



# TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT

**PROFESSIONAL: JASON McCARTNEY**

**NAME:** Jason McCartney  
**COMPANY:** Gannett Fleming  
**TITLE:** Senior Transportation  
Operations Engineer

**COLLEGE:** Michigan State University  
**DEGREE:** BS Civil Engineering, BA Spanish

**Q: How did you select your college major or certification program?**

**A:** I chose Civil Engineering because it allowed me to learn about, and eventually become a part of, the profession that creates the large scale items, like highways and airports, that I've thought are interesting since I was a kid.

**Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of career pathway?**

**A:** I chose to focus on traffic operations because I like the idea of trying to get the most out of our current infrastructure before we build more. I also like that it is technology driven, which makes it feel much more progressive and modern than many of the topics I studied in school.

**Q: What attracted you to the transportation industry?**

**A:** Transportation has always been a personal interest, and I love the scale of the work that we do. I also love to travel, and that has taught me to really appreciate the infrastructure that allows us to do this. I also think that the network of infrastructure that moves people and things around the world is fascinating.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

**A:** Managing the moving parts that have to come together to create a functioning system.

**Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?**

**A:** The work that we do helps to improve roadway safety and helps people move around the roadway network more efficiently. I like to think that we are making a small, but positive daily difference on the lives of those who commute a lot, whether they notice it or not.





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**Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?**

**A:** I had the opportunity to live in the middle eastern nation of Qatar for a full year, where I worked on large scale ITS/Traffic designs to help prepare their small country to handle the massive traffic demand caused by their booming economy and population.

**Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?**

**A:** Knowing that the projects that I work on will be a visible, daily part of many people's lives, even if they often overlook it.

**Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for the future, what would it be?**

**A:** More writing! I think that most engineers get too focused on math/science, which are incredibly important, but are often limited by our communication skills (or lack thereof).

**Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students that are considering your profession?**

**A:** Strive to become a well-rounded student and know that your ability to write and speak well will allow you to be more successful at solving the technical problems that you'll face as an engineer.

