

November 20, 2015

2015 COTA Board Member Election Committee

Subject: Self-Nomination for the Position of Communication Officer from Dr. Zhijun Qiu

Dear COTA Board Member Election Committee:

I have been a member of COTA for the past 11 years, since I was a student, and now I wish to give back to the Association by serving on the Board of Directors. My passion for the field of transportation has driven my success in conducting both fundamental and applied research and collaborating with a variety of individuals and groups from government, academic institutions and industry. With strong connections in Canada and the U.S., I can help to promote COTA, enhance networking among its members, and expand the Association's existing channels for disseminating information and knowledge on transportation development.

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alberta, which is one of the top 3 universities for engineering in Canada. My educational background shows my longstanding passion for the transportation engineering profession: I hold a Bachelor of Science (2001) and Masters of Science (2003) from Tsinghua University, China, and a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the University of Wisconsin Madison, United States (2007). I worked as a postdoctoral researcher from 2008 to 2009 with California PATH at the University of California Berkeley. Since joining the University of Alberta, Canada, in 2009, I have founded the Centre for Smart Transportation.

Appointed as the Director of the Centre for Smart Transportation, I am working to foster Canadian competitiveness in Connected Vehicle (CV) technology and research. To accomplish this, I am leading the development of Canada's first CV test bed network, called ACTIVE-AURORA, with support from municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as several industry partners. To initiate and fund the test bed, I was awarded 3.66 million dollars funding from prominent agencies, including Transport Canada, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Innovates and Advanced Education, the City of Edmonton, NSERC and Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The ACTIVE-AURORA test bed will facilitate many research projects and collaborations between both the public and private sectors and shareholders, as well as improve roadway safety and mobility for all road users. As the first of its kind in Canada, this test bed will be able to address unique research topics that test beds in the U.S. cannot, for instance, research that must factor in the influence of extreme cold weather. As a result, I have also developed connections with organizations in the U.S. and can help to strengthen COTA's relationship between China and North America.

Regarding my overall body of work in the past 6 years, I have received approximately 5 million dollars in research funding, completed over 25 research projects, and published over 35 peer-reviewed journal papers. My research has also garnered awards, including the 2013 Minister's Award of Excellence in Process Innovation and the 2015 Faculty of Engineering Research Award from the University of Alberta for research excellence, out of over 230 professors.

In addition, I am an active member of several organizations and have served on a number of committees. Most recently, I was elected to serve as Chair of the Transportation Division for the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers (CSCE) from 2014 to 2017, and this year, I was asked to be Chair of the Sanford Fleming Award Selection Committee. With respect to COTA, I have been active in attending the annual symposium

and CICTP Conference, as well as serving as an Associate Editor for CICTP's paper submission. As a member of the COTA Board of Directors, I would be able to continue to contribute to the Association in a greater capacity. I have the resources available to help promote the CICTP Conference in North America.

If elected to become a member of the COTA Board of Directors, my interest is in serving as the Communications Officer: Social Media. Having strong relationships with transportation-related organizations in both North America and China, I can help COTA to build new connections as well as develop a stronger online presence through social media interactions. It is important to utilize social media channels to promote the Association's activities and events, as these provide the means to track followers and reach out to others who fall within your target demographic. I pride myself on keeping up to date on the latest trends and technologies, and will pursue new channels of communication for COTA to accomplish its mission and strengthen its reputation and voice.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have been endorsed by the following COTA members:

- Dr. Yafeng Yin
- Dr. Haizhong Wang
- Dr. Yinhai Wang

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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