Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
Division Director of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety

Advancing Transportation through Innovation

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
Position Summary

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) invites applications for the position of Division Director of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety. Reporting directly to VTTI’s Executive Director, the Director of the Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety (DHVY) at VTTI is a critical senior leadership role that directly impacts VTTI’s mission of “saving lives, enhancing efficiency, and protecting the environment to improve transportation through research and development, education, and helping implement solutions.” With responsibility for managing approximately 25% of VTTI’s research portfolio, the Director of DHVY will lead a team that solves complex and impactful heavy-vehicle challenges through deployment, testing, analysis, education and outreach. With a long history of establishing key partnerships across a variety of industry and government stakeholders, DHVY conducts innovative research-based initiatives that translate research findings into actionable countermeasures – most recently with a strong focus on cutting-edge driver assistance, supply chain, and automated truck and bus technologies.
Major Responsibilities

The new Director of DHVY will drive the strategic direction of the division, providing leadership and specialized research and development expertise across all DHVY programs. The Director will be responsible for maintaining a diversified work package sufficient to sustain DHVY resources. Within the division, the Director will provide leadership, technical direction, and mentorship to DHVY team members, ensuring alignment with the overall strategy of VTTI. The Director will establish systems and processes that assure efficient, rigorous, compliant, high-quality, and cost-effective research practices that result in quality deliverables and services while remaining on time and on budget. In addition to leading DHVY activities, the person selected for this role will also contribute to the strategic direction of VTTI as a member of VTTI’s Executive Leadership Team.

Specifically, the Director of DHVY will divide their time across the following critical duties:

1) *Lead projects involving freight, transit, and heavy vehicle safety*
   - Lead team in management and execution of high-dollar, high-impact research programs.
   - Manage deployment of research projects, including resource acquisition, logistics, strategic planning, policy interpretation, and documentation.
   - Oversee research integrity and deliverable quality.
   - Responsible for monitoring project progress and budgets.
   - Lead and advise other principal investigators and technical resources in the successful execution of research projects.

2) *Perform business development*
   - Develop and executes effective strategy to maintain existing research portfolio and expand the sponsorship base through acquisition of new sponsors and project awards.
   - Coordinate with a variety of external entities to conceptualize research projects, develop proposals, and successfully acquire sponsored research funding in support of DHVY operations and resources.

3) *Manage division resources and assets*
   - Manage division personnel to maintain proper research skills and capabilities to deliver research projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
   - Manage division operating budget.
   - Provide leadership, technical direction, and mentorship to team members.
   - Develop and manage customer service standards and policies for DHVY, including resolving inter-organizational disputes and personnel issues.
4) Elevate customer service in support of research programs

- Monitor and manages the customer service provided to sponsors by division groups and team members.
- Establish means to measure customer service performance and provides feedback to VTTI Executive Leadership and DHVY team members on performance metrics.
- Develop processes and means to elevate customer service provided by the division.

5) Contribute to VTTI’s vision, goals, and objectives

- Serve as a core member of VTTI’s Executive Leadership Team, providing strategic direction toward the establishment and progress toward achieving VTTI’s vision, goals, and objectives.
- Establish means to assess how division, group, and individual performance contributes to the success of VTTI, and communicates progress toward those goals.
**Candidate Profile**

The ideal candidate will be an experienced leader with a willingness to work in a fast-paced, flexible research environment and a demonstrated aptitude for conducting research and business administration. The ideal candidate will have a proven record of leading large-scale transportation-related initiatives and solving complex problems through the application of advanced research and development techniques. This individual will have had positive, sustained impact in complex environments, where collaboration and influence management are critical to success.

A Ph.D. in engineering, supply chain logistics, psychology, public policy, or another related field is required; however, an advanced degree with significant related experience may be considered.

