



About WSDOT

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is a multimodal agency with a global reputation for excellence. Our dedicated workforce plans, designs, builds, and operates an integrated transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and goods throughout the state. In addition to maintaining over 20,000 lane miles of state highway and 4,100 bridges, WSDOT manages the world's longest floating bridge, leads an award-winning Active Transportation Plan, holds the record for the world's widest tunneling project, and operates the largest ferry system in the nation!

The Opportunity

WSDOT is seeking a skilled and motivated Transportation Engineer to serve as an Engineering Geologist within the State Geotechnical Office's Engineering Geology section. This position is a first responder and technical expert that assesses and mitigates unstable slopes and geologic hazards that impact Washington's transportation infrastructure. As part of the Engineering Geology section, this position will provide expert technical guidance and support to region project offices, Materials Engineers, Maintenance, and other WSDOT partners on emergency and complex geotechnical design and construction projects across the state. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong analytical and problem-solving abilities, proficiency in geological and geotechnical investigation methods, and experience conducting field assessments and developing comprehensive geotechnical design recommendations. A strong candidate will also bring sound engineering judgment, the ability to manage multiple projects independently, and engineering geology technical expertise.

What to Expect

This position requires outdoor field work utilizing numerous types of scientific equipment. Field work often occurs during inclement weather, generally on or near a roadway, and can be in daytime or nighttime. Additional responsibilities include sample review in the HQ Material Laboratory (Tumwater, WA), in person meetings at the HQ Materials Laboratory, and computer office work at home or in the HQ Materials Laboratory. Exposure hazards include steep or uneven terrain, unstable slopes, geohazards (rockfall, landslides, debris flows, floods, etc.), rugged outdoor environmental conditions, adverse weather conditions, high-speed traffic, exhaust, drill rigs, and construction equipment.

Among the varied range of responsibilities held within this role, the Engineering Geologist will:

- Develop field exploration plans, instrumentation plans, and specialized laboratory testing plans for geotechnical engineering design and construction projects.
- Lead and/or direct drill inspectors, laboratory technicians, and instrumentation technicians to ensure appropriate and correct data is obtained.
- Perform emergency responses for slope-related highway closures, conduct risk assessments, and provide short-term recommendations to Maintenance and emergency personnel.
- Perform field data collection for unstable slope stabilization projects and earthwork projects.
- Compile, organize, research, and review historical records, geologic mapping, field data and laboratory data.
- Perform various geotechnical analyses (limit-equilibrium analysis, kinematic analysis, settlement analysis, liquefaction analysis, etc.) for earthwork and slope stabilization projects (i.e., cuts, fills, landslides).
- Write memoranda and/or geotechnical reports summarizing the work conducted, data, analyses, interpretation, and make final recommendations.
- Prepare Plans, Specifications & Estimates (PS&E) level geotechnical engineering design documents.
- As a subject matter expert (SME), provide geotechnical construction support for construction projects including developing solutions to geotechnical construction problems.

- Track geotechnical design project costs and schedule.

Qualifications

This is a Transportation Engineer 4 position. However, the hiring manager reserves the right to fill the position at a lower level in the [classification series](#) based on candidate qualifications, providing an opportunity for an individual to gain the required experience on the job as part of a formal “in-training” plan.

To be considered for this opportunity, the following are required:

- **Core Geologic and Geotechnical Knowledge:** Demonstrated understanding of geologic, engineering geology, hydrogeology, and geotechnical principles, including interpretation of subsurface conditions and the application of geological sciences to design and construction activities.
- **Regulatory and Licensing Awareness:** Knowledge of state and professional standards governing geological and geotechnical practice, with the ability to meet licensure requirements as a Licensed Engineering Geologist in Washington State.
- **Technical Proficiency and Field Expertise:** Skilled in conducting detailed field investigations, site characterizations, and stability assessments using specialized geotechnical and geological tools, techniques, and equipment.
- **Project Management and Collaboration:** Proven ability to coordinate and negotiate project scopes, schedules, deliverables, and budgets with consultants, regional offices, and internal customers to meet project goals and deadlines.
- **Analytical and Problem-Solving Skills:** Ability to perform geotechnical analyses, such as limit equilibrium and kinematic slope stability assessments, and to develop sound design recommendations based on field data and engineering judgment.
- **Communication and Reporting:** Strong written and verbal communication skills with the ability to prepare clear, detailed geotechnical reports and effectively convey technical findings to diverse audiences.
- **Respectful Workplace:** Demonstrated commitment to learning and growth. The ability to take action to meet the needs of others.

