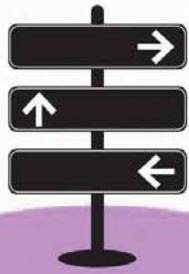
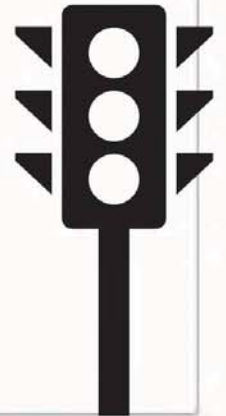


TRANSPORTATION PLANNER



JOB DESCRIPTION

Transportation planners study and advise on the growth and management of road, rail, and aviation transportation networks, and the impact they have both locally as well as nationally. They also examine transportation patterns, such as walking or cycling, and recommend improvements to systems to meet government targets.



SALARY

Graduate trainee ★★☆☆☆
 Consultancy director ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Wide range of employers • Growth in areas such as sustainable transportation and environmental conservation • Increasing demand for experienced transportation planners

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **CIVIL ENGINEER** *see pp. 176–177*
- ▶ **TOWN PLANNER** *see pp. 200–201*
- ▶ **LOGISTICS MANAGER** *see pp. 226–227*
- ▶ **CAR FLEET MANAGER** Manages a fleet of vehicles belonging to a company. Duties include overseeing servicing and maintenance, replacing vehicles when they reach a certain mileage, and ensuring vehicles are stored securely when not in use.

In the United States in 2012, 65 percent of transportation planners were employed by local governments.



AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Transportation • Town planning • Geography • Engineering • Mathematics • Economics • Environmental science



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS Most entrants have a degree in a relevant subject. Non-graduates can train and study for a degree on the job.



LIFESTYLE Regular office hours are the norm, but evening and weekend work may be necessary to meet deadlines or to attend public consultations.



LOCATION Work is primarily office-based, but travel to visit projects, survey sites, and to meet clients is a common feature of the job.



THE REALITIES Advising on a project and seeing it through to completion may take a long time. A shortage of staff with experience means salaries are rising.

CAREER PATHS

Transportation planners are employed by public-sector bodies, private-sector consultancies, rail and bus providers, and logistics companies. Most study for professional accreditation or a qualification in transportation planning in order to improve their career prospects.

ASSISTANT With a good high school education or vocational training, you may find employment as an assistant, and then study for a degree on the job.

GRADUATE You can apply for a job in transportation planning with a degree in any discipline, but employers prefer subjects such as town planning, civil engineering, and geography.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNER Work as a planner is varied, ranging from improving road safety to reducing traffic pollution in an urban area. You can advance your career by moving between the public and private sectors.



TRAFFIC ENGINEER Conducts research into traffic flow and safety, and designs new roads or reconfigures existing ones to achieve the most efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.



TRANSPORTATION MODELER Uses computerized software to create models that simulate different scenarios, then analyzes them in order to identify what action to take.



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNER Specializes in policy and planning for sustainable forms of transportation, such as low-emission vehicles.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONSULTANT Provides advice to a wide range of clients, such as local and national authorities, hospitals, and construction firms. Also develops plans, conducts assessments, and writes proposals.



SKILLS GUIDE



Good written and verbal skills for delivering reports and making recommendations.



The ability to work well with different personnel, from company directors to construction workers.



Strong analytical skills for studying data and devising new transportation strategies.



Excellent numerical skills to gather, analyze, and interpret data and provide statistics.



Expertise in transportation-modeling programs for creating reports and presentations.



Good commercial and political awareness in order to gather support for proposals.