

## ALENA DEGRADO

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### Skills Summary

- **Project Management:** Presentation, meeting facilitation, strategic planning, community engagement, team management, stakeholder coordination, contract management, communications
- **Research:** Collecting and analyzing quantitative, qualitative, spatial and statistical data, creating surveys, creating data visualizations, summarizing data in written and visual formats, report writing
- **Technical:** Proficient in Microsoft Office, ArcGIS desktop and online, and Adobe InDesign

### Work Experience

**Milwaukee County – Aging and Disabilities Services** | Transportation Coordinator  
September 2021 – Present

- Manage a contract for specialized transportation that provides 30k+ rides/year to 1000+ clients
- Provide community outreach around accessible transportation services
- Co-lead a public involvement committee advising the use of County ARPA funds
- Conducted a transportation needs survey for older adults and people with disabilities
- Facilitated transit analysis study at County senior centers

**Washington County - Public Health and Environment** | Planner  
June 2019 – December 2020

- Served on the COVID response team, analyzing data, compiling reports, presenting findings, and coordinating response efforts
- Served as liaison to community and healthcare organizations regarding transportation and food access work
- Co-lead data collection, monitoring and evaluation for the county's Community Health Improvement Plan
- Lead the department's Jurisdictional Risk Assessment using an excel based quantitative tool
- Provided spatial analysis (GIS) for departmental programs and services
- Served on the Technical Advisory Board for the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and conducted community engagement
- Managed grant program for groundwater protection, including annual monitoring and reporting
- Organized educational classes for 50+ participants on environmental topics
- Facilitated strategic planning and programmatic evaluations for departmental teams (including audience assessment, community resource mapping, and demographic analysis)
- Served on Health Equity Action Team and strategically analyzed departmental policies and programs to promote health equity

**City of Saint Paul - Planning and Economic Development** | Planning Intern  
May 2018 – May 2019

- Conducted engagement around the Comprehensive Plan and Bus Rapid Transit projects
- Completed economic development research for a food systems initiative, wrote policy memos, and created data visualizations
- Provided technical support with mapping, graphic design, and report editing
- Created engagement materials for the Climate Action Plan and lead engagement efforts
- Managed the public comment database for the Comprehensive Plan

- Assisted in the completion of a zoning study, including researching, report writing, conducting community engagement and making recommendations to Planning Commission
- Completed zoning reports for rezoning cases and presented to the Planning Commission

**Humphrey School of Public Affairs** | Teaching Assistant

August 2018 – December 2018

- **Data Visualization:** Assisted with in-class tutorials in Excel, Illustrator and InDesign
- **Introduction to Planning:** assessed public policy memoranda and assisted with course logistics

**The Public Health Law Center** | Research Associate

Jan. 2018 – May 2018, St. Paul, MN

- Conducted research regarding implications of planning policy on social determinants of health
- Wrote policy memoranda, research summaries and prepared PowerPoint presentations

**UMN Office of Student Affairs** | Neighborhood Liaison

Sept. 2017- Dec. 2017, Minneapolis, MN

- Networked with and coordinated volunteers for neighborhood organization events
- Organized public outreach materials and resources for organics recycling, food access and transportation services for students

**U.S. Peace Corps Ethiopia** | Extension Agent

Jan. 2015-March 2017, Sidama, Ethiopia

- Organized and facilitated trainings alongside community counterparts on food security, malaria prevention and water sanitation
- Taught weekly English classes for 80 adolescent girls
- Served on the Program Advisory Committee and assisted with strategic planning evaluations

## Education

**University of Minnesota** | Humphrey School of Public Affairs

***Master of Urban and Regional Planning***, May 2019

Capstone:

- Analysis and evaluation of sidewalk implementation plan in St. Louis Park, MN
  - Research focused on resident perceptions and behaviors related to sidewalk implementation, a statistical analysis of sidewalks' effect on property values, and a spatial analysis of equity implications of sidewalk implementation
  - Presentation of findings at American Planning Association - MN meeting, January 2020
  - Paper, *Planning Suburban Sidewalks: A Study of Mode Mismatch, Property Values and Accessibility*, currently under review for publication

**Indiana University, Bloomington** | College of Arts and Sciences

***Bachelor of Arts in International Studies***, May 2012

- Concentration: Global Health and Environment
- Minors: Public and Environmental Affairs, Geography, German

## Additional Trainings and Continued Learning

**Project Management**, May 2022

**ToP Facilitation Methods**, August 2019