*Desired Characteristics:*

- Highly strategic and creative thinker with the ability to ensure effective implementation
- Impactful communicator, from one-on-one conversations to high-profile presentations
- Excellent written communication skills
- Well-organized planner with strong analytical skills
- Unquestioned ethics and integrity
- High energy and drive
- Ability to accurately assess key business metrics and situations from a senior leader perspective to drive improvement

*Desired Work Experience:*

- Working independently and with multidisciplinary teams to advance cutting-edge research with the ability to obtain, plan, develop, coordinate, and direct large (greater than $5M) and small-scale research projects from research conceptualization, proposal development, research execution, resource acquisition, logistics, strategic planning, policy interpretation, and documentation
- Developing and executing effective strategy to nurture sponsor partnerships and foster new relationships to expand the diversified research portfolio capable of supporting DHVY business operations and resources
- Working effectively as part of a collaborative leadership team characterized by trust, open communication, and shared goals

*Preferred Qualifications:*

- A minimum of 10 years of leadership experience in transportation safety, automotive engineering, or supply chain transportation logistics
- Previous experience in heavy-vehicle related research
- Experience working with operators of commercial trucks or buses
• Previous experience with an academic environment, with an understanding of the roles and relationships of faculty, staff and students, and the diverse needs for operational support
• Experience leading business development efforts resulting in new lines of funding

About the Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety

The Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety (DHVY) solves complex and meaningful heavy-vehicle problems through deployment, testing, analysis, education, and outreach. With a focus on addressing real-world challenges, this Division follows a research-to-practice philosophy by translating research findings into actionable countermeasures – most recently with a strong focus on cutting-edge driver assistance and automated truck and bus technologies.

With a long history of establishing key partnerships across a variety of industry and government stakeholders, DHVY has conducted innovative research-based initiatives that support the safety, health, and well-being of truck and bus drivers and all who share the roads with them.

More about DHVY: [Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety | Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (vt.edu)](https://vt.edu)
About Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, one of seven research institutes created by Virginia Tech to address global challenges, is a world-leading transportation institute that works with public and private partners to answer impactful research questions that drive the future of transportation. VTTI research spans the breadth of transportation dimensions from pedestrians to heavy vehicles, user interfaces to automation, digital to physical infrastructure, driver behavior to crash causation, and policy to technology development. VTTI’s vision aspires to a future with “Safe, Effective Mobility” - three words meant to be our North Star toward improving the human condition. The Institute is divided into eight divisions and centers that all work toward our vision and cover all aspects of transportation research:

- Division of Data & Analytics
- Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety
- Division of Technology Development & Deployment
- Division of Technology Implementation
- Division of Vehicle, Driver, & System Safety
- Center for Injury Biomechanics
- Center for Sustainable & Resilient Infrastructure
- Center for Sustainable Mobility Global

World-Class Facilities and Capabilities

Our facilities provide a research - and automation-friendly environment that government agencies, original equipment manufacturers, and suppliers can use to test and certify their systems, providing a path from test-track to real-world deployment.
VTTI’s research infrastructure, valued at over $150 million, includes:

- Virginia Smart Roads test tracks providing highway, urban, and rural environments
- Custom data acquisition systems that capture rich vehicle and infrastructure data at scale
- Labs for driver interface development, data reduction, lighting research, crash analysis, pavement research, and traffic simulation
- Fleet of instrumented vehicles that can be tailored to project specifications
- High-performance computing and data warehousing for cutting-edge data analytics
- Engineering labs to rapidly prototype novel technologies for tests and evaluation
- Approximately 90% of the world’s naturalistic driving data collected from light and heavy vehicles and motorcycles along with a variety of drivers

**Impact and Reach**

Since 2000, VTTI has created more than 600 direct and indirect jobs in Virginia. At any given time, our work portfolio consists of 350+ active projects across 120 public and private sponsors conducted by approximately 350 full employees. VTTI is also committed to educating the next generation of transportation leaders—VTTI supports an average of 100 graduate and undergraduate students each year, and our InternHUB program gives students the opportunity to work on industry projects while completing their degrees. VTTI research is published in over 300 publications each year and is routinely translated into real-world impacts that affect all roadway users. For example, VTTI research had influenced legislation on the use of cell phones while driving along with the hours-of-service regulations in the heavy vehicle sector.
**Core Values**

In alignment with Virginia Tech’s motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I may serve), the core value of VTTI are centered on SERVICE:

- **Safety first:** Committed to a culture of safety and serving the well-being of our people, our sponsors, and society.
- **Empowered:** Empowered to challenge the status quo, solve hard problems, try big things that may fail, and be creative.
- **Respect:** Embrace our differences and treat each other professionally and with dignity.
- **Vested:** Believe in what we do and are dedicated to making a difference in the local, national, and global community.
- **Integrity:** Act with honor through ethical behavior and adherence to the highest standards of quality research.
- **Comradery:** Foster an environment characterized by a spirit of friendship, family, and a thriving, cohesive community.
- **Excellence:** Expect excellence and deliver the best through continuous improvement and collaboration to exceed expectations.

