

## Support Letter

Dear Mr. Michael Sussman and Mr. Michael Koontz,

I am writing to support the “National Transportation Life-Cycle Costs and Benefits Project” proposed by OnTrack NorthAmerica.

Costs and benefits analyses are required for any public projects. Although numerous academic research has been conducted for evaluating performance of transportation projects and transportation systems, there is no unanimously accepted performance measurement system to provide a systematic evaluations on transportation projects. Many transportation decisions are not made based on a scientific analysis on costs and benefits. As an author of several papers about transportation performance measurement development and a principal investigator who has conducted more than a dozen projects for US DOT and several state DOTs for more than one decade, I still observe that measures used in practice are very different across transportation modes and government agencies. Many measures do not capture life-cycle costs and benefits but only focus on the early stage of life cycles, such as design and construction. Existing measures are often not scalable and may not represent interest of all stakeholders. There is a need to conduct a comprehensive study to provide a unified life-cycle costs and benefits analysis framework for evaluating transportation systems and facilitating performance-based decision makings.

As an expert in the area of transportation performance measurement and life-cycle analysis, I fully endorse this national effort and will provide my expertise to assist the success of this project.

Best regards,



**Mingzhou Jin, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Associate Department Head  
Industrial and Systems Engineering  
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
525D John Tickle Engineering Building, Knoxville, TN, 37996