## **SPRING 2017 METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM USC – Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall (RGL) 100 RSVP to Nicole Guo at haichaoa@usc.edu

## **Student Transportation Research Showcase**

The impact of health conditions on senior driving: A national-level longitudinal study using the Health and Retirement Study (HRS)

Presented by Xize Wang, Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Planning and Development

Abstract: The retirement of the Baby Boomers in the near future will bring about a more aged population in the US. This study explores a currently understudied topic related to elderly driving: the impacts of health conditions on driving for people over 65 years of age. The study shows that with the current dominance of private automobiles, the current American transportation system could not fulfill the mobility needs for the elderly who start to drive less because of declining health. Transportation policy makers and planners should be aware of this challenge and be proactive about potential solutions.



Xize Wang's research interests are demography and travel, transportation and land use, and active travel and sustainability. His PhD dissertation investigates how the current demographic changes in the United States will impact automobile travel. He holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota, and a B.E. in urban planning and a B.A. in economics from Peking University, China.

## China's One Belt, One Road Initiative and the Future Economic Geography of Eurasia

Presented by Nathan Hutson. Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Planning and Development

Abstract: China's ambitious "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative has the potential to dramatically transform the economic development path of Eurasia. OBOR is a proposal for international coordination whose success relies as much on the actions of partner nations as it does on China's. To succeed, the project will require the participation of other middle-income countries, most likely Russia and Kazakhstan. The presentation will address the likely logistical challenges of the proposed rail route and alternative routings and will also discuss the potential of using a game theory approach to evaluate the risks and payoffs to Russia and Kazakhstan from joining the Silk Road rail corridor.



Nathan Hutson's dissertation research focuses on China's OBOR initiative as a tool for improving international supply chain competitiveness and economic development. He is a member of the TRB's Intermodal Terminal Design and Operations Committee and Marine Environment Committee and has published several articles on intermodal topics. He holds a Master's of Public Affairs from the U. of Texas; and Masters of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the U. of Texas at Austin.

