



TEN TIPS is a new series from the APA Transportation Planning Division's Emerging Professionals Group. Each installment of the series includes tips from experienced transportation planning professionals aimed at helping students and new planners navigate the industry.

Connecting with Peers

1. **Go to conferences and events sponsored by the APA, WTS, ITE, TRB, etc.;** be engaged, but don't be a pest. *Anonymous*
2. **Be bold to reach out and talk, ask genuine questions, and network daily!** *Madhu Narayanasamy, AICP, Project Manager, CDM Smith*
3. **Follow interesting transportation planning people on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.** Reach out to them through those platforms to ask about their work. *Hilary Perkins, AICP, Planner, City of Maryland Heights, MO*
4. **Picking up the telephone and making a personal call** will result in a better connection with peers than will an email, text, or social media interaction. *Chris Comeau, AICP CTP, Transportation Planner, Bellingham Public Works Engineering*
5. **Volunteer for your professional association, attend conferences and workshops, and volunteer for leadership positions.** It will be one of your best resources for professional development. *Cynthia Hoyle, FAICP, Alta Planning + Design*
6. Statewide associations are a great way to meet other professionals in your field. Be active - volunteer, go to local networking opportunities, and try to serve these groups in whatever capacity in which you are able. **It helps you get to know your fellow transportation planning professionals outside an office setting** and that helps you become more comfortable asking for help or advice on in-office issues. *Shelby Powell, AICP, Deputy Director, NC Capital Area MPO*
7. **Remember that you learn the most from people who have a different background from your own,** so try to connect with people who went to different schools than you did, lived in different places, and specialize in a different area of transportation planning. *Dharm Guruswamy, AICP CTP, Corrective Action Plans Program Manager, FTA WMATA Safety Oversight, Federal Transit Administration*
8. Choose a professional organization like your local APA chapter and volunteer. **Being active and visible is powerful - just don't overcommit.** *Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, Senior Principal, Stantec*
9. Reach out to everyone, particularly those that don't do exactly what you do. **Developing great concepts and projects rely on an array of perspectives and subject-matter expertise.** *Karen Campblin, AICP, Founder|Planner, ktcPLAN*
10. While it's important to connect with your peers, **make sure you connect with planners that are slightly older who can give you guidance and help you avoid potholes along the way.** *Dan Haake, AICP, Freight/Rail Planner VI, CDM Smith*