

Urban planning student finishes her degree with SCDOT internship

By Kim Corley

Ohio native **Amanda Wroblewski** is spending her summer down south interning in the Intermodal Planning Division at SCDOT Headquarters.

Her primary focus this summer is researching and presenting options to expand public engagement through different community outreach efforts. Not only is she involved in SCDOT's transition to an electronic system for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), but she is also working closely with engineers coding projects for transportation demand modeling and ranking MPO/COG projects.

Wroblewski previously interned with the Erie Regional Planning Commission in Ohio where she worked closely with transportation planners. This experience, along with similar courses, sparked her interest in transportation. "I wanted to get experience at the state level of government, and the idea of moving south appealed to me, so here I am," she said.

She adds that South Carolina has been a great place to enjoy her hobbies -- tennis, boating and fishing.

This internship is the last step of her academic career. Although she walked

at graduation in May at the University of Cincinnati, the School of Planning requires her to participate in a cooperative education program before officially receiving her degree in Urban Planning.

Wroblewski also has experience in the private sector. In 2013 and 2014, she interned with Walt Disney Imagineering and Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. She conducted GIS mapping and square footage studies to determine future park expansion options. She also assisted with their asset management program, which focused on projects within the Animal Kingdom theme park. "It was extremely interesting getting to spend time working on both the creative and technical sides," she said.

Wroblewski says she was drawn to a career in urban planning because of "the idea that what you are working on has the potential to make an impact on somebody's life, or make the community or region a better place."

Her dedication to public service goes well beyond her chosen career field. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and the Planning Student Organization. While at the University of Cincinnati, she was a teaching assistant for a professor in the College of Design. She also volunteers at



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Amanda Wroblewski's internship with SCDOT consists of inputting Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan data into the new electronic system. The Ohio native has spent a lot of this summer at Lake Murray where she's adjusted to the heat and humidity of South Carolina. She hopes to work at SCDOT after her internship.

the Literacy Center tutoring adults studying for their GED.

In the future, she plans to work toward a Master's degree in planning and her AICP certification. "These two things will help me to reach my ultimate goal of a career in

public service, where I hope to plan, design and manage projects that will benefit the community I work in," she says.

To learn more about internship opportunities with SCDOT, please contact Human Resources at (803) 737-1321.

