



**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.

## Relocating for a Job

1. **Why not? Any place in the US can be fun to live for a couple of years.** *Anonymous*
2. **Understand what you really want** and then see if the relocation can provide you what you are looking for. *Madhu Narayanasamy, AICP, Project Manager, CDM Smith*
3. **See if you can find a local to tour your around before committing,** planners love to show off their communities! *Hilary Perkins, AICP, Planner, City of Maryland Heights, MO*
4. **As a young planner, always be willing to relocate for the best job available.** You will learn more about other people, places, and yourself if you're willing to try new places. *Chris Comeau, AICP CTP, Transportation Planner, Bellingham Public Works Engineering*
5. **Always be ready to move...that's how you advance your career!** *Anonymous*
6. Ideally, first scout out the potential job market in your targeted locations. Use all of your networks. **Do lots of informational interviews.** *Lindsey Morse, AICP, Research Associate, Railway and Transport Strategy Centre, Imperial College London*
7. Research the community you are considering to **make sure you will be able to work there effectively.** Every community offers lots of opportunities and has its weaknesses, take the opportunities and work to improve the weaknesses. *Cynthia Hoyle, FAICP, Alta Planning + Design*
8. **Do it early on in your career, it will be much harder when you are settled.** *Dharm Guruswamy, AICP CTP, Corrective Action Plans Program Manager, FTA WMATA Safety Oversight, Federal Transit Administration*
9. If you are comfortable with change and your life can accommodate a move, seriously consider taking the chance. **It will help you grow in many ways** and will eliminate one barrier to finding the right position to match your skills and interests. *Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, Senior Principal, Stantec*
10. Take the risk. While everything will be new, **it will provide an objective experience that you might not get near home.** *Dan Haake, AICP, Freight/Rail Planner VI, CDM Smith*