

Director of Transportation Planning
GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION/FAMPO
Fredericksburg, VA United States

The George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) and its partner organization the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) is looking for someone to enhance, expand, and help lead our existing transportation-focused staff. We are a small but creative shop interested in collaboration, teamwork, and learning. While we are looking for a transportation planning expert with management and budget experience, we would consider experience with other planning specializations of value as well, as we are working hard to have an agile and cross-trained organization. We are looking for the right person to match with our existing and very talented staff to complete our integrated team.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

GWRC is the planning district commission (often called Councils of Government in other states) for what is known as Planning District 16 (PD16). PD16 is the fourth-largest and fastest-growing of the Commonwealth's 21 planning districts and encompasses the City of Fredericksburg as well as the surrounding counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. Approximately 360,000 people call the region home.

We like to think of ourselves as a planning and doing organization. By law, we are responsible for encouraging and facilitating local government cooperation across the region to "address problems of greater than local significance". GWRC's current areas of focus include economic development, environmental services and planning, human services (including homeless services coordination and affordable housing), transportation demand management, and rural and urban transportation planning. Our staff engages in traditional planning work, as well as grant writing, grant management and administration, project management, data analysis, and GIS mapping.

GWRC serves as the staffing and fiscal agent for the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), who drives the urban transportation planning agenda. FAMPO is a federally designated, local decision-making body that is responsible for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process for the more urbanized portion of the region, namely the City of Fredericksburg and the counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford. The FAMPO elected leadership is responsible for ensuring that federal dollars spent on existing and future transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. Committed to meaningful public engagement throughout the process, FAMPO is responsible for establishing priorities to meet short-term (next six years) and long-term (20+ years) multimodal transportation needs in the urban area.

GWRC is governed by a ten (10) member board of directors, all of which are elected officials from the member local governments. FAMPO is governed by a similar-sized Policy Committee that includes both local elected leaders and professional staff representatives from transportation organizations.

ABOUT THE POSITION

We are interested in a creative, team-focused professional with an aptitude and desire to help guide transportation planning for the region. The staff assigned to this work is responsible for providing excellent information and staff support to the Policy Committee, working effectively with transportation colleagues in the region, helping the organization comply with appropriate state and federal transportation policies and regulations, being a key part of our small office team, communicating well with the general public, and developing excellent written and oral work in the area of transportation planning. This is a full-time salaried position but with the opportunity for telework and flexible scheduling after an initial training and observation period.

The best candidate will have leadership and management experience in the transportation planning field, combined with a thorough knowledge of the transportation planning process, traffic and travel demand modeling processes, and federal and state regulations and guidance related to transportation programs and funding. Familiarity with traditional road, transit, and active transportation best practices, as well as federal and state policy, would be a plus. The successful candidate must exhibit knowledge of planning theories, techniques of transportation planning and analysis, and applicable federal and state transportation regulations. An ability to work effectively with elected and appointed leadership is critical. Experience with regional planning models would be ideal.

Key responsibilities for the selected candidate will include:

- Serving as the lead staff member and Administrator to the FAMPO Policy Committee.
- Leading the implementation of the FAMPO Policy Committee's policy and planning direction.
- Assisting the FAMPO Policy Committee through strategic and vision setting discussions to set and update the region's long-range transportation direction and helping to guide organizational decisions in conjunction with that vision.
- Providing day to day management of staff assigned to MPO transportation work.
- Developing and implementing the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at the direction of FAMPO Policy Committee and in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), local jurisdiction planners, GWRC staff, and other planning partners.
- Developing and managing program budgets, including responsibility for quarterly reporting to key funders and the Policy Committee, in conjunction with key GWRC staff.
- Working with the GWRC leadership team and other staff to meet organizational needs.
- Working with the GWRC Executive Director to ensure Title VI Compliance.
- Presenting policy and technical analysis to state, federal and local officials, other professional staff and the general public.
- Encouraging regional respect and cooperation as it relates to transportation planning.
- Mentoring and growing less experienced transportation staff to aid their professional development.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in transportation planning, civil engineering or a related field, and considerable experience in professional transportation planning work.
- The proven ability to work cooperatively across a broad range of people and organizations.

- A well-honed ability to present complicated data and analysis in a manner that allows informed decision making.
- Substantial supervisory and budgetary skills and experience.
- Significant local/state or regional transportation planning experience.
- A deep understanding of road, transit, and active transportation policy and regulation.
- A strong knowledge of transportation finance, policy and project development.
- Working knowledge of ESRI ArcGIS, transportation demand modeling, transportation analysis and other technical tools in order to make effective management and task delegation decisions.
- The proven ability to mentor, lead, and grow staff.

Preferred

- Recent experience with federal transportation work and requirements.
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification or Professional Engineer (PE) license.
- Virginia transportation knowledge.
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) experience.

COMPENSATION

Starting compensation is negotiable depending on qualifications. An outstanding benefits package including health insurance and retirement is also provided.

TO APPLY

Please email a cover letter, résumé, representative sample of your work for a transportation study or plan, and 3-4 references to careers@gwregion.org. Letters of recommendation are also welcome. Position is open until filled.

George Washington Regional Commission/Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. We are proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer, making decisions without regard to race, sex, national origins, disability, age, color, low-income, or limited-English proficiency.