

Stephanie Denis

Senior Associate



Stephanie Denis has over six years of experience as a multimodal planner with a focus on transit and pedestrian facilities. She specializes in transit planning and coordination, and has extensive experience in rural transit service.

Stephanie has completed non-motorized data collection, level of service analyses at transit stations, corridors, and downtowns in New Orleans, and the Washington DC area. She has led community walking tours identifying barriers to walking and cycling in and around New York City.

EDUCATION

Master of Urban Planning, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School for Public Service at New York University
B.A., History and English, University of Delaware

EXPERIENCE

Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates Inc.

Senior Associate, 2011–Present, Associate Project Planner, 2008-2011, Associate, 2006-2008, Intern, 2005-2006

Transit Feasibility

- **Dutchess Transit Feasibility, Dutchess County, NY (2010).** In light of service cuts to the rural northeast portion of Dutchess County, a local non-profit hired NN to complete a needs assessment for future service to be provided by a combination of the county and a new operator. Involved focus groups, surveys, and creation of alignment alternatives. Helped the potential new operator write a New Freedom grant, which has been received.
- **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study, Walden, NY (2007).** Projected ridership for conversion of a freight rail spur off the Port Jervis Metro-North line into passenger service. Future travel demand was based on existing commute times and costs versus potential savings.
- **Nogales Transit Feasibility and Implementation Study, Nogales, AZ (2007).** The study determined the viability of initiating transit service within Nogales, a small border town. Assessed needs using federal guidelines to forecast transit demand on new bus service based on population projections for transit-dependent demographic groups.

Transit Surveys & Data Collection

- **Glens Falls Transit Development Plan (2008-2009).** Coordinated and supervised onboard passenger survey distribution for fixed route service in Glens Falls, NY. Achieved nearly 50 percent daily ridership response rate, and participated in subsequent route evaluations and recommended modifications.
- **Cortland County Transit Needs Assessment (2008).** Created a survey targeted at non-users of the transit system to elicit common origins and destinations and community thoughts regarding bus service. To maximize responses, the survey was available online and via hard copies placed throughout the county.
- **Albany NY Route 5 Bus Rapid Transit Operations Plan (2007).** Ran origin-destination data collection effort on two CDTA routes to determine station locations for BRT stations along Central Avenue from downtown Albany to Schenectady. Trained temporary workers for four days of survey distribution and collection.

Multimodal Studies

- **Wiehle Ave Multimodal Level of Service Analysis (2010).** In light of planned Metrorail extension into Reston, VA. Fairfax County undertook an analysis of proposed non-motorized station access projects required around the new station using a Multimodal Level of Service model developed for NCHRP. Due to shortcomings in the NCHRP model, created a new critical model, using metrics for optimal intersection design, to rate and rank the projects and create an implementation timeline.
- **Jackson Heights Neighborhood Transportation Study (2009-Present).** Jackson Heights in Queens, NY has a bustling, active downtown that is also beset by many transportation problems: congestion, noise, double

parking, and unsafe pedestrian crossings. The project involved extensive public outreach to understand the neighborhood's issues as well as workshops designed to teach people about short-term strategies, like parking regulations and signal timing changes, that can markedly improve walking conditions.

- **Minnesota Avenue Great Streets (2009-Present).** The Great Streets program in Washington, D.C. is a multi-agency effort to transform several corridors into successful neighborhoods through street design. An evaluation criteria matrix with scores was created to assess elements of the street design to ensure that the design meets the Great Streets goals. Wrote a research document supporting elements of the matrix and scoring.
- **Abu Dhabi Street Design Manual, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2009).** Collected curb-to-curb best practice research as part of a design team tasked with creating a world-class street design manual for the entire emirate of Abu Dhabi, with the goal of retrofitting current highway-like arterials as pedestrian-oriented streets.
- **New Orleans Mobility and Parking Study (2008).** Conducted data collection on walking conditions, vehicle speeds, and circulation patterns in downtown New Orleans with the goal of improving parking utilization and pedestrian circulation upriver and downriver.
- **Salam Street Charrette, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2006).** Assisted project team hired by the Executive Affairs Authority of Abu Dhabi to lead a four-day charrette in Abu Dhabi envisioning design options for a major arterial reconstruction in the heart of city of Abu Dhabi. Designs included large-scale regional network plans, detailed intersection layouts, block patterns, and pedestrian circulation.
- **Benjamin Franklin Parkway Parking and Circulation Study, Philadelphia, PA (2006).** Transportation planner for Phase II of this two-part corridor study. Phase I studied changing land uses with a focus on access and parking issues tied to anticipated changes in visitation, residential, and occupational land use patterns. Phase II examined access and integration issues surrounding the entire Parkway corridor. Project Participation included:
 - Conducted traffic and parking counts
 - Network analysis of vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation
 - Signal timing and Level of Service evaluations
 - Public outreach representative at open house

Coordinated Transportation

- **Chicago RTA Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan (2008).** Data collection and survey analysis for a study coordinating the numerous human services transportation programs in the RTA's seven-county service area. Interviewed current providers and mapped coverage for each county.
- **Hudson County, NJ Public Transit Human Services Plan (2009).** Publicized and helped run stakeholder workshops and public workshop as part of the county's federally mandated human services plan.

GIS Mapping & Graphics

- **New Orleans Mobility and Parking Study (2008).** Seven intersections and places were chosen to be redesigned with elements such as roundabouts, curb extensions, new crosswalks, and a transit mall. In Vector Works, a CAD program, laid out the existing aeriels and drew recommended design.
- **NYMTC Human Services Transportation Plan (2009).** Created a series of GIS maps analyzing transit dependent populations for the 10-county New York City metro region as part of NYMTC's human services coordination plan. Using Census data at the block group level, the maps displayed the total number and density of older adults, persons with low income, and persons with disabilities.
- **Rochester Satellite Transit Centers Location Study (2008).** Geocoded transit stops and created ridership maps buffered within a half mile of each stop to determine locations for a new transit center.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council

Intern, 2005–2006

- Researched Census 2000 errata, developed manual for annual Hub Bound Report, organized events, inventoried GIS data.

New Jersey Transit

Intern, 2005

- Developed manual for analysis of NJ Transit's Joint Benefit Agreement with Amtrak.

Office of the Inspector General of the MTA

Audit Intern, 2005

- Examined Long Island Railroad's employee timesheets and identified excessive overtime and penalty payments. Other duties included visiting train yards and interviewing supervisors, creating charts and graphs, and writing memos.

The Insight Works, Inc.

Assistant Project Director, 2004–2005

- Supported planning and operations for a market research company focusing on visual ethnographies conducted by anthropologists. Duties included maintaining databases, coordinating videographers and anthropologists, and drafting recruiting screeners.

PUBLICATIONS

- Riis Beach: A Gate to Gateway. Conducted 8-month group project for the National Park Service assessing adaptive reuse options for former Coast Guard Station Rockaway. Wrote transportation section of report, identifying options for access to the area via ferry and public transportation. Highlighted importance of signage and wayfinding to circulate visitors from the coast guard building to nearby Riis Beach. http://www.waterwire.net/capstone/about_us.html#.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- American Planning Association
- Women's Transportation Seminar