

Dina López

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Education

Masters Studies in Urban Geography (1999), Ohio University, Athens OH

Bachelor of Arts, Urban Geography (1997), University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

Professional Experience

Principal Planner – Freight

MORPC

December 2013 – Present

My position focuses on regional Freight planning efforts, particularly as it relates to coordinating transportation improvement projects with the Columbus region's Economic Development strategies.

My responsibilities include:

- Identifying and securing funding for transportation projects and assisting projects to implementation.
- Coordinating regional, large area or site-specific projects or policy issues primarily in funding of transportation projects and related federal and state transportation regulation and law.
- Informing the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan's freight component.
- Identifying and acquiring or developing appropriate transportation planning analysis procedures; drawing conclusions; documenting procedures and results in technical and non-technical reports, preparing and presenting results to audiences of varying technical expertise.
- Obtaining project-relevant data from various sources and summarizing it for decision makers and the public.
- Project Manager for the 2017 Rickenbacker Comprehensive Area Study. This study is a collaboration effort between MORPC, the Columbus Region Airport Authority, economic development stakeholders, local government agencies and private sector groups with the purpose of identifying infrastructure needs to ensure the continued success the area.

Other projects of note include:

- Columbus to Chicago Passenger Rail project (ongoing).
- The transportation working group of Mayor Michael B. Coleman's Jobs, Expansion and Transportation (JET) Task Force. For more information on the JET Task Force, please visit: <https://columbus.gov/planning/jettaskforce>.
- MORPC's input into ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)'s yearly funding program. This includes liaising with ODOT Districts within MORPC's Metropolitan Planning Organization area, coordinating a project prioritization analysis for funding applications, providing recommendations on project ranking to the commission, and relaying the commission-approved recommendations to TRAC.
- Sessions Program developer for the 2017 Ohio Conference on Freight.
- Coordinator of the Ohio Association of Regional Governments (OARC)'s freight working group. This group comes together to share best practices, and to discuss state freight policies and their impacts to the planning programs of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Mid-State Freight web application (<http://apps.morpc.org/midstatefreight/>), an web tool designed to provide a wide ranging audience with comprehensive information about freight and logistics in Central Ohio.

Land Use Planner

Comtech International, Markham ON May 2013 – Present

- Responsible for coordinating and securing major development approvals for Tim Hortons site renovation projects across Canada. This includes coordinating the completion of various required plans and studies (grading, servicing, landscaping plans, regional and local land use policy rationalization pieces (as required by the development approval process).
- Oversight of a small team of planners and CAD technicians to prepare minor development permit applications (sign permits, demolition permits) for the replacement of the drive-through menu boards of Tim Hortons sites across Canada.
- Comprehensive site analysis of various potential 7-11 sites in the city of Toronto. This included a demographic analysis, infrastructure strengths and deficiencies (parking, sidewalks, surrounding businesses, etc).

Project Planner

MMM Group Limited, Thornhill ON

July 2007 – April 2012

- Responsible for overseeing the monitoring and review of a database specifically created to track land use policy initiatives and development applications in the Halton-Hamilton-Niagara area as part of an extensive contract with a major infrastructure client. This included analyzing proposed planning documents such as draft Official Plans, Zoning By-laws, and Urban Design Guidelines, and communicating with municipalities to comment on behalf of the client on proposed policies impacting infrastructure.
- Responsible for the coordination of a mixed use development project that includes three schools, parkland, 30 hectares of commercial use, a portion of the area's Natural Heritage System, and ±2,400 new residential units for a group of high profile clients. This included liaising with Conservation Authorities, Regional offices, and other stakeholders to achieve an appropriate concept and obtain the necessary development approvals.
- Provided various planning and coordination services as part of a large team of consultants working on a high profile international project. This included liaising with colleagues abroad, reviewing previous policies and land use studies, and working on a monitoring plan to be activated at the time proposed policies are implemented, in order to assess their effectiveness.
- Performed various planning analysis and background research for policy and land-use development projects.

Planning Technician II

City of Coquitlam, Coquitlam BC

June 2005 – Sept. 2006 (temporary contract)

Served as an Application/File Manager for development applications in the area covered by the Northeast Coquitlam Area Plan (NECAP). Responsibilities included:

- Managing development applications and coordinating communications within the City departments, and between City Staff and the applicant.
- Coordinating external referrals for applications needing the input from other government organizations, such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and various neighbourhood associations.
- Reviewing concept plans for proposed developments and providing comments as they relate to the City's Zoning By-law, the Official Community Plan, and the Subdivision and Development Servicing By-law.
- Providing Policy Planning staff with feedback on the implementation of various land use policies in the Northeast Coquitlam area for monitoring purposes.

- Writing reports related to development applications for the consideration of City Council.
- Responding to public inquiries regarding development and planning issues.

Land Use Planner

Peace River Regional District, Fort St. John BC Jan.2005 – May 2005 (temp. contract)

- Produced reports, site inspections, and recommendations for Agricultural Land Reserve development applications. The reports were submitted regularly to the BC Agricultural Land Commission.
- Produced reports, site inspections, and recommendations for the Regional Board of Directors relating to the North Peace River Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment applications.
- Drafted amendments to the Official Community Plan and Zoning By-laws.
- Processed information requests for the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, real estate agencies, and various government agencies in response to land use referrals.
- Drafted public notices, organized public meetings, and coordinated staff and directors' attendance. Recorded minutes for public hearings or public meetings related to the Development Services department.
- Attended inter-governmental agency meetings as related to land use issues.
- Responded to public inquiries and concerns relating to land use matters, and ensured follow-up action was taken either by letter or phone call.

Associate Land Use Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus OH Oct. 1999 – Dec. 2004

- Assisted in the creation of land use and demographic projections for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) metropolitan statistical area. This data was used in the Regional Transportation model, as well as in various land use studies.
- Contributed to the creation and improvement of land use studies and demographic information suitable for MORPC's transportation planning.
- Represented MORPC at various conferences, meetings, and community out-reach sessions relating to the agency's land use planning efforts.
- Assisted the public and private sector with statistics requests, such as census data, traffic counts, aerial photos, development information, and maps.

Lecturer/Instructor

Ohio University, Athens OH July 1999 – Aug. 1999 and Sept. 2001 – Nov. 2001

- Prepared and instructed material for the Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 121) class for Ohio University's Geography Department.

Land Use Planning Internship

Ross County Planning Department, Chillicothe OH Dec. 1998 – Sept. 1999

- Worked with the County Planner in collecting and analyzing land use data for a county-wide GIS database.
- Gathered and analyzed data regarding lot splits and new suburban residential subdivisions and contributed to a study on urban sprawl.
- Worked with the Planning Commission in organizing and running public meetings that allowed the community to become involved in Ross County's land use planning process.

References

Given upon request