

Eric R. Howell

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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota's College of Continuing & Professional Studies, Greater Minneapolis - St. Paul Area, Minnesota

Master of Professional Studies in Civic Engagement. Beginning in Summer 2020

National Charrette Institute at Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction, Raleigh, North Carolina

Charrette System Certificate & Charrette Management and Facilitation Certificate. 2019

Tennessee State University's College of Public Service, Nashville, Tennessee

Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies. 2016

Concentration: Urban Policy & Planning

Magna cum laude (Urban Studies Program)

American Sentinel University's School of Information Technology, Aurora, Colorado

Associate of Science in Geographic Information Systems. 2012

Magna cum laude, Dean's Award, Student-of-the-Month (Geographic Information Systems Program)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Exploring the intersection of civic engagement practices within municipal planning efforts and a four-step participatory budgeting process and how that model of participatory budgeting can be incorporated into municipal planning civic engagement practices within the development of comprehensive planning processes. Also, I want to further develop a model(s) that I identified during and since my undergraduate studies, for recommending how an adopted comprehensive planning document can be implemented through a direct or deliberative democratic framework that incorporates a four-step participatory budgeting process for the purpose of empowering citizens in decision-making when it comes to capital improvement projects and the identification of such projects. Interested in identifying innovative transportation investment strategies that leverages participatory budgeting framework designed to empower citizens while resulting in relevant projects selections.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Undergraduate Research Assistant, *Department of Social Work and Urban Studies*, Nashville, Tennessee, February 2014 – April 2015

PI: Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

- Grant: "Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT" Joint research grant with Tennessee State University and University of Memphis on the development of Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Best Practices for Public Involvement & Outreach Efforts.
- Research Team: PI: Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA; Co-PI: Stephanie Ivey, PhD, PE and Co-PI: Larry W. Moore, PhD, PE; Research Assistants: Brianna Benson, MPA, Eric R. Howell, NCI, Jim, Mersereau, PE, and Darin Nelson
- Timeframe: 2013-2015
- Amount: \$123,373
- Research & Job Description: Collaborated with Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA, Stephanie Ivey, PhD, PE, and Larry W. Moore, PhD, PE and graduate students through eight tasks of this applied research project which focused on developing innovative strategies to gain greater public participation in transportation decision-making and provide access for citizens to participate across state of Tennessee four regions. I was an undergraduate research assistant performing technical and data analysis; conducted original research; travelled and interviewed Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) staff, community leaders, neighborhood leaders, and citizens across the state of Tennessee; assisted with conducting in-person interviews, focus group discussions, engagement workshop with Tennessee DOT staff; web-based data collection; assisted with developing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based community stakeholder/partner database; edit and proofread all task-related deliverables; assisted with quarterly financial and

contractual agreement documentation associated with the grant. Research team collaboration was conducted primarily via phone call and email and occasionally in-person. Our research team's approach often resulted in being delegated specific sub-tasks to focus on as smaller teams (2-3 persons). My role directly supported all eight tasks highlighted in the research project and varied depending upon the assigned work. Collectively, our efforts and teamwork as professional Planners and Engineers was incredibly successful due to maintaining focus on our goals and passion to create a new library of knowledge that would be innovative for influencing the Tennessee DOT culture and best practices outcomes.

- **Research Outcome Impacts:** The Research Advisory Committee of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) selected "Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT" research grant as a high-value research project from one of its four regions (total of 16 nation-wide projects were selected), funded primarily through the State Planning and Research (SPR) Program. Prior to the research project being conducted, the client voiced concerns related to public participation in their planning efforts were minimal characterized primarily in opposition, which often resulted in distorting a project's broad support from the public. Since the research project has been conducted, improvements have been found regarding public awareness and two-way dialogue. One specific example of how this research project has resulted in positive impact with its respective client is that the agency credits that this research project challenged and encouraged a shift of culture within the internal agency as a way to address the concerns. Upon close examination of this shift in culture, clearer and more transparent communication and noticeable improvements amongst the Tennessee DOT staff as well as within communities across the state has resulted in easing the passage of the IMPROVE Act in 2017, which resulted in an increase of fuel tax to the state.

