



Catherine T. Lawson, PhD.

Director– Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab (AVAIL)



Dr. Catherine T. Lawson is the Chair of the Geography and Planning Department and Director of the Master's in Regional Planning Program at the University at Albany – State University of New York. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, an Affiliated Faculty member of the Department of Informatics, in the College of Emergency, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, and is the Director of the Lewis Mumford Center/Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab. She received her BA in Accounting and Economics from Western Washington

University, Bellingham, WA, in 1988. She received her MA in Economics in 1995, MURP in Urban Planning in 1997, and PhD in Urban Studies/Regional Science, in 1998, from Portland State University (PSU), Portland, Oregon.

Her research interests include advanced uses of archived intelligent transportation systems (ITS) data and spatial analysis/geographic information systems (GIS) applications for transportation planning and analysis for freight, transit, and passenger travel. She is very active in the Transportation Research Board, having served six years as Chair of the Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee (ABJ30). Prior to being Chair, she was a member of ABJ30 for nine years, served as Secretary for three years, and received a TRB Blue Ribbon Award for her contributions to urban transportation data collection, analysis, and archiving strategies and the establishment of cutting-edge subcommittees.

Education

- Ph.D. Urban Studies/Regional Science, Portland State University, USA, 1998
- M.U.R.P. Urban Planning, Portland State University, USA, 1997
- M.A. Economics, Portland State University, USA, 1995
- B.A. Accting/Economics, Western Washington University, USA, 1988

Professional Leadership

- Transportation Research Board Standing Committee Blue Ribbon Award
- University Transportation Centers Program Outstanding Student Award, USDOT
- ENO Fellow, ENO Foundation

Professional Highlights

- Associate Professor of Geography and Planning, University at Albany, 2006-present
- Director, Lewis Mumford Center, Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab, Albany NY, 2006-present
- Chair of Joint Subcommittee on Transformative Trends in Transit (2014 – present)
- Member of the TRB Public Transportation Executive Group (AP000) (2013 – present)
- Member of the TRB Data Section (ABJ00) (2015 – present)
- Chair of National Academies of Science/Transportation Research Board ABJ30 Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems (2008 – 2014)
- Assistant Professor of Geography and Planning, University at Albany, 2000-2006

Related Projects as Director of Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab

Technical Support for Use of National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS), New York State Department of Transportation, December 2014-September, 2018

Innovative Travel Data Collection, Planning for the Next Two Decades - New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, June 2015 – March 2017

Integration of Bus Stop Count Data with Census data for Improving Bus Service and Efficiency, New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJTransit, June 2013 – December 2015

Real-time Travel Information for Improving Transit Ridership, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, New York State Department of Transportation, and Metropolitan Transportation Authority, July 2015 – March 31, 2016

Understanding Commuter Patterns & Behavior: An Analysis to Recommend Policies Aimed at Reducing Vehicle Use, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, February 2009 – August 2010.