



NEWSLETTER

Korean Transportation Association in America

Vol. 37, No. 1, January 2026

President's Message

Dear KOTAA Members:



Happy New Year!

Over the past year, KOTAA achieved many meaningful milestones, including the award of 55 Travel Grants, the successful hosting of a career development seminar in May, and continued engagement among our members across academia,

industry, and public agencies. These accomplishments underscore our shared commitment to supporting the next generation of transportation professionals while strengthening connections within our field.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be an especially exciting year for KOTAA. We are proud to launch a newly named scholarship that honors excellence in research presentation. We will once again provide a record number of Travel Grants to outstanding students in transportation engineering and related disciplines. These initiatives reflect our mission to foster professional development, mentorship, and leadership across career stages.

On behalf of the KOTAA Executive Committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors, including KSEA, the Korean Society of Transportation (KST), as well as the many professionals who have supported us. I hope that all KOTAA members will find the 2026 KOTAA Annual Meeting and the TRB Annual Meeting to be both meaningful and enriching experiences.

Sincerely,

Kate Hyun

18th President of KOTAA

Current KOTAA Executive Officers

President

Kate Hyun (University of Texas - Arlington)

Vice-Presidents

Kyungsoo Jeong (National Laboratory of the Rockies)

Bumsik Kim (Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

Auditors

Heejeong Kim (University of Arizona)

Samgyu Yang (University of Central Florida)

Secretary

Jooneui Hong (University of California, Irvine)

Treasurer

Uibeom Chun (University of Central Florida)

Webmaster

Hyunjun Hwang (University of Texas at Austin)

KOTAA Annual Meeting 2026

Date/Time: January 11th, 2026 6:00 - 7:30 PM (EST)

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center
(Room 102B), Washington, D.C.

2025 KOTAA Participants Status

A total of 142 KOTAA members attended the 37th KOTAA Annual Meeting in January 2025.

Status	U.S.	Korea	Canada	Total
Professional	27	24	0	51
Student	19	71	1	91
Total	46	95	1	142
Status	U.S.	Korea	Canada	Total
Professional	19%	17%	0%	36%
Student	13%	50%	1%	64%
Total	32%	67%	1%	100%

2025 KOTAA Meeting Summary

Membership dues:

Professional (\$35/year), Student (\$15/year)

2025 KOTAA Membership Fee Report

	\$0	\$ 15	\$ 35	Total
Professional	7	0	44	51
Graduate	4	84	0	88
Undergraduate	3	0	0	3
Total amount	0	\$1,260	\$1,540	\$2,800

2025 Travel Grant Summary

Award	Number	Total
Travel Grant & Excellent Student Award	*52	\$ 5,200.00
Reimbursement	3	\$681.78

* Of the 54 recipients, 52 attended and received the award

KOTAA Financial Status

Fiscal Year of 2025

Revenue	114,377.34
Balance from FY 2024	90,605.59
2025 Membership	2,800.00
Donations from Members	1,845.00
Donations from Institutions	13,132.50
CDs & Mutual Fund	5,994.25
Expense	-28,690.75
2025 Travel Grant (Part)	-4,300.00

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2026 Travel Grant (Part)	-8,100.00
2025 Meeting Reimbursement	-681.78
2025 Annual Meeting Dinning (Part)	- 5,465.69
2026 Annual Meeting Dinning (Part)	-4,812.50
Membership Dues for KSEA	-1,840.00
Website maintenance fee	-232.50
2026 Seminar	-1,003.67
Administration Expense*	-2,434.61
Balance as of 12/28/25	85,506.59

* Includes international wire transaction fee, PayPal transaction fee, and KOTAA TRB Annual Meeting Preparation

Donations to KOTAA in 2025

Donations from Institutions

Donation Level	Institution	Donation
Diamond	KSEA ¹	\$8,132.50
	KST ²	\$5,000.00
Total		\$13,132.50

¹ Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association

² Korean Society of Transportation

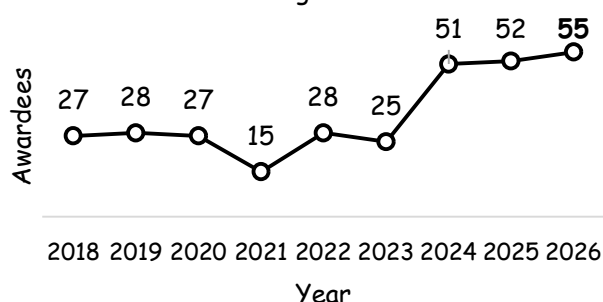
Donations from Members

Donation Level	Name		Donation
	Last	First	
Platinum	Park	Daewook	1,500.00
Gold	Park	Byungkyu (Brian)	200.00
	Lee	Kangwon	100.00
Others	-		45.00
Total			\$1,845.00

Note: Only Members with donations more than \$100 are presented in the table.

KOTAA Travel Grant

Beginning from year 2002, KOTAA has awarded Travel Grants to Korean graduate students attending the TRB meeting from all over the world. Through this grant, KOTAA wishes to encourage Korean students for their study as well as to enhance technical understanding and relationships for their future career development. The students shown in the following are the year 2026 KOTAA Travel Grant recipients. Prizes of \$150 along with award certificates are presented at the 2026 KOTAA Technical Meeting.



