

Internship Experience Report

Sandip Timsina

MATC Internship program

Summer (May-Jul) 2014

Supervisor

Dr. Anuj Sharma

Nebraska Transportation Center

I worked as an intern for the Nebraska Transportation Center under Dr. Anuj Sharma through the Mid-America Transport Center internship program. Throughout the summer of 2014, I helped in various research projects that were being carried out. I also went to a field trip, and got to meet some new people. Overall, it has been a wonderful experience being a part of this program.

Even before my internship, I had been involved with various research activities for Dr. Sharma for the past year. I have been helping PhD students under him with their research. Dr. Sharma agreed to take me as an intern for summer as well, and most of my activities have been similar to what I had been doing with him.

During the internship, I did some data collection. I went out with Wei Li, a PhD candidate, to collect speed, lane violation, and headway data using Wavetronix HD sensor and contour cameras. We set this up at various locations around Lincoln. This data would be used in operational and safety analysis of lane sizes. I worked with another PhD candidate, Chinhui Li, to collect data using the same sensor and a Bluetooth device, to compare and analyze results. I also wrapped up a previous ongoing research with the psychology department in UNL where we did a distracted driving study using a vehicle simulator, and collected data to see participants' reactions under various conditions.

Apart from data collection, I have done some report writing, and proofreading. I used excel and google earth to find roadway properties and note them. I did some programming using MATLAB to graph and analyze speed and headway data that we collected. I also trained and worked with Angie Loong, another undergraduate student working for Dr. Sharma. We used Lincoln and Omaha traffic maps to record AADT for various intersections.

Apart from my regular work, I had a great time meeting new people. I got to meet other undergraduate students from Texas, and talk about the similarities and differences in our undergraduate career. I also met with and interacted with many other MATC interns during our field trip. I listened to and learned a lot from professionals working in the transport industry during the same trip. We also went for bowling after work, which was organized by Laviania Thandayithabani, where I met some more new people and had a great time.

Working with other students, collecting data, analyzing existing data, challenging my limits, listening to professionals, and getting advice from my mentor have all inspired me to continue working in the field of transportation engineering. I feel like this is what I want to do in future, and this will help me best use my skills and expertise in developing society. I was not sure where I wanted to go after my undergraduate career, but this internship experience has helped me make a decision, and inspired me to keep going on.

I had a great time doing an internship with MATC. My supervisor, MATC staff, and other people I met along the way were very helpful and friendly. Coming to work each day and working was always a new experience, and each night I looked forward for a more exciting, challenging, and educating new day. I believe that this internship and all the things I learned will be valuable to me in the coming days, and will help guide me to the best possible path in the future.