

Ralph DeNisco

Senior Associate



Ralph DeNisco has over 14 years of transportation planning experience, with a history of successfully implementing a variety of transportation projects in challenging environments. Ralph has channeled his understanding of interrelated transportation issues into actions able to win both community and agency support. He has developed city parking policy, implemented new technology, creatively tailored on-street parking regulations, and negotiated parking requirements with developments large and small. Ralph has specialized in working with business, merchant and neighborhood groups on complex parking and transportation issues.

EDUCATION

MA Urban Affairs , Boston University Metropolitan College
BA Economics, Boston College

EXPERIENCE

Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates Inc.
Senior Associate, 2010–Present

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

McMahon Associates, Boston, MA
Project Manager, 2007–2010

Boston Transportation Department, Boston, MA
Senior Transportation Planner, 1996–2007

- **MBTA Bus Route 39 Transit Corridor Improvement Program, Boston, MA.** Project Manager: Leading McMahon’s effort to enhance passenger accessibility, reduce travel times, and improve operations along its #39 bus route in Boston, which runs from Forest Hills in Jamaica Plain to Back Bay station. Route 39 is the MBTA’s second most used bus route and travels along a series of challenging street environments. Working with an appointed Task Force, McMahon developed a consensus plan to consolidate and enhance bus stops along a congested section of the corridor. McMahon recommended traffic signal phasing and timing improvements at select locations to improve bus service, including the potential for signal priority systems. Recommended improvements also include consolidation of bus stops, improved bus stop amenities, guidelines for the design and location of curb extensions, and preliminary cost estimates. A pilot program will add curb extensions at four key bus stop locations and McMahon is leading the design of these improvements under Ralph’s supervision. All improvements are being continually coordinated with the City of Boston and with the community through a process that Ralph developed.
- **“28X” Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), MBTA/MassDOT, Boston, MA.** Project Manager Day-to-day coordination and direction of a multidisciplinary team that conducted transit planning, traffic engineering, urban design, and public outreach support work for a proposed BRT line. The BRT proposal would replace the MBTA’s Bus Route 28 in Boston, one of the MBTA’s top five busiest bus routes. The proposal included retrofitting an existing arterial roadway with dedicated bus lanes running in a median reservation. Other BRT features included new transit stations with increased passenger amenities, and transit operations enhancements such as queue jumping and traffic signal priority to speed service and improve reliability.
- **Jamaica Plain Centre Street/South Street Area Transportation Action Plan, Boston Transportation Department, Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA.** Project Manager: Mr. DeNisco is leading a multidisciplinary team to complete a Streetscape and Transportation Action Plan for the Centre/South Street corridor in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston. The community driven plan will create an overarching vision for the corridor. The project team is providing inventory, documentation, and analysis of existing conditions while developing cutting-edge strategies for streetscape elements and corridor redesign. With a corridor vision and streetscape guidelines established, McMahon is leading the effort to redesign key locations (Monument Square, Hyde Square, Mozart Park) with an emphasis on placemaking and modal

balance. Additional recommendations on parking, bicycling and public transportation are also part of the final corridor plan.

