

MELİKE ŞENKAL

URBAN PLANNER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. candidate in City and Regional Planning

Middle East Technical University

Sep 2023 – Ongoing Ankara, Türkiye

GPA: 3.86 / 4

M.Sc. in Transport Engineering, Planning and Management

Newcastle University

Sep 2021 – Aug 2022 Newcastle upon Tyne, The UK

Grade: 73.1 (Graduated with Distinction)

B.Sc. in City And Regional Planning

Dokuz Eylul University

Sep 2014 – Jun 2019 Izmir, Türkiye

GPA: 3.31 / 4

EXPERIENCE

Senior Urban Planner

Ministry Of Transport and Infrastructure

Jan 2023 – Ongoing Ankara/Türkiye

- Worked as a city planner in the department of urban rail systems.
- Reviewed and approved the feasibility study reports

Intern

Ministry Of Environment and Urbanization, Provincial Directorate of Izmir

Jun 2018 – Jul 2018 Izmir, Türkiye

- Gained experiences in department of protection of the historic environment and planning department.

Intern

Dokuz Eylül University

Jul 2017 – Aug 2017 Izmir, Türkiye

- Developed and maintained city planning, zoning and regulatory documentation, utilizing modern approaches on current and future needs.

Volunteer Intern

Dikili Municipality

Aug 2016 – Sep 2016 Izmir, Türkiye

- Worked under supervision of management and helped plan and organize daily work tasks.

“Urban Planner with an MSc in Transport Engineering and experience in public-sector infrastructure projects. Skilled in transport systems analysis, sustainable mobility, ITS solutions, and data-driven decision-making. Motivated to contribute to efficient, resilient, and future-oriented transportation systems.”

CORE SKILLS

Adobe Suite proficiency ●●●●●

ArcGIS expertise ●●●●●

AutoCad 2026 ●●●●●

Data analysis ●●●●●

Field survey skills ●●●●●

GIS applications ●●●●●

IBM SPSS Statistics 24 ●●●●●

Lumion 7.0 ●●●●●

MS Office ●●●●●

Netcad 7.6 (Planet) ●●●●●

Problem-solving ●●●●●

Project planning ●●●●●

SketchUp 2026 ●●●●●

PTV Visum ●●●●●

INTERESTS

Badminton

Horseback Riding

Skiing

Ice Skating

Painting

Violin

Traveling the World

PROJECTS

Impact of the Diffusion of Automated Taxi on the Urban Network, an Application to Newcastle Upon Tyne

Newcastle, the UK

📅 May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Literature review for attitudes towards AV, preferences for its characteristics, its traffic impact
- Analysis for taxi background in Newcastle Upon Tyne
- Mode choice and traffic assignment for Automated Taxis
- Implementation of the transport model into PTV Visum Software

Integration of Intelligent Transport Systems Into Urban Transport Model

Denizli, Turkey

📅 Jan 2019 – Jul 2019

- Analysis for different transport modules.
- Calculation of current and future traffic densities.
- Drawing areas that require intervention and defining strategies.
- Creation of traffic management groups.
- Development of suggestion transport network.

A New Model In Sustainable Development: Symbiotic City

Denizli, Turkey

📅 Sep 2018 – Dec 2018

- 1/25.000 and 1/100.000 environmental plans
- 1/100.000 strategic plan

A Global Approach of the Education, Fair and Tourism Sectors to Develop the City

Narlıdere, Izmir

📅 Sep 2017 – Jul 2018

- 1/5.000 master development plan
- 1/1.000 implementary development pla
- 1/1.000 settlement plan

Ecological Children Village Design Project

Bornova, Izmir

📅 Jan 2016 – Jul 2016

- 1/1.000 implementary development plan
- 1/1.000 settlement plan

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native)



English (IELTS Academic: 7.0 / 9.0)



German



AWARDS



First Prize in Zero Harm Challenge in the Maritime Innovation Week Hackathons, 2022



Honorable Mention in City and Regional Planning Students Graduation Project Competition by TUPOB (The Association of Planning Schools of Turkey), 2019



Third Prize in High School Badminton Competitions Karsiyaka Municipality, 2014



First Prize in the Painting Contest the Directorate of Tax Administration, 2007



First Prize in the Painting Contest Anti-Tuberculosis Association, 2006

CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced AutoCAD Training

Arkance, Autodesk Authorized Training Center

📅 Apr 2026

Appreciation Certificate within the Project of Turkiye's Net Zero Emission Target: Road Map for Transport

Republic of Turkiye Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

📅 Feb 2026

Netcad 8.56 NetPro & NetKamu Certificate

Netcad Software Inc.

