

15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the Western Australian AITPM Young Professional Award for 2021.

I have recently completed a Civil Engineering (honours) and Commerce (Finance) double degree at Curtin University, and am now working as a graduate transport planner at AECOM in Perth. I have been passionate about transport and engineering since I was 10, when I was fortunate to travel to cities such as London, New York and Singapore. Ever since then I have had an abiding interest in how transport infrastructure shapes the urban fabric of major cities. Through high school and university I have been single-minded in my determination to work in the transportation space.

At university, I took every possible opportunity to learn more about transportation, electing to take transport units wherever possible (despite my double degree limiting possible electives). I undertook two transport units at Curtin (the only two available to me), *Transportation Engineering and Earthworks*, and *Traffic and Road Pavement Engineering*, and these units perfectly supplemented my undergraduate work. Similarly, I also got involved in extracurricular works where possible, undertaking a Student-Industry engagement project through Curtin University on the *Forrestfield Airport link tunnel project* in 2017, along with an *Australasian Tunnelling Society Tunnel Design Short Course* in 2019. This culminated in my final year honours thesis, titled *An Investigation of Planning Factors Surrounding the Implementation of Middle Tier Transit in the Perth CBD*. This research project (delivered with input from the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute and Dr./ Peter Newman) considered middle tier transit provision within the Perth Central Business District (CBD), specifically the impact on congestion that is possible from the implementation of a middle tier system. This project investigated the factors surrounding the implementation of middle tier transit in the CBD, and fundamentally aimed to provide a framework to assist with the optimisation of project definition and planning processes to ensure project success.

I was fortunate to attend the 2018 AITPM conference in Perth as a student award winner from Curtin University. Prior to attending the conference, I knew that I loved transport, however, was unsure of what opportunities existed in the industry, along with the diversity of work available! Attending the conference gave me the opportunity to meet many people within the industry and gave me a wonderful insight into the innovation that is occurring. Through attending the various streams, I was fortunate to be exposed to projects and studies that I found particularly interesting, and this led me to pursue a career in transport planning and advisory. Up until the national conference in 2018, I didn't know that this was a career option, so I appreciate the numerous opportunities that attending the conference can provide.

Since 2018, I have been an active member of the WA branch of the AITPM, attending numerous events and webinars to further my knowledge and learn more about the transport profession both locally and nationally. I have been a member of the AITPM Young Professional Committee in WA since March of this year. I am currently assisting with the AITPM YP committee leading the delivery

of a site visit in September, and have more ideas relating to further events that can add value in the coming year.

I also completed a semester abroad from August – December 2018 in Singapore, which I chose because it is a city with a strong Civil Engineering, transport and finance sector. During this time, I was able to experience the efficiency of the Singapore transport system and understand innovations that the country has been implementing. Whilst there, I was a member of the ICE in Singapore, and attended seminars related to transport engineering where possible.

I have been employed in the AECOM Perth Transport Advisory team since December 2018, firstly as an undergraduate transport engineer, then as a graduate transport planner upon graduating in January 2021. In my undergraduate work, I was exposed to city-shaping projects in Perth, such as METRONET planning and design, Perth Airport ground transport planning, and UWA/QEII Master planning. Similarly, I have also been fortunate to gain experience working on modelling projects such as the Mandurah line station internals capacity analysis. These projects only further cemented my passion for the profession and reinforced my love for all things transport!

As a graduate, I have been fortunate to be predominantly involved in METRONET YRE/TCL detailed design, which has been an eye-opening experience to say the least. Working at the delivery stage of such a major project has given me a new understanding of the requirements of projects (that must be considered in the planning phase), along with an appreciation of the level of detail required to ensure that design is safe and provides the intended outcome. I have also been involved in various economic (gap and problem identification) analysis projects, along with GIS-based mapping and strategic work. It has given me a holistic understanding of the project life cycle, having been involved at most stages of various projects from early-stage feasibility and problem analysis, to detailed design and construction.

Should I be fortunate to receive this award, it will give me the opportunity to attend the 2021 conference (something that I would not have been able to attend) and will be a great opportunity to further the knowledge that I have gained from the 2018 conference, my studies, and my work. I am looking forward to travelling to Brisbane, and getting an opportunity to see major projects such as Cross River Rail, along with learning about the country-leading work in micro-mobility (something that is becoming more prominent here in Perth) that is being undertaken. It will also be a great opportunity to see friends from the Perth conference, along with networking with attendees from various backgrounds through social events.

Thank you for your time in considering me for the award. If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,  
Harry Fleming