

Subject: Nomination for 2018 COTA BODs Election

Dear COTA BOD Election Committee,

I am writing to nominate myself to be a candidate for the 2018 Chinese Overseas Transportation Association Board of Directors Election. My nomination is endorsed by *Dr. Yu Zhang from the University of South Florida, Dr. Sean Qian from the Carnegie Mellon University, and Cara Wang from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*, all of which are current COTA BOD members. Following the instructions for nomination, I am enclosing my qualifications and envisioned commitment below.

I am currently an Assistant Professor of the Sid and Reva Dewberry Department of Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure of George Mason University. I have become a COTA member and been very active in COTA activities since 2009. I was first elected to COTA BODs in January 2014. During last four years, I have been serving in the capacity of COTA Secretary General and resume the responsibility of keeping meeting minutes, developing and maintaining COTA archives, and coordinating external communications. In addition to these routine responsibilities, I have been working closely with other BOD members to serve COTA members and expand the impact of COTA among Chinese transportation professionals both in China and overseas through various activities. Since 2011, I have been organizing the COTA reception during the Transportation Research Board annual meetings. I was the organization committee chair of the 2017 South China University of Technology-COTA Pre-CICTP Workshop, the 2016 Zhejiang University-COTA Summit Workshop, and the 2015 COTA Winter Symposium. I have also served as area editors, session chairs, reviewers, and organizing committee members in many other COTA conferences and symposiums. My experience with COTA has been very pleasant and rewarding, and I look forward to more opportunities to serving COTA members in the future.

Thanks to the visions, dedications and continuous efforts of previous and current COTA BODs, COTA has become an influential organization among Chinese transportation professionals. The two flagship activities, COTA Winter Symposiums during the TRB annual meetings and the CICTP conference series co-organized with partner universities in China, have become major venues for academic exchanges and social interactions between Chinese transportation professional overseas and in China. As the field of transportation research and practice evolves both overseas and in China, I envision COTA could expand and improve its services to the members and the boarder Chinese transportation community in several ways. A key role for COTA is to serve as the information hub for Chinese transportation professionals. Currently, the main channel includes the COTA website, newsletters, and WeChat groups. COTA could improve its services by better collecting, organizing, and distributing key information such as hiring and internship opportunities, call for papers, call for award nominations, and project solicitations in a timely manner on its platforms. COTA could also cultivate and facilitate academic discussions between professionals overseas and in China in a more active and formal way. There have been many unique transportation challenges in China and such academic exchanges could help to bridge the communities of researchers and practitioners, and overseas and in China to generate new opportunities. A key way to promote such exchanges is to

formalize the discussion mechanism by setting up COTA academic committees and organizing research symposiums and workshops with focused topics. These two directions are examples among many opportunities that are emerging in recent years.

If selected, I am committed to serving COTA members and the Chinese transportation community with my best capacity. I look forward to continuously working with other COTA BODs in this exciting journey.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shanjiang