

City Of Lincoln
Engineering Services
Traffic Operations
MATC Internship 2008
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The Common Unity of Opportunity

My MATC internship this summer was with the City of Lincoln in the Traffic Operations Division. Working for Public Works gives you a great deal of working with the public and what you are working on varies from day to day making it non-monotonous and challenging. I was given the opportunity to see the whole process of how projects get done and acquired a new appreciation for the city workers that did a lot more than I originally thought. I have received “joules” of information from the engineers around the office from professionalism to golf tips. This has been a good learning experience and exposure to a good deal of traffic engineering.

I remember being nervous and not knowing what to expect the first day as I started my new job. After being showed around the building and meeting everyone, I promptly forgot all of the names I just learned, then I proceeded to fill out new hire paperwork for about 2 hours. After I filled out the paperwork, not having a computer yet, I read manuals and procedures and got to drive out to locations for measurements. I was told that training was on-the-job, and not to worry if I made mistakes.

After I was read up and ready to conquer MicroStation software, I was given my first project. I was given a drawing of a van and told to make it ten times bigger in the program. I set off and slowly my confidence increased and I was able to complete the task, along with adding some accessories which the van was not equipped with before. Now that I had a feel for my CAD software I was given my first real task which involved dimensioning pavement markings and printing out plans to give to contractors. Due to the number of roads in Lincoln

that needed markings this year, this occupied about 3-4 weeks of my time this summer. I remember feeling a bit of pride driving down Old Cheney Road a couple of weeks later and seeing the new markings that came from my plans.

After doing pavement markings for a while I was given another procedure to read and got to go out to do my first speed study. It was fun and scary clocking the drivers, realizing how fast some of them drive. It only took me 4 trips back to the study area to get all the information needed for the report. It was fun making a call on what a speed limit should be (how many people wish they could do that) and since then I have done 27 more speed studies around Lincoln that are waiting to be approved.



Here is me with a radar gun on a speed study.

Other than speed studies I have been collecting data from a bunch of traffic signals to put in a database and consolidate with other useful information

that is now in spreadsheets to be a valuable tool in the future for us to use. This has given me exposure to Microsoft Access, Open Office, and Lotus 123. In actuality, I haven't had previous exposure to any of the software I use at work on a daily basis; not even a word processor or email, so that facet of my knowledge has been expanded quite a bit as well.

I have decided to pursue a career in traffic engineering, mostly due to this summer internship, and even have been hired on with the city for the school year. I would like to thank MATC for getting me headed in this direction.

