

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.



Geology Senior Technical Specialist

Materials & Tests Division – Geotechnical Engineering Section

Nashville, TN

\$75,204 annually

Job Overview

The Geology Senior Technical Specialist will provide support to Project Teams directly responsible for delivering projects in accordance with the project's scope, schedule, and budget. This position will also support and assist TDOT Divisions with geology-related concerns and questions. Geology issues will range in complexity and risk from simple to highly complex. This position requires critical thinking to problem solve and make well-informed decisions that increase the safety, performance, sustainability, and efficient delivery of TDOT's transportation system. The Geology Senior Technical Specialist role requires collaboration with TDOT divisions, Project Teams, consultants, contractors, and external stakeholders.

The Geology Senior Technical Specialist proactively identifies TDOT projects involving geology risks and pursues opportunities to identify, avoid, and/or minimize those risks. This position assists in implementing the Quality Assurance Program as part of the Geotechnical Engineering Section's activities. The Geology Senior Technical Specialist ensures relevant Department specifications, policies, and technical guidance are incorporated into the project delivery process. This position must effectively articulate technical concepts through training, mentoring, and collaborating as part of a matrix organization.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Assist the Geotechnical Engineering Section and Project Managers as a geology Subject Matter Expert (SME) in the management of external partners together with the Professional Services Division, including the negotiation of contracts, review of consultant invoicing, development of scopes, management of contract tasks, compliance monitoring, and completion of consultant grading. Produce geology recommendations within the project's scope, schedule, and budget.

Routinely and proactively assess geology-related risk factors on projects and work with project teams to minimize potential impacts on project scope, schedule, and budget. Provide recommendations for foundations and geology-related construction concerns.

Assist in developing, maintaining, and updating TDOT's geology-related specifications, requirements, and standards.

Coordinate with the TDOT Technical Training Director and assist in the development and delivery of geology training and technical guidance that addresses acquired

knowledge, risk management, technical design elements, and emerging technologies related to geology to improve team performance, creating a stronger understanding of the transportation industry, inspiring new ideas, and developing skills. Provide expertise, training, and mentoring to TDOT staff, consultants, and local agencies regarding geology-related issues and considerations.

Serve on Project Teams as part of a matrix organization by defining the scope of work related to geology tasks; provide recommendations to reduce geology-related project risks. Assist in the development of a consultant acquisition plan and assist in the oversight of external partners by serving on selection committees for professional engineering services as part of the Brooks Act, 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 at de-briefs for consultants where usable feedback must be provided.

Provide exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers by exercising effective listening skills and providing prompt responses. Serve as a TDOT liaison in teaming with industry. Provide support for emergency geohazards events. Participate in peer exchanges fostering collaboration both internally and with relevant partners to share ideas, skills, and insights relating to geology.

Assist in ensuring deliverables are aligned with TDOT's Quality Management procedures to ensure consistently high levels of quality and achievement, develop strategies to mitigate risk to the Department and establish a track record of success.

Remain current with applicable geology issues, design standards, and specifications. Assist with modifications to all applicable policies, procedures, design standards, standard drawings, specifications, and special provisions.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Geology
- 3 years of demonstrated competency in Geology and Geohazards

OR

- Master's degree in Geology
- 2 years of demonstrated competency in Geology and Geohazards

Ideal Candidate

The Geology Senior Technical Specialist brings the team a remarkable blend of technical expertise and knowledge. They are exceptional project team members excelling at collaboration and communication and are proficient at seamlessly engaging with project teams, leadership, and stakeholders. The Geology Senior Technical Specialist is a natural problem solver who overcomes obstacles with innovative solutions, which is required on TDOT projects involving geology risks. They understand that the best outcomes are achieved through collective effort and effective communication.