Job Title	Research Assistant (hourly)
Location	USC Price school (METRANS Research Center)
Reports to	Prof. Genevieve Giuliano

Job Purpose

The main objective of this research assistant position is to build on previous work with public agencies and industry groups in support of the implementation of the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan (CSFAP). The CSFAP is intended to reduce GHG emissions from the freight sector, achieve certain GHG emissions targets, and maintain the economic competitiveness of the sector. Since the establishment of the CSFAP in 2016, the METRANS Transportation Center has provided research support for various elements of the plan.

The current project focuses on the economic competitiveness provisions of the CSFAP. In previous work we have developed performance measures to track the economic health of the freight sector in California. This position will generate the performance measures, track annual progress, and compare performance to competitiveness targets established by industry stakeholders.

A second part of the project will be to conduct economic impact studies of selected provisions of the CSFAP and make recommendations regarding funding, phasing, or adjustments in implementation strategies.

The project is funded by Caltrans and administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). An Economic Competitiveness Working Group, composed of industry and public sector stakeholders, provides guidance on the research.

Job Description

This is an hourly research assistant position with a workload of 10–20 hours per week. The hourly pay rate will be determined by the qualifications and experience of the candidate. The position is expected to start January 2021 and continue for at least one year, depending on additional expected funding. The candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Genevieve Giuliano, METRANS Director. Workspace and computing facilities will be available in the METRANS research offices when the campus re-opens. While the USC campus remains closed due to COVID, the student will work remotely.

Qualifications

This position requires excellent skills in data collection, database management, and evaluation of data quality and accuracy. It also requires writing and communication skills. The ideal candidate would have the following qualifications:

- Experienced in data collection, management, and database design in MySQL.
- Knowledge of Excel for data acquisition and cleaning
- Transferring data between MySQL and Excel.
- High attention to detail and accuracy
- Familiarity with economic data and data sources
- Exposure to economic analysis and evaluation.

- Good project management, communications, writing skills
- Experience in public policy implementation.

Required qualifications: Enrollment as full-time student in a graduate program at USC. Current residence within the US.

Duties and Responsibilities

Metrics

The metrics to be managed are derived from web-based data sources. Data are cleaning in Excel and transferred to a database in MySQL. The database is structured as a series of data tables, computations, and results tables. Duties and responsibilities are as follows

- Achieve a detailed understanding of NAICS codes, metrics components and data sources.
- Download annual data under the established data structures and store it into the database.
- Compute annual metrics using the MySQL programs.
- Upgrade the database in MySQL as needed.
- Communicate with different stakeholders.
- Prepare progress presentations for stakeholder meetings
- Assist in preparing a web interface for publishing metrics annually

Economic analysis

- Assist in identifying and prioritizing the Action Plan policies and investments that will be analyzed.
- Assist in conducting economic impact studies of the prioritized Action Plan policies and investments.
- Review the results of the study and make necessary changes or improvements to the data, modeling process, or policy selection criteria as needed to reflect real-world conditions.
- Write summary report for the project.

Application submission:
Submit via email a letter of interest that describes your qualifications for the position, and your most recent resume. Name your files "last name_CSFAP app_letter" and "last name_CSFAP app_resume". In the subject area, use CSFAP app. Applications must be received by December 31, 2020. Send application materials via email to: mcbrinke@price.usc.edu

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