

Jonathan S. Wood **Statement of Interest**

I first learned about the Eno Future Leaders Development Conference five years ago from an Eno alumnus. I have since had opportunities to discuss the benefits of the conference with several Eno alumni, which has increased my desire to participate. I believe that the Future Leaders Development Conference will enhance my knowledge and skills related to transportation policy. I am currently applying for faculty positions where my goals are to teach and do research. My teaching and research interests include a transportation policy and leadership component. The experiences that I would receive at the conference would be exceedingly helpful in my development as a leader and in helping to educate future members of the transportation profession how to be leaders and the importance of transportation policy. It would also afford me the opportunity to better understand how my research can be utilized in developing future transportation policy by engaging in high-level discussions at the conference and networking with some of the brightest members of the transportation industry that include the Eno alumni.

Throughout my education, I have learned that the transportation system is an essential component of the infrastructure and that all people in the United States rely on it in their daily lives (e.g., access to jobs, food, recreational outlets, etc.). It is expected that the transportation system in the United States will provide everyone with a transportation system that supports the ability to move both people and goods in a safe and efficient manner. This not only impacts individuals lives – the quality of the transportation system in an area can also support or limit economic sustainability and growth. Thus, the planning, design, operations, and maintenance of the transportation infrastructure must consider the needs of all users, which lead to complex and challenging requirements that must be guided by transportation policy. Also, other transportation services such as public transit need to be considered as a part of transportation infrastructure planning and design. If this is not done, it leads to situations where the needs of some transportation system users are not met. Thus, it is important for those conducting research to understand how policy is developed, is implemented based on research findings, and how best to publish and market research in order to improve the impacts of the research on policy. My research interests include improving public transit systems, highway and street design, roadside design, and traffic safety. These topics have considerable public relations, design, safety, and management policy implications. The Eno Future Leaders Development Conference is a great opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that would introduce me to the transportation policy development process, and enable me to understand how my research can help shape future policies. Further, the Leaders Development Conference would provide important opportunities for me to learn how to integrate transportation policy development into classes that I hope to teach as a future academician.

Other components of the conference that I find exciting include interacting with leaders from a wide range of transportation related disciplines, with different leadership and decision making roles; being exposed to a wide variety of perspectives related to various transportation topics; being directly engaged with current transportation policy leaders to discuss current issues facing the transportation industry; having the opportunity to meet with Eno leaders and discuss ways to use my skills to support the policy making process; and network and build relationships with other conference attendees that share my interest in transportation policy and leadership issues.

As a member of the transportation industry, I feel that it is my responsibility and opportunity to help positively influence people and communities that are served every day by the planning, design, operations, and maintenance of the transportation system. I strongly believe that participating in the Future Leaders Development Conference would impact my professional and private goals in a very positive way. I look forward to the opportunity to continue developing my ability to contribute to the transportation industry through attending the Eno Future Leaders Development Conference.