

What is Transport Planning?

Are you tired of being stuck in traffic jams or fed up when your bus or train does not turn up? Well so are we and we need you to help us solve the problem.

Transport is a major part of the way that we all live. Without it we could not get to work, we could not go to the cinema and meet our friends or visit our families. Holidays without travel would not be very interesting. Yet we tend to take transport for granted until it fails to work properly.

The Bigger Picture

All cities are having to deal with the problems of traffic congestion.

It is an international problem that has never been experienced to the same degree before.

Similarly the demand for inter-city travel is seen to increase with economic prosperity.

Things are changing so fast that transport provision simply cannot keep pace. There is also clear evidence that the provision of adequate transport systems will be the limiting factor in the further development of our quality of lives.

Transport systems today affect the way we live and the transport systems of tomorrow will change the way that we will live.

We therefore have a choice between getting it wrong and wasting more of our day stuck in traffic jams or waiting for late buses and trains, or getting it right so that we can move about when we want to, how we want to and at the time of our choosing.

What do Transport Planners do?

All sorts of things. That's one of the big attractions. In fact, the work of transport planners touches almost every aspect of our day-to-day lives. Think about it:

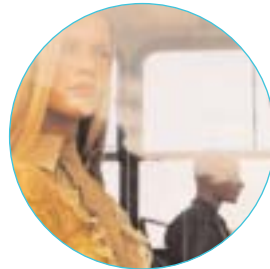
- Who advises Ken Livingstone about the impact of Congestion Charging?
- Who designs safer routes to schools and safer cycle routes?
- Who develops overall strategy options for a city's road and public transport networks?
- Who tests out the rail passenger and revenue implications of changing fares or increasing train frequencies?
- Who forecasts the effects of major airport expansion options in road, rail and coach access?
- Who works out how to cope with the increased traffic from a new shopping centre?
- Who is trying to persuade people out of their cars onto other modes of transport?

The list is endless. And, to face the challenge ahead, we need more multi-skilled professionals to consider a career in Transport Planning.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Several surveys have just revealed that a career in transport planning is more satisfying than almost any other career.

A staggering 85% of transport planners said they are "very satisfied" with their work and 9 out of 10 interviewed expect to stay in transport planning. Few professions, if any, can match this.



TPSI

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Skills Initiative

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Job Opportunities

You have probably never heard of Transport Planning as there are only a limited number of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level and it is not a well known professional field.

Over the last year employers have employed graduates with first degrees in geography, civil engineering, maths, computing, MBA's, environmental science, planning, building science, etc.

But we do not just want recent graduates. We are looking for people who can bring us some experience and we will provide the additional training that will be required.



The profession urgently needs to attract more people who:

- are creative, enthusiastic, analytical & hard working
- have at least a basic experience in the use of office computer systems
- have an interest in transport issues and their impact on our lives
- have a social understanding of the importance of transport
- are good communicators

Job opportunities in transport planning would be working for employers such as:

- central government
- city and local government authorities
- strategic rail, maritime and aviation bodies
- bus and train operating companies
- freight companies
- professional consulting engineers, planners and management consultants
- universities and research establishments
- large companies with transport problems

What is the problem?

At the moment there are simply not enough transport planners. In fact there is such a severe shortage that the Government's £181 billion 10 Year Transport Plan may be undeliverable without the profession attracting new recruits. This is where you come in.

It is currently estimated that the number employed in local authorities and consultants needs to increase by 1,800 over the next 3 years to implement government plans. In this period, only 300 people will qualify with a transport-related masters degree and then work in the UK.

Training and Development

Management and communication skills are considered essential within the world of transport planning and the training is available to develop these in a constructive and positive way.

There is a wide range of first degrees that provide a suitable background for a transport planning career, and the industry is well used to providing further training to develop the necessary skills.

Most consultancies and Local Authorities operate their own internal training schemes that differ from organisation to organisation.

But there are wide ranges of external training courses that are available throughout the UK which are likely to be available to you.

For example, courses may range from an evening class of basic traffic and transport planning, established to fill a gap on a relatively 'informal' basis. Meeting once a week for three terms the course provides an entry level programme of lectures and presentations. No course work, no exams but lots of good solid information.

On the other hand, there are MSc's in Transport Planning at several universities based on day release involving three years of study.

To support career development a number of professional Institutes recognise Transport Planning within their portfolio. These include:

- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Highways and Transportation
- The Institute of Logistics and Transport
- Royal Town Planning Institute
- Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers
- Transport Planning Society

All of the first four provide routes to Chartered Status.

Where can I find out more?

The Transport Planning Society website (www.tps.org.uk) expands on the information above. It includes a Careers section, including a list of all universities offering courses in transport planning or related courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level and their website addresses. And there are also portals to other websites of interest to transport planners.

