

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) Director, Transportation Program



About CNT

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) works to build more livable and sustainable urban communities. CNT fulfills this mission by delivering game-changing research, data tools and solutions, and on-the-ground demonstrations to address environmental and social challenges and make advocacy successful in neighborhoods across the country. CNT is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, funded through philanthropic sources, government agencies and service contracts with businesses and government agencies.

Since its founding in 1978, CNT's work has fueled a generation of community development and learning institutions, earning a reputation as an economic innovator and leader in the field of creative sustainable development. CNT combines rigorous research with effective action to achieve substantial improvements in public policy and private markets across sectors and fields. CNT's work was recognized with a 2009 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

See our website for more information at www.cnt.org.

Director, Transportation Program

CNT is seeking an innovative and committed leader to serve as director of CNT's transportation program. The organization has a history of leadership in the transportation field and is recognized as a national innovator and effective advocate in the field of environmental justice and transportation equity. CNT has significant analytical strength, as shown in several recent products: the pioneering H+T Index, which demonstrates the hidden transportation costs in housing location decisions; the Right-Size Parking Calculator, which helps communities more realistically plan for parking needs; AllTransit, which compares transit access across the nation; equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD), which allows analysis of housing affordability near transit; and Cargo Oriented Development (COD), which demonstrates the use of freight transportation assets to leverage sustainable, industrial redevelopment. CNT also launched one of the nation's first car-sharing companies, I-Go.

With the hire of a new transportation director, CNT intends to strengthen its work in the transportation field. Equity and environmental justice will remain a priority, and CNT will use its analytical strength, policy understanding, and experience in advocacy, community engagement, and development to ensure that transportation investments support equitable outcomes. In particular, CNT will dive deeper into the impact of disruptive transportation technologies on our cities, suburbs, and society in general; the organization will continue to advocate for diverse mobility options, with the most direct focus on public transit as well as freight and logistics. CNT also will continue to take a broad and multidisciplinary view of the transportation system, with attention to its impacts on energy use, climate sustainability and resilience, housing accessibility and cost, economic development, and similar considerations.

CNT is based in Chicago and does significant work in the Chicago metropolitan area and surrounding states, but also works on a national basis. The transportation director's interests and ambitions should reflect CNT's national profile.

CNT expects that the transportation director position will contribute to all the above activities in the following ways:

- Thought leadership. The transportation director will be responsible for positioning CNT at the forefront of transportation policy discussions, particularly in terms of equity.
- Program development and management. The transportation director will organize CNT's various transportation initiatives into a coherent program, and will explore, initiate, and manage discrete projects within the larger program. Responsibilities include developing multi-year goals, annual work plans and budgets, and managing programs and staff.
- Research and analysis. The transportation director will engage with CNT's urban analytics department on the production of innovative, original analysis. Strong analytical abilities are a plus, as well as the ability to work with analysts on joint projects. The transportation director will promote the use of CNT's analytical tools related to transportation and will help guide the design of these tools so that they are as useful to practitioners as possible.

- Demonstration program management. CNT’s research and analysis are not theoretical but applied to real world cases. The transportation director should be capable of contributing to direct implementation of CNT’s ideas – whether through a new transportation service, a real estate development proposal based around transit or freight assets, or other practical projects.
- Advocacy and communications. The transportation director will represent CNT externally in a variety of settings – sometimes supporting existing policies and proposals, but sometimes offering criticisms and challenging the status quo.
- Fundraising and program support. In collaboration with the Managing Director of Development and other senior staff, the transportation director will support fundraising efforts for the program. With support from others at CNT, the transportation director will cultivate new funding opportunities, expand existing funding relationships, seek funding from both philanthropic sources and competitive RFPs, and build productive partnerships with other organizations and companies.

Skills, knowledge, and abilities

- Knowledge of emerging issues in transportation and understanding of their potential to affect our cities and broader society.
- Commitment to equity, environmental justice, and sustainability.
- Multi-disciplinary interest, and ability to coordinate with CNT’s ongoing activities in other topics, including water, climate, energy, and sustainable economic development.
- Strong analytical skills and ability to work with analytical staff.
- Strong communication abilities and willingness to engage with external stakeholders, including government, private sector, and the media, among others.
- Willingness to work in a mission-driven organization to accomplish challenging goals.
- Ability and willingness to work as part of a multidisciplinary and diverse team.
- Ability to lead, manage and motivate staff to achieve desired results.

This position requires a master’s degree in urban planning, transportation planning, or related field and at least 5-10 years of professional experience.

This position reports directly to CNT’s CEO, and will also work closely with the Vice President of Government Affairs.

Employment Policy: It is the policy of the Center for Neighborhood Technology that all employees are employed at the will of the Center for Neighborhood Technology. Continued employment is subject to funding availability and job performance.

Anti-Discrimination Policy: The Center for Neighborhood Technology is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any employee or job applicant based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, or marital status. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, termination, promotion, transfer, layoff, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

How to Apply

Please send cover letter and resume by October 15, 2018 to:

Bridget Torres
 Vice President, Talent and Culture
 Center for Neighborhood Technology
 17 N State, Suite 1400
 Chicago, IL 60602
 or email to bridget@cnt.org.

Please write Transportation Director in the subject line or on the envelope. No phone calls please.