- **MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Project, MBTA, Boston, MA.** Project Manager: Performing design and planning services to identify and implement improvements along key MBTA bus routes in and around the City of Boston. Proposed improvements include stop consolidations along the #23 and #39 routes to reduce travel times, improve operations, and provide opportunities for rider amenities at proposed locations. Specific improvements designed include traffic signal timing and phasing, queue jump lanes, bus shelters, curb extensions, signage and pavement markings. All improvements are being coordinated with the City of Boston and neighborhood task forces. Recommendations were made in the context of enhancing accessibility minimizing impacts to on-street parking and level of service for general traffic along roadways and intersections.
- **Wachusett Gardner Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study, Montachusett Regional Transit Authority, Fitchburg, Westminster, and Gardner, MA.** Project Manager: Mr. DeNisco served as the Project Manager of a multidisciplinary team to determine the cost, benefits, schedule, and funding options for extending commuter rail service from Boston west of its current terminus in Fitchburg. The feasibility study required evaluation of a multimodal set of service alternatives in order to satisfy FTA funding requirements. He also led the public and stakeholder processes to determine locations for stations, and an associated 400 space parking facility. The final recommendation is a 4.5 mile extension to a new Wachusett Station and a passenger rail layover facility. McMahon secured federal funding for the project through the TIGER program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- **Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project, Montachusett Area Regional Transit Authority (MART).** Senior Transportation Planner: Served as Owner's Representative for MART in developing and executing planning and funding strategies for improvements to the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line. Completed and filed an Alternatives Analysis (AA) Report with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for a \$150 million Improvements Project through the Small Starts program. The AA involved coordinating a rail simulation, demographic projections, ridership information and cost estimates to determine Cost Effectiveness.
- **Comprehensive Parking Program, Town of Reading, MA.** Senior Planner: Spearheaded data collection efforts for downtown Reading and its environs as part of the development of a Comprehensive Parking Program. Working with Nelson\Nygaard Associates, the program's intent is to develop an overall parking strategy for Reading's business district, station area, and adjacent residential streets. Recommendations to be considered include construction of a parking facility, demand management approaches and tailored curbside regulations. Working directly for the Town Manager, the program's process includes coordination with town departments, the Board of Selectmen, Chamber of Commerce, and individual merchants and residents.
- **Hyde Park (Boston), MA Master Plan, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Boston, MA.** Lead Transportation Planner: Mr. DeNisco is serving as the lead planner for Transportation as part of a multidisciplinary effort to complete a Master Plan for the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston. Mr. DeNisco has developed and presented an overall picture of existing conditions and issues and opportunities for all transportation modes in Hyde Park, and integrated findings with Land Use, Economic Development, Open Space and other Master Plan disciplines. Current work is focusing on developing the transportation impacts of build-out scenarios associated with Transit Oriented Development plans for the central neighborhood business district. Recommendations for mode shares, parking, traffic management, transit improvements, and pedestrian circulation are being developed jointly.
- **Dedham Master Plan, Community Opportunity Group, Inc., Dedham, MA.** Transportation Task Manager: Working as part of a multidisciplinary team, Mr. DeNisco led McMahon's efforts to prepare the transportation section of the Master Plan for the Town of Dedham. Mr. DeNisco participated in workshops with the entire Master Plan Committee and worked closely with the Transportation Subcommittee to develop goals. The final transportation plan included a compilation of existing conditions, a review of issues and opportunities leading to recommendations for parking, street design, traffic calming, promoting public transportation and prioritizing transportation improvements.

