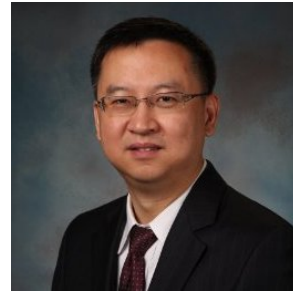


**Ning Li, PhD, PE, PMP**

State Traffic Asset Engineer  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
1401 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23233

November 26, 2016

**RE: 2017 COTA Board of Directors Nominee- Ning Li, PhD, PE, PMP from Virginia DOT**

Dear COTA Members and Board Member Election Committee,

I would like to nominate myself to run for the election of 2017 COTA Board of Directors. As an overseas Chinese transportation professional, I benefited significantly from the knowledge and friendships of many COTA members and also helped many fellow Chinese advance their transportation career. With my qualifications and experience, I hope I could give back and bring fresh perspectives to the Board of Directors to better serve COTA members.

**Personal Profile**

I am currently the State Traffic Asset Engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and oversee the state's traffic asset program. In this capacity, I manage \$20M annual traffic asset programs and am responsible for providing technical guidance, project delivery support, financial needs assessment, data analysis, and performance management of the state's over \$4.5 billion worth of traffic assets including ADA curb ramps, signals, guardrails, ancillary structures etc.

Prior to my current role, I worked as a Senior Engineer in VDOT's safety program. My previous experience also includes an engineer position with Minnesota DOT in its design, traffic, safety and innovative contracting offices. I am a Fellow of Institute of Transportation Engineer (ITE), a Professional Traffic Operation Engineer (PTOE), and served on multiple expert panels of ITE and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

My education background includes dual bachelor degrees in Civil Engineering and Economics (With Honors) and a master in management from the Tsinghua University. I also earned master and Ph.D. degrees in transportation engineering from the University of Minnesota and the University of Virginia respectively.

**Accomplishments and Awards**

I have been recognized for some of my work accomplishments by being the first Chinese winner for several national transportation awards. In 2009, I identified and addressed a defect in the current national standards of Roadway Departure (RD) crashes. As a result, FHWA released a new technical memorandum to improve RD crash data. Not only were my suggestions adopted in this memo, FHWA staff also acknowledged my "significant contributions to this important highway safety effort". I was therefore awarded the 2009 ITE Past President Award for Merit in Transportation. Most recently, I was

recognized by AASHTO with the 2016 Transportation Vanguard Award for innovation and was invited to present VDOT's innovative work in front of 200 executives of 51 state DOTs and industry leaders.

### **Track Record of Contributing to Chinese Transportation Community**

I have a strong track record of contributing to the Chinese transportation community. As the first Chinese with a H1-B visa in VDOT, I have directly helped over a dozen fellow Chinese to get job offers within and outside VDOT and provided career help to well over a hundred young professionals. I personally extended job offers to four highly qualified fellow Chinese transportation professionals and currently have three working in my team. I also helped arrange visits of Chinese delegations from Chinese universities, research institutions and provincial governor's office and contributed to many COTA events such as serving as a panelist in 2016 winter symposium. I developed and taught the first employee-organized PE refresher course in VDOT and helped many to pass this important exam. My contributions have been recognized by many fellow COTA members and professional organizations such as TUMU Salon in DC.

### **Vision Statement**

COTA's 20 years coincide with the amazing growth of Chinese overseas transportation professionals. We have made significance strides in academia arena as evidenced in many outstanding achievements by our faculty members and our incredible participation in each year's Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting. Despite these achievements, we still face the challenge of "bamboo ceiling" and are significantly under-represented in management and executive levels as well as in government entities. Also, most students receive academia-focused training in school but majority of them will end up in a non-academia career. How to increase their competitiveness in job market while in school and better prepare them for future career success remains a great challenge to us.

I believe my experience and qualifications lend themselves well to help COTA tackle these challenges. If elected, I will work with other BOD members to help advance the following agendas: Improve career guidance and network channels to help professionals at different stage of their career; Strengthen COTA's ties with industry, government entities, professional and international organizations; and take all other measures to help increase the voice and influence of Chinese Transportation Professionals in the overall transportation profession.

Your help and support for my election is greatly appreciated.

Ning

Endorsements:

**Dr. YinHai Wang** (Professor, University of Washington)-COTA Member

**Dr. Guohui Zhang** (Assistant Professor, New Mexico University)- COTA Board Member

**Dr. Shanjiang Zhu** (Assistant Professor, George Mason University)-COTA Board Member

**Dr. Zhen(Sean) Qian** (Assistant Professor, Carnegie Melon University)-COTA Board Member