

K&A

Executive Director Search

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority





7101 Wisconsin Avenue
 Suite 1210
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 301.654.7533
kapartners.com

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director

ABOUT

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), which provides commuter rail services in Broward, Miami Dade, and West Palm Beach Counties, is seeking an experienced, strategic, and innovative candidate to serve as their Executive Director. The SFRTA works diligently to plan, develop, fund, and operate a seamless, safe and efficient regional transportation system which ensures mobility, advances sustainable growth, and improves the quality of life for current and future residents.

SFRTA is responsible for the dispatch and maintenance of the South Florida Rail Corridor and operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service that links Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. The 73.5-mile-long system, owned by FDOT, has 18 stations along the Southeast Florida coast. It connects passengers directly to Amtrak at a number of stations and transfers to Miami-Dade County’s Metrorail are available at the Tri-Rail and Metrorail Transfer Station, as well as the Miami Airport Station.



SFRTA has an operating budget of approximately \$120 million. It has a 5-year capital plan estimated at approximately \$788.9 million, which will enhance service and add additional commuter rail lines in the region. Plans are currently underway to have Tri-Rail expanded to provide train service into the MiamiCentral Station. Working with Brightline and FDOT, SFRTA estimates to offer a one-seat ride into Downtown Miami within a year. This expansion is forecasted to bring an additional 1,000 daily riders to the system, and helps position the agency as the best option to operate the Coastal Link service, which is currently being considered to continue the expansion of commuter rail service on the Florida East Coast Railway Corridor, to northern Palm Beach County.

Tri-Rail connects its ridership to business districts, neighborhoods and other major attractions in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach and boasts some of the country’s best year-round weather. SFRTA is committed to providing safe, high quality, efficient, and timely commuter transportation services to South Florida and its diverse, vibrant communities. As a region, South Florida is one of the nation’s fastest growing regions for residential, corporate, and financial growth and is home to one of the nation’s most culturally diverse communities. South Florida has a robust network of colleges and universities offering world renowned educational opportunities and a network of talented graduates for employment. In addition, it is home to several world-renowned beaches and professional sports teams, as well as, robust entertainment, dining, philanthropic organizations, and healthcare systems.

Reporting to SFRTA’s 10-member Governing Board, the Executive Director is responsible for overseeing Tri-Rail’s operations, connecting riders and visitors alike with all South Florida has to offer. The other position reporting to the Governing Board is the General Counsel. The Executive Director and SFRTA will continue to lead Tri-Rail and seek to grow, expand, and improve the transit services provided to the thriving, vibrant communities they serve. More details about SFRTA and Tri-Rail can be found at www.tri-rail.com.



7101 Wisconsin Avenue
 Suite 1210
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 301.654.7533
kapartners.com

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

This Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) position requires high-level management experience in administration, operations, policy development, inter-governmental relations, community building, partnership formation, personnel, budget, and finance. Visionary leadership, a passion for the enterprise, local and technical knowledge of commuter rail and a strategic orientation are keys to success in this role, as are team building; collaboration; change management; and resource and financial management skills. The successful candidate will bring to this position technical knowledge of commuter rail, public agency experience, and an appreciation for living and working in the diverse South Florida community.

The Executive Director must be a proven leader with strong communications and negotiations skills and must understand how to approach and negotiate with key private sector partners that help determine the achievement of the agency’s goals. These include a variety of contractors, private railroads, and businesses affected by the work of the agency.



The Executive Director must have expertise in presenting options and crafting solutions that seek common ground, facilitate dialogue, and deal positively with competing internal and external perspectives. He/she will deal effectively and professionally with Board members and constituents who bring a variety of community viewpoints to the table.

He/she must be a staunch advocate for public transit and passenger rail who has a broad view of the role of public transit in a community and the management skills to lead a complex and ever evolving public agency.

The initial focus will be on key technical issues (Positive Train Control, downtown Miami connection, and Coastal Link), a strategic vision for sustainability of funding, and gaining the support of the staff and key partners. SFRTA’s leader must be credible, trustworthy, respectful, and transparent and build strong and positive working relationships with the Board, staff, and other regional stakeholders. He/she must fully embrace the importance of equity and diversity as well as personal and organizational accountability.

In representing SFRTA’s interests the Executive Director must be able to work effectively with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the agency is well positioned and financially sustainable into the future. Critical to the success of the organization is hiring a leader with a demonstrated history of successfully managing public funds and obtaining grants to ensure the financial health of an agency. A deep commitment to full transparency and positive communication is vital to SFRTA’s success.

