

Candidate Statement

Name: Kamala Lyn Parks

Candidate Position: Vice-President for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

Why I'm Running: ITE is a fantastic professional organization that has been an incredible resource since I was a graduate student at UC Berkeley.



Background

Since 2005, I have been employed as an Associate Transportation Planner and Engineer with Dowling Associates, Inc in Oakland. My primary work here involves preparing planning-related documents (traffic impact studies, parking studies, circulation elements of EIRs, and transportation management programs), performing traffic operations analyses, and conducting research. My areas of expertise include non-motorized transportation (bicycle and pedestrian), Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance, streetscape projects, collision analysis, school and religious site studies, and mixed-use projects. Previous to joining Dowling Associates, I was a Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) for UC Berkeley's Transportation Center under Ms. Elizabeth Deakin. As a GSR, I worked on the Bay Area Regional Express Bus Study and was a key staff person on a project for the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), providing passenger safety and ADA compliance recommendations for bus stops. I also interned for the Office of Transportation at the City of Berkeley, where I managed citizen complaints and aided the bicycle and pedestrian planner, Carolyn Helmke, with the installation of Bicycle Boulevards. Additionally, I served as the interim Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner for the City of Berkeley, where I implemented a pilot project to discourage bicycle riding on sidewalks and authored a report analyzing a 5-year history of pedestrian-involved collisions. Previous to working in the transportation field, I was a high school teacher, general manager of a couple of businesses, waitress, salesperson at retail stores, and blue-collar worker in various industrial establishments.

In terms of education, I received a BA in Mathematics from Mills College and a teaching credential from San Francisco State University. In 2005, I obtained Masters degrees in Transportation Planning and Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, with a concentration on International and Comparative Planning. While a student at UC Berkeley, I served as the Treasurer of TRANSOC, the student transportation engineering group.

Goals

As an officer in ITE, I hope to:

1. Continue to focus on and reinforce consideration of multi-modalism in our programs and profession.
2. Expand our presence at community colleges and high schools to enlighten students of career possibilities in transportation.
3. Encourage more participation in ITE and in the transportation profession by under-represented minorities, the mobility-challenged, and women.