

## **FACULTY RESEARCH FUND**

**Award Date:** Spring 2022

**Proposal Title:** The Dilemma between Intergenerational Equity and Organizational Performance:  
The Case of State Transportation Agency

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### **ABSTRACT**

The recent President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the largest investment in repairing and reconstructing the U.S. bridges since the Interstate highway system was built. It aims to create an average 1.5 million jobs per year, and "grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone gets ahead for decades to come" (The White House, 2022). Unlike the federal government's policy nuance for "sustainable" and "equitable" investment, the actual policy excludes the most significant spending category pursuing intergenerational equity, which is routine maintenance spending. The U.S. has experienced a persistent deferred routine maintenance, which results in increasing life-cycle costs of assets and facilitating poor conditions of roads. Deferring routine maintenance can transfer the current costs to the next generation, so that they end up paying more expensive costs to enjoy the same, just, public highway infrastructure. Most scholarly work relating to intergenerational equity is descriptive and normative in nature, and this topic is more often examined outside the public administration discipline. Given limited understanding of the intergenerational equity concept in public administration, this research empirically examines the roles of federal transportation policies on states' choices for intergenerational equity in public service provision and performance outcomes. The FRAC research grant will be used to support Jiseul Kim's data analysis training expense and a book purchase, which are essential to conduct this research project.