

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Transport Planner
MANAGED BY:	Head of Mass Transit
GRADE:	9

THE ROLE

WECA has funding to invest in mass transit to deliver the breakthrough that the region needs to develop a committed and operational mass transit system in the region. 'Mass transit' means public transport services that run frequently, provide plenty of seats, offer comfortable vehicles with modern amenities, and are more reliable by having dedicated operating space. Mass transit could take different forms in different places, based on what best meets the characteristics of each corridor: trams, rail, metrobus, guided buses, or other options.

This role is key to achieving this, supporting us in developing a 15-year plan for mass transit for all of our economic growth zones, our ambition to start delivery of the first projects within 4-5 years, and making a unified and compelling case to government for further investment.

As part of the Mass Transit team, you will:

- Provide transport planning advice to the Mass Transit programme, supporting and progressing the development of business cases for Mass Transit.
- Co-ordinate work between the Mass Transit team and WECA's Transport Strategy team, ensuring that Mass Transit proposals are consistent with wider transport strategy including the Joint Local Transport Plan and Bus Plan, whilst providing Mass Transit input into these and any other relevant strategies as they are updated.
- Lead the development of transport evidence and strategic advice supporting the Mass Transit programme, ensuring alignment with regional growth, transport and spatial planning objectives.
- Work with transport and land use planning teams in the region's Unitary Authorities, providing support and safeguarding for Mass Transit corridors through the development of Local Plans and masterplans, and leading where WECA is consulted on Mass Transit requirements for planning applications.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Working across the Combined Authority's Mass Transit team within Transport Capital Delivery, key duties and responsibilities will include:

- Supporting the development of business cases and associated transport related strategies for the Mass Transit programme.
- Leading the review and challenge of technical outputs produced by consultant teams, ensuring quality, consistency and compliance with programme objectives and funding requirements.
- Procuring and managing technical input and expertise through the commissioning of consultancy work for the Mass Transit programme.
- Managing projects of an appropriate size to time and budget, including reporting on project progress against milestones and budget to the relevant programme managers.
- Co-ordinating work between the Mass Transit programme and the Combined Authority's Transport Strategy team, ensuring consistency between Mass Transit proposals, the next iteration of the Joint Local Transport Plan and programme development across other modes of transport (including bus, rail and active travel).
- Manage the delivery of input from the Mass Transit programme into the development of the spatial planning approach for the region (including the Combined Authority's Spatial Development Strategy and Local Plans prepared by the region's Unitary Authorities) and other supporting region-wide plans and strategies.
- Managing effective relationships between the Mass Transit team and Unitary Authority planning and development management teams, chairing working groups and providing advice on requirements associated with Mass Transit where development proposals interact with Mass Transit.
- Where appropriate, managing public engagement, community interest groups and others in the development, review and implementation of the Mass Transit Programme.
- Managing relationships with a range of stakeholders, including elected Members, in the development of strategies for Mass Transit to secure support for Mass Transit priorities and programme delivery.
- Preparing reports and presentations and presenting at Committees and other internal or public meetings.
- Assisting in any other areas of comparable work as may be required by service managers because of workloads and priorities.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Degree level or equivalent in planning, engineering or transport (e.g. Transport Planning, Geography, Civil Engineering).
- Good knowledge of transport planning and business case processes.
- Good knowledge of transport and town planning legislation, regulations, national policies and professional best practice.
- Qualification or experience in relevant project management disciplines and their practical application, including management of cost, risk, schedule, change and requirements.
- Knowledge of strategic and local development plans and/or appraisal of major developments.

Experience

- Demonstrable experience in shaping and influencing strategies and policies in a local government context.
- Demonstrable experience of working at the interface of transport and town planning, for example through the preparation or assessment of Transport Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments or Masterplans.
- Experience of contributing to statutory transport strategy documents such as Local Transport Plans.
- Proven ability to understand and promote complex issues in a persuasive and sensitive manner.
- Experience of partnership working with a range of local authority and stakeholder groups, politicians and disciplines.

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent communication and presentational skills, with the ability to communicate effectively with elected Members, constituent councils, colleagues across the Combined Authority, members of the public and other stakeholders and secure buy-in and engagement. Ability to give advice and, when necessary, negotiate assertively but with tact and diplomacy.
- Excellent organisational & administrative skills for planning meetings, events/workshops, notetaking, allocating & chasing up actions.
- Able to prioritise workload, to work under pressure and meet deadlines, acting on own initiative, or constructively as part of a team, when necessary.
- Able to research, collate and analyse complex issues and develop innovative approaches to problem solving.
- Able to write clear and concise reports and presentations.

DESIRABLE

Qualifications and Knowledge

- A chartered membership of a relevant professional body (TPP, CIHT, CILT for example).
- Knowledge of transport modelling, including the strengths and weaknesses of different types of transport model (eg Saturn, VISSIM, VISUM and Linsig)

Experience

- Experience of working in a highly visible public sector environment.
- Experience of transport business case development and using relevant national design guidance, for example LTN 1/20 and LTN 1/24

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent IT Skills including the ability to manage and analyse data and use of mapping software; such as use of MS Excel / PowerBI and GIS.