

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — INDIVIDUAL

Sowmya Chandrasekhar, P.E.



ITE—A Community of Transportation Professionals is proud to recognize **Sowmya Chandrasekhar, P.E.**, as the recipient of the [2026 Transportation Achievement Award](#) in the Individual category.

ITE's Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in advancing transportation to meet human needs. Sowmya exemplifies this purpose through her exceptional professional contributions, volunteer

leadership, technical expertise, and service to the transportation community. In 2025, she demonstrated the perseverance, precision, and commitment that define an outstanding transportation professional.

As Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2025 ITE Western District Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA, USA, Sowmya took on one of the most demanding volunteer leadership roles in the district. She coordinated 11 subcommittee chairs, managed a budget exceeding \$400,000, and oversaw every dimension of a four-day conference that welcomed 528 attendees. Through strong organization and steady leadership, she delivered a technically rich, professionally rewarding, and financially successful event that reflected exceptionally well on the Western District.

Planning and executing a district annual meeting is a challenging, multi-year effort that requires discipline, coordination, and the ability to lead volunteers across competing priorities and organizations. Sowmya guided a broad team representing firms and agencies across the region and coordinated major functions including finance, hotel logistics, registration, technical programming, sponsorship, exhibits, student activities, social events, and publicity. The conference included 132 exhibitors across 46 booths and was delivered on budget.

The technical program Sowmya championed featured 29 sessions and 97 presenters addressing critical topics in transportation, including speed management, active transportation, complete streets, artificial intelligence in transportation, climate resiliency, and project management. She also helped bring to life the high-profile kick-off luncheon panel, "Setting the Stage for the LA28 Olympics," which convened executives from LA28, Metrolink, LA Metro, OCTA, the City of Long Beach, and LADOT.

Sowmya's leadership extended beyond the meeting rooms. The technical tours she helped organize showcased Long Beach's transportation assets, including an exclusive visit to the Port of Long Beach Joint

Command and Control Center and two guided Broadway Cycle Track bike tours led by City of Long Beach staff. These experiences reflected her commitment to delivering a program that was meaningful, memorable, and connected to the host city.

In addition to her volunteer leadership, Sowmya continued to distinguish herself professionally in 2025 through her work as a transportation engineer with Kimley-Horn. She played a key role in Kimley-Horn's City of Los Angeles services, focusing on the Department of Recreation and Parks, and collaborated across Southern California on multidisciplinary initiatives involving active transportation, traffic engineering, and safety.

Sowmya provided trusted guidance and leadership on pursuits and projects with prominent agencies and communities including UCLA, Ventura County, Santa Clarita, CSULB, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Diamond Bar, Bakersfield, and Shafter. Within her team, she is recognized for senior-level technical expertise, rigorous quality control, client coordination, and steady leadership that strengthens the greater Los Angeles transportation practice.

Throughout 2025, Sowmya demonstrated the hallmark of a true professional: the ability to deliver at the highest technical level while simultaneously leading a major volunteer initiative without sacrificing quality. ITE congratulates Sowmya Chandrasekhar on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates her outstanding contributions to ITE, the Western District, and the transportation profession.

Learn more about [ITE's Awards Program](#).