

Sarah Turnbull



**Acting Portfolio Sponsor
Transport for London**

What does your job involve?

I am responsible for the delivery of the Mayor's flagship cycle route, the East-West Cycle Superhighway. This is a £47m scheme that will introduce segregated cycle facilities between Tower Hill in the east and the A40 in the west. Once delivered, it will form Europe's longest substantially segregated cycle route. I lead a team of Scheme Sponsors to ensure the scheme is delivered to the quality set out in the Mayor's Cycling Vision. We manage the work of a larger team across Transport for London's (TfL) Surface transport, which includes design engineers, traffic modellers, communications and marketing. We are also responsible for managing the relationship with external stakeholders. For a scheme of this profile, that has included some pretty cool meetings, including 10 Downing Street, Parliament, House of Lords, the Treasury and the Tower of London to name but a few!

What do you like about working in transport?

Transport is the lifeblood of London and keeping people moving is what keeps the Capital going. I love London and was attracted by the prospect of helping to make it even better. Everyone has an opinion of transport - whenever you meet new people, it always sparks an interesting conversation because everyone is affected by it – there are very few jobs that can claim that.

What are you most proud of?

Helping to deliver Cycle Superhighway Route 8. We re-allocated two lanes of traffic on Grosvenor Road and Millbank in Westminster to create new dedicated lanes for cyclists. I once told a cycle campaigner in a pub that I had helped put those facilities in place and they hugged me!

What would your advice be to someone interested in your role?

I think it is important to try and not be intimidated by new opportunities – presenting to large groups or meeting with Senior Management can be daunting at first but people will want you to succeed. Everyone gets nervous, but the more experience you gain, the more confidence you will develop. Before you know it, it will have become second nature.

Why should people join our industry?

Transport can sometimes have a boring image, but it is actually so diverse! There is something that will cater to everyone's interests and we should sell that more. TfL in particular is an amazing organisation – you could work in design, project management, HR, finance, events management, Art on the Underground, marketing – it covers every field. Whatever you do, it will have a meaningful impact on people's lives.