Assistant Researcher and Writer, *Department of Social Work and Urban Studies*, Nashville, Tennessee, April 2015 – Present

PI: Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA, Tennessee State University (TSU)

- **Publication Grant:** "Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT" Joint research grant with Tennessee State University and University of Memphis on the development of Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Best Practices for Public Involvement & Outreach Efforts.
- **Research & Publication Team:** PI: Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA; Co-PI: Stephanie Ivey, PhD, PE and Co-PI: Larry W. Moore, PhD, PE;
- **Timeframe:** 2015 – Present
- **Research & Job Description:** Collaborate with Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA, Stephanie Ivey, PhD, PE, and Larry W. Moore, PhD, PE to provide research and writing assistance to Principal Investigator, Dr. Kimberly L. Triplett, through manuscript development, including editing and proofreading and convening research team from Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis to discuss research topics and approaches for future publication opportunities.
- **Research Publication Outcome Impacts:** "Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT" research grant has received publication from the Transportation Planning Division of the American Planning Association News and as a Best Practice document recognized by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT).

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Teachers on Call

Special Education Paraprofessional 3

Greater Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota. February 2020 – Present

(re)Empowering Communities

Founder | Researcher | Advisor

Chattanooga, Tennessee. September 2019 – Present

Metro Nashville Community Budgeting

Co-Founder | Advisor | Lead Organizer

Nashville, Tennessee. January 2016 – Present

Tennessee State University

Assistant Researcher & Writer

Nashville, Tennessee. April 2015 – Present

Eastern Carolina Council

Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization Coordinator & Community Planner | Transportation Planner

New Bern, North Carolina. September 2018 – August 2019

Cleveland Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Planning Intern

Cleveland, Tennessee. January 2017 – June 2017

City of Cleveland Department of Development and Engineering

Planning Intern

Cleveland, Tennessee. January 2017 – June 2017

Impact Cleveland

Social Planning Intern

Cleveland, Tennessee. October 2016 – June 2017

The TMA Group / Franklin Transit Authority

Transit Intern

Franklin, Tennessee. March 2015 – June 2016

Friends Life

Job Skills Coach & Mentor

Nashville, Tennessee. January 2014 – May 2014

Tennessee State University

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Nashville, Tennessee. February 2014 – April 2015

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department

Community Planning Intern

Nashville, Tennessee. May 2013 – June 2013

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Planning Intern | Transportation Planning Technician

Nashville, Tennessee. February 2009 – May 2011

PUBLICATIONS

- Bilotto, C.M., Allen, S., Biggs, D., Howell, E.R., McKinnon, A., Moore, W.J.,...Zhang, J. (2019). Public Engagement in Transportation Decision Making. *National Academy of Sciences/Transportation Research Board*. Retrieved from <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/centennial/papers/ADA60-Final.pdf>
- Triplett, K.L., Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., and Howell, E. (2016). Best Practices and Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement: A Project for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. *American Planning Association (APA): Transportation Planning Division (TPD) News*.
- Triplett, K.L., Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., Benson, B., Howell, E., Mersereau, J., and Nelson, D. (2015). Best Practice Document: "Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement." Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)'s Long Range Planning Division.

WORKING PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS

- Working Paper: Triplett, K.L., Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., and Howell, E. Identifying Policy Gaps Associated with Implementing Innovative Public Involvement Strategies.
- Triplett, K.L., Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., and Howell, E. (submitted 2016). Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement: A Case Study of Tennessee Department of Transportation. March 2016 Submitted to Journal of Public Management and Social Policy.

PRESENTATIONS – CONFERENCES

- Mehta, M., Godzeno, J.S., Browne, G., Davis, S., and Howell, E.R. “Big Infrastructure Money in Participatory Budgeting.” Presented at the 2019 National Planning Conference of the National Planning Conference. San Francisco, California. April 14, 2019.
- Howell, E.R. “Participatory Budgeting: Deciding How to Spend Money in Nashville.” Presented at the Neighborhoods Resource Center’s (now Neighbor 2 Neighbor) Inaugural 2018 Conference for Neighborhoods. Nashville, Tennessee. April 14, 2018.
- Howell, E.R. “Participatory Budgeting and Urban Planning.” Presented at the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association (TN APA) 2018 Spring Conference Retreat. Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, Tennessee. March 27-29, 2018.
- Howell, E.R. “Social Equity: Closing the Gap Through Technology and Open Data; Panel One: Applying Technology and Open Data Perspectives from the Private and Nonprofit Sectors.” Presented at the 2017 Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration Symposium. Nashville, Tennessee. May 9, 2017.
- Triplett, K.L. (co-presenting), Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., and Howell, E. [TSU Undergraduate student]. “Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement: A Case Study of Tennessee Department of Transportation.” Presented at the 2016 Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) National Conference. Jackson, Mississippi. February 17-19, 2016.

