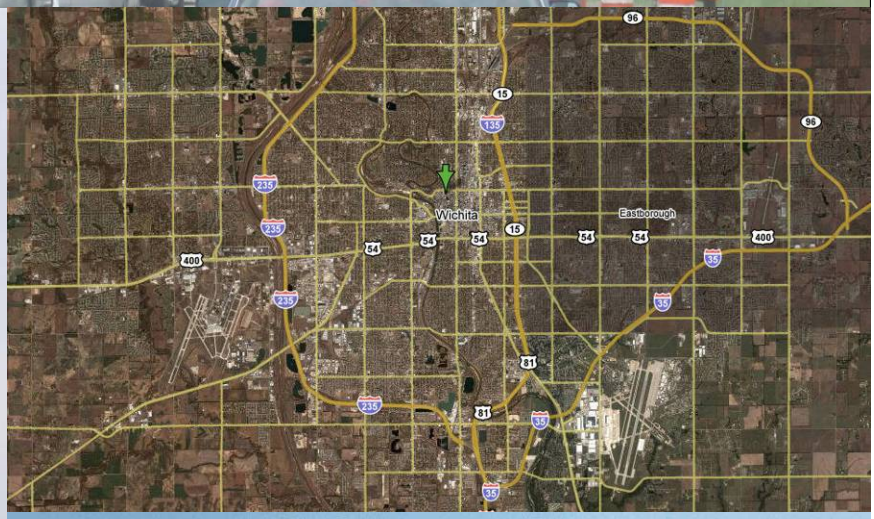
MY MATC INTERNSHIP



ITERIS™

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As the spring semester drew to an end, the anticipation of my MATC summer internship with Iteris continued to increase. I had never had an engineering job before and was very eager to find out what I would be doing for the summer. Before starting my internship, I had known that Iteris was a small firm in the Lincoln area and that I would only have four co-workers. Due to that fact, I was concerned that there would not be enough work for me to do and that I would not get a lot out of my internship.

My worries were put to rest on the first day I arrived at the office. After filling out some paperwork, I was given information about one of our current projects where speed sensors and portable message signs are used on I-80 to maintain a temporary traffic management system. Then I was taken out to the interstate to drive through the work zone and see exactly what I would be working with. This project that I was becoming familiar with was known as the NDOR Work Zone Traffic Management System, and was one of the main projects that I ended up working on during this summer. Even after my first day, I was kept very busy with data collection, design work and putting together proposals and reports.

The project that I spent the most time working on this summer was the NDOR Work Zone Management System. The wide range of tasks that I performed allowed me to more fully understand all of the details included in this work zone system. I was involved with everything from maintenance to Microstation drawings while working on this project. I had never used Microstation before I began this project, but I made up for lost time when I had to

develop a plan set that showed the locations of our sensors along the interstate. After finally getting all of the sensors in place, I then had to configure the plot driver to make the plan set print correctly. I also got to perform some maintenance work by going to the NDOR maintenance yard and I-80 to replace parts in a few of the signs and sensors that were not working correctly. Another of my tasks was to make a weekly drive through the work zone to make sure the equipment was not damaged and record this information in a log.

I think that working for a small office allowed me to work on a larger variety of projects. Although the project that I spent the most time working on was the NDOR work zone, I also participated in field and design work with a number of other projects. I got to collect data for an intersection delay study and contribute to designing some intersection improvements in Kearney. On another project I worked on, I used Microstation to design roundabouts for the intersections of 98th Street with Old Cheney and Pine Lake Road in Lincoln. I have also gotten to go out in the field to perform some traffic and turning movement counts for a project with the City of Lincoln. One of the things that I liked most about my job was that I wasn't doing the same thing everyday. The summer seemed to pass by too quickly since I enjoyed going to work, and the wide range of tasks and projects that I was involved in kept things interesting.

I have enjoyed my internship experience and learning more about the specifics of what a civil engineer can do in the transportation area. Besides all of the technical skills I have gained, this internship has helped me improve my communication skills and made me realize how important they are in this field.

There are always meetings to go to, people to talk to, or reports to write and good communication skills are helpful to make these go smoothly. I have also seen that since we work with other firms on many of our projects, it is crucial that everyone communicates effectively in order to collaborate our efforts and finish a project. The knowledge that I have acquired over the summer is invaluable and will continue to help me in the future. I have gotten to meet other professionals in the transportation area, learn how to use Microstation and Syncro, attend meetings, see what goes into writing reports and proposals, and learn more about the traffic engineering field. This internship was everything I could have asked for and I am very grateful for being able to participate in the MATC internship program.