

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 Technical Specialist – Vegetation Management, SOGs, and Specifications

Maintenance Operations Division – Field Support Section

Nashville, TN

\$75,204 annually

Job Overview

The Senior Technical Specialist for Vegetation Management, Standard Operating Guides (SOGs), and Specifications plays a critical role in overseeing vegetation contracts and ensuring adherence to high standards for herbicide licensing, application, and regulatory compliance. The Senior Technical Specialist ensures that all vegetation management practices meet both regulatory standards and project deliverable specifications. Additionally, the Senior Technical Specialist is responsible for researching, reviewing, and revising Maintenance Operations SOGs and Specifications. Through close collaboration with contractors and internal maintenance teams, the specialist improves the accuracy, efficiency, and compliance of TDOT's vegetation management initiatives.

The Senior Technical Specialist has critical thinking skills to address challenges and will make decisions that enhance the longevity of vegetation management assets and contribute to the efficient operation of the Department's transportation system. This role requires collaboration with TDOT Divisions, project teams, regional leadership, District Maintenance, third-party vendors, and contractors to deliver cost-effective and sustainable herbicide management.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Oversee the State's Vegetation Management program, including creating, updating, and implementing herbicide application, product delivery, storage, and vegetation management Standard Operating Guides (SOG) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Research and remain current on vegetation management policies, procedures, State and Federal laws, and application best practices, working closely with TDOT's Environmental Department.

Oversee herbicide licensing, including the scheduling and coordinating of annual license renewal conferences and training programs. Serve as the chair of TDOT's statewide vegetation committee.

Maintain and distribute Safety Data Sheets for all herbicide products, working closely with the TDOT Safety team.

Assist in research and recommendations for herbicide products and delivery systems for roadside spraying applications. Work closely with TDOT's Procurement Division on product purchases. Oversee and review all statewide contracts with third-party vendors for vegetation management. Work closely with TDOT's regional staff to oversee contractor performance to ensure adherence to contracted scope, timelines, and budgets. Document vendor interactions and report any contractual issues to TDOT Leadership.

Maintain all records for statewide vegetation management, including herbicide chemical information, storage, herbicide licensing, distribution, vegetation contracts, permits, training, committees, and data.

Guide the strategic development, review, and continuous improvement of Maintenance Operations Standard Operating Guides (SOGs) to ensure they remain aligned with the evolving needs of TDOT's Maintenance Operations teams. Ensure all SOGs adhere to TDOT memorandums, directives, safety regulations, and industry best practices while fostering operational efficiency and organizational consistency across statewide maintenance activities.

Deliver exceptional customer service to project stakeholders by sharing relevant data, ensuring accessible and organized data information, practicing effective communication, and maintaining positive public relations. Respond promptly and accurately to inquiries from the public and department personnel.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree
- 3 years of demonstrated competency in maintenance operations, vegetation management, or related technical discipline.

OR

- Master's degree
- 2 years of demonstrated competency in maintenance operations, vegetation management, or related technical discipline.

Ideal Candidate

The Senior Technical Specialist is a detail-oriented professional with extensive experience in maintenance operations, data collection, technical writing, and reporting. Additionally, they maintain comprehensive records of all licensing and training, contributing to transparency and accountability. With strong communication, writing, and organizational skills, the Senior Technical Specialist plays a crucial role in vegetation management while providing exceptional customer service to TDOT and all stakeholders. Their diligent oversight significantly enhances the efficiency and reliability of TDOT's operations.