Preventing for a Successful Interview

1. **Understand the position well, understand your strengths and weaknesses well.** Present clearly and confidently why they should hire you. *Madhu Narayanasamy, AICP, Project Manager, CDM Smith*

2. **Identify specific ways you can help the firm/agency.** *On day one, what would you contribute?* *David Fields, AICP, Principal, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates*

3. **Prepare, prepare, prepare.** Know the company, their work and have an idea of how you can contribute to the group. *Catherine Duffy, AICP, Transportation Planner, Toole Design Group*

4. **Know as much as you can about the company in advance, prepare for “typical” interview questions and make sure your resume/CV/portfolio is as polished and professional as it can be.** *Hilary Perkins, AICP, Planner, City of Maryland Heights, MO*

5. **Be on time. Be relaxed.** Don't ramble. Demonstrate interest and your thought process. It is OK if you don't know all the technical answers. *Lindsey Morse, AICP, Research Associate, Railway and Transport Strategy Centre, Imperial College London*

6. **Be prepared, know what you can offer that is important to them and try to relax!** Pretend it is a discussion and they are interested in hearing what you have to offer. *Cynthia Hoyle, FAICP, Alta Planning + Design*

7. **Know in advance of the interview what you want to get out of it,** too. While the firm/agency is looking at whether they want to hire you, you need to learn whether you want to work for them as well. Have your questions ready. *Shelby Powell, AICP, Deputy Director, NC Capital Area MPO*

8. **Make sure you do your research about the company and the hiring manager.** The more you know, the better off you will present yourself during the interview. *Dharm Guruswamy, AICP CTP, Corrective Action Plans Program Manager, FTA WMATA Safety Oversight, Federal Transit Administration*

9. **Do your homework and know about the organization.** Be prepared with some good questions, the interview is two-sided as it should be a good fit for both. *Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, Senior Principal, Stantec*

10. **It's very important to research the specific company/agency and industry (or niche within).** Knowledge of details, even if they seem esoteric demonstrate genuine interest in the firm’s work – and bring questions! *Randall Rook, AICP, Rail and Transit Planner/Engineer, AECOM*