DETAIL JOB DESCRIPTION

Senior Research Specialist

The *Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center* at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey seeks qualified candidates for the Senior Research Specialist position. The center's research portfolio includes projects that address a broad range of planning and policy topics, including: regional planning, transit-oriented development, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, transit planning, emerging mobility options, human services transportation, environmental justice and equity, among others. The Senior Research Specialist will potentially lead projects as well as provide project management and research support on assigned projects. Responsibilities include:

- Serves as Principal Investigator (PI), Co-PI, project manager and/or task leader overseeing the execution of work plan tasks on externally-funded projects and programs
- Conducts qualitative and quantitative research, applied planning, training and technical assistance activities
- Writes proposals and contributes to business development activities in order to maintain and grow the level of external funding available to support the center's research, planning, training and technical assistance activities
- Enhances the visibility of the center and the center's programs/work products by participating on industry-related external committees, making presentations at conferences, writing and co-authoring reports and articles
- Provides subject matter expertise and technical assistance to outside agencies, professionals, policy makers, and the general public

The candidates filling this position will be initially assigned to support the *Somerset County Investment Framework Update, FHWA Local Highway Finance Study, Transit Friendly Planning Data Application, Together North Jersey Vibrant Places Program, and other research, planning, technical assistance, outreach and engagement projects* as needed.

The Senior Research Specialist will have ample opportunity to demonstrate and expand their knowledge of the nexus between transportation and land use, housing, economic development, climate resilience, and placemaking. They will work for a diverse mix of Federal, State, Regional and Local Public Agencies on a challenging mix of policy, research and applied planning projects.

The ideal candidate will have current experience and expertise in the following areas: transportation planning, spatial analysis using geographic information systems (GIS), community engagement, environmental justice and equity, and sustainable principles and practices. Demonstrated project management experience and the ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously will be required. Critical thinking and robust analytical skills are essential. Excellent communication skills, especially compelling writing skills are paramount. The ability to collaborate effectively internally and with external partners is also required.

Requirements:

- Applicants should possess a Master's degree in urban planning, public policy, transportation planning or engineering, or a closely related field, or an equivalent combination of education and/or experience.
- Requires a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of planning principles and practices and/or public policy development; quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis; as well as article/report preparation and submission
- Requires excellent written and verbal communication skills and computer literacy

A Ph.D. in transportation planning or engineering, public policy, sociology, economics or other closely related social science field is desired but not required. Experience, knowledge and subject matter expertise in the concentrations metropolitan and regional planning; public and stakeholder engagement; and/or transit/paratransit planning and operations are also desired.

Preferred Knowledge and Expertise:

- Demonstrated interest in spatial and non-spatial data analysis and data management
- Research, evaluation and policy assessment using quantitative and qualitative research methods and tools (e.g., ArcGIS, Excel, MS-Access, State, R, SPSS, survey design, focus groups) applied to projects
- In-person and online outreach, engagement, and summit/conference planning
- Demonstrated technical and non-technical professional writing

Salary will be competitive, and commensurate with experience within University guidelines for this position. See job positing for salary range. These positions are part of the Alternate Benefit Program (ABP). Information on the benefits associated with the ABP can be found on the Rutgers University website at the following link: https://uhr.rutgers.edu/alternate-benefit-program-abp.

Interested candidates should apply via the internet through the Rutgers University office of human resources at the following link: https://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/170644

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About VTC: The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (RU-VTC) is a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. Established in 1998, RU-VTC is one of several research centers within the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. The center specializes in identifying and exploring linkages between transportation and other public policy areas, such as economic development, land use, political governance, finance and social policy. The center has an annual operating and research budget of approximately $4 million. Additional information on VTC can be found here: http://vtc.rutgers.edu/.