2026



Affiliation (USA)	No	Affiliation (Korea)	No
Cornell University	1	Ajou University	8
Georgia Institute of Technology	2	Hanyang university	10
North Carolina State University	2	Hongik University	3
Purdue University	1	KAIST	4
Texas A&M University	2	Konkuk University	2
The Ohio State University	1	Korea University	3
University of Central Florida	1	Seoul National University	7
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	4	Yonsei University	3
University of Minnesota	1	Total: 55	

Dr. Hosin Lee Distinguished Best Presentation Award

- 1 **Seung Jae Lieu**, Georgia Institute of Technology

KOTAA Best Presentation Awards

- 1 **Hyeyun Roh**, Yonsei University
- 2 **Hyunhwa Kim**, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

KOTAA Travel Grant Recipients

- 1 **Dain Oh**, Ajou University
- 2 **Eunho Lee**, Ajou University
- 3 **Haneul Park**, Ajou University
- 4 **Jisu Kim**, Ajou University

- 5 **Kyusung Lee**, Ajou University
- 6 **Sungyoo Lim**, Ajou University
- 7 **Sungeun Cho**, Ajou University
- 8 **Sungmin Yoo**, Ajou University
- 9 **Yeonkyeong Gina Park**, Cornell University
- 10 **Seungeun Choi**, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 11 **Donghee Oh**, Hanyang University
- 12 **Hojae Kim**, Hanyang University
- 13 **Hongjae Kim**, Hanyang University
- 14 **Jeonghoon Jee**, Hanyang University
- 15 **Kangyeop Lee**, Hanyang University
- 16 **Minkyung Kim**, Hanyang University
- 17 **Songha Lee**, Hanyang University
- 18 **Sungjun Lee**, Hanyang University
- 19 **Yuncheol Yang**, Hanyang University
- 20 **Joonha kim**, Hanyang University
- 21 **Gyoengjae Lee**, Hongik University
- 22 **Jahun Koo**, Hongik University
- 23 **Yoojin Park**, Hongik University
- 24 **Hyejin Lee**, KAIST
- 25 **Sujae Jeon**, KAIST
- 26 **Yichan An**, KAIST
- 27 **Yunkyeong Jung**, KAIST
- 28 **Jeongsik Yun**, Konkuk University
- 29 **Juhyeong Kim**, Konkuk University
- 30 **Donghoon Kwon**, Korea University
- 31 **Seunghee Ryu**, Korea University
- 32 **Hyuncheol Park**, Korea University
- 33 **Dongho Yoo**, North Carolina State University
- 34 **Kihyun Pyo**, North Carolina State University
- 35 **Yeji Hong**, Purdue University
- 36 **Brian Young-Hwan Kim**, Seoul National University
- 37 **Donggyu Min**, Seoul National University
- 38 **Geongyu Min**, Seoul National University
- 39 **Huichang Lee**, Seoul National University
- 40 **Jongho Oh**, Seoul National University
- 41 **Junhee Choi**, Seoul National University
- 42 **Seung-Hyeon Lee**, Seoul National University
- 43 **Hyemin Ju**, Texas A&M University
- 44 **Inkyu Jeon**, Texas A&M University
- 45 **Jaehyeong Kong**, The Ohio State University
- 46 **Uibeom Chun**, University of Central Florida
- 47 **Youngdae Kim**, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- 48 **Sungyong Chung**, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- 49 **Taeyun Kong**, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- 50 **Kwangho Baek**, University of Minnesota
- 51 **Jisu Kim**, Yonsei University
- 52 **Seonghyun Ahn**, Yonsei University

2025 Best Service Awards

- 1 **Jooneui Hong**, University of California, Irvine
Secretary
- 2 **Hyunjun Hwang**, The University of Texas at
Austin, Webmaster
- 3 **Uibeom Chun**, University of Central Florida,
Treasurer

Member News

- Drs. Kate Hyun and Seri Park teamed up to secure a \$4.6M USDOT SS4A grant.
- Dr. Bumsik Kim has been promoted to Program Manager of the Environmental Modeling Program at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.
- Dr. Bumsik Kim has been appointed as a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Environmental Compliance in Transportation Planning (AEP17).
- Dr. Kyungsoo Jeong has been appointed as a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Intermodal Freight and Truck Transportation (AT014).
- Dr. Youngseo Kim has been appointed as an assistant professor at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).
- Dr. Younghun Bahk has been appointed as an assistant professor at Ajou University.
- Dr. Eunhak Lee has been appointed as an assistant professor at Kyungil University.
- Dr. Euntak Lee has been appointed as an assistant professor at Korea University.
- Dr. Sedong Moon has been appointed as an assistant professor at Hanyang University.
- Dr. Seung Jun Choi has been appointed as an assistant professor at Incheon National University.
- Dr. Sung Hoo Kim has been appointed as assistant professor at Korea University.

Join KSEA

KSEA was established in 1971 to help Korean-American Scientists and Engineers develop their full career potential. KOTAA, as an affiliation of KSEA, encourages its members to join KSEA. Please refer to www.ksea.org.

Let's Use a New KOTAA Website!!!

Please visit our KOTAA website (www.kotaa.org). It has been upgraded! We welcome any ideas/comments to improve the website or postings of useful information. If you are interested in contributing to any part of the web contents, please feel free to contact our webmaster (hjhwang@utexas.edu).

Linkedin is an on-line professional network. In addition to KOTAA website, Linkedin (linkedin.com/company/KOTAA) will play a role to connect us and share information. Please visit the website and add you and invite people to connect.

Send any comments or suggestions to our secretary, **Jooneui Hong**, at secretary@kotaa.org