

# Kari Watkins

**Associate Professor, Civil Engineering at Georgia Tech College of Engineering**

Atlanta, GA, US

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## Biography

Dr. Kari Edison Watkins, P.E., is the Frederick Law Olmsted Associate Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She returned to her undergraduate alma mater to become a faculty member in 2011 after completing her PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington. Her teaching and research interests revolve around multi-modal transportation planning and the use of technology in transportation, especially as related to transit planning and operations and improved traveler information. At the University of Washington, Dr. Watkins' research focused on transit travel time reliability and the effects of transit traveler information. She co-created the OneBusAway program (<http://onebusaway.org/>) to provide real-time next bus countdown information and other transit information tools for transit riders in greater Seattle-Tacoma. OneBusAway has won numerous awards and Dr. Watkins dissertation was awarded the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) Wootan Award for best dissertation in transportation policy and planning. As a long time cyclist, Dr. Watkins has recently begun to explore cyclist infrastructure preferences through survey research and crowdsourced cycling data through the Cycle Atlanta (<http://cycleatlanta.org>) program. Dr. Watkins was recently recognized by Mass Transit Magazine as a Top 40 under 40 and she is a three-time invitee to a National Academy of Engineers Frontiers of Engineering. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Watkins worked for a decade as a senior transportation engineer at Wilbur Smith Associates in New Haven, Connecticut. In line with her years in industry, Dr. Watkins' teaching focus is on including multimodal transportation concepts throughout the curriculum and sending top-notch engineers into the workforce through practical experience in the Senior Capstone course.

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## Areas of Expertise

Complete Streets Design, Traveler Information, Transportation Planning, Smart Cities, Sustainable Communities, Transit Planning and Operations, Mode Choice Decision Making

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## Affiliations

OneBusAway, Cycle Atlanta

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## Education

**University of Washington**

Ph.D. Civil Engineering

**University of Connecticut**  
**M.S. Civil Engineering**

**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**B.S. Civil Engineering**

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### **Selected Accomplishments**

**Council of University Transportation Centers New Faculty Award**  
**2017**

**Invited to organize the Japan-American Frontiers of Engineering by the National Academy of Engineers**  
**2016**

**CETL / BP Junior Faculty Teaching Award, Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**2014**

**Top 40 under 40, Mass Transit Magazine**  
**2013**

**Invited to present at the Euro-American Frontiers of Engineering by the National Academy of Engineers**  
**2013**

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