



Workshop on: Infrastructures and social-economic policy factors in connecting rural and urban sustainability for the southern US

The **Connecting Rural and Urban Environments for Equitable Access to Transportation, Telecommunications and Energy (CREATTE)** project announces its first workshop on **Sustainable Regional Systems**. The Southeast contains some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the United States, as well as some of the most rapidly growing urban centers. The impacts of climate change threaten the ability of current infrastructure to serve the needs of urban and rural communities, and threaten to exacerbate growing urban-rural disparities. The CREATTE project, funded by a planning grant from the National Science Foundation, is developing a network of researchers to study and develop responses to challenges facing reliable, sustainable, and equitable access to electricity, transportation, and communications in the Southeastern US, and especially the Tennessee Valley Authority service areas. We are working to understand important challenges different communities face, identify ways that future research can help communities prepare for and manage these challenges, and propose a large-scale research network to perform that research. We welcome interest from researchers in engineering, natural, and social sciences, and policy studies as well as representatives of state and local governments, community and civic organizations, and the business sector.



The workshop will feature panel discussions and breakout groups to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions of the challenges facing urban and rural communities, with emphasis on the way electricity, transportation, and telecommunications infrastructure operate as coupled systems that involve both technology and human actions.

Researchers, members of government agencies, and representatives of community, civic, and business organizations are welcome to attend to learn and participate in breakout groups. Participants are invited to optionally submit a short description, about 250 words, describing their interests in these questions as researchers, planners, or representatives of community interests, and their thoughts for how a research network should collaborate in understanding and responding to the challenges to providing reliable infrastructure for the 21st century. We will use this information in planning and inviting speakers.

- Critical needs and current challenges in energy, transportation and telecommunication
- Solutions for connecting rural and urban sustainability and development
- Social inequality in household energy, telecommunication, and transportation
- Approaches to effectively connecting stakeholders and research networks

We hope to hold a hybrid workshop at Vanderbilt University in Nashville TN, with both in-person and remote options for attending, but will adjust our plans in response to the evolving public health circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Important Dates

Workshop	March 24th & 25th, 2022
Registration deadline (No registration fee)	March 10th, 2022

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/ngV3PUySW1svbfw6A>

March 24, 2022 – Thursday

All day in-person and Zoom workshop from 9-4; Presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions

March 25, 2022 – Friday

Half-day workshop 9-12; discussion & conclusion

Workshop Venue:

Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, TN
details TBA

Organizers:

Jonathan Gilligan (Chair), Vanderbilt University; email: jonathan.gilligan@Vanderbilt.Edu

Chien-fei Chen (Co-Chair), The University of Tennessee; email: cchen26@utk.edu

Committee:

Janey Camp, & Abhishek Dubey: Vanderbilt University

Courtney Cronley, Charles Sims, Jamie Grieg, Kevin Tomsovic, & Joshua Fu: The University of Tennessee

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