

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.



Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager

Passenger Transportation, Rail, and Freight Division – Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section
Nashville, TN
\$124,800 annually

Job Overview

The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager will lead, mentor, and train the section's Team Leads and Technical Specialist through empowerment, communication, and delegated authority. This position will develop work plans that align with TDOT's strategic vision, and effectively delegates authority and responsibility while ensuring the availability of resources for the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section to be successful.

The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager will assist in the development and implementation of department policies, discipline-specific technical guidance, procedures, and manuals and will ensure the successful implementation of the Quality Assurance Program to achieve program efficiency and effectiveness. The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager supervises staff and develops performance plans, schedules, and budgets, ensuring expected outcomes, performance, and accountability of each team member. The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager researches national best practices to drive innovation and efficiency within each technical unit of the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Manage resources and staff utilization to allow the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section to perform their roles effectively and efficiently, optimizing the section's ability to successfully administer rail and freight programs and projects in coordination with TDOT Divisions, TDOT Regions, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), local governments, and private partners.

Manage the policy level direction for the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section as part of a matrix structure, creating policies, procedures, guidelines, and performance metrics that support adherence to federal and state requirements, includes best practices, and results in programs and projects that incorporate high-quality processes and technologies. Develop and manage the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section's financial performance to ensure alignment with TDOT financial processes to guarantee transparency and accountability.

Establish and ensure there is a direct relationship between quality and work

outcomes by developing and implementing quality control and quality assurance processes for the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section's programs, projects, and funding.

Assist in the development of consultant acquisition plans and oversight of external partners for professional engineering services in accordance with the Brooks Act; provide leadership, direction, and guidance to the Section in procuring and managing external partners to which the Brooks Act does not apply. Provide support in the development of Requests for Proposal (RFP) and scopes of work, assist in determining scoring criteria, serve on selection committees, assist in negotiating contracts, attend de-briefs with consultants, manage contract tasks, review invoices, and complete consultant grading.

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

Lead the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section in providing exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers by exercising effective listening skills, providing prompt responses, maintaining complete and accurate documentation, continual follow-up on delayed projects, and communicating effectively.

Ensure the section remains current on applicable FHWA, FRA, FTA, and state statutory and regulatory requirements, design standards and guidelines.

Ensure the section remains current on national best practices as it relates to freight and rail program and project administration; incorporate research, evaluations and implementation of emerging processes and technologies into Freight and Rail Section programs and projects that will improve efficiency, resiliency, effectiveness, reliability, sustainability, and the safety of Tennessee's transportation network; and integrate federal and state requirements into TDOT's guidance documents, processes and procedures. Participate in peer exchanges with Federal, State, and local governments and applicable industry partners for key insights and collaboration.

Assist in ensuring the Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Section deliverables are consistent, predictable, and repeatable to provide consistently high levels of achievement, mitigation of risk, and an established track record of success.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering
- 8 years of demonstrated competency in planning, managing transportation projects, or related field, that includes 2 years of demonstrated competency in supervision.
- Licensed Professional Engineer (PE)

Ideal Candidate

The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager is the go-to resource for all things Freight and Rail. Known for their strategic leadership, they excel in guiding cross-functional teams and overseeing complex rail and freight projects from inception to completion, always prioritizing safety and operational efficiency. Their exceptional communication skills enable them to develop strong collaborative relationships with TDOT Divisions, entities, and local governments. of diverse backgrounds, advocating for rigorous safety standards and forging consensus on critical issues. The Freight and Rail Safety & Engineering Manager has a passion for public service, driving innovation and continuous improvement in rail and freight safety initiatives.