

INTERNSHIP REPORT

Boubakar Diallo

North Quincy High School

Duration: July - September 2022.

Supervisor: Allison Ruel, P.E. (Traffic Engineer)



CITY OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting

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Acknowledgment

First, I would like to thank Mr. Edward N. Grennon, Jr., Director of the Department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting (TPAL), for allowing me to do an internship for the city of Quincy.

It was a unique experience to be an intern at the TPAL, and it also helped me to reinforce my interest in engineering and public work. My days with Mr. Edward allowed me to work, learn and observe a man with great personality, intelligence, leadership, and sociality. Mr. Edward is a man who spends his days and nights making the road and streets safe for people.

I also want to thank my supervisor, Allison Ruel, for being my mentor and teaching me about engineering and office work, including writing a recommendation for a project. She also recognized my talent and achievement and encouraged me to accomplish more. I had a great time learning with you and seeing the beautiful part of an engineering job.

I also would like all the people who work in the Department of Public Works. Their friendliness and openness created an enjoyable working environment.

Furthermore, it is indeed with a great sense of pleasure and immense sense of gratitude that I acknowledge the help of these individuals. I am highly indebted to Sarah Welch, Fred Sousa, and Katy McDonough. You were the people with whom I passed my hours in the TPAL, and I appreciate your presence and help.

I am highly grateful to Mr. Ragusa, who helped me find and apply for this internship.

Summary

This report details a summer internship at the Department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting, in the City of Quincy. It was a fantastic opportunity to do a two-month internship in public works. The internship was concentrated on making streets, roads, alleys, and avenues safe for people to use. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death in children and young adults in America. In addition, about one in three Americans will be injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash. Our mission was to minimize this risk and allow people to be and feel safe without wondering.

Introduction

The Department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting (TPAL) is responsible for the traffic and parking operations within the city, including the maintenance and functionality of traffic signal systems and enforcement and oversight of parking regulations. The Alarm Division is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the city's fire alarm network and conducting commercial building plan reviews of sprinkler and fire alarm systems. The Lighting Division is responsible for monitoring and providing essential support services for the city's street lighting and lighting of public areas, including sports fields and parking facilities.

Description of the Internship

At the beginning of my internship, I was assigned to collect data for 46 intersections in the City of Quincy. My task was to collect the types of pedestrian signs and problems in the intersections. My study's location covers the city's busiest intersections, including downtown, Hancock St, and Washington St). I went to all the intersections, looking for misplaced pedestrian signs and crosswalks. I also looked for changes or improvements that they could make. I tested all pedestrian signals in the intersection, looking first for the type of pedestrian sign and then for the functionality of the pedestrian signs. At the end of each study, I had to report my study and create a file for the work conducted. The objective of this project was to gather information to propose to the city to improve and update these intersections. During this project, I went to many construction sites with my supervisor. One day, we visited a building construction site on Hancock St. We visited the site, and after review, they agreed to place a pedestrian sign near the construction. The next day, we went to a pre-construction meeting at Merrymount Parkway. They represented the Quincy Natural Resources Department, my department, the Department of Public Works, and their contractors K.R. Rezendes, INK. The project was the improvement of over 2,248 feet on Hancock St by replacing side work and removing the granite curb. The meeting was about the problems the constructors and the city have with finance, material, and time. At the end of my study, I had to create a report on my findings and a recommendation to make changes. Next, after this project, I was assigned to improve the parking permit receipt and to make them daily. In my last activity, I was given to archive all the work done during 2019, 2021, and 2022 by the department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting (TPAL).

Learning Experience

In the beginning, I did not have any experience working with people. However, more than I had expected, this internship helped me to improve my understanding of English and communication. Therefore I was reserved in communication at the beginning, but it went better over the course of months.

Conclusion

On the whole, this internship was a wonderful experience. I have gained new knowledge and skills and met many new people. I got an insight into professional practice. I learned skills to work with people and improve public safety. Related to my study, I learned more about pedestrians with disabilities and how to improve the street to help people with disabilities in our society. The Department of Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting, in the City of Quincy, plays a crucial role in making people safe when using the roads and streets. The internship was also good for discovering my strengths and weaknesses. This internship helped me to define what skills and knowledge I have to improve in the coming time. Lastly, this internship has given me new insights and motivation to pursue my interest and career in engineering.