

TRANSPORT CONSULTANTS

338 Euston Road © Jack Hobhouse

Alex Dryden, Transport Technician, talks about his experience working in the transportation team.

"Believe it or not, most engineers do not know what a transport consultant does and most believe we just count cars. Whilst there is an element of car counting, we do so much more."

Our main function is to support planning applications, submit Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans identifying the impacts a development has on the surrounding transport network (which includes public transport provisions, pedestrian / cycle movements and vehicular impacts) and any mitigation measures needed. However, we can also be involved in site assessments and feasibility studies to determine if a site is going to be suitable for development.

In order to be a successful transport consultant, a wide range of skills are needed, ranging from:

- Numeracy skills and the ability to interpret data
- Written and oral communication skills
- Good problem-solving and analytical skills - finding a range of solutions, understanding their effects and making recommendations
- Confidence in dealing with a range of people including clients, councillors, local groups and the general public
- The ability to communicate complex / technical ideas and issues clearly and accurately, often to a non-technical audience
- Project management skills
- The ability to work as part of a team
- Computer literacy
- An interest in transport and urban planning issues and political awareness

As a transport consultant you can be involved in a number of different types of projects, ranging from an extension to an existing office / retail development, new 600 unit residential development up to masterplanning a new town with an estimated value of €6Bn (£5.3Bn). We have also recently supported alterations of car and coach parking arrangements at Wembley Stadium and undertaken analysis to support the development of a terminal at Gatwick Airport.

The skills required to be a transport consultant include CAD, maths and report writing as well as the ability to think creatively. You will also be introduced to junction modelling software which enables us to analyse the operation of the road network. The qualification requirements for transport consultants vary as it can only be studied at MSc level, therefore you will find that most transport consultants have a varied background with geography, physics and engineering being the most common and related disciplines.

As a transport consultant you will work closely with a wide variety of different disciplines, including civil engineers, landscape architects, architects, urban planners, planners as well as the local highway authority and Highways England. As a result, good communication skills are essential to be able to explain technical elements to an audience which may not be familiar with the intricacies of transport planning.

While we are an office based discipline there will be times when site visits are necessary and this can include undertaking a review of the transport network in the vicinity of a site. At Cundall, our work is predominantly located within the UK, however we also work in projects throughout the world including the Middle East and Australia.



ALEX DRYDEN

Joined 2008

Transportation Technician