



TDOT Statewide Technical Specialist

AGENCY OVERVIEW AND PROGRAM FOCUS

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.

This classification is within the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The responsibilities of TDOT are to plan, develop, preserve, and maintain the state highway system and assist local governments in developing their highway systems. Specific responsibilities include highway data collection; planning; public outreach; program development; environmental field studies, analysis, compliance documentation, and permitting; regulatory agency consultation; scheduling; design; right-of-way acquisition; estimates; aerial surveying; construction; maintenance; traffic engineering; materials; and geological testing.

SUMMARY

The Statewide Technical Specialist is a recognized subject matter expert within their specific discipline and contributes to national technical committees within their area of technical expertise. The Statewide Technical Specialist provides discipline-specific technical expertise to divisions within TDOT as well as assistance to consultants, contractors, suppliers, federal and state agency partners, local governments, transit agencies, aviation authorities, utility companies, and developers as part of enhancing TDOT's transportation infrastructure network.

Statewide Technical Specialists are responsible for overseeing transportation professional planning and public outreach, as well as the collection and analysis of data and information for the development of technical reports, grants, and contracts used as part of TDOT's infrastructure for all modes of transportation. This position is expected to use engineering judgment and decision-making skills in providing for the interpretation of state statutes, regulations, policies, plans, specifications, standards, grants, and contracts.

This position assists Project Teams in navigating change throughout the life of a project by providing innovative solutions for the resolution of complex issues; safeguarding statewide consistency, ensuring exceedingly complex program issues are routinely communicated; risk, quality, and change management are addressed; and policies, procedures, and standards are consistently applied.



This position is expected to take an active role in the Alternative Delivery program, ensuring statewide consistency, staying relevant and engaged as part of their specific discipline, reviewing alternative technical concepts, and adapting new technologies and best practices in driving TDOT's transportation projects forward.

RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTE: The position responsibilities listed are representative of the work performed by positions within the Technical Specialist classification series. The responsibilities listed are not all inclusive for every position nor is it expected that all positions will be assigned every responsibility.

1. Serve as a subject matter expert in the applicable discipline specific area
2. Research, develop, and implement discipline specific technical guidance to address recurring issues on projects and programs
3. Read, interpret, and apply statutes, regulations, policies, plans, specifications, standards, grant language requirements, contract requirements, and funding applications
4. As part of a matrix organization, coordinate with the Project Manager and Project Team regarding potential impacts to the scope, schedule, and/or budget for projects and programs
5. Perform applicable discipline-specific activities on exceedingly complex projects and statewide programs having the highest degree of risk
6. Assist with multidisciplinary reviews for projects as part of the Quality Assurance process on exceedingly complex projects and statewide programs
7. Participate in Risk Management Assessments and implement risk mitigation strategies
8. Identify conflicts in proposed designs, make recommendations, and coordinate proactive solutions with other disciplines to ensure the needs of the project are met in all phases of the project
9. Participate in the scope development, selection, and administration of alternative delivery contracts on all phases of the project
10. Attend, serve at, and facilitate public meetings as a department representative, proactively addressing customer needs and concerns
11. Lead and participate in national technical committees
12. Review draft legislative language and regulatory public notice announcements that could potentially impact TDOT's ability to deliver projects and programs and provide the Executive Leadership Team and the motoring public feedback on potential ways to mitigate these impacts
13. Serve as a mentor in supporting career development and cultivating the communication and leadership skills of others at TDOT
14. Provide feedback to Regions, local government partners, consultants, contractors, and legislators on grants, projects, and programs and provide resolution for highly complex issues
15. Operate light-duty vehicles



QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

Bachelor's Degree and 8 years of demonstrated competency in a related field as may be outlined in the position description,

OR

Master's Degree and 7 years of demonstrated competency in a related field as may be outlined in the position description.

Necessary Special Qualifications for Regional Technical Specialist

Some positions in these classifications may have additional requirements such as:

- Professional licenses and/or certifications
- Possess and maintain a Class D driver's license valid for use in operating vehicles in the State of Tennessee

Any necessary special qualifications will be denoted in the position description.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, Competencies, and Tools/Equipment

- Skilled in the project delivery methods, including design/bid/build and alternative delivery
- Skilled in state and federal regulations/requirements for development and construction of projects
- Skilled in using critical thinking to problem solve and make informed decisions, independently
- Skilled in advanced technical writing
- Skilled in review and assessment of draft legislative language Skilled in the ability to communicate effectively, while interacting with internal and external stakeholders in a professional and courteous manner
- Skilled in working on project teams
- Skilled in the ability to analyze a process and offer actionable feedback for use in improving the effectiveness, quality, and efficiency of the existing process
- Skilled in the application of transportation finance principles
- Skilled in the development of contract principles and applications
- Skilled in the ability to identify and mitigate risk associated with transportation projects
- Skilled in the ability to research and explore innovative technical concepts and develop applications for how to apply those concepts to transportation projects
- Ability to research and explore innovative technical concepts and develop applications for how to apply those concepts to transportation projects
- Ability to communicate effectively, with excellent verbal/written and public speaking skills, interacting with others in a professional and courteous manner, including internal/external stakeholders, consultants, landowners, and governmental agencies



- Ability to resolve conflicts, coach and motivate others, build high-performing teams, and create a culture of accountability, collaboration, and accomplishment

Conditions of Employment

- Incorporating overtime, weekends, and night shifts into their schedules as work schedules dictate
- Extended durations outdoors in extreme weather conditions
- Working in and around construction and vehicular traffic
- Walking on uneven terrain
- Climbing ladders and construction scaffolding
- Carrying equipment and samples in excess of 25 pounds
- Driving long distances as required to perform daily duties
- Performing work in which personal protective equipment will be required to be worn
- Sitting for extended periods while driving or working on computers
- Standing for extended periods while working outdoors or in a laboratory setting