Tara O’Leary - Technical Manager

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BEng Hons in Civil Engineering, University College Dublin, 2002.

Chartership: Transport Planning Professional (TPP), 2011.

Assessor for Transport Planning Professional (CIHT), 2016.

Member of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (MCIHT).

I am an accomplished project manager with over 14 years of extensive experience in transport planning and traffic engineering. For the last 12 years I have been working with SWECO (previously Grontmij) on high profile landmark projects such as the £1.35 billion Forth Replacement Crossing (Queensferry Crossing), several multi-million pound City Deal partnerships, the £50 million A96 Dualling Scheme and the £1 million Winchburgh Masterplan. Previous to working in Scotland I spent two years at RPS-Group based in Dublin.   
My key skills involve delivering large-scale projects such as new motorway junctions, university campuses, town plans and major road schemes across Ireland and Scotland from inception through to construction. I have successfully managed a wide range of public and private sector projects, my duties on said projects include liaising with both clients and my fellow associates, managing large individual teams of up to 30 people, co-ordinating tasks and project delivery and the overseeing of project finances.

I have managed a range of small, medium and large framework tenders, and have a highly successful track record with a large number of commissions. A recent success such as the Scottish Government framework and Scotland Excel involves 32 local authorities. I also have a high level of success with repeat clients, working for many years successfully delivering projects and continually building and maintaining client relations. I am noted for my ability to work to tight schedules and short timescales. I also possess very strong presentation and report writing skills, and have delivered many presentations at public consultation and committee meetings. I am also an experienced expert witness at inquiry. I gained chartership through the CIHT in 2011 as a Transport Planning Professional. Since 2011 I have mentored a number of junior staff through this process. Recently I have become an assessor with the CIHT for TPP.

Key skills:

Vast experience in project management, resource planning, task co-ordination and finances.

Financial reporting and timesheets.  
Considerable client and local authority liaison skills.  
Key technical skill in all areas of transport planning, traffic modelling and traffic engineering.   
Excellent Traffic Management and Transport Modelling experience.  
Comprehensive communications and report writing skills.  
Expert Witness.   
Team management across a number of office locations.   
Business case development and adept use of MS Project, Excel and Word.

Key project experience:  
  
Transport Team Leader

Client: Transport Scotland 2010 – ongoing  
  
Forth Replacement Crossing, Edinburgh   
This is Scotland’s biggest transport infrastructure project in a generation, I am the traffic team leader responsible for the management of the analysis of junction layouts for the north and south approaches to the new crossing. This requires key technical skills and ongoing liaison with a range of national and local authorities. I am also managing the detailed design elements of the traffic signal layouts, site testing and implementation.   
   
Project Manager  
Client: North Lanarkshire Council & SPT April 2015 – 2016

NLC STAG Transport Options, Plains, Glenboig & Abronhill   
This project required that three STAG studies are carried out for the areas of: Plains, Glenboig and Abronhill. As the Project Manager I was the main point of contact with responsibility for managing its delivery, cost, quality and programme. I managed an engagement campaign with the stakeholders and local communities and worked closely with NLC and SPT along with the transport leads from each area to successfully deliver the Pre-Appraisal and Part 1 STAG. This project was selected by Transport Scotland as an example of STAG best practice. I also recently presented on this project at a recent 150 plus delegate conference in Scotland.   
   
Project Manager  
Client: Queen Margaret University March 2005 – ongoing

Queen Margaret University relocation  
I was involved with this project from its inception through to the opening of its new campus and I maintain an ongoing advisory relationship with the client seconding junior staff to the university to manage all if its transport needs and ongoing developments. I have ensured that the university is at the forefront of transport innovation continually developing new web apps and online systems to manage its transport more efficiently.   
  
  
Traffic Team Leader  
Winchburgh Development Ltd March 2005 – ongoing  
  
Winchburgh Development Initiative, West Lothian  
I have overseen the development of a range of reports for the planning application and masterplan for the expansion of the town from approximately 1,500 to 10,000 people once the scheme is completed. This has meant building and maintaining relations with Transport Scotland, West Lothian Council and a rail steering group. My detailed and extensive transportation work delivered on this project has allowed Transport Scotland to set aside government policy and provide approval for a new motorway junction and a new rail station.

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