

Tierra Bills Bio:

Dr. Tierra Bills is an Assistant Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Wayne State university. She has recently joined Wayne State (in Summer 2019) after spending 3 years as a Michigan Society Fellow and Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan.

Much of Dr. Bills' current research focuses on investigating the social impacts of transportation projects. She develops activity-based travel-demand models to investigate individual and household-level transportation-equity effects, for the purpose of designing transportation systems that will provide more equitable returns to society. Her latest project aims to improve the ability to represent the distinct travel needs of transport disadvantaged communities in Benton Harbor, Michigan, using mixed modes of sampling and travel data collection. This work further seeks to determine the extent to which transit improvements can influence employment outcomes for Benton Harbor residents. To date, practitioners have simply not done a good job with collecting representative travel behavior data across segments of the population, which brings to question our ability to model and represent transportation related outcomes for vulnerable population segments. In order to bridge this gap, Dr. Bills' develops modeling approaches for measuring the distribution of impacts from various transportation investments, across society. This is not only to provide a clearer picture of how the transportation system affects society, but to support the design of more sustainable transportation interventions to meet to needs of all segments of the population, currently and for future generations. Her other areas of interest include Transit Reliability and emerging data sources for travel demand modeling.



Dr. Bills research interests generally include discrete choice analysis and behavioral modeling, transportation planning, and emerging data sources in transportation modeling. Dr. Bills holds a B.S in Civil Engineering Technology from Florida A&M University ('08), and M.S ('09) and PhD ('13) degrees in Transportation Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.