



Zach Staples

Bridge Engineer-In-Training

Bridge
South Fraser Perimeter Road
Delta/Surrey

Job Stream: Science and Technical Officers

1. What do you DO in your current position? Describe the responsibilities, or a day in your life.

Some of my responsibilities involve design review; quantity/cost estimates for a major interchange project, as well as earned value tracking; construction supervision and management of minor projects; and quality auditing.

2. Why did you choose your current position? What was it that interested you in this line of work?

What interested me about my current position was the ability to work on large, high-profile projects in one of the most beautiful regions in the world. I also have been given a chance to develop a thorough understanding of structural design and construction, eventually to an expert level. Working with experts in the field, allows me a great opportunity for knowledge transfer.

3. What do you like most/feels rewarding about your current position?

Seeing projects from concept to completion is an extremely rewarding experience. The increasing responsibility and autonomy allows you to make projects your own, and take pride in work that you are responsible for completing.

4. What formal or informal education has been important to you?

I have a Bachelor's degree in Structural Engineering with a minor in business. I've also taken various project management courses offered by the Ministry (for free). As well, day-to-day discussions with practicing engineers, designers, project managers and contractors has been the most rewarding education experience to date.

5. So far, how does your current position fit into the career path you expected to have?

My current position puts me far ahead of what I expected as my first job out of university. Right out of the gate, I'm involved in managing several large scale projects, which has allowed me to develop a knowledge base for various aspects of highway construction, as well as project management.

6. What is your favourite thing about working at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure?

The ability to work on high-profile, fast-paced projects that really impact the community. It allows you to take pride in seeing the general population benefit and enjoy the work you've performed.

7. What attracted you to the area you currently reside in/ (i.e. Nelson – Skiing)

With world class skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and rock climbing just a 20-minute drive from the Lower Mainland, including salmon fishing, kayaking, canoeing, crabbing... needless to say, there are several attributes of this area that are attractive to any young professional.

8. What type of personal interests do you have? (i.e. Married, kids, single, favourite sports, hobbies, etc.)

I currently play on several hockey teams and have played in a couple volleyball leagues. I enjoy many summer activities such as hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing and kayaking. My winter fun includes snowshoeing and skiing. I also enjoy the vibrant music scene the city has to offer.