PRESENTATIONS-INVITED TALKS, OUTREACH, SERVICE

- Howell, E.R. “Documentary Screening: Count Me In (Featuring Special Guest Marti Brown)” Organized, Facilitated, and Presented at a Metro Nashville Community Budgeting-organized event. Watkins College of Art in Nashville, TN. September 7, 2017.
- Triplett, K.L., Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., Benson, B. [TSU graduate student], and Howell, E. [TSU Undergraduate student]. “Tennessee Department of Transportation: Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement” Presented/Facilitated the TDOT Public Engagement Workshop. TDOT Headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. April 29, 2015.
- Triplett, K.L., Benson, B. [TSU graduate student], and Howell, E. [TSU undergraduate student]. “Tennessee Department of Transportation: Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement.” Presented at the College of Public Service’s Research Brown Bag Series on Friday, April 24, 2015.
- Triplett, K.L., Benson, B. [TSU graduate student], and Howell, E. [TSU undergraduate student]. Conducted Focus Group Session on TDOT grant entitled “Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement” to obtain feedback from Urban Studies undergraduate students about the public involvement process and perceptions of previous public engagement activities conducted by TDOT. Focus Group session took place in Dr. Kimberly L. Triplett’s Introduction to Urban Studies (URBS 2010) class on February 3, 2015 at the Avon Williams Campus of TSU in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Triplett, K.L. (co-presenting), Ivey, S., Moore, L.W., and Howell, E. [TSU Undergraduate student], and Mersereau, J. [U of Memphis Graduate student]. “Tennessee Department of Transportation: Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement” Presented at the 2014 Transportation Innovation Planning Inspiration: TN APA/TRB ADC-10 Summer Workshop. Nashville, Tennessee. August 26-29, 2014.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **2018 Sweet Sixteen High Value Research Project,** September 2018
American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

Every year, the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials’ (AASHTO) Research Advisory Committee (RAC) holds a competition among state DOTs for high-value research projects and asks for submission of these projects. From these submittals, each of the four RAC regions selects its top four projects to form AASHTO Research Sweet Sixteen Awards. The winners are the subject of a poster session at TRB and winners present their winning research projects at the annual AASHTO/RAC/TRB Representatives meeting.

This year, TDOT won this prestigious award for the research project entitled RES2013-47, Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT. This project has helped to implement changes that have helped TDOT enhance their public participation efforts by identifying and putting into practice innovative, successful strategies that ensure future public participation efforts involve a diverse mix of stakeholders and yield significant public input.

The nominator of this project within TDOT states, “This has had a noticeable improvement in relationships between communities and TDOT (look at customer surveys). There are so many examples of positive things that have come from this but probably the biggest is the passage of the IMPROVE Act last year (increased annualized around \$300 million per year when fully implemented) in increased fuel taxes to the state.”

- **Scholarship Founder, Dr. Scott Rutherford Memorial Academic Endowment Scholarship Program** June 2018
Transportation Planning Division of the American Planning Association

As an executive committee member of the American Planning Association's Transportation Planning Division, I introduced the concept of the Dr. Scott Rutherford Memorial Academic Endowment Scholarship Program. This scholarship recognizes the great contributors of our incredible field, particularly Dr. Scott Rutherford, while also providing support for the future trailblazers in the Transportation Planning discipline. Dr. Rutherford was a Professor and former Chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Washington, established and directed the Master of Sustainable Transportation program, along with many other accomplishments. This scholarship will provide academic scholarship support to students who attend the University of Washington's Master of Sustainable Transportation program in the amount of \$250.

For more information about Dr. Scott Rutherford:

<https://www.ce.washington.edu/news/article/2018-04-30/remembering-professor-scott-rutherford>

- **Transportation Planning Division of the American Planning Association Achievement Communications Award** April 2018
American Planning Association

In 2018, the Transportation Planning Division of the American Planning Association was awarded with the American Planning Association Division Achievement Award in the Communications Effort (Large Division) category. This award recognizes a conscientious effort to improve visibility and engagement for its geographically-diverse membership.

