# Acknowledgements

This research was funded in part by contributions from the Federal Highway Administration.

I would like to thank my dissertation committee: H Wang, H. Najm, and N. Dubbs for their comments, criticisms, and advice. My advisor, Frank Moon, has been a great mentor throughout my graduate studies and a constant source of inspiration. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to him for providing me this opportunity.

I’d like to thank my family and friends for their good humor and support during this endeavor. I am especially grateful to my friends and colleagues, John DeVitis, David Masceri, Nick Romano and Dom Wirkijowski for their extensive help over these several years.