Anthony Lau

Anthony is a final-year Civil and Environmental Engineering student at the University of Technology Sydney. Raised in Hong Kong, he came to Australia for university and plans to remain after graduation. His parents live in Hong Kong, while his brother is completing doctoral studies in pharmacy at the University of Sydney.

A childhood fascination with dinosaurs and science programs sparked Anthony's interest in science. His focus later shifted to transport engineering, influenced by Hong Kong's integrated transport system and his supervisor, Kasun, who invited him to join a shared-space research program and supervised his thesis.

His thesis examines whether strong local public transport, including feeder buses, can reduce demand for park-and-ride facilities. The project combines his interests in transport modelling and planning with his goal of improving daily life through practical infrastructure.

Through an internship with a council traffic and transport team, Anthony has gained experience in road signage, line marking, standards and small road-network improvements. He is seeking graduate employment and sees this practical work as a strong foundation for a career in transport.

Anthony identifies urban population growth as a major challenge. With substantial growth forecast for Sydney, particularly in the north-west where roads and public transport are already near capacity, he hopes to help develop practical transport solutions.

He also uses artificial intelligence to support data analysis without exposing sensitive information. By supplying column headings and file locations rather than full datasets, he generates and refines Python code to extract variables, measure parking-capacity trends, consolidate results and produce clear graphs.

Outside his studies, Anthony enjoys gardening, including lawn care, weeding and growing vegetables such as Chinese broccoli and carrots.

What I gained from the Conference

Before the conference, I saw transport mainly as moving people and goods. It shifted my perspective to how planning shapes communities, public health, and safety. Gil Penalosa's 8-80 City concept showed how prioritising active transport and safer speeds can create healthier, more inclusive cities. Beyond technical insights into modelling and AI, the conference also pushed me outside my comfort zone, helping me build confidence in networking and appreciate the value of collaboration. Its impact on my career will be lasting, reinforcing my belief that we can collectively create safer, more inclusive cities.