“How Effective is Commuter Rail in Spatially Pairing Supply and Demand for Commuting Infrastructure? ”

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210 ASB (Aline Skaggs Biology Bldg.)
Abstract
American suburbanization and highway infrastructure have developed simultaneously, with research showing that highway construction induces demand (American Public Transportation Association, 1997; Brock and Souleyrette, 2013). Commuter rail is an alternate form of transportation meant to support journeys to work. Yet research to date has not established these systems’ efficacy in attracting those migrants most likely to use such an amenity. Through the application of a modified population deconcentration model, this manuscript finds that in our case study region (Salt Lake City, UT), the provision of a commuter rail station significantly increases out-commuting, signaling success in attracting migrants requiring commuting infrastructure.

Bio
Dr. Joanna P. Ganning joined the University of Utah in 2013, serving as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Research Center and as an Assistant Professor in City and Metropolitan Planning. Her research focuses quantitatively on place-based economic development planning, natural resource management, and the interface between the two. Dr. Ganning entered the planning field with a keen interest in studying rural and regional economic development. After having lived in Phoenix, Paris, Washington, D.C., and St. Louis (where she served on the faculty of Saint Louis University), her research has evolved to address various types of places and spatial scales. Recent projects aim to provide data-driven analyses of potential responses to issues of vacancy, disinvestment, and redevelopment, and to understand the demographic and economic mechanisms at play in shrinking cities. Dr. Ganning also works on issues relating to coupled human-natural systems, focusing primarily on the relationships between economic development and natural resource management. Dr. Ganning’s research has been funded by various organizations and agencies, including the Rural Sociological Society, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Institute for Transportation and Communities. Joanna holds a PhD in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.