

COTA Board of Directors (BOD) Candidate Nomination

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Qualification/Background Information

Dr. Cong Chen is a Research Associate at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida, and he is also the Manager of Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). He obtained his Ph.D. degree in transportation engineering at the University of New Mexico in 2015, and B.S. and M.S. degrees from Tongji University, China. His primary areas of research interests include traffic safety analysis, advanced model development, pedestrian and bicycle safety, safety education and outreach, traffic congestion and operation efficiency, transportation geospatial and temporal analysis, and intelligent transportation systems. He has been extensively involved in research activities sponsored with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railway Administration (FRA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and other federal and local agencies, and is currently supervising research projects and grants as PI or Co-PI for a total budget of more than 2 million. He has published 30 academic papers at top-tier peer-reviewed transportation journals, and has delivered 35 data-driven research presentations at national and international conferences.

Dr. Chen currently serves as a Member of Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Safety Performance Analysis (ACS20) and Standing Committee on Bicycle Transportation (ACH20), a Panel Member of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) project 17-71A Proposed AASHTO Highway Safety Manual, 2nd Edition, and an Associate Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI) Transportation Safety Committee. He also served as the Younger Member Representative at the ASCE T&DI Board of Governors, and the Chair of ASCE T&DI Committee on Younger Members in 2019-2021. He served in the Steering Committee for ASCE's flagship transportation conference, International Conference on Transportation and Development 2019 (ICTD 2019) and ICTD 2020. Dr. Chen was selected as the 2019 Tampa Bay Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Young Transportation Professional of the Year. He is a registered professional Engineer (PE) in the State of Florida, and a certified Road Safety Professional-Level 1 (RSP1).

Dr. Chen started his involvement with the Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (COTA) as a student back in 2013, and he has been an active contributor and/or participant on a variety of COTA activities since then. He has been serving as an active reviewer for the annual CICTP conference series since 2015, an area editor for CICTP2017, CICTP2018 and ISETT 2019 sponsored by COTA, an organizing committee member for the COTA 22nd Winter Symposium at TRB 2019 and the host of Younger Professional Lightning Talk Session. His experience and activities contributed to COTA's steady growth and transitions to a more professional non-profit organization bridging the transportation community in China and other parts of the world.

Envisioned Commitments/Proposed Activities

My involvement with a variety of COTA activities in the past eight years has brought me comprehensive understanding of the vision and missions of COTA as a non-profit international organization connecting the transportation community overseas and in China. I truly enjoyed the opportunities and experience of working with brilliant people on these COTA events and contributing to the success and growth of COTA community. As a highly self-motivated junior transportation professional, I am very enthusiastic in continuing contributing to the growth of COTA to the next level with the best of my ability. With my rich professional service experience on COTA and other professional organizations, I would like to nominate myself to be a candidate for the 2022 COTA Board of Directors (BOD) election. I am confident that I will be an asset and add insights to the BOD. My envisioned commitment to the BOD, if I am re-elected, will include, but not limited, to the following:

1. To contribute to the continued development of COTA Academic Affairs, Communications, or Outreach Committee, or another position on the Board as seen fit by the Election Committee;
2. To lead the organizing effort and/or provide all necessary support to COTA hosted or sponsored events;
3. To serve as a liaison in enhancing the collaboration between COTA and other professional organizations/publishers and exploring new partnership opportunities;
4. To strengthen the existing relationship and establish new relationship with federal, state, and local stakeholders, academic institutions, and industry partners to expand COTA's reputation in transportation community.

Endorsement

Dr. Xiaokun (Cara) Wang, Associate Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (President, BOD)

Dr. Yinhai Wang, Professor, University of Washington (Member)

Dr. Xiaopeng Li, Associate Professor, University of South Florida (Member)