



FERSC Annual Research & Engagement Conference

at

Texas A&M University

April 25–26, 2024

TAMU Hotel & Conference Center



Conference Agenda

Day 1 Schedule • Thursday, April 25

3:00–5:00pm	Participants and board members arrive
4:30–5:00pm	Board members meeting
5:30pm	Dinner at Casa Do Brasil <i>Board members, FERSC faculty, staff, students, and other guests</i>

Day 2 Schedule • Friday, April 26

7:30–11:30am	Refreshments available (pastries, yogurt, fruit, tea, coffee, soft drinks, water, etc.)
8:30–9:00am	Registration and networking session
9:00–9:15am	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">TAMU College of Engineering AdministratorMingzhou Jin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
9:15–9:45am	Plenary Speech I <ul style="list-style-type: none">Caitlin Hughes, FHWA Freight Director, US DOT
9:45–10:15am	10 Minute Briefs on Research Projects 1–3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project 1: U.S. Freight Network Resiliency Analysis Pls: Yunlong Zhang (TAMU), Bruce Wang (TAMU), Lee Han (UTK), Bo Zou (UIC)Project 2: Intermodal Solutions for Freight Flows in Southwest U.S. Pls: Mingzhou Jin (UTK) and Shailesh Chandra (CSULB)Project 3: Generating Reliable Freight Disruption Measures with Freight Telematics Data Pls: Salvador Hernandez (OSU), Lee Han (UTK)
10:15–10:30am	Refreshment Break
10:30-11:20	Judged Poster Session



11:20–12:10am Concurrent Roundtables:

Roundtable 1: Career discussion for PhD students and junior faculty for career development

- Lead: Scott Li, TAMU Graduating doctoral student
- Participants: graduate students, faculty and others

Roundtable 2: Curriculum and course material sharing (EWFD)

- Lead: Bo Zou, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Participants: FERSC consortium faculty

Roundtable 3: Access and Engagement

- Leads: Sal Hernandez, Oregon State University and Steven Xiaochun Jiang, North Carolina A&T State University
- Participants: FERSC consortium faculty, graduate students, and others

12:10–1:30pm Luncheon, Plenary Speech II, and Judged Poster Winners

- Caroline Mays, Director of Planning and Modal Programs, TXDOT

1:30-2:20PM 10 Minute Briefs on Research Projects 4–8

- **Project 4: Impact of Multimodal Freight Network on Private Sector Global Distribution**
Pls: Hector Vergara (OSU) and Salvador Hernandez (OSU)
- **Project 5: Shippers' Behavior Study Through Developing and Calibrating their Utility Functions**
Pls: Lee Han (UTK), Bruce Wang (TAMU), Yunlong Zhang (TAMU), and Kouros Mohammadian (UIC)
- **Project 6: Understanding and Modeling Middle-Mile Logistics Automation**
Pls Bo Zou (UIC), Kazuya Kawamura (UIC), P.S. Sriraj (UIC), Jane Lin (UIC), Mingzhou Jin (UTK)
- **Project 7: Impact of Automated Port Operations on Landslide Freight Corridor Performance: Opportunities, Barriers, and Future Directions with the Port of Long Beach**
Pls: Shailesh Chandra (CSULB) and Kevin Heaslip (UTK)

2:30–3:00pm Board meeting and wrap-up, participants depart

Plenary Speakers

Caitlin Hughes, Director, Office of Freight Management and Operations, FHWA



Caitlin Hughes oversees programs, policy, legislation, and regulation related to highway freight, including freight networks; truck parking solutions; commercial motor vehicle size and weight regulatory compliance; border issues; freight research, data, tools, and analysis; highway considerations of national and state freight planning; training, outreach, and technical assistance; and highway freight performance measures.

Ms. Hughes directs the federal aid formula-based National Highway Freight Program and FHWA's administration of the RAISE, INFRA, Rural and Mega discretionary grant programs, seeking to expedite the allocation of grant funding and improve the experience of the federal funding partners in implementing transportation projects nationwide.

Previously, Caitlin served in the Office of the Secretary at US DOT as lead staff to the Deputy Secretary. She also worked in three state governments: as an Assistant Secretary at Maryland DOT, Federal programs coordinator for the North Carolina DOT, and as staff to the President pro tem in the Vermont State Senate. She has years of experience working in the U.S. Senate and lobbying Congress. Caitlin holds a B.A. from the University of Vermont and a Master of Public Administration degree from The George Washington University.

Caroline Mays, AICP, Director of Planning and Modal Programs, Texas Department of Transportation



Caroline Mays is a senior-level leader with more than 24 years of multimodal transportation planning, programing, policy, project development, and implementation experience. She joined the Texas Department of Transportation in 2012 and is currently Director of Planning and Modal Programs. As Director of Planning and Modal Programs, Ms. Mays directs and oversees all transportation planning activities through a comprehensive systems approach, ensuring the implementation of a robust multimodal, multidisciplinary, innovative, and consensus-oriented planning process. She also directs the Aviation, Maritime, Public Transportation, Rail, and Transportation Planning and Programming Divisions. She directs development of statewide multimodal transportation plans and development of the 10-year Unified Transportation Program. Prior to joining TxDOT in 2012, Ms. Mays managed the Freight Transportation and Intelligent Transportation Systems Planning Programs for the Atlanta Regional Commission of the Metropolitan Planning Organization in Georgia. She

worked as a Transit Planner with Rockland County and interned with the United Nations in New York.

Ms. Mays is a member of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She is Vice-Chair of the Association of American State Highway Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Special Committee on Freight and a member of the Transportation Research Board's Planning and Logistics Committee. She serves on the World Road Association Technical Committee on Freight as a representative of AASHTO and the United States. Ms. Mays holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo, Canada and a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, Canada.