

# Zhenpeng Zou

## AY 2018-19 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

School of Architecture

Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Development

3<sup>th</sup> year Graduate Student, RA



I am a second-year Ph.D. student in the urban and region planning and design program in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. My graduate research assistantship (RA) is funded through the National Center for Smart Growth. After working for the center for almost two years, not only did I find the research field I am passionate about for my PhD and future career, but also I sharpened the analytical skills and deepened my understanding of urban planning through the projects I participated. Last but not the least, I enjoyed both the professional

relationship and friendship I developed during my RA experiences.

My regular work involved examining transportation related issues through data analytics and visualization. I summarized key statistics and visualized congestion maps using the outputs from the Maryland Statewide Transportation Model (MSTM). I also linked growth in transportation statistics with underlying socioeconomic changes in Maryland and made inferences about why certain counties and certain corridors would likely experience growth in travel demand and congestions. I was keenly involved in the Purple Line Technical Study by conducting economic impact analyses and drafting the final report prepared for the Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC).

From my RA work, I developed solid skills in ArcGIS and quantitative methods that I later utilized in my PhD research. Aside from the RA assignments, I cared about the connections among graduate students/assistants at the center and within the PhD program by organizing biweekly URPD seminars. I really appreciate the nomination of the fellowship!