

## **UDOT BENEFITTED INTERN**

### **BIO: Alex Fisher**

**Spring 2012**

#### **Where did you attend college and when did you graduate?**

I received my Bachelors of Civil Engineering at the University of Utah. I graduated in December of 2010. Currently, I am working on my Masters of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Utah. I plan to graduate in the Spring of 2013.

#### **When did you join the Intern Program at UDOT?**

I became an intern at UDOT in May of 2011.

What rotations have you completed?

The summer of 2011 I worked in Region 2 Design. Now, I am working with Traffic and Operations, mostly in Signals but partially in Traffic and Safety.

#### **Please name a few of the projects you've been involved with and some of the skills or knowledge you've gained.**

In design, I worked on the 5400 South, Bangerter to 4800 West project. That is where I first learned about Thru-turns and other innovative intersections. I also worked on a project in Coalville that involve an ABC bridge replacement. I learned how to use Micro Station, which is just different enough from AutoCAD that it took me a few weeks to get it all figured out.

In Signals I have learned ALOT. I have learned what components are used in an intersection including the detection and controllers. I have also learned how the signal detection and con-

trollers work.

In the Traffic and Safety projects I have worked on, I have learned about different software and safety meas-

ures other states in the U.S. are using. For example, in Oregon, they are using a software system that helps contractors figure out what delay times will occur if they have lane closures on specific roadways during specific times of the day.

#### **What experience has challenged you the most?**

Working in design taught me a lot about time management. Design is very busy, and the task deadlines are very important. Keeping up on my projects was difficult at first, but once I found a routine that fit my schedule, I was able to stay on track and get everything submitted on time.

#### **What are some of the advantages of the UDOT Intern Program?**

There are many advantages in the UDOT Intern program. The main advantage is gaining work experience while still in school. The supervisors are very flexible with your school schedule which reduces the stress of working while trying to finish your degree. Getting full benefits and vacation are also a HUGE plus that most internships do not offer.

#### **What are some of your career goals?**



After I finish the two year internship and graduate with my Masters, I plan on applying for the Rotational Engineer Position. I want to work as a rotational engineer until I get my PE. After I get my PE, I would like to join Peace Corps and travel the world to practice engineering and teach in developing countries. When I return from Peace Corps, I want to work in a governmental position with air quality and water quality engineering.

**Do you know your next placement or employment situation?**

Starting in May, 2012 I will be working in Region 2 Materials Lab.

**Who are some of the people at UDOT who have provided guidance or assistance?**

All of the people I have worked with have been very helpful. Patrick Cowley was a great supervisor who took an extra effort to help me get settled into design. Brandon Cloward was also a great help in design. He would guide me through the steps that needed to be performed so that I would learn the whole process rather than just pointing me towards the end results so I only learn half the steps.