- **Cultural Corridor Consortium Grant: Envision Nolensville Pike: Community, Creativity, and Imagination in Placemaking Award** May 2017
Grantor: Transportation for America
Grantee: Metro Nashville Community Budgeting

Transportation for America sought out Nashville to invest in creative placemaking projects in Nashville designed to engage residents, attract the attention of local public works and transportation agencies, and spark new conversations that bring more people to the table to plan and implement new transportation investments. The grantor was especially committed to funding collaborative projects that expand transportation opportunities and local control for low-income people, recent immigrants, and people of color living in communities that have experienced disproportionate disinvestment and disconnection.

The grant was awarded to a co-applicant, Metro Nashville Community Budgeting, to conduct participatory budgeting (or PB) as an application to empower citizens in the decision-making process of community art projects along the suggested project corridor. Our plan was to launch this as a pilot to display how PB could be successful in Nashville, TN. *Disclaimer: Metro Nashville Community Budgeting declined the award offer upon learning the outreach budget line item that Metro Nashville Community Budgeting would operate within was not sufficient for implementing a successful participatory budgeting process.*

- **Tennessee State University's College of Public Service** May 2016
Undergraduate Institution Combined GPA: 3.58
- **Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan – 2016 National American Planning Association** April 2016
American Planning Association Planning Excellence Award
NashvilleNext Comprehensive Plan
(Organization Award; Project Intern Member)

NashvilleNext, a three-year regional planning effort, provided a 25-year vision for Metro Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee. On June 22, 2015, the Metro Planning Commission unanimously adopted NashvilleNext.

The American Planning Association's Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan is presented annually to a plan that advances planning—the work of building and enriching communities. The award is named for Daniel Burnham, one of the nation's most renowned urban planners.

NashvilleNext brought a wide variety of community partners to the table. As a result of focused outreach and engagement efforts, many other agencies aligned their plans and investments with NashvilleNext. The high level of engagement enabled Nashville to update all 14 of its community plans, covering the entire county. NashvilleNext took a community-based approach to the planning process, starting with surveys of over 1000 community leaders and other local residents and continuing with the formation of resource teams made up of local experts in a variety of issues. In all, more than 18,500 participants helped shape NashvilleNext.

- **American Planning Association's "Contribution to Profession" Achievement Award**

April 2015

American Planning Association's Transportation Planning Divisions Council

The American Planning Association recognized the Transportation Planning Division's leadership awarding them the APA excellence award "Contribution to Profession" in 2015.

- **Undergraduate Research Assistant on \$123,373 Grant**

April 2014

Grantor: Tennessee Department of Transportation

"Innovative Strategies for Public Involvement for TDOT"

Joint research grant with Tennessee State University and University of Memphis on the development of Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Best Practices for Public Involvement & Outreach Efforts.

Principal Investigator: Kimberly L. Triplett, PhD, MPA; Co-Principal Investigator: Stephanie Ivey, PhD, PE and Co-PI: Larry W. Moore, PhD, PE

Assisted with managing the grant administration and eight tasks that were outlined in this applied research project which developed innovative strategies to gain greater public participation in transportation decision-making and provide access for citizens to participate across the state of Tennessee's four regions as defined by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

- **Magna Cum Laude**

September 2012

American Sentinel University's School of Information Technology
Associate of Science (A.S.), Geographic Information Systems

- **National Transportation Planning Excellence Award**

July 2012

Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

Co-sponsored by the American Planning Association & Transportation Research Board

2035 Nashville Area MPO Regional Transportation Plan

(Organizational Award; Project Staff Member)

- **Dean's Award**

January 2011

American Sentinel University's Dean of Business and Informatics
3.80/4.00 Grade Point Average

- **Marshal Stuart Award**

September 2010

Greater Nashville Regional Council

Promoted exceptional regional cooperation in Middle Tennessee.

(Organizational Award)

- **Grand Award**

August 2010

American Council of Engineering Companies - Tennessee Chapter

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study named the "Best Small Project" award category.

