Jarrett Walker + Associates is seeking a Junior Associate/GIS Analyst in Transit Planning.

The firm:

JWA is a small and growing consulting firm (now with 3.25 FTE) based in Portland, Oregon. Founded on the work of Jarrett Walker (see his book Human Transit and blog HumanTransit.org), our firm’s mission is to raise expectations for quality and clarity in studies and public discussions of transit planning.

We offer our clients an innovative approach to transit planning, in which planning and policy thinking are integrated, and technical ideas are connected to the values that motivate people to care about transit.

Projects we lead include transit network redesign studies, practical visioning workshops and service branding studies.

The position:

GIS analysis, map-making, and creating visual explanations are integral to nearly all of our work. Quantitative analysis, typically using Excel, is also important. We are seeking a talented and creative person to join our team as an Analyst at the Junior Associate level, to help us deliver great work to clients while continuing to innovate in our approach.

Candidates:

At a minimum, candidates for this position will offer:

- At least one year of experience with GIS analysis and mapping for land-use- or transportation-related projects.
- A talent for conceiving of images, maps and diagrams that engage and inspire lay-people.
- Proficiency using multiple GIS products (not only ArcGIS) to create maps, and using Excel for quantitative analysis.
- A proven ability to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines in a professional manner.
• A proven ability to learn in the course of a project or job.
• Evidence of high academic achievement, ideally in studies relevant to urban planning.
• The flexibility to travel up to 10% of the time.

The ideal candidate will also offer:

• Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite and basic graphic design skills.
• Experience with web-based map design (e.g. OpenStreetMap, TileMill, Mapbox)
• A Masters degree in a planning- or engineering-related field.
• Basic familiarity with the planning and operation of transit systems.
• Experience working inside of a transit agency, in planning or a nearby field.
• Experience with publicly-available data acquisition and analysis practices.
• The flexibility to travel up to 30% of the time.

Structure and compensation:

We will fill this position as a part-time limited-duration contract. As our firm’s workflow grows, we will likely be interested in hiring a full-time employee to fulfill this role.

Starting compensation will be between $15 and $22 per hour, depending on a candidate’s experience and qualifications. Hours of work under the contract will be 40 - 80 per month, and will be negotiated with a qualified candidate.

All staff report to Jarrett Walker, but will also report to Project Managers as necessary on a task-by-task basis. This Jr. Associate will be required to attend meetings and work-sessions at the firm’s SE Portland office.

Work examples:

See the following pages for examples of the types of GIS analyses and visual displays that JWA currently uses in our work.

Interested?

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume and past work samples in a single .pdf file no more than seven pages long to Michelle Poyourow (michelle@jarrettwalker.com) by March 16, 2014.
This map shows stop-by-stop boardings for Route 17, in Salem, OR. In the background, it shows the combined density of residential and employment population.

The map below is a "running time lattice." It is used as a tool during transit network design sessions, to give a quick approximation of the transit running time between two points in a city.
The map at right shows the areas of the Salem-Keizer region that are within 1/4 and 1/2 mile walking distance (along the street network) from any transit stop.

This map was created by Mobility & Walkability Consulting, as a subcontractor to JWA. We like that, unlike most "transit coverage maps," it shows actual walking distance from transit stops, not flying distance.

The pair of images below is excerpted from Jarrett Walker's book Human Transit, and was created by Urban Design 4 Health to illustrate the extent to which a connected street network increases the number of people within walking distance of a single transit stop.

*Figure 5-2* Circular radius of a bus stop. Only the black segments are actually within walking distance. Source: Graphic by Urban Design 4 Health
We have found the walkability diagrams above very compelling in planning efforts, and have recreated them to make similar comparisons using local street grids, as for Salem, OR, below.

JWA also leads network design courses for professionals and laypeople. The course uses gameboards showing fictional cities. The gameboards were created for us by Sasha Jovanovic, using Microsoft Excel and Adobe.