Guidelines:
The 24th National Conference on Rural and Intercity Bus is scheduled for October 18-22, 2020 in Charleston, SC. Student participation is being encouraged by offering students the opportunity to take part in a research paper competition. Two winning student research papers will be awarded and the authors will receive travel funds to attend the conference (U.S. travel only).

Research Paper Competition Rules:
1. Students must attend an accredited college or university.
2. Students participating must be able to provide proof of their college or university registration.
3. Participation in the competition is voluntary.
4. Research papers submitted must be the work of only one student.
5. A student may only submit one entry.
6. Students may come from any discipline: engineering, economics, business, literature, sociology, medicine, social work, science, etc.
7. The research paper entry must indicate: Students name, email address, School name, Level of student (Masters, Ph.D.), Student’s main course of study or major, Student academic advisor
8. Research papers must be double-spaced with one-inch margins using 12-point Times New Roman font. They are not to exceed 2,000 words. They must be submitted in Microsoft WORD format and must include correct citations.
9. The Word document files must be saved using the following title format: 2020 RIBTC Research Paper Competition - Student name - School name.
10. The entry must be sent electronically to Del Peterson at (del.peterson@ndsu.edu).
11. The deadline is final. Any file sent after 5 p.m. CT, April 15, 2020, will not be considered.
12. Students will be notified by May 20, 2020, regarding participation in the conference.
13. Students participating in this competition authorize the conference to use all or part of their work during the Conference in the form of quotes or displays. However, the work will be cited to the author and the college/university they attend. Winners will provide a 30” x 40” poster representing their work.
14. Papers will be shared with the student’s academic advisor, and the author may be asked to revise the paper based on review comments.
15. All decisions of the judges are final. Grading will only be communicated to the top two entries.
16. Winners of the competition agree to attend the conference and to participate in sessions by presenting their work. Funds will be provided for winners to travel to the conference (maximum air and ground transportation capped at $600).

Students are encouraged to address topics relating to the conference theme. Preference will be given to papers addressing topics related to planning, policy, operations, special topics areas, and/or technology.

Judging Criteria:
All papers will be judged on originality, innovation, practicality, timeliness, and readability.