

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL



Houston-Galveston Area Council

About the Houston-Galveston Area Council

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a voluntary information, planning, and problem-solving forum for local governments in the Houston-Galveston region. H-GAC serves an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. Our regional programs focus on community and environmental planning, data tools and resources, disaster planning and recovery, mobility and public safety, workforce and economic development.





Mission

H-GAC's mission is to serve as the instrument of local government cooperation, promoting the region's orderly development and the safety and welfare of its citizens.

Governance and Organization

H-GAC is one of the largest regional planning commissions in the country. Our service area spans 13 counties and includes 177 cities and 84 independent school districts. The 250-member staff of professionals and 36-member Board of Directors understand that a strong economy and rapid growth bring both opportunities and challenges. We meet these challenges in three key ways: providing a forum for jurisdictions of all sizes to come together to solve regional issues; identifying and prioritizing funding opportunities; and providing direct services.

About the Department

H-GAC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in the eight-county Houston-Galveston area. This area includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council approves the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The department includes a diverse team of professionals with backgrounds in public transit, transportation and land use planning, air quality, freight and goods movement, traffic safety, infrastructure resiliency, and environmental justice.

About the Position

The Transportation Director reports directly to the Executive Director of H-GAC and is responsible for guiding a regional policymaking council to establish short term and long-range transportation investment priorities for one of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. Direct reports include the Assistant Director of Transportation, who oversees the day to day operations of the department and manages a team of managers and staff.

Primary responsibilities include setting a vision for the future of transportation for our region; and communicating with a wide variety of individuals and organizations from county executives and mayors, to planning staff and consultants, state and federal elected officials, leaders of state and federal transportation agencies, advocacy groups, and the media. The director will also chart the course for a large team of professionals to advance and implement important planning and service programs with an annual operating budget of approximately \$10 million, and with programming responsibility of \$700 million to \$1 billion per year in transportation projects.

The Transportation Director will also be responsible for developing managers and leaders within the transportation department. The director will delegate operational work, department management, and project implementation to the Assistant Director of Transportation; help implement the vision of H-GAC's Executive Director; contribute to agency policy and growth discussions with peers from the agency senior management team and strive to empower staff; and explore opportunities to expand our service to the region, collaborate across the agency, and improve efficiencies.







Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will be an innovative leader with demonstrated ability to contemplate problems that are complex and have multiple considerations, including political, financial, regulatory, and technical. The selected candidate will evaluate options, act, and adjust to changing conditions and opportunities when applicable. The ideal candidate will have a background in transportation and proven experience to motivate, coach, and grow a new generation of professionals and leaders. Attributes of a successful candidate include:

- Diplomatic approach to identifying win-win opportunities to resolve conflicts over controversial projects
- Proven ability to build relationships and alliances based on trust
- Candid and generous communication style
- Ability to achieve consensus across a spectrum of interests and priorities
- Ability to articulate complex concepts in a clear and straightforward manner
- Applies a forward-thinking approach to long term planning, with an emphasis on innovation and technology
- Energetic and an effective listener
- Ability to recognize and pursue opportunities to expand services and establish our agency as a leader
- A practical thinker, motivator, able to collaborate with team members, leaders, and stakeholders to produce exceptional quality output and drive creative solutions to maximize federal and state funding for our region

Leadership & Innovation

The next Transportation Director will have the opportunity to address several challenges:

- Integrate advances in high-capacity transit, autonomous freight movement, traffic management technology, multimodal networks, and smart construction techniques into long range regional planning and near-term project selection policies
- Balance current and future transportation needs with equitable consideration of existing neighborhoods and communities
- Create a dynamic, collaborative environment that will leverage other programs and projects that intersect with transportation (housing, natural resources, economic development, and resiliency)
- Establish our organization as a national-caliber MPO with regards to pilot testing new technologies as well as to increased mobility, improved air quality, and traffic safety
- Develop a regional vision zero traffic safety alliance

Education & Experience

The position of Transportation Director requires:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in Public Administration, Urban Planning, Engineering, Architecture, or other related field of study
- Minimum of ten (10) years of experience are required in progressively responsible professional work directly related to regional planning, public service, and infrastructure/ economic development planning, with at least five (5) years in a management capacity focused on transportation
- Experience in a consensus building environment with proven leadership in achieving results

Preference will be given to applicants that possess:

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in Public Administration, Urban Planning, Engineering, Architecture, or other related field of study
- Executive level experience in a public service organization
- Over ten (10) years of management experience
- Understanding of traffic and drainage infrastructure
- Ability to work with a diverse population
- Proven experience leading a large organization through transformation and/or natural disasters

Compensation and Benefits

H-GAC is offering a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Application Process

Please apply online: h-gac.com/careers

H-GAC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, veteran status, or any other occupational irrelevant criteria. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.







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