In my work on transportation planning at the Philadelphia City Planning Commission with David Kanthor, I focused on multi-use trails in the city. This work culminated in a meeting on April 20th with the Philadelphia Trail Committee, for which I created the maps below.

- In 2013, the Commission published the Philadelphia Trail Master Plan. As stated on its website, it was meant to coordinate the planning and construction of trail systems by inventorying existing trails and prioritizing more than 60 proposed trail segments throughout the city.
- Updates were made in 2014 and 2015, noting new trails and shifts that had occurred in prioritization.
- Prioritization is based on scores from five categories: Project Status, Demand, Connectivity, Feasibility, and Cost.
- In preparation for 2016’s update, I updated 2015’s trail prioritization data, which can be seen in the tables to the right.
- Additionally, I created the three maps below using ArcGIS software. They analyze the trails geographically to look at prioritization changes from 2014 to 2015, as well as the current status of proposed trails.

In addition to the work that I did with the Planning Commission, I pursued two academic research projects during the semester. These contributed to my overall learning and enriched my experiences at the Commission because they allowed me to pursue topics beyond my daily work.

- Mid-semester, I completed an essay on the Citizens Planning Institute, which is the outreach and education arm of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. This was supported by extensive readings on theories of citizen participation, as well as interviews with CPI staff members.
- For my final academic project, I researched theories of interorganizational coordination in order to evaluate the strategies of the Forge to Refuge Trail’s coalition of partners. I became interested in this topic after I attended a meeting on the Forge to Refuge Trail and began to question how such a diverse range of voices could effectively and efficiently realize a common goal, despite each individual partner’s priorities.

- The Forge to Refuge Trail will run from Valley Forge National Historic Park to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge when completed.
- Partners in the design, funding, and coordination of the trail include: City of Philadelphia, Clean Air Council, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Campbell Thomas & Co., SEPTA, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Radnor Township, Haverford Township, and many others.