

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Transport Planner
MANAGED BY:	Head of Transport Pipeline and Investment
GRADE:	Grade 9

THE ROLE

The Senior Transport Planner provides specialist technical and analytical expertise across the Transport Directorate, leading and supporting the development of transport strategies, investment programmes, business cases and infrastructure schemes. Working across a range of transport modes, the role applies evidence, data and stakeholder engagement to shape informed decision-making and deliver sustainable transport solutions that align with the Mayoral Transport Vision and regional priorities.

The post holder will be an analytical and proactive professional with the ability to interpret complex data, solve challenging transport issues and translate evidence into practical, deliverable solutions. You will provide technical advice, lead elements of transport planning work and build effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders. With a strong understanding of how transport influences places, connectivity and economic growth, you will play a key role in improving accessibility, sustainability and transport outcomes for communities across the region.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead the development and implementation of transport strategies, policies, programmes and projects across rail, bus, active travel and other transport modes, ensuring alignment with the Joint Local Transport Plan, Mayoral priorities and organisational objectives.
- Support the team in implementing the WECA Transport Strategy and associated transport strategies, policies and programmes.
- Lead the development of business cases and funding proposals that align with the MCA Growth Strategy and Transport Strategy, ensuring a clear line of sight between strategic objectives, investment decisions and delivery outcomes.
- Oversee transport modelling, technical studies and evidence gathering to assess the impacts of transport schemes and support evidence-based planning and continuous improvement.
- Lead technical assessments of proposed developments, using modelling, analysis and professional judgement to forecast transport impacts, inform network performance and identify appropriate mitigation measures.
- Manage the delivery of external consultants and contractors, ensuring research, modelling and technical outputs are robust, proportionate and fit for purpose to support informed decision-making.
- Prepare and present high-quality reports, technical papers and recommendations, translating complex evidence into clear advice to support transport planning, investment and governance decisions.
- Prepare and present reports and presentations for committees, boards, working groups and public meetings, providing clear, accurate and evidence-based advice.
- Promote the benefits of sustainable transport, including public transport, walking and cycling, supporting the delivery of regional transport and climate objectives.
- Lead transport planning activities that balance economic growth, connectivity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- Provide technical leadership in the development and implementation of highway, rail, bus, cycling and walking schemes.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships with Unitary Authorities, government bodies, transport operators, developers and other stakeholders to shape transport plans, investment priorities and transport programmes across the West of England.
- Manage transport projects of appropriate scale, ensuring delivery to agreed scope, quality, timescales and budgets.
- Manage stakeholder engagement activities, ensuring effective participation by partners, communities and interest groups in the development, review and implementation of transport strategies, plans and investment proposals.
- Undertake corporate responsibilities and other duties commensurate with the level of the role

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Degree level or equivalent in engineering, transport or environmental sciences (e.g. Transport Planning, Geography, Environmental Studies/Science).
- Knowledge of transport modes, their characteristics, costs and benefits, and their contribution to wider transport outcomes.
- Extensive understanding of transport and highways legislation, regulations, national policies and professional best practice.

Experience

- Demonstrable experience of contributing to key strategy documents, such as Transport Investment strategies and pipeline plans and Corporate Strategies.
- Leading the development of transport plans and investment proposals that reflect strategic objectives and legislative requirements.
- Developing practical transport solutions that address urban, rural, sustainable and public transport challenges, identifying and managing associated risks.
- Leading the development of transport investment proposals that deliver economic growth, value for money and wider social and environmental benefits.
- Analysing complex data sets to produce high-quality reports that communicate evidence, inform decision-making and demonstrate the benefits of transport interventions.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex technical information clearly to a range of audiences, including senior leadership, organisational stakeholders and politicians.
- Working proactively, using initiative to deliver competing priorities and deliver high-quality outcomes with minimal supervision.
- Successfully contributing to projects to agreed timescales, budgets and scope.
- Working with senior stakeholders and contractors to ensure agreed benefits and outcomes are delivered and transport schemes remain strategically aligned.

Skills and Competencies

- Ability to lead research studies, which solve complex problems on a regional scale, developing practical and innovative solutions.
- Strong written, verbal and presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively with elected Members, constituent councils, colleagues, partners, stakeholders and members of the public.
- Ability to provide professional advice and communicate recommendations clearly, using tact, diplomacy and effective negotiation skills where appropriate.
- Works collaboratively with colleagues, partners and stakeholders to achieve shared objectives, resolve issues and contribute to continuous improvement.
- Ability to manage workloads, work under pressure and meet deadlines, using initiative and working effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications, with experience of analysing data and using mapping and project management software, such as Microsoft Excel, GIS and Microsoft Project.
- Strong organisational skills, with a proven track record of delivering high quality outcomes.
- Assessing investment opportunities against transport risks and benefits.
- Committed to working in fast-paced, environments, bringing positivity and optimism.

DESIRABLE

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Relevant post graduate qualification or equivalent professional experience in data analytics/research methods.
- Experience of working in a highly visible public sector environment.