We are also committed to creating a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment for all VTTI personnel. VTTI’s [Road to Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (RIDE)](http://vti.ee/rd) cultivates this positive and productive workplace culture through efforts to educate VTTI employees, maintain communication with senior leadership, and advocate for students, faculty, and staff.

More about VTTI: [Home | Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (vt.edu)](http://vti.ee)
About Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech pushes the boundaries of knowledge by taking a hands-on, transdisciplinary approach to preparing scholars to be leaders and problem-solvers. As Virginia’s most comprehensive university and a leading research institution, Virginia Tech offers ~280 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 38,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and manages a research portfolio of more than $556 million. The university fulfills its role as a land-grant institution by fostering a collaborative environment that integrates technology into all disciplines, allowing the Virginia Tech community can serve as a force for positive change around the commonwealth, the country, and the world. Through experiential learning, future-focused research, and an inclusive, spirited culture, Virginia Tech strives to accomplish the charge of its motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

Virginia Tech has a 2,600-acre main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia and maintains a significant presence across the commonwealth, including the Innovation Campus in Northern Virginia; the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke; educational and research facilities across the state; a study-abroad site in Switzerland; and a 1,800-acre agriculture research farm near the main campus, which is located in the New River Valley 38 miles southwest of Roanoke.

More about VT: [Home | Virginia Tech (vt.edu)]
About Blacksburg, Virginia

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute is nestled in the heart of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Blacksburg, Roanoke, and the New River Valley offer the charm of small towns combined with the modern conveniences of a metropolitan area. The area boasts a plethora of unique and chain restaurants and stores, symphonies, theatres, historical attractions, museums, a vibrant nightlife, sporting events, outdoor recreation activities, and a temperate climate featuring all four seasons. Montgomery County is home to over 98,000 residents and the town of Blacksburg is home to over 44,000 residents.

Arts, Culture, & Attractions

Blacksburg, long recognized for its rich history and dynamic arts scene, has been steadily transforming into Southwest Virginia’s premier arts and cultural destination. In downtown alone, visitors can grace the doors of any number of art galleries, take in a movie or a show at the historic Lyric Theatre, or experience a world class performance at the Moss Arts Center. The Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts offers both traditional and original productions, and on any given evening one can enjoy a performance on Henderson Lawn or the talents of a street artist. Blacksburg is a community that supports the work of our local artists and values their contribution to our creative economy.
Education

Montgomery County Public Schools in Virginia is renowned for its commitment to academic excellence and student success. The county encompasses a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities, providing a diverse and enriching environment for students and families alike. The county includes 20 public K-12 schools, including Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg Middle School, and five elementary schools situated close to the campus of Virginia Tech in the Town of Blacksburg. In addition to the outstanding public schools, there are several private schools and three institutions of higher education in the region. The county’s emphasis on academic rigor, student support, community engagement, and extracurricular excellence makes it an attractive choice for prospective employees looking for a vibrant and supportive environment for their children’s education.
Outdoor Recreation

In Blacksburg, outdoor beauty and opportunities for adventure abound. Take a leisurely walk or ride on the Huckleberry Trail, mountain bike through the Jefferson National Forest or one of Blacksburg’s new town parks on Brush Mountain, play a round of golf at the campus or town course, hit the skateboard park, or dip your toes in the New River.

Situated in the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains and adjacent to Jefferson National Forest, Blacksburg offers an unparalleled experience for outdoor enthusiasts of all levels, not to mention some of the most stunning views in Virginia. Popular destinations include the Appalachian Trail, Bald Knob, Cascades waterfall, Dragon Tooth, and McAfee’s Knob.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should apply through Virginia Tech Jobs.

The listing can be found at: Details | Division Director of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety | Careers | Division of Human Resources | Virginia Tech (pageuppeople.com)

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ethnicity or national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or otherwise discriminate against employees or applicants who inquire about, discuss, or disclose their compensation or the compensation of other employees or applicants, or on any other basis protected by law.