

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.



Permits Transportation Engineer
Environmental Division – Permit Compliance Section
Nashville, TN
\$99,348 annually

Job Overview

The Permits Transportation Engineer provides technical expertise in TDOT's water quality permitting processes for the Permit Compliance Section. This position collaborates with TDOT Divisions, Project Teams, and external stakeholders to obtain and distribute water quality and stormwater permits for projects ranging in complexity and risk from simple to complex. This position requires critical thinking and engineering judgment to solve problems and make well-informed decisions. The Permits Transportation Engineer implements acquired knowledge of TDOT policy and standards, focusing on avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of impacts to streams and wetlands.

The Permits Transportation Engineer ensures Department policies, technical guidance, permit standards, and procedures are incorporated into permit deliverables and assists in implementing TDOT's Quality Management Guidelines to reduce errors, delays, and contractor claims. This position must effectively articulate technical concepts through training, mentoring, and collaborating as part of a matrix organization. The Permits Transportation Engineer assists with monitoring and managing permits-related projects and making required adjustments as necessary to ensure that the work completed is in alignment with the Department's Asset Management and Strategic goals.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Contribute to Project Teams as part of a matrix organization consistent with the Project Delivery Network (PDN) by providing technical expertise and support related to acquiring and distributing water quality and stormwater permits, delivering all products and services as required, and providing input at all applicable project milestones including Project Kick-Off, Risk Workshops, Project Scoping Meetings, Field Reviews, and Plans, Specs, and Estimates meetings for projects that range in complexity and risk from simple to high complex.

Prepare and review permit applications for impacts to wetlands, streams, and rivers, which include descriptions of the extent of the construction related impacts, any required mitigation for the proposed project impacts, and other necessary information for permit processing. Assist in developing avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures for identified streams and wetlands as early in the design process as possible.

Direct and assist in the review of permitable plans to ensure environmental and design information is complete and accurate.

Collaborate with Region Roadway Design to ensure construction projects incorporate appropriate erosion prevention and sediment controls (EPSC) and the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Verify compliance with TDOT's Quality Management Guidelines with respect to all permit work products to ensure accuracy, ensure consistency with TDOT standards and policy, proactively address constructability and maintenance concerns and mitigate potential risk.

Routinely collaborate with HQ disciplines, Asset Management, Regions, and Quality Teams to identify and document knowledge on industry best practices to avoid past errors and ensure TDOT project successes. Assist with modifications to all applicable policies, procedures, design standards, specifications, and special provisions.

Collaborate with the TDOT Technical Training Director and assist in the development of permits training that addresses acquired knowledge, asset management objectives, risk management, technical design elements and emerging technologies related to permitting for the purpose of improving team performance, creating a stronger understanding of water quality and stormwater permits as they relate to the transportation industry, inspiring new ideas, and developing skills.

Remain current and engaged on revisions to the PDN, laws, regulations, policies, and standard practices related to permitting, including trends and technologies; assist with Risk Assessments; adopt new technologies and best practices that drive Tennessee's transportation projects forward; and assist in implementing policies and procedures related to water quality and storm water permits. Collaborate on innovative strategies and maintain awareness of permit-related industry trends and best practices.

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.

Assist in the development of a Consultant Acquisition Plan (CAP) for water quality and stormwater permits services and assist in the oversight of external partners by serving on technical review committees, including assisting with RFP development, attending project-specific marketing meetings, assisting with determining scoring criteria, assisting with project information sessions when applicable, serving as a scorer as part of the consultant acquisition process, and attending de-briefs for consultants where usable feedback must be provided.

Assist in ensuring permit deliverables are consistent, predictable, and repeatable to maintain consistently high levels of achievement, mitigate risk, and establish a track record of success through the implementation of policy, standards, and acquired knowledge.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in engineering
- Licensed Professional Engineer (PE)
- 4 years of demonstrated competency in a related environmental program in a transportation engineering field

Ideal Candidate

The Permits Transportation Engineer has a keen eye for detail. Their strategic thinking and problem-solving skills contribute to the seamless flow of the permitting process. They work closely with various stakeholders, both internal

and external, to ensure that the project meets all the required environmental standards and regulations. Even in complex and high-pressure project situations, the Permits Transportation Engineer remains focused and unwavering.