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Brief Bio and Qualification

Dr. Zhuo Yao is a Transportation Engineer (Civil) at California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). He is a leading staff working in the HPMS program at Caltrans. Prior to his joining at Caltrans, Dr. Yao worked as an Air Pollution Specialist at California Air Resources Board (CARB) in the Transportation Analysis Section, Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division. He is also an adjunct professor in the Civil Engineering Department at California State University Sacramento (CSUS). Dr. Yao holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, College of Engineering & Applied Science, University of Cincinnati, a Master of Science degree from Beijing University of Technology, and a Bachelor's degree from Polytechnic University of the Philippines. His areas of expertise include integrated land use, transportation and emission modeling, vehicle detection and classification, and traffic activity data inputs for emission modeling. Dr. Yao spent most of his career working with Caltrans, California EPA and other state agencies developing tools and data sets for decision support and performance measurement systems of evaluating policies, strategies, and modeling techniques for transportation and air quality. one of the key positions fighting for to reduce the GHG emissions from the transportation sector by implementing multiple legislations set by the state of California, such as Assembly Bill 32 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), Senate Bill 375 (the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008), Senate Bill 1014 (the California Clean Miles Standard and Incentive Program: zero-emission vehicles) etc.

Dr. Yao actively engages and contributes to COTA communities, establishing his involvement during his graduate studies since 2008 when he assumed the role of a communication officer. He provided substantial support to the COTA Board of Directors administration, undertaking tasks such as voluntarily redesigning the COTA logo, serving as the editor for the COTA newsletter, and acting as the webmaster for maintaining the COTA website. Subsequently, Dr. Yao received invitations to serve as a reviewer and area editor for the Conference of International Chinese Transportation Professionals (CICTP) for several years. Beyond his contributions to COTA communities, he extended his impact by serving as the webmaster for Great Lakes ITE and as an editor for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Society Midwest newsletter. His multifaceted involvement underscores his commitment to various professional communities and his significant contributions to their development and initiatives.

Envisioned Commitment

The success and accomplishments of COTA in various domains are undeniably the result of a highly professional and dedicated team of leaders. Witnessing the impact COTA has had in China, the United States, and other parts of the world fills me with pride. It is evident that the future success of COTA hinges on the dedication and contributions of every member in the COTA community. With deep affection and enthusiasm, I have been an integral part of COTA, observing its remarkable growth over the past decade. I am profoundly motivated and wholeheartedly committed to offering my service, time, ideas, and expertise to contribute to the future development and expansion of COTA. I am hence nominating myself to run for the board member position by providing my services to this great organization. As an active and dedicated member of the COTA, I pledge my unwavering commitment to contribute meaningfully to the organization's goals and objectives. With a passion for advancing transportation knowledge and fostering professional collaboration, I commit to the following principles:

- To expedite COTA's commitment to diligence and comprehensive efforts in **boosting a globally dedicated community that fosters effective collaborations between COTA and other transportation organizations**. This is accomplished by actively seeking knowledge and expertise exchange with stakeholders;

- To enhance COTA's influence and collaboration within the transportation sector by **acting as the liaison between COTA and government agencies, educational institutions, and industry partners**;

- To advocate for and support initiatives that enhance the professional development of COTA members. This includes **promoting educational programs, mentorship opportunities, and networking events that empower our members** to thrive in the dynamic field of transportation;

- To embrace COTA leadership and serve COTA members to **support networking and collaboration** of the association by organizing major COTA events, and activities. This aims to reinforce the cohesion of the COTA community, transforming it into a more robust and influential professional organization;

- To elevate the quality of **newsletters and other communication service**s to the next level.

By embracing these commitments, I aspire to contribute to the continued success and growth of COTA. If elected, I will dedicate myself to serving the best interests of our members, advancing the organization's mission, and ensuring a vibrant and inclusive community for all transportation professionals associated with COTA.

I can be reached via voice (916)-584-2189 or email zhuo.yao@dot.ca.gov for any suggestions.

Your strong support is highly appreciated!

Endorsements received from the following active COTA members:

- Dr. Jianming Ma, Traffic Management Section Director, Texas Department of Transportation;

- Dr. Cong Chen, Research Associate, University of South Florida;

- Dr. Heng Wei, Professor, University of Cincinnati;
- Dr. Qingyi Ai, Senior Transportation Engineer, Arcadis.

(Submitted on November 16th, 2023)