In addition to the above, the following are also required:

- A valid driver’s license and the ability to operate state-owned vehicles.
- Ability to travel overnight and work outside in adverse conditions.
- Ability to pick up and drop off equipment, review samples, and attend in person meetings at the State Materials Laboratory (Tumwater, WA) on a regular basis, and to perform computer-based office work at home or in the State Materials Laboratory (Tumwater, WA).
- Ability to perform multiple concurrent tasks and duties.
- Ability to obtain high angle rope access training/certification within 12 months and the willingness to utilize such training/certification within the In-Training period.
- Ability to obtain FAA Part 107 sUAS Remote Pilot License within 12 months and the willingness to utilize licensure within the In-Training period.

It is preferred that qualified candidates also have:

- **Field Geology Methods:** Experience applying advanced field geology techniques.
- **Geotechnical Software Proficiency:** Experience using GIS, limit equilibrium analysis software, and other geotechnical modeling and data analysis programs.
- **Steep Slope and Rope Access:** Experience or familiarity with rope access methods and safety protocols for working on steep or unstable slopes.
- FAA Part 107 sUAS Remote Pilot Certificate.

****To review the full Position Description, please follow the directions in the Contact Us section of this posting.***

Important Notes

- This recruitment may also be used to fill additional positions per business needs.
- In addition to base salary, employees may be entitled to other forms of compensation depending on the type, duties, or location of the position. For union-represented positions, more information on other forms of compensation can be found in the applicable [Collective Bargaining Agreements](#). Information on other compensation types for non-represented positions can be found in [Chapter 357-28](#) of the Washington Administrative Code.
- This position offers flexible/hybrid remote work options, but the candidate must be able to pick up and drop off equipment at the State Materials Laboratory, review samples in the State Materials Laboratory, and attend meetings in the State Materials Laboratory on a regular basis.
- This is a Transportation Engineer 4 position. However, the hiring manager reserves the right to fill the position at a lower level in the [classification series](#) (Geotechnical Specialist) based on candidate qualifications, providing an opportunity for an individual to gain the required experience on the job as part of a formal “in-training” plan. The base salaries for each level are:
 - Transportation Engineer 4: \$87,048 – \$117,120
 - Transportation Engineer 3: \$78,912 – \$106,104
 - Transportation Engineer 2: \$71,472 – \$96,144
- WSDOT does not use the E-Verify system, therefore we are not eligible to extend STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT). For more information, please visit, please visit www.uscis.gov

Why WSDOT

- [Work-Life Balance](#) – We are committed to ensure that our staff experience the reward of public service, while also sustaining a routine that suits each individuals’ lifestyle. As such, there are a number of flexible schedule options available, including telework options for eligible positions.
- [Paid Leave](#) – In addition to 12 paid holidays, full-time employees earn up to 25 paid vacation days per year.
- [Tuition Assistance](#) – Permanent employees have several options for assistance with education expenses, including tuition reimbursement programs, government discounts at participating colleges throughout the state, and eligibility for federal student loan forgiveness.
- [Plan For Your Future](#) – WSDOT offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes a variety of healthcare options. Employees also have their choice of state retirement programs, and much more. Go to [State Benefits](#) for more information.

Check out this video to learn more: [Why WSDOT?](#)

How to Apply

Applications for this recruitment will be accepted electronically. Your relevant experience may be evaluated to determine salary. Therefore, it is very important that the “Work Experience” portion of the application be completed in as much detail as possible.

In order to be considered for this opportunity, please include the following with your online application:

- An attached Resume outlining (in reverse chronological order) your experience to date.
- An attached Cover Letter that further explains your qualifications and indicates why you believe you are a viable candidate for this role.
- Contact details for a minimum of three (3) individuals who can attest to your work performance, technical skills, and job-related competencies. NOTE: This information may be entered in the “References” section of the online application; does not require an additional attachment.

Please click the "APPLY" button to proceed. Note that you will be prompted to either sign in or create an account. This step is required in order to submit an application to this opportunity.

WSDOT is an equal opportunity employer. We value the importance of creating an environment in which all employees can feel respected, included, and empowered to bring unique ideas to the agency. Our diversity and inclusion efforts include embracing different cultures, backgrounds and viewpoints while fostering growth and advancement in the workplace. All persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, and/ or gender identity, are

encouraged to apply. Persons with disabilities needing assistance in the application process, or those needing this job announcement in an alternative format may contact the listed Recruiter.

Contact Us

For inquiries about this posting, you may contact the assigned Recruiter at Robyn.Lovely@wsdot.wa.gov. Please be sure to reference **25DOT-HQ-04786** in the subject line.