

# Planner

## Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

### **The Opportunity**

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) seeks to fill a planner position on its staff. The level of planner position (i.e., Planner I, Associate Planner or Senior Planner) will be determined based on the qualifications of the applicant selected. An exempt, full time position, the planner will work under the general direction of the MPO's Planning Manager, and in consultation with the MPO's Assistant Director and/or Executive Director, to perform a variety of professional transportation planning assignments and activities. More specifically, the position will be focused on data, GIS, and modeling. Duties will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Leading the MPO's data collection and analysis efforts
- Managing the MPO's GIS programs and data
- Running the MPO's travel demand model (TRANSCAD) and updating the model as necessary
- Managing the MPO's Iowa Data Bike project
- Developing quarterly reports on MPO long-range plan performance measures
- Developing performance targets as prescribed by the FAST Act
- Developing and using land use scenario models (e.g., Envision Tomorrow)

### **Compensation and Benefits**

The position will have a starting salary range of between \$40,000 and \$65,000 depending on qualifications. The Des Moines Area MPO offers an excellent benefits package including the following:

- Medical, dental, and vision insurance
- Participation in the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) and a 457(b) deferred compensation plan with employer match up to 5%;
- 10 days starting vacation, paid sick time, 11 paid holidays, and flexible work hours
- Free covered parking, a free transit pass, and free bike-share usage
- Tuition assistance, professional membership dues, and registration/travel for professional conferences

### **Education, Experience, and Skills Desired**

The ideal candidate will be a graduate of an accredited college or university, with major coursework in transportation, engineering, urban and/or regional planning, community development, public administration, geography, environmental studies, or closely related field, or an equivalent combination of education and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. The candidate should be familiar with planning principles, concepts, techniques, and abilities; understand the relationship among interconnected regional systems, including transportation, built and natural environmental systems, affordable housing, and economic development. The ideal candidate will have a strong understanding of GIS software, statistical methods, and travel demand modeling, and be

capable of explaining complex, technical information to a layperson audience. A Master's degree and possession of AICP accreditation is desirable but not required.

The candidate must be able to work both as a team member and independently, possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, handle a high volume of work in a busy and demanding environment, effectively prioritize and handle multiple projects simultaneously, and contribute to the success of those projects. Accuracy and timeliness in completing assignments is extremely important.

### **The Organization**

The Des Moines Area MPO is a regional planning entity comprised of local communities and transportation agencies in the Des Moines, Iowa, metropolitan region. The Des Moines Area MPO provides a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies regarding planning issues, primarily transportation issues, and to prepare related plans and programs. The Des Moines Area MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.

### **How to Apply**

Complete an online application ([available here](#)) and mail or email a cover letter and current resume to:

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Attn: Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director  
420 Watson Powell Jr. Pkwy, Suite 200  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Email: [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is an equal opportunity employer.

Qualified disabled applicants who need a reasonable accommodation in order to take the examination/interview must inform this office before the interview date.

Applicants must successfully pass a pre-employment physical and drug screen before beginning employment with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The position is open until filled.