

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.



Statewide Technical Specialist

Passenger Transportation, Rail, and Freight Division – Policy
\$102,828 annually

Job Overview

The Statewide Technical Specialist develops and implements innovative, discipline-specific technical guidance that enhances Tennessee's transit, rail, and freight programs and projects. This position addresses statewide policy and program standards and initiatives related to freight and rail, including passenger rail, for the Division.

The Specialist leads the development and implementation of TDOT policies, procedures, and technical manuals for integration into TDOT programs and project delivery. The role researches and incorporates national best practices to strengthen efficiency, reliability, safety, and performance within the Passenger Transportation, Rail, and Freight Division.

The Statewide Technical Specialist collaborates with Division units, other TDOT divisions, service providers, authorities, consultants, federal partners, and external stakeholders. The position also supports TDOT's Quality Assurance Program by integrating federal and state requirements into guidance documents and ensuring program compliance, consistency, and effectiveness.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Serve as a subject matter expert for freight, rail (including passenger rail), and transit program areas within the Passenger Transportation, Rail, and Freight Division. Research, develop, and implement discipline-specific technical guidance to address recurring issues on projects and programs.

Read, interpret, and apply statutes, regulations, policies, plans, specifications, standards, grant language requirements, contract requirements, and funding applications to ensure consistent statewide implementation and compliance.

Support the development, refinement, and implementation of Division policies, procedures, guidelines, and technical manuals by providing discipline-specific expertise and ensuring alignment with TDOT's multimodal program delivery needs.

Develop and implement technical quality control and quality assurance processes for freight, rail, passenger rail, and transit programs and projects. Monitor Division technical practices to ensure timeliness, relevancy, and accuracy in addressing current and future multimodal transportation needs.

Manage external partners from a technical perspective, including advising on scopes of work, reviewing contract and grant invoicing for technical accuracy, supporting oversight tasks, and completing consultant grading to ensure deliverables meet TDOT requirements.

Remain current on national best practices related to transit, freight, and rail (including passenger rail) operations and program delivery. Evaluate emerging practices and technologies and recommend technical improvements for potential implementation within TDOT.

Integrate federal and state requirements into TDOT guidance documents, processes, and procedures to support statewide consistency in technical standards and program execution.

Participate in peer exchanges with federal, state, and local agencies and industry partners to gather insights, share technical expertise, and strengthen TDOT's multimodal program capabilities.

Assist in ensuring Passenger Transportation, Rail, and Freight Division deliverables are consistent, predictable, and repeatable by applying technical expertise that mitigates risk, supports high-quality outcomes, and strengthens the Division's track record of successful multimodal program delivery.

Provide exceptional customer service to internal and external customers by exercising effective listening skills, providing prompt responses, maintaining accurate documentation, and communicating technical information clearly and effectively.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Transit Planning, Freight Planning, State or Regional Transportation Planning, Transportation Management, or a related field.
- 8 years of demonstrated competency in one or more of these areas.

OR

- Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Transit Planning, Freight Planning, State or Regional Transportation Planning, Transportation Management, or a related field.
- 7 years of demonstrated competency in one or more of these areas.

Ideal Candidate

The Statewide Technical Specialist is a highly skilled professional with exceptional critical thinking abilities and strong technical communication skills. They are proficient in interpreting and applying federal and state regulations, technical standards, and multimodal program requirements. The ideal candidate excels in collaboration, listening attentively, integrating feedback, and engaging effectively with leadership, peers, and external partners across multiple levels of government and industry. They are detail-oriented and meticulous in their work, demonstrating the ability to analyze technical information and develop clear, actionable guidance that strengthens statewide consistency. The Statewide Technical Specialist is an innovative problem solver who evaluates emerging practices, identifies solutions to complex issues, and supports the development of high-quality, predictable, and compliant program outcomes. They thrive in team-based environments, value cooperation and coordination, and contribute to a culture of accountability, technical excellence, and continuous improvement within the Division.