



SANDHILLS

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION**



**SMPO DIRECTOR
RECRUITMENT
MOORE COUNTY, NC**



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO) seeks a Director who will work closely with the Governing Board and Technical Coordination Committee to lead the operations related to the newly created SMPO. The Director will develop and manage the work plans and budget for the SMPO while maintaining compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. This position will manage the development of long-range transportation plans, Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP), Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP), Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP), and Transportation Improvement Plans (TIP) to ensure strategic goals and objectives are met for the Sandhills Urbanized Area.

The Director will oversee and execute the supervisory, administrative, outreach, and technical tasks required to establish and maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive regional transportation planning process. The Director will be expected to prepare a detailed analysis of transportation demand and evaluate the adequacy of transportation infrastructure in meeting current and projected needs for the area. This position will also manage the coordination of all board meetings and associated reporting.

The Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO)

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy-making organization comprising representatives from local government and transportation authorities. In 1962, the United States Congress passed legislation that required the formation of an MPO for any Urbanized Area with a population greater than 50,000. Congress created MPOs to ensure that existing and future transportation projects and program expenditures are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C”) planning process. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs is channeled through this planning process. There are 20 MPOs in North Carolina, of which the Sandhills MPO is the newest.

State Secretary of Transportation Joey Hopkins approved SMPO's organization and structure in December 2023.



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be a high-energy, collaborative leader with strong interpersonal skills committed to delivering exceptional customer service by developing effective interpersonal relationships. The ideal candidate will be open-minded and considerate of different perspectives, be flexible and willing to adapt and accommodate others, demonstrate confidence and instill the trust of others, show a commitment to continuously improving operationally and professionally, and demonstrate sound independent judgment.

EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in planning or a related field with four or more years of experience preferred in transportation planning with a working knowledge of GIS or an equivalent combination of education and experience. A Master's degree in planning or a related field, as well as experience working at a Rural Planning Organization or Metropolitan Planning Organization, is preferred.

Certification as a Professional Transportation Planner (PTP) is preferred. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification is preferred. Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) certification preferred.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The salary range for this position is \$62,452 to \$93,678. SMPO also offers a competitive benefits package which includes, but is not limited to:

Vacation: 20 days of vacation pay per year

Holidays: 12 paid holidays per year

Sick Leave: 12 sick days per year

Insurance: Medical (PPO and HDHP with HSA options available), dental, and vision insurance – employee premiums fully paid by SMPO; optional supplemental coverages are also available.

Retirement: SMPO contributes 5% of salary to 401(k) retirement plan; participation in the NC Local Government Employee Retirement System; voluntary 457(b) retirement plan

Additional Benefits: Alternate work schedule available, Employee Assistance Program, tuition reimbursement, 10% discount off Parks & Recreation fees, and more.

Applications for this position will be accepted online at www.vopnc.org/hr until this position is filled.

A cover letter, resume, and completed online application, including completion of supplemental questions, are required by the filing deadline.

Only those candidates determined to be the most qualified based on experience, training, and education will be invited to participate further in the selection process.

For more information, visit www.vopnc.org/hr or contact:

Angela Kantor
Village of Pinehurst
Human Resources Director
395 Magnolia Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
910-295-1900 ext. 1245

THE AREA

The SMPO covers the Village of Pinehurst, Town of Southern Pines, Town of Aberdeen, Village of Whispering Pines, Town of Pinebluff, Town of Taylortown, and portions of unincorporated Moore County.

The Sandhills area is a globally recognized golf destination with nearly 40 fantastic golf courses conveniently located within a 15-mile radius.

The famous Pinehurst No. 2 course will welcome the world as it hosts the U.S. Open Championship in June 2024.

However, the Sandhills offer more than golf. We have a thriving arts community, an award-winning medical center and community college, tennis and equestrian activities, great shopping, and fine dining. The small towns and charming atmosphere make the Sandhills an excellent place to live and work.