SFRTA’s next Executive Director will be responsible for attracting new riders to the system, delivering a capital program, and obtaining funding all while ensuring that existing service is maintained to provide high quality service to its customers.



South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director

LEADERSHIP PROFILE (Continued)

The ideal candidates will possess the following personal characteristics for SFRTA's next Executive Director will include:

- A passion for serving the public and their transit needs
- The ability to inspire others
- Agility (the ability to adapt in dynamic environments)
- An aptitude for excellence and transparency
- Executive gravitas and political savvy
- Technical knowledge of commuter rail and its current challenges
- Appreciation for diversity and working in South Florida
- Genuine respect for employees and their ideas
- Professional integrity
- Welcoming, approachable, honest, open, ethical and fair
- Respect for others including employees and customers and promote a positive image and culture internally and externally
- Excellent communications skills that foster reciprocity (the ability to truly listen as well as speak)
- The ability to approach conversations with a collaborative and open attitude
- Superior negotiating and partnering skills
- The ability to effectively address change and problems as they arise
- An attitude of flexibility and nimbleness





South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to SFRTA's Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for operations, governmental relations, capital programs, strategic planning, customer service, Positive Train Control implementation, and the management, planning, organization, and marketing of all rail services. His or her duties also include responsibility for all operations and planning activities; recruiting, hiring, retaining and motivating a diverse professional staff, monitoring and negotiating of contractor activities, implementing schedules and schedule changes, complying with County, State, and Federal statutes and rules and regulations, and negotiating operating and maintenance agreements with public agencies and private railroads. Additionally, this position requires an ability to generate good public relations between the Authority and the media.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing and implementing major policies and programs for the Authority. The Executive Director must be comfortable addressing regional political complexities, forming collaborative partnerships, representing SFRTA's regional interests, and working effectively with local, state, and federal agencies, planning organizations regional transit providers private railroads private businesses, tourist bureaus and other regional stakeholders. In order to provide a sustainable and affordable service, the Executive Director must also obtain support and substantiate the need for continuing the funding for the commuter rail service from local, state and federal officials.



In addition to the duties and responsibilities mentioned above, the incoming Executive Director will be responsible for the following:

- Direct all general functions of applicable Authority staff
- Act as negotiator with contractors and consultants in the performance of their specialized duties and adherence to their agreements
- Coordinate all issues with CSX, Amtrak, and other users of the South Florida Rail Corridor in order to enhance commuter rail service
- Oversee security and safety programs
- Generate programs to promote ridership
- Prepare monthly agendas for the Authority's Board Meetings
- Review and analyze reports generated by all departments
- Coordinate efforts of the marketing department to further the public's awareness in regard to commuter rail service
- Act as a liaison and spokesperson to the media
- Provides the public and media with timely, accurate and up-to-date information on commuter rail services, as well as reports on ridership
- Perform any and all duties necessary to control and monitor operation and maintenance of trains
- Review and monitor all contracts negotiated within the system
- Perform other duties as assigned by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Governing Board



7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 1210
Bethesda, MD 20814
301.654.7533
kapartners.com

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Executive Director must be able to deal effectively and professionally with Board members who bring a variety of perspectives to the table regarding the role of transit at the local, regional, and state level. He/she will be a confident team builder and have experience working effectively in complex organizations that rely on successful partnerships for funding and operations. Outstanding leadership qualities, superb communication skills, a history of innovative and strategic transit management, a sound understanding of the role of transit in community building, a grasp of commuter rail's technical issues, and a personable and respectful style will be highly valued.

The incoming Executive Director should possess or be capable of quickly learning the following:

- Commuter rail operations, systems, maintenance, planning, contract service management, and other technical issues
- Supervise and motivate employees
- The complexities of the South Florida Region
- Successfully negotiate with multiple public and private entities.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills
- Federal Railroad Administration regulations, especially regarding safety and Positive Train Control (PTC)
- First mile-last mile service and connecting customers with and between transit and rail



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate should have at least seven (7) years' experience in an organization of similar size and complexity to the SFRTA. A Bachelor's Degree is highly desired, preferably in one of the following areas: Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, or a related field. Experience with management of a budget similar to or greater than that of SFRTA, preferred. Candidates with experience in public sector transportation, preferably in a commuter/passenger rail agency and experience with transit-oriented development and capital programs are highly desired and encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume.
Please email Gregg Moser, Principal at K&A, at gmoser@kapartners.com.