📅 Feb 2025

Netcad 7.6 GIS-Based Urban Planning Applications

Netcad Software Inc.

📅 Feb 2018

Netcad 7.6 GIS-Based Urban Planning & Urban Information Systems Design

Netcad Software Inc.

📅 Apr 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Integration of Intelligent Transport Systems in the example of Denizli City Center to Urban Transportation System

Bektas, M. et al. (2021). Integration ... tation System, SSS Journal, Vol:7, Issue:82; pp:1912-1942

 2021

Advances in technology age help to solve problems in daily life quickly and effectively by using science and technology. Intelligent strategies using information technologies provide solutions for the transportation problems, which is one of the most important problems of today's cities. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) have been used in the solution of transportation problems with advanced technological applications since the late 1960s. These applications, which provide the opportunity to develop many different systems with fast, cheap and small processes after the initial infrastructure costs, are applied intensively in most developed countries today. Unfortunately, Turkey is lagging behind the competition between the leading countries in ITS in the world. This study wants to discuss the Intelligent Transportation Applications that have been implemented and proven to be effective in the world, by taking the example of one of the cities in our country whose problems can be solved with ITS, and to propose a method for the cities of our country. Within the scope of the study, firstly, suggestions for providing appropriate infrastructure for ITS applications in Denizli city centre were developed, and then, strategies for solving the transportation problems of the city centre with intelligent transportation applications were introduced and the solutions that should be implemented within the opportunities provided by this model were disclosed. The potential gains for Denizli have been calculated by taking into account the size of the application area and the traffic jam in the area, based on the economic, social and environmental gains of the proposed solutions in the regions where they were previously applied. In this way, it is aimed to formulate a model for other cities in our country by developing suggestions for transportation problems in the city center of Denizli.

The Role of Social Conformity in Pedestrian-Autonomous Vehicles Interaction

Nazemi, M., Zhao, T., Ramos, D., Farooq, M., Yin, H., Cherchi, E. and Bektas, M. (2022) The Role of Social Conformity in Pedestrian-Autonomous Vehicles Interaction. 16th International Conference on Travel Behaviour Research. Santiago, Chile.

 2022

The paper was presented at the 16th International Conference on Travel Behaviour Research in Santiago, Chile. It examines how social conformity influences interactions between pedestrians and autonomous vehicles (AVs). Social conformity refers to the tendency of individuals to align their behaviors with those of a group. In traffic contexts, pedestrians often rely on social cues and the actions of others when deciding to cross streets. The introduction of AVs, which lack human drivers to provide traditional communication signals may disrupt these established social dynamics. Understanding the role of social conformity in pedestrian-AV interactions is crucial for developing AV systems that can safely and effectively integrate into urban environments. Insights from such research can inform the design of AV behaviors and communication methods to ensure they are predictable and understandable to pedestrians, thereby enhancing safety and public acceptance. This study contributes to the growing body of research focused on the interplay between pedestrian behavior and autonomous vehicle systems, emphasizing the importance of social factors in traffic interactions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Student Contribution Prize

Best Contribution to the MSc Transport Engineering, Planning and Management Programmeç

 2022

 Newcastle University

Student Performance Prize

Best Performing Transport Engineering, Planning and Management Student in 2021/22

 2022

 Newcastle University

Graduated with distinction

73.1 / 100

 2022

 Newcastle University

Contributed to Veronica Project

International collaboration of Newcastle University, UK and Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

 2022

 Newcastle University

Participation to 2242 University Students Research Project Competitions

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkiye (TÜBİTAK)


 2019

 İzmir, Turkiye

Graduated with honors

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 2019

 Dokuz Eylül University

REFEREES

Prof. Elisabetta Cherchi

 elisabetta.cherchi@nyu.edu

 Civil and Urban Engineering Department

 New York University (NYU), Abu Dhabi

Prof. Kemal Mert Çubukçu

 mert.cubukcu@deu.edu.tr

 City and Urban Planning Department

 Dokuz Eylül University (DEU), İzmir