

Elaine Seagriff



Head of Transport Policy Transport for London

What does your job involve?

I shape transport policy for London for the medium to longer term, working across Transport for London (TfL) to help influence the future direction of our organisation, and leading on the preparation and implementation of transport policy as it relates to London's environment, equality, health and broader sustainability.

How did you get into transport?

Originally I wanted to work in urban development and regeneration but soon realised transport was a key and tangible part of achieving that. I initially worked in London Underground planning and they sponsored me to reach chartered status. I later moved to specialist services to take up a more strategic planning role.

What do you like about working in transport?

I love working in transport planning and London is the best place in the world to do it! It's exciting looking at the future of the city and how we can influence it. At the same time it's tangible, delivering things that make a difference; it's visionary, strategic and topical.

What are you most proud of?

I have a wide range of things I've really enjoyed – from working on some very specific projects delivered on the ground to the much more strategic policy work I do now. At the start of my career I am proud of making the case for substantial Government investments, seeing them through to delivery and helping to transform areas of London; for example the reconstruction of Angel station/tunnels as part of a wider redevelopment and later, the case for Crossrail. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to visit cities and research transport and environment policy in Canada and the US. I also went on secondment for a while to California where I planned and implemented light rail extensions into a huge redevelopment corridor. At TfL I have had a great variety of opportunities – such as preparation of the Mayor's Transport Strategy for London to 2031 and making our case for hosting the 2012 Olympics.

What do you think is the best thing about working in Planning?

It's very dynamic and hugely varied and we are always trying to provide the best possible advice. I am very fortunate to work with a great, driven and committed bunch of people.