

## **Australian Institute of Transport Planning and Management Young Professional Awards**

My name is Rebecca Green and am a Transport Engineer at GHD. I would like to nominate for the 2023 AITPM Young Professional Award.

### **Interest in Continuing to Pursue a Career as a Transport and / or Traffic Professional**

I am currently working as a Transport Engineer having graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Civil) in 2020. Throughout my past approximately two years of employment, I have been fortunate enough to work on a wide variety of traffic engineering, transport planning and transport infrastructure projects. This has allowed me to develop some experience in the range and breadth of opportunities traffic and transport professionals may be able to work on in their careers. I have also been able to see the implementation of some of the projects I have worked on in the real world and seen the benefits such projects can bring to transport systems and the communities who use and depend on them. I have found my career so far to be a rewarding and engaging one. It is my ambition to continue to pursue my career as an engineer in traffic and transport, and my hope that through this career I will be able to make a meaningful and positive contribution to the communities in which I work and live.

### **Achievements and Interest in Transport and / or Traffic**

#### *Undergraduate*

I graduated from the University of Tasmania with first class honours in a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Civil) in 2020. During the second year of my degree, I was awarded a scholarship by GHD which included the opportunity to undertake an internship at GHD in Hobart between the second and third and third and fourth years of my degree. I was delighted to take up this opportunity as part of the Transport team.

During my internship I had the opportunity to work on various traffic engineering and transport planning projects, including developing a Workplace Travel Plan for the Hobart office, a Movement Analysis of the Elizabeth Street corridor in Hobart, and general analyses of pavement data, traffic data and road safety data for numerous projects. I found working on these projects to be an interesting experience, and particularly enjoyed the holistic focus on all transport users in terms of multi-modal needs, constraints, and provisions.

During the final year of my degree, I was nominated to present at the AITPM YP 5-5-5 Presentation Event as part of the Online Conference Series, along with several young professionals in the early stages of their careers and the AITPM YP 2020 State Winners. I was honoured to be given this opportunity as the only student presenting in this event to showcase one of the projects I had worked on as part of my internship at GHD to the AITPM community, and to inspiring young professionals from around the country.

During the final year of my degree, I was involved in a project to design a bicycle storage facility for the University of Tasmania Melville Street campus with a focus on sustainability. This involved completing both project management and technical elements of the process. This was my first experience of project management and of a fully self-directed project. I coordinated technical inputs from other engineering students, as well as engaging with potential suppliers of equipment and materials, and with a client

organisation. From a technical perspective, the project involved balancing numerous needs, including safety, equity of access, convenience, security, compliance with standards, innovative solutions to space constraints, sustainable and low carbon design, amenity, and cost. This was a challenging project, and I found it very rewarding when each of the challenges were overcome and enjoyed experiencing a traffic and transport project in a holistic sense.

### *Graduate*

Following my internship at GHD, I was offered a graduate position in the GHD Tasmanian Transport team. During my time as a graduate engineer, I have worked on a wide range of traffic and transport projects for private, local government and state government clients. My interest in traffic and transport has been influenced by the range of projects in which I have been involved, including traffic impact assessments and statements, intersection assessments, corridor studies, intersection modelling using SIDRA Intersection software, network modelling using Aimsun software, options assessments, traffic management, road safety, and road design projects.

During my time at GHD I have had the opportunity to continue my professional development through several training courses and am an accredited Victorian Department of Transport accredited Road Safety Auditor. Additionally, I am accredited to control traffic with stop-slow bat (RIIWH5205E), implement traffic management plans (RIIWH5302E), prepare traffic management plans and traffic guidance schemes (RIICWD503E) and carry out the risk management process (RIIRIS402E).

During my second year of employment, I was awarded the GHD internal annual Tasmanian health, safety and environment award by my colleagues for my demonstration of commitment to safety above and beyond the expected based on my actions to ensure the safety of workers working around traffic and compliance with the Austroads *Guide to Temporary Traffic Management*. I was delighted by this award as I consider safety to be fundamental and vitally important part of the work that I do. I was also internally nominated by my colleagues as someone who has demonstrated technical authority in developing a solution for an external or internal project. I was honoured to be nominated for this award alongside senior technical directors within the Tasmanian business.

### **Efforts and Involvement to Contribute to Advancing Transport Issues**

There are numerous issues that the transport industry is facing currently and will continue to face over the coming years and decades for which it is imperative that traffic and transport professionals understand and seek to address. I believe it is important that all traffic and transport professionals consider these issues, and I aim to contribute to addressing them.

During my employment, I have been involved in establishing and running a national young professional network as part of a four-person steering committee. My role on the steering committee has been working with a small team to organise national transport events for hundreds of people, and to set up and run two working groups each focussed on an important issue facing the transport industry; decarbonisation of transport and mobility. This has involved bringing together interested and passionate young professionals from across the country who work in transport to connect with each other and senior leaders in the business.

As part of this initiative, I have established smaller working groups allowing young professionals to work in their areas of interest with experts to better understand the problems the transport industry is and

will be facing in each of these areas, and what approaches may be able to be taken to address these problems, particularly in terms of embodied carbon, decarbonisation of the movement of people and goods, and governance, economics, commercial and investment decisions.

My involvement has allowed me to form national and international connections and inspire enthusiasm within the young professionals in the business to consider these important issues, how they will affect communities and transport in the future, and what we as young professionals can do to advance these issues. I am proud that through my efforts in this area I have been able to give other young professionals these exciting opportunities to be involved in such important and interesting transport issues.

### **Expected National Conference Attendance Benefits**

I would love to have the opportunity to attend the AITPM National Conference this year. While I have been fortunate to virtually attend some presentations from the 2021 and 2022 conferences, I have not had the opportunity to attend in person.

I am very interested in the technical content of the Conference, particularly in terms of the sustainability and connectivity themes. I see the Conference as a wonderful opportunity to continue my education and expand the knowledge I have gained over my first two years working in traffic and transport. I expect that further education in these areas will not only help me to better understand the traffic and transport sector, its challenges and exciting development in methods and thinking from a general perspective, but also allow me to apply these concepts more directly in my day-to-day work. I think this will be greatly beneficial to my career as I continue to develop my technical experience and understanding.

In addition, I consider that the opportunity to attend the Conference in person would have the significant benefit of allowing me to meet and make connections with other attendees. I believe that connecting directly with industry leaders and other professionals and young professionals will be of great benefit in terms of sharing ideas and creating lasting and meaningful connections.

### **Level of Interest in Engaging with Other Young Professionals**

I have been involved in national and regional young professional groups within GHD and have found my involvement in these groups to be a very rewarding experience. As such, I believe that involvement in the existing Victorian / Tasmanian Branch Young Professionals Network committee would also be a rewarding experience, particularly in terms of connecting with and sharing ideas across regions and making meaningful contributions to the industry and would welcome such an opportunity.