- **Thompsonville Transit Center, Town of Enfield, Enfield, CT Senior Planner.** As Senior Planner, Mr. DeNisco supported efforts to develop a concept design and feasibility study for the proposed intermodal transit center in Enfield, CT. He assisted in the evaluation of station sites and concept designs to ensure compatibility with ongoing planning efforts and the town's revitalization goals. Mr. DeNisco participated in the agency and public process, and coordinated communication with abutting landowners and potential developers. He prepared presentations and key findings reports on behalf of the multidisciplinary team which showed the recommended phased approach to the Thompsonville Transit Center, as feasible and fundable for bus service today, and expandable to allow Enfield to be incorporated in the eventual Knowledge Corridor rail service.
- **Franklin Regional Transit Center, Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), Greenfield, MA.** Senior Planner: McMahon is serving as Owner's Project Manager for the FRTA to complete planning and oversight work for the development of a Transit Center in downtown Greenfield. As Senior Planner, Mr. DeNisco supported efforts to develop concept designs, while completing scheduling and funding overviews for the facility. He has taken the lead role in reviewing the local permitting requirements for the facility, incorporating the permitting process into the overall project schedule and meeting with town to initiate the permitting process. Coordination with the Greenfield Redevelopment Authority is also ongoing as the Site is located in Urban Renewal district.
- **South End Neighborhood Economic Revitalization, City of Springfield, Springfield, MA.** Project Manager: As part of a multidisciplinary team, provided transportation planning and review in support of the City's neighborhood revitalization plans. Mr. DeNisco's work included overview of existing conditions, independent transportation analysis, and collaborative development of revitalization strategies. Participated in interagency meetings and coordination with City staff.
- **Lower Washington Street Zoning Change, City of Melrose, Melrose, MA.** Project Manager: Responsible for reviewing the potential traffic impacts and submitting a traffic assessment with proposed zoning changes in the Lower Washington Street Industrial Zone in Melrose, MA. The work involved assessments of traffic operations and safety conditions in the Lower Washington Street area with proposed zoning changes. Work included close coordination with City of Melrose planning staff, abutters and the local community.
- **Peer Review Services, MASCO - The Medical, Academic and Scientific Community Organization, Boston, MA** Project Manager: Provided peer review services of the proposed Parcel 7 development over the Massachusetts Turnpike. To help MASCO understand the broad range of potential transportation issues, conducted a detailed review of the proposed Site Plan, development program, parking, proposed shuttle bus access routes, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. McMahon subsequently was retained by MASCO to conduct a detailed review of a traffic signal warrant analysis completed as part of an institution's development proposal.
- **Bus Stop Planning and Design Guidelines, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), Boston, MA** Project Manager: Responsible for standardizing MBTA policy for the siting, design, and amenities for its bus stops, which serve over 700,000 daily passengers. Led McMahon's efforts to apply all of the best national bus stop practices for use by the MBTA. For all of its bus stop elements, from placement to materials to incorporating such passenger amenities as signage and shelters, McMahon performed research, developed guidelines and criteria, and created graphics and tables.
- **Allston Walgreens Traffic Impact Study, GLC Development Resources, Allston, MA.** Project Manager: Provided transportation engineering services for the proposed Walgreens to be located at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Hano Street in the Union Square area of Boston's Allston neighborhood. Completed a traffic impact study for two intersections and the evaluation of adding a left turn lane to Cambridge Street to facilitate Site access. Coordinated work with the Boston Transportation Department and attended several neighborhood meetings.
- **Keene Master Plan, City of Keene, NH.** Senior Transportation Planner: As part of a multidisciplinary team, Mr. DeNisco is leading McMahon's efforts to integrate multi-modal transportation planning into the Keene Master Plan. The Master Plan is making specific recommendations in support of the City's six predefined focus areas. Recommendation will be from both a technical and visionary perspective, with a

multimodal approach including vehicular traffic, bus routes, pedestrian access, bicycle accommodations, and parking.

- **Roxbury Master Plan, Boston, MA.** As BTD's representative, worked on integrating transportation issues with all disciplines and recommendations for the Roxbury Master Plan. Completed oversight of the transportation subconsultant, including review of data collection, analysis and recommendations, especially as regarded potential development parcels. Participated in all public and interagency meetings, through the development of the Master Plan, and subsequently with the Roxbury Master Plan Oversight Committee. Guided the community and the RSMPOC in outlining the need for and specifics of a transportation model for Roxbury.
- **Transportation and Operations Analysis Network, Boston, MA.** Led the City of Boston's effort to develop a large scale transportation model covering 280 intersections in the Fenway, Longwood Medical Area, Lower Roxbury and South End. Developed concept, scope and RFP for modeling effort. Primary uses are to standardize development impact analysis, facilitate in-house signal review, and assist long-term planning. Determined inputs, data gathering and technical coordination for all network elements. Managed consultant and internal City department review. Established use and protocol standards for ongoing operation and maintenance.
- **Peabody Square Redesign Improvement Project, Dorchester, MA.** Project Manager: Lead the City's effort to complete construction documents for the redesign of Peabody Square, a sixlegged intersection on Dorchester Avenue adjacent to Ashmont Station. Conducting ongoing community process to select and develop preferred alternative. Leading internal city agency review process to ensure design feasibility. Managing engineering and landscape architect consultant team to synthesize all desires and constraints into final plan.

SELECTED LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS

- FTA Small Starts Workshop in Pittsburgh, PA in 2008
- FTA New and Small Starts Roundtable in Pittsburgh in 2008