

Stephen Edwards is a Graduate Research Assistant for the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute (IFTI) at the University of Memphis, pursuing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a concentration in transportation. Before seeking his Civil Engineering degree, Stephen spent the previous seven years in retail management with Starbucks and Pier One. During this time, he oversaw store operations and employee training, facilitated leadership seminars and teambuilding workshops, participated in new store site selection, coordinated community service functions, and developed local marketing strategies.

Since arriving at the University of Memphis, Stephen has been active in several campus organizations and community projects. Currently, he serves as the President of the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) student chapters and is a member and Past – Vice President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter. He has also been involved in local Safe Routes to School projects, the Transportation Engineering Careers (TREC) summer camp, Canstruction, research on the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) for the Tennessee Model Users Group (TNMUG), the University District Community Transportation Plan, and the University's Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge and Traffic Bowl teams.

Over the past year, Stephen worked as an intern for the Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). As an intern, he met with local engineers and planners to update the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, participated in the Imagine 2040 Transportation and Land Use scenario planning process, worked with the Memphis Travel Demand Model, and participated in public and jurisdictional meetings. Because of his extracurricular involvement and commitment to academics, Stephen was awarded the S-STEM Scholar, Tennessee Road Builders, Baker Concrete Construction, and American Society of Highway Engineers' John Harper Memorial scholarships. Stephen lives in Memphis with his wife, Stefanie, and their two dogs Meg and Coltrane. When not in class he spends most of his time mountain biking, running, reading and attending Memphis Tigers' games. As part of a goal to visit all of the National Parks, Stephen and his wife spend a week backpacking in two new parks each year.