

Dear Selection Committee,

I am currently working as a Transport Analyst at Veitch Lister Consulting (VLC) after recently graduating from a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Transport Planning) and Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) at Monash University. Traffic and transport related subjects in my degree have always stood out for me because they were the first units to convince me that I have the potential change transport attitudes in entire cities. Despite having clear vision of what I would like to achieve as a transport planner, I still recognise that there are many things to learn as a young professional before I have adequate skills to make a real impact.

I made a decision to pursue a career in transport planning after listening to guest lecturers from different international backgrounds - each presenting their own approaches on how they were able to improve entire cities such as Auckland and Singapore. Most importantly, this career and field of engineering excites me most because there is seldom only one solution an issue and because it is a career where you never stop learning as long as you are willing to communicate with others with different opinions. Although transport planning theories such as 'predict and prevent' were well articulated in class, I still felt that it was too ambitious to jump into straight into a career that involves strategic planning without core and technical understanding of what drives transport in cities.

I commenced my employment with VLC before the end of my degree and have since been equipped with technical and practical knowledge from exposure to a large assortment of transport planning projects. Of the tasks I have taken part in at VLC, the highlight would be the series of projects completed for The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, where I was heavily responsible for processing Census demographic data across all major cities in Australia. I was subsequently responsible for using the demographics to build an updated Perth transport model from scratch and learning techniques to interrogate the model for its results. Not only was I able to pick up on numerous technical skills in taking part in the aforementioned series of projects, I was also able to consolidate my knowledge on the four step modelling process previously taught (but never applied) and develop a deeper understanding of drivers behind the planning process. My career goal is to work closely with our Future Transport Director to become a Principal Transport Planner at VLC to advocate for less private vehicle dependent societies.

Being a part of the AITPM National Conference would be an invaluable experience for me who wishes to learn from successful speakers of different backgrounds. In particular, I am most interested in the talks from Paul Steely White and Tim Armitage who are/have been responsible for advocating revolutionary transport attitudes in New York and the United Kingdom respectively. I wish to learn more from Paul about how bicycling, walking and public transportation integrates into dense cities effectively, in doing so; I wish to engineer methods to change Melbourne's reliance on private vehicles. Furthermore, I would like to apply knowledge from Tim's keynote speech to understand how autonomous vehicles could be used to integrate with car-sharing initiatives in major Australian cities. Moreover, after reading the itinerary for last year's National Conference, I am certain that I will be able seek advice from a large roster of more experienced professionals in this field to expand my own knowledge. I envisage that dense parts of Australian cities to be virtually free of private vehicles in the near future, and I believe that I will be able to utilise knowledge from the national conference to make that happen.

If I am fortunate enough to be a part of the AITPM State Branch Committee as a Young Professional representative for a year, in addition to organising existing events, I would like to add new events and workshops to help young professionals develop better public speaking and communication skills. I have unfortunately witnessed a lot brilliant young people miss out on opportunities because of the lack of good communication. In providing this type of training, I believe that professionals in similar situations to me or students early in their careers would be able to articulate their technical skills better when liaising with clients and/or other professionals from different backgrounds.

As a young professional, I am highly interested in the intricacies of transport planning, but more importantly - I am also enthusiastic about change. I hope that I will be able to take part in this experience and be able to gain knowledge to help others and I achieve career goals.

Yours Sincerely,

Clements Chan