

# **Mills, Joshua Benjamin. Ph.D. Candidate**

Final Examination, Thursday, November 4

1:30 PM, CIVL G212

## **Dissertation Title**

The Regional Economic Impacts of Bypasses: A Longitudinal Study Incorporating Spatial Econometrics and Multilevel Modeling.

**Major Professor:** Jon D. Fricker

## **Abstract**

This study takes a regional approach to studying the economic impacts of bypasses, considering not just how the bypassed communities area are affected, but also how areas surrounding these communities are affected, and whether these impacts differ. ZIP Code-level data were collected for three states in the Midwest, covering a set of more than 60 bypasses of small- and medium-sized communities. Building upon a synthesis of economic theory and transportation systems analysis, spatial panel econometric models were estimated to determine whether these communities were significantly impacted with respect to employment levels in a number of industry sectors. The findings of this study will provide insight into the magnitude of the impacts of bypasses as well as how these impacts vary over space.