The North County Transit District invites applications for
Chief of Planning, Strategy & Innovation
Oceanside, California

Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search
The Agency

The North County Transit District is the agency responsible for public transportation in North San Diego County, California. It was established in 1975 by California Senate Bill No. 802 to plan, construct, and operate public transit in North San Diego County.

NCTD provides approximately 10.3 million passenger trips per year. NCTD’s geographic area is 1,020 square miles with an approximate population of 849,000 people. NCTD employs approximately 845 people, both direct and contract employees and is governed by a Board of Directors with voting members from Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Solana Beach, San Marcos, Vista, and San Diego County, and one non-voting member from the City of San Diego.

The agency owns the COASTER commuter rail service between Oceanside and Santa Fe Depot, and the SPRINTER hybrid rail service between Oceanside and Escondido. NCTD also owns the BREEZE bus service, LIFT ADA paratransit service, and FLEX demand response service.

NCTD shares the use of its tracks with rail partners Amtrak, Metrolink, BNSF, and Pacific Sun Railroad. Amtrak and Metrolink operate more than 264 commuter trains on NCTD’s tracks every week while BNSF and Pacific Sun move more than 9.6 million pounds of freight.

NCTD owns 62 miles of mainline track from the Orange County-San Diego County line to the San Diego Santa Fe Depot (entirely used by Amtrak’s Pacific Surfliner, Metrolink, and BNSF Railway). It also owns the 22 miles Escondido Branch that has been used by the Sprinter and the Pacific Sun Railroad since 2008. The Coaster commuter rail service runs on 41.1 miles of the mainline, on the stretch between the Oceanside Transit Center and the San Diego Santa Fe Depot.
The North County Transit District owns and maintains two rail yards for their Coaster commuter rail service. The first yard is the main maintenance and servicing facility located north of Oceanside at Stuart Mesa on Camp Pendleton, and it is shared with Metrolink and the Pacific Sun Railroad. The second yard is shared with the San Diego Trolley at 12th & Imperial in Centre City San Diego. This rail yard stores trainsets during mid-days until they're ready to be used again for northbound services. In addition to their two Coaster rail yards, NCTD also owns a maintenance facility and rail yard for their Sprinter service in Escondido, between Escondido Transit Center and Nordahl Road Stations.

NCTD’s Operating Budget is approximately $117 million (FY20) and Capital Improvement Program budget is approximately $48 million (FY20).

Green Initiatives:

NCTD has implemented cutting-edge green initiatives and sustainability programs that minimize the environmental impact of public transit. At five locations, NCTD has installed solar panels that generate energy for the agency. NCTD uses low-energy lighting and biodegradable cleaning supplies. NCTD has installed electric car chargers at the Oceanside Transit Center. NCTD is preparing for the addition of zero-emission electric buses (ZEB) starting this year. In addition, NCTD’s new Tier IV locomotives will improve operational efficiency while contributing to local and state sustainability and air quality goals, with an estimated 90% reduction in emissions (compared to the existing engines) and 16% reduction in fuel consumption.

NCTD’s mission is to deliver safe, convenient, reliable, and user-friendly public transportation services. Our vision is to build an integrated transit system that enables our customers to travel easily and efficiently throughout our growing region.
The Community

Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Anza-Borrego Desert and the Laguna Mountains to the east, and Mexico to the south, the diverse neighborhoods of San Diego are spread out over 4,200 square miles, offering endless opportunities for exploration and activities. Spend a day relaxing in one of the many beach communities, then hiking in the east San Diego County mountains the next. Explore the urban neighborhoods of San Diego’s downtown, from the iconic Gaslamp Quarter to the eclectic community of Hillcrest. Visit the quaint and charming island town of Coronado or the picturesque village of La Jolla. San Diego’s regions are so unique and diverse; there are plenty of options to discover something new each and every day.

San Diego’s vibrant arts and culture scene teems with lively performances, thought-provoking exhibitions, and engaging historic sites and monuments. Known as the Smithsonian of the West, Balboa Park hosts an incredible concentration of arts and culture offerings including 15 museums and performing arts venues. San Diego is also home to two Tony® Award-winning theaters, historic sites, public art, music venues, dance performances, film festivals, galleries, missions and more. Whatever inspires you, there’s always something happening in San Diego to engage your senses and enrich your mind.

