

**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.

## Enhancing Related Skills

1. **Keep learning, learning is a never-ending process.** *Madhu Narayanasamy, AICP, Project Manager, CDM Smith*
2. Check out short online courses to learn specific skills. Think about skills in relation to a project, **it helps to think about the application when learning something new.** *Catherine Duffy, Chair, APA Transportation Planning Division*
3. **Look for free opportunities**, get advice from coworkers and peers, take initiative, and learn on your own. *Hilary Perkins, AICP, Planner, City of Maryland Heights, MO*
4. At some point, professionals tend to become more specialized in particular areas of expertise. **Focus on the skills that will make you better at your job.** *Chris Comeau, AICP CTP, Transportation Planner, Bellingham Public Works Engineering*
5. **Read, listen to webinars, and take online courses.** *Anonymous*
6. **Learning will always be part of your professional development.** Make an effort to participate in webinars, workshops, and whenever else you can to keep your skills fresh and up-to-date. *Cynthia Hoyle, FAICP, Alta Planning + Design*
7. There are so many free online resources. Make the best use of them. *Anonymous*
8. **Knowledge of transportation engineering, GIS, and economics is valuable** in practice. *Dharm Guruswamy, AICP CTP, Corrective Action Plans Program Manager, FTA WMATA Safety Oversight, Federal Transit Administration*
9. **You must be able to write properly and speak well.** If you are not at the appropriate level, take a class or join a Toastmasters Club. Practice by reading and writing. Ask an experienced, well-spoken colleague to let you do an informal presentation and constructively critique your skills. *Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, Senior Principal, Stantec*
10. **Planning doesn't happen in a vacuum. It's important for young planners to diversify**, not only for your future, but to become more valuable to your employer (i.e. job security). *Dan Haake, AICP, Freight/Rail Planner VI, CDM Smith*