**Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah**

**Distinguished Professor and Dean  
Director, Rutgers Urban and Civic Informatics Lab**

Vonu Thakuriah is Dean of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in Rutgers University, Distinguished Professor of Transportation and Urban Informatics, and Director of the Rutgers Urban and Civic Informatics Lab. Her research has been funded by the world’s leading scientific research sponsors including the US National Science Foundation, European Commission, and UK Research and Innovation, and she has delivered keynote addresses and plenaries in leading venues such as US National Academy of Sciences, European Commission in Brussels and Luxembourg, Royal Academy of Engineering in London, Leibnitz Center for Informatics in Germany, and National Institute of Informatics in Japan. Her research interests are in transportation planning and operations; big data and social and economic cyberinfrastructure; and smart cities and urban informatics.

**Expanded Bio**

Vonu has published close to 200 journal articles and reports, and has been involved in research grants of close to $70 million. Her work has been published in Future Generation Computer Systems, PlosOne, Journal of Transport Geography, Transportation Research Part C, Journal of Transportation Engineering, Transportation Research Part D, Transportation Research Part A, Transportation Research Part A, Computers, Environment and Urban Systems, Cities: The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning, International Journal of Sustainable Transportation, Journal of Built Environment, Evaluation and Program Planning, International Journal of Law and Information Technology, Accident Analysis and Prevention, Mathematical and Computer Modelling, and other highly ranked journals. She is the (first) author of the books *Transportation and Information: Trends in Technology and Policy* and *Seeing Cities with Big Data: Research, Methods and Applications in Urban Informatics*.

Vonu was previously the Ch2M Endowed Chair Professor of Transport in the University of Glasgow, UK, and (founding) director and PI of the Urban Big Data Centre, a multimillion-dollar consortium funded by UK Research and Innovation’s Economic and Social Research Council that was responsible for providing UK’s urban big data infrastructure. Through this cyberinfrastructure, she provided extensive support to higher education units and companies in the smart cities, smart mobility, digital health, and lifelong learning areas, and in the related innovation and tech entrepreneurship space, in addition to providing support to agencies and local governments in finding data-driven solutions to complex urban challenges.

Vonu was previously a European Commission Marie Curie Fellow, and her postdoctoral work was funded by a fellowship program of the National Science Foundation’s Division of Mathematical Sciences. Among her many contributions to professional service, she is the founding co-chair of the Urban Big Data Joint Subcommittee of the Transportation Research Board, and was a long-time member of the Americas region of the ITS World Congress Program Committee. She is a founding co-chair of the Urban Data Interest group of the Research Data Alliance. Among her current editorial responsibilities, she is an Associate Editor of the Harvard Data Science Review.

Vonu was a long-time member of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s Transportation Committee and the Advanced Technology Task Force, due to which she was involved in large-scale regional and metropolitan transportation planning processes. She led several national-scale studies for Federal Transit Administration, Department of Labor and Health and Human Services on employment transportation. She also gained local and state transportation planning and operations expertise through PI-ship of research grants funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Department of Transportation, CMAP, and other local and state agencies.

Vonu has worked with Transport Scotland and with the Scottish and UK Governments, as well as with Glasgow City Council, and the Dutch government and City of Helsinki’s data groups. She is currently a member of the UK Office of National Statistics Data Science Advisory Board, and was previously a member of the European Commission/Eurostat’s New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics, and scientific collaborator for National ICT of Australia. She recently chaired the International Expert Committee for the Canada Foundation for Innovation. She has consulted on or otherwise collaborated on various other transport or data projects in Malaysia, China, India, Australia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and several European countries. She has provided testimony to US Congress and has given input to the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology as well as to the US Government Accountability Office.