruitment seasons, we found that class outreach is our most effective recruitment strategy. Over the course of the Fall and Spring semesters, we spoke to 20 classes, ranging from freshman-level engineering to graduate-level planning and public policy classes. This, in combination with other recruitment strategies, helped us grow our club to 158 members, a 114% increase from our 74 members this time last year. This growth has brought on its fair share of challenges, forcing us to rethink how we run our club. Specifically, for the first time in our club's history, we have had to limit the number of USC ITE members who can attend site tours per our hosts' requests, with some reaching capacity within 72 hours of being announced. This heightened demand signals we are doing something right, and we are thrilled to be introducing more students each semester to the transportation world and to ITE.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** USC ITE continues to pride itself on its commitment to diversity. We achieved a 50% female representation on the executive board, demonstrating our commitment to uplifting and supporting women in a male-dominated field. Additionally, our member base is the most academically diverse yet. Our community is represented by 32 unique on-campus majors spanning our engineering, planning/public policy, business, general arts, and science schools, up from 24 unique majors from this time last year. We have tailored our event planning to match our students' interests. Specifically, at the start of each semester, we survey our members to ask which professionals they would like to hear from and which types of transportation projects they would like to visit. Using this information, we plan events that not only allow them to learn from people and projects they are interested in, but also connects them with practitioners in the transportation industry they will be interacting with once graduated.

**Training/Professional Development:** We pride ourselves on preparing our member base for professional opportunities. We recognize that engineers and planners alike need to conduct and review traffic counts and

trip generation data to succeed in the transportation field. This past January, we hosted three Zoom meetings for students interested in learning how to conduct and report their own trip generation study. We reviewed the current ITE *Trip Generation Manual*, traditional traffic engineering methodologies, and the insights to look for, like AM/PM peak hour and peak hour factor. Most of our students will not cover these topics in class, so by offering this opportunity to our members, we are helping bridge the academic-to-industry gap, making them better prepared for interviews and employment.

**Field Trips/Technical Tours:** This past year, we arranged six technical tours for our members, ranging from office tours to airport construction projects. Two standout tours included visits to LADOT’s Advanced Transportation System and Coordination Center (ATSAC) and Hollywood Burbank Airport.

In October, we visited the LADOT ATSAC Center in downtown Los Angeles for a behind-the-scenes look at how the City manages nearly 5,000 traffic signals in real time. Hosted by Transportation Engineer Jeannie Shen, members observed the wall-to-wall live camera feeds used to monitor traffic conditions across Los Angeles. We learned about different signal operation modes and the trade-offs between loop detectors and video detection technologies. Students gained a deeper appreciation for the technology, coordination, and rapid decision-making required to keep the city moving, especially during special events and emergencies. Watching a live feed from the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Hoover Street near USC made the experience particularly impactful.

During our visit to Hollywood Burbank Airport, we met with past USC ITE President Vincent Nguyen, Senior Manager of Engineering and Product Delivery, who presented on the airport’s history and the ongoing Terminal Replacement Project. Our 29 attending members learned about the complexities of designing and delivering a major airport capital project, including phasing, stakeholder coordination, and maintaining operations during construction. We then boarded buses for an airside tour of the airport perimeter, during which staff highlighted key design and operational considerations.

#### Off-Campus Site Tours

| ID | Meeting Type | Speaker/Event               | Date       |
|----|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1  | Site Tour    | LA28 Office Tour            | 03/07/2025 |
| 2  | Site Tour    | USC Aviation Safety Program | 03/28/2025 |
| 3  | Site Tour    | John Wayne Airport Tour     | 04/18/2025 |
| 4  | Site Tour    | LADOT ATSAC Tour            | 10/03/2025 |
| 5  | Site Tour    | Burbank Airport Tour        | 10/17/2025 |
| 6  | Site Tour    | LAX Tour                    | 11/21/2025 |

**Service Projects:** This year, our chapter incorporated community service into our annual Fall Banquet by hosting a holiday food drive. We encouraged attendees to bring 2–3 canned food items to donate to those in need, and the donated items were forwarded to a local food bank ahead of the holiday season to support families in our community. While simple in scale, this initiative reinforced our commitment to service beyond the transportation profession.