(Organizational Award; Project Staff Member)

- **Transportation Planning Council Best Project Award – National Best Project Award**

August 2010

Institute of Transportation Engineers Planning Council

Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

(Organizational Award; Project Staff Member)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY (OUTREACH) SERVICE

Leadership Committee, North Carolina Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. 2019 – Present

Transportation Research Board Committee on Public Involvement in Transportation (ADA60), Transportation Research Board.
2018 – Present

Jane Jacobs Walk Event Leader, *2019 North Carolina. BikeWalk Summit*. 2019

Legislative Committee, *American Planning Association North Carolina Chapter*. 2018 – 2019

Jane Jacobs Walk Event Leader, *Bike Walk Cleveland*. 2018

Memorial Endowment Scholarship Coordinator, *Transportation Planning Division of American Planning Association*. 2018

Assistant to the Campaign Director of Volunteers, *Phil Bredesen for U.S. Senate*. 2018

Board of Directors, Vice Chair for Collegiates, *Young Professionals in Transportation – Nashville Chapter*. 2017 – 2018 / 2013 – 2015

Field Staff Member, *Karen Johnson for Register of Deeds Nashville Davidson County*. 2017 – 2018

Field Staff Member, *Nashville Metro Council District 33 Campaign (Special Election)*. 2017

Marketing Committee Member, *Neighborhoods Resource Center*. 2017

Working Group Volunteer Member of the Academic Membership Task Force, *American Planning Association*. 2016 – 2017

Executive Committee Member and Webinar Program Manager, *Transportation Planning Division of American Planning Association*. 2015 – 2018

Social Media Coordinator, *Transportation Planning Division of American Planning Association & Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association*. 2014 – 2018

Vanguard Cabinet Member, *Transportation Planning Division of American Planning Association*. 2014 – 2016

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT & ACADEMIA SERVICE

Business and Applied Arts Division Advisory Board Member, *Nashville State Community College*. 2015 – 2018

Social Media Coordinator, *Tennessee State University*. 2014 – 2016

Logistics & Supply Chain Management (LGM) Advisory Board, *Volunteer State Community College*. 2014 – 2016

Founder and Coordinator, Urban Studies, *Tennessee State University*. 2014 – 2016

TECHNICAL SKILLS & ACADEMIC RESEARCH TOPICS/INTERESTS

Transportation Planning; Civic Engagement; Research; Data Analysis; Proposal Writing; Project Planning; Geographic Information Systems/Cartography; Policy Analysis; Urban Planning; Public Policy; Community & Neighborhood Development; Public Speaking; Project Management; Participatory Budgeting; Transit Policy & Planning; Rural Transportation Policy & Planning; Non-profit Organizations; Regional Transportation Planning; Comprehensive/Long-Range Planning; Urban Studies; Deliberative Civic Engagement Practices; Capacity-Building/Development; Design Charrettes; Social Planning; Transportation Research; Transportation Demand Management; Metropolitan Planning Organizations; Rural Planning Organizations; Community Design; Social Media Management; Grant Administration; Advisory/Board of Directors; Intergovernmental Affairs; Webinar Management; Manuscript/Research Development; Grass-roots Organizing; Direct & Deliberative Democracy; Social Justice; Democratic Resource Management; Project Management

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Transportation Research Board. 2018 – Present

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. 2016 – Present

National Charrette Institute. 2016 – Present

The Participatory Budgeting Project. 2016 – Present (Supporter)

American Planning Association

North Carolina Chapter. 2018 – Present

Tennessee Chapter. 2012 – 2017

Planning with Underserved Populations – American Planning Association Interest Group Member. 2019 – Present Sustainable Communities Division. 2018 – Present

Professional APA Member. 2018 – Present

Small Town and Rural Planning Division. 2018 – Present

Transportation Planning Division. 2012 – Present

Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division. 2012 – Present

Economic Development Division. 2014 – 2017

Housing and Community Development Division. 2012 – 2017

Student APA Member. 2012 – 2017

North Carolina Association of Rural Planning Organizations. 2018 – 2019

Young Professionals in Transportation – Nashville Chapter. 2013 – 2018

Tennessee Geographic Alliance. 2011 – 2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

National Charrette Institute at Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction, Raleigh, North Carolina

Charrette System Certificate & Charrette Management and Facilitation Certificate. 2019

University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Traffic Engineering Accident Analysis System. 2019

North Carolina State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education

Site Development and Highway Access Practitioner Class. 2018

Caliper Corporation

Introduction to TransCAD: Travel Demand Modeling. 2010