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Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo took top honors in 2010 GIS-T Student Paper Contest presented by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials ([AASHTO](#)). The national award is designed to encourage university students to develop solutions to current GIS-T issues.

## Metro Mentors Celebrate Intern's National GIS Award

System Analysis intern "Owen" Bin Mo one of two graduate students from across the nation chosen for national transportation award.

(April 8, 2010) At the beginning of his tour working for Metro's System Analysis & Research Department, Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo expected to learn a great deal about Metro's growing transportation system.

So intrigued by Metro's goal of creating the best public transportation system in the country, the Cal State LA grad student decided to conduct his own study of methods to enhance the system.

Mo began mulling over ideas like how far commuters are willing to walk to use public transportation, and how much rail will be needed to serve the burgeoning Los Angeles area in coming years.

Mo put his ideas in a paper called, "*GIS Network Analysis for Finding the Potential Metro Rail Ridership by Access Modes in Los Angeles County*".

He fine-tuned his work with input from university professors and his Metro supervisor, DEO of Countywide Planning and Development Chaushie Chu. He also consulted with several mentors including Spatial Analysis Project Leader Jesse Simon and Transportation Planning Managers Falan Guan, Paul Burke and Stewart Chesler.



From left, DEO of Countywide Planning and Development Chaushie Chu, Transportation Planning Manager Falan Guan and Spatial Analysis Project Leader Jesse Simon inspired Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo's award-winning paper. *Photos by gayle anderson*

Their input apparently paid off.

Mo learned recently that he would be receiving an award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials ([AASHTO](#)). He has also been invited to present his paper in Charleston, W. Va. on April 12.

"I was lucky because I got so much great information from my professors and insightful input from people here at Metro," Mo said.

Chu advised Mo on modeling and planning while Simon provided input on ridership and statistics, while Guan provided insight on map cartography. Others such as Burke, Chesler and Transportation Planner Doreen Morrissey reviewed his work and offered many helpful comments.

The 30-plus page paper was developed with U.S. Census data and includes complex modeling scenarios complete with intricate maps, tables and transportation predictions.



Check it out: A visual version of the GIS presentation by Owen Bin Mo is posted on You Tube. Not hooked up to You Tube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnh6dZILGP8> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment

AASHTO Representative Raquel Wright congratulated Mo for his win and said his paper stood out among other national entries. The paper was reviewed by a four-person committee where their "discussion reflected on each paper's topic and its significance to current transportation problems."

In addition to his award, Mo will be receiving a \$500 check from AASHTO that he plans to use for a new suit and travel expenses for his upcoming presentation.

A native of China, Mo will graduate this year from CSULA with a master's in GIS and Transportation Planning.

"No matter where I end up, I will always remember my experience and all the people here at Metro. This place has meant so much to me," he said, adding he is "grateful for the assistance so many people were willing to provide."

**-- from Laura Kloth**