

Who we are:

Transportation is so basic that many of us overlook its overwhelming importance in our daily lives. Practically everything used in our homes, offices, or schools across Tennessee – from furniture to food items to clothing – requires a large and complex transportation network. The Tennessee Department of Transportation provides citizens of Tennessee and travelers with one of the best transportation systems in the country. TDOT is a multimodal agency with responsibilities in building and maintaining roads, aviation, public transit, waterways, railroads, cycling and walking. Our involvement ranges from airport improvements to funding transit buses to planning for river ports. The Department of Transportation has approximately 3,500 employees with four statewide region facilities in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Jackson. TDOT Aeronautics is located near the John C. Tune Airport in Nashville, TN.



Senior Aviation Transportation Engineer

Aeronautics Division – Project Development and Delivery Section
\$104,292 annually

Job Overview

The Senior Aviation Transportation Engineer serves as the technical expert for airport maintenance within TDOT's Aeronautics Division. This position oversees the full lifecycle of maintenance projects at public-use airports, ensuring planning, design review, procurement, execution, and closeout align with the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), FAA regulations, and TDOT standards. The engineer ensures that projects are delivered on schedule, meet safety and quality benchmarks, and support long-term system performance through coordination with internal teams and external stakeholders. The role integrates maintenance priorities into ACIP development, associated with asset management principles, applies quality assurance and risk mitigation strategies, and ensures regulatory and policy compliance throughout all phases of project delivery.

This position also provides subject matter expertise in pavement preservation, airfield lighting, signage, and drainage repair, while staying current on and applying emerging technologies and national best practices. The Senior Aviation Transportation Engineer guides the development and maintenance of statewide aviation maintenance policies, procedures, and specifications, and delivers training and technical support to staff and partners. The engineer works closely with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer to align maintenance efforts with TDOT's aviation performance goals. This includes supporting the Airport Pavement and Marking Maintenance (APMM) program and collaborating with organizations such as National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Tennessee Aviation Association (TAA), Transportation Research Board (TRB), and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to help keep the maintenance program consistent, compliant, and forward-looking. Additionally, the engineer supports consultant procurement, contract oversight, and financial management to ensure effective use of funding and transparent project delivery.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Oversee the full lifecycle of TDOT-governed airport maintenance projects—including planning, scope development, design oversight, procurement, construction, and closeout—in alignment with the goals of the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP). Ensure all maintenance initiatives adhere to applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, TDOT design standards, procurement policies, and safety guidelines.

Coordinate with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer to align performance metrics, stakeholder engagement, and project phasing to ensure maintenance projects are delivered on schedule and comply with FAA and TDOT standards. Support ACIP

updates by integrating maintenance priorities and implementing QA/QC processes and risk mitigation strategies to ensure consistent, high-quality outcomes. Ensure airport maintenance projects incorporate sustainable materials and environmentally responsible practices aligned with TDOT and FAA environmental regulations. Oversee the collection of Pavement Condition Index (PCI) data for runways, taxiways, aprons, helipads, and T-hangars across Tennessee's public-use airports. Collaborate with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer to set tri-annual PCI targets, conduct annual reviews of system performance, and track progress toward achieving long-term pavement condition goals.

Oversee the financial planning and execution of aviation maintenance projects to ensure alignment with approved funding obligations and fiscal targets. Support the development and implementation of maintenance-related elements within the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), ensuring funding strategies reflect project priorities, phasing, and delivery readiness. Collaborate with internal teams to track expenditures, validate financial documentation, and ensure full compliance with applicable state and federal funding requirements.

Serve as the subject matter expert for airfield maintenance, including pavement preservation, lighting, signage, and drainage repair. Conduct technical reviews of scopes, estimates, and contract documents to ensure safe, durable, and compliant outcomes. Manage the Electrical Maintenance, AWOS, and Airfield Pavement and Marking Maintenance programs by coordinating inspections, repairs, and installations with contractors and consultants. Coordinate kickoff meetings, oversee construction administration (CA/RPR), and guide issue resolution during the construction season. Collaborate with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer and internal teams for system targets, site validation, and procurement, and apply emerging technologies and national best practices through active engagement with organizations such as NASAO, TAA, and AASHTO.

Participate in multidisciplinary project teams as part of a matrix structure. Collaborate with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer, Aeronautics Division Teams, HQ Divisions, Regions and consultants to align maintenance priorities with TDOT standards and statewide aviation goals.

Working with the Statewide Aviation Transportation Engineer, author, update, and standardize policies, procedures, and technical specifications that govern airport maintenance practices across Tennessee's public-use general aviation system. Ensure all guidance reflects current FAA regulations, TDOT objectives, industry best practices, and emerging technologies. Promote consistency, safety, and quality by establishing clear expectations for maintenance planning, execution, documentation, and oversight, and support continuous improvement through regular review and stakeholder collaboration.

Serve on selection committees for professional engineering services in accordance with the Brooks Act. Assist in developing Requests for Proposals (RFPs), project scopes, and scoring criteria. Participate in project-specific meetings, change order evaluations, consultant negotiations, and invoice reviews. Support documentation and processes for compliance, contract management, and project closeout.

Provide technical guidance and support for the development and delivery of training focused on airport maintenance practices. Ensure training aligns with FAA regulations, TDOT standards, and industry best practices to enhance staff capability, compliance, and maintenance quality across the aviation system.

Provide exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers, including mentoring and technical guidance, coordinating with other disciplines as part of a matrix organization, coordinating with stakeholders, exercising effective listening skills, providing prompt responses, maintaining complete and accurate documentation, and communicating effectively.

Manage change, clarify the vision, take ownership of the change, communicate effectively, remain transparent, and hold yourself and others accountable throughout the process.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in engineering
- Licensed Professional Engineer (PE)
- 6 years of demonstrated competency in aviation or maintenance programs in a transportation engineering field

Ideal Candidate

The Senior Aviation Transportation Engineer is a proactive and knowledgeable aviation professional with a strong background in airport infrastructure maintenance, regulatory compliance, and project delivery. They are licensed engineers who excel at managing complex maintenance projects from planning through closeout while focusing on safety, quality, and schedule. This candidate is a collaborative leader and clear communicator, adept at working across multidisciplinary teams, engaging stakeholders, and mentoring staff. They are forward-thinking, using emerging technologies and national best practices gained through active participation in professional organizations, to drive continuous improvements in the effectiveness, consistency, and resilience of Tennessee's statewide aviation maintenance program.