

Harry Jorgensen

Transport Planner



Qualifications

Bachelor of Design
Urban Planning Major -
Transport Design Specialist
University of Melbourne
(2021)

Key Skills

GIS & Site analysis

Knowledge of relevant
planning schemes and
building codes

Excellent computer and
technology skills, including
ArcMap, QGIS and ENVI

As a Graduate Transport Planner with Ratio Consultants, I would like to nominate myself for the AITPM Young Professional Award.

After completing my Bachelor of Design in Urban Planning in 2021, I joined Ratio Consultants where I have worked for the past five months. My role at Ratio Consultants is the realisation of a long-held fascination that transport design has held for me. During my adolescent years, I used to keep a log on my phone tracking the IDs of trams to understand how the trams (and types of tram) were moving between different lines on my way to school. Earlier than that, my bike -or rather, my insistence on leaving my bike in the lobby - led to the first bike rack being installed in my kindergarten.

I commenced my undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne where I initially majored in Geography. Despite the field feeding into a genuine interest of mine, I knew this wasn't an area I could build a career-based passion. I took a gap year and travelled abroad and, without meaning to, realised my focus was continuously drawn to the way international cities, such as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Ho Chi Minh City, Kathmandu, delivered transport networks.

When I returned to Melbourne, I transferred my degree so I could commence my studying planning, specialising in transport design - a full-circle moment. The initial years of my study drew me out of my comfort zone as I studied urban design, as well as strategic transport planning, the area where my interest lay. This interest intensified during my studies since, growing up in Melbourne, I've always been witness to traffic congestion and the issues it poses both as an environmental and social issue.

During my studies I developed an appreciation for sustainability and equitable transport options. Everyone should have access to services, amenities and vibrant localities but not at the expense of the natural environment.

I had begun to view pedestrian-centric Northern European cities as aspirational with their reliance on bikes and was determined to fixate my areas of expertise on the now emerging micromobility and active transport modes that can better integrate our cosmopolitan hubs. This interest informed my completion of a 70-page structure plan for the precinct of Clayton to develop an active and sustainable transport-oriented development during capstone subject Urban Precinct Studio.

I am particularly interested in examining ways our transport network can work at decoupling from the car and how we can create more accessible communities through movement and place frameworks.

I'm invested in looking at ways we can align future-looking placemaking strategies in the public realm, enabling us to think about ways we can amplify this experience through alternative transport modes.

During the final year of my undergraduate studies, I completed an internship at the Institute for Sensible Transport, a consultancy that honed my interest in sustainable transport mobility by advocating for active transport strategies within urban and rural frameworks. This invaluable internship also demonstrated the challenges facing the implementation of these strategies, particularly in regions with budgetary constraints. My internship with the Institute of Sensible Transport underpinned the importance of upholding data led decision-making and how to push back preconceived notions when making these decisions.

As I neared the end of my undergraduate studies, I joined the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) mentoring program, which was been invaluable to my career journey and instrumental to my finding employment at Ratio Consultants.

I continue to meet with my mentor Kate Pannifex who is a planner at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in the Places and Precincts department and place enormous value on the chance to connect with such a knowledgeable person on key issues of interest including sustainable modes of travel and emerging transport policies.

My first industry job with Ratio Consultants has allowed me to build my transport engineering skillset with practical fieldwork. I believe this hands-on knowledge will support me through the next stage of my educational journey when I undertake my Master of Urban Planning, specialising in transport, next year (to be completed simultaneously alongside my current role of employment).

During my time spent at Ratio Consultants, I have had the opportunity to assist with the development of several major transport strategies for major structure plans located in Melbourne's inner south-east and inner east. These transport strategies assist in dictating the ways local councils can manage these activity areas. This work has provided me with an eye-opening opportunity to the complexity of competing transport issues, each competing for limited land, a high concentration of different users and priorities all within activity centres in the early stages of my career.

I've also been privileged to be granted a place on the project team working on a pro bono community centre currently under development in the northern Geelong region which has allowed me to add to my knowledge of understanding how land use or, in this case, change of land use can significantly alter transport requirements, such as car parking.

I have also been granted the opportunity to assist in the completion of several pedestrian and cyclist safety studies conducted for local councils. These safety studies relate to the improvement of activity centres and key pedestrian and cyclist routes which are integral to creating safe environments for residents to participate in active transport since safety is one of the greatest barriers to cycling participation numbers. I find it particularly rewarding working on these projects for the opportunity to practically implement transport philosophy, the positive value they brings to their communities and my enjoyment creating maps through GIS software to understand site issues, opportunities and recommendations spatially.

m: 0459 121 210
e: harry.jorgensen@ratio.com.au

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My role at Ratio Consultants has also seen me attend a number of industry events hosted by leading organisations such as VPELA and PIA as well as those organised by the AITPM (I am a member of the Victorian branch).

My interest in contributing to the field of knowledge available to my peers has seen me author a news article for Ratio Consultants' website: 'E-scooter Trials and Tribulations: A Ratio Reading So Far.' This piece, which analysed the uptake of E-scooters as part of the February 2022 trials in three Melbourne municipalities, was also disseminated as a key feature in the company newsletter, reaching an audience of approximately 3,900 people.

I was also pleased to be able to assist in preparing a major Circulating and Wayfinding Strategy for Mallacoota, deliverable to the Shire of East Gippsland. This project aimed at improving the streetscape layout for the area by informing detailed design and documentation for the public works prepared by project lead, Mesh Planning. In the course of my work, I used my GIS skills to visualise the current attractions and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to assess and visualise the gaps in the overall network.

It would be a privilege to attend the AITPM National Conference in July and where I would look to hear from key industry leaders and, as importantly, expand my professional network.

I place immeasurable value on this opportunity as two out of the three years I spent completing my undergraduate degree took place during pandemic lockdowns, which seriously impacted my ability to form meaningful connections with both my peers and tutors, and I believe that the connections made at in-person events can't be emulated to the same degree through virtual events.

The National Conference will serve as a melting pot of hot topics for the transport industry and will offer attendees a unique opportunity to learn, first-hand, the kinds of existing and emerging solutions being proposed to major industry issues as well as a chance to enter into valuable dialogues with participants.

I'm particularly interested in the key themes underpinning the conference; climate, as it pertains to active transport strategies, and communities, for its focus on planning land-use planning integration and inclusivity which, in my experience, goes hand in hand with the previous two themes.

A large part of my focus in attending this event would not just be acquiring new insights but relaying them back to my team and industry stakeholders. A huge part of our industry's evolution is reliant on the sharing of information, comparing perspectives and measuring these findings against our own knowledge. I would be excited to be a representative of both a younger industry demographic and a slightly left-of-centre voice in the field, given I view the field through both a planning and engineering lens.

For this reason, I would also like to expand on my involvement with the AITPM Victorian branch by becoming involved with the State Branch Committee, taking the opportunity to build upon my knowledge, and represent the presence of, sustainably focused transport planners.

I sincerely appreciate the time taken to consider my application,

Harry Jorgensen