San Diego is home to many of Southern California’s top tourist attractions which provide exhilaration, education and excitement for adults and kids of all ages. San Diego’s close proximity to Anaheim also makes for an easy day trip to Disneyland.

If San Diego is known for one thing, it would be for our gorgeous beaches. With 70 miles of pristine coastline, year-around sunshine and mild temperatures, you can enjoy the surf and sand almost any day of the year. For visitors and locals alike, the beach is a veritable wonderland and the place to spend entire days with family and friends. From expansive sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, reefs, tide pools and everything in between, the beaches in San Diego are as varied as the California beach towns that were built around them.
Discover beaches perfect for families and dogs, beaches coveted by the world’s top surfers, or to enjoy a fire, play volleyball, spot sea creatures, or simply relax and people watch. One thing is for sure, on any given day at any beach in San Diego, you’ll find a front row seat to a magnificent display of the western sky as the sun descends into the Pacific.

When it comes to food and drink, San Diego has certainly grown up in the past decade, shedding its former reputation as a burger-fish taco-and-flip-flops-only dining destination. Celebrated chefs, creative cocktails and craft beer characterize the culinary culture, along with a wealth of international cuisines and experiences ranging from toes-in-the-sand casual to world-class fine dining.

San Diegans love a good adventure and will stop at nothing to take advantage of the area’s natural playground - on the water, in the air, or on the trails. For a bird’s eye perspective on the gorgeous San Diego coastline, try your hand at paragliding or hang gliding from La Jolla’s Gliderport. A plethora of options are available for recreation on the water; from fishing, sailing, and jet-skiing, scuba diving to surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and kite boarding. On land, explorers can enjoy gorgeous hikes in the desert or a trek up mountains to take in beautiful views, tour the terrain on horseback or on a mountain bike, or enjoy the lush greens of the many golf courses spotted throughout the region.

For spectator sports fans, there is plenty of cheering to do as San Diego’s professional sports teams battle it out each season. Every spring, the San Diego Padres take the field at Petco Park to kick off the baseball season. Beyond MLB, there are plenty of other spectator sports to enjoy, including international soccer tournaments, rugby games, surfing, action sports competitions, marathons and much more.

San Diego’s ideal climate, 70 miles of coastline and diverse topography encourages year-round outdoor recreation for visitors and residents alike. Match that with San Diego’s active lifestyle and you’re sure to find something exhilarating, exciting, and thrilling to watch, do and discover in San Diego.
The Position

Under the general direction of the Executive Director, the Chief of Planning, Strategy & Innovation will be a big picture transportation and land use thinker, tuned into international public transport systems and trends, with exemplary communication skills and a passion for building teams, and demonstrated subject matter expertise in transportation planning. This position will work with the executive management team and key stakeholders to develop the NCTD vision and execute it through a comprehensive workplan to deliver a first-class mobility network that enhances the quality of life for all who live, work and play in North County San Diego and the surrounding region.

This position is distinguished by its overall responsibility for all aspects of assigned Departments, including transportation and strategic planning of the District. The successful candidate must demonstrate a collaborative management style and possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills, a high degree of creativity, foresight and mature judgment in strategic planning, organizing, coordinating, and solving complex problems.

For a complete job description, click here.
Position Qualifications

- Bachelor’s Degree in Urban or Transportation Planning, Economics, or related area. Master’s Degree preferred.
- 15 years’ prior similar experience at the executive level, including 7 years of supervisory experience.

A combination of experience/skills and education to fulfill the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this position maybe considered.

Salary & Compensation

The salary range for this position is $135,153 - $223,002, depending on experience. An attractive benefit package is offered that includes CalPERS pension retirement, and full medical, dental and vision coverage.

How to Apply:

To apply online, click here.

Filing Deadline:
Sunday, June 21, 2020

Project Manager: Blake Astran, JD
blake@adkexecutivesearch.com

Please note: after your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at: admin@adkexecutivesearch.com