MANAGER, TRANSPORT FINANCE

Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda

August 2026

Full-time staff position

About ITDP

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) is a non-profit organisation that works around the world to design and implement high-quality transport systems and policy solutions that make cities more liveable, equitable, and sustainable. ITDP Africa works across the continent, with its main office in Nairobi, Kenya, and country offices in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Egypt, Tanzania, and Uganda.

About the position

The Manager, Transport Finance will be a new and critical addition to ITDP Africa's programme team, providing independent technical and strategic leadership to advance the organisation's work on sustainable transport financing and investment mobilisation across African cities. The Manager will strengthen national and subnational frameworks for sustained transport funding and work with governments, multilateral development banks (MDBs), development finance institutions, national development banks, and other financing partners to mobilise investment for public transport, electrification, walking, cycling, and other sustainable mobility solutions.

Working at the intersection of transport planning, public finance, development finance, and climate policy, the Manager will help governments identify and structure appropriate financing mechanisms, strengthen the financial and institutional readiness of priority projects, and connect well-designed transport programmes with public, concessional, climate, and private capital. This is a strategic regional role focused on translating policy and planning priorities into funded, investment-ready programmes that can move to implementation.

The Manager, Transport Finance will report to the Africa Programme Director, working closely with the Transport Systems, Public Transport & Electrification, and Transport Policy, as well as ITDP's global finance and development teams.

Responsibilities

Technical Leadership and Investment Mobilisation

- Lead ITDP Africa's work on sustainable transport finance, providing independent expertise on public and development finance, climate finance, private investment, and financing mechanisms for sustainable mobility.
- Develop, review, and oversee financial models for public transport and e-mobility projects, including BRT and bus business plans, fare revenue models, operating cost assessments, lifecycle costing, subsidy requirements, and electric bus total cost of ownership (TCO) and fleet transition models.
- Lead research and advisory work on transport funding and financing frameworks and mechanisms, including public funding, subsidies, fare structures, fiscal incentives,

concessional and blended finance, PPPs, climate finance, and other instruments, translating global best practice into practical solutions suited to African cities.

- Support governments and transport authorities to develop investment-ready projects and financing strategies for sustainable mobility investments.
- Build and maintain relationships with multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, national development banks, climate funds, bilateral partners, commercial lenders, infrastructure funds, and private investors to help unlock investment in sustainable transport.
- Provide quality assurance across financial models, investment assessments, policy briefs, guidance notes, reports, and other transport finance outputs.

Programme Development and Management

- Develop and steer multi-year organisational and programme strategies, and annual objectives and key results (OKRs).
- Lead the development of funding proposals and concept notes for transport finance-related grant funding, identifying emerging donor opportunities and positioning ITDP for new programmatic work.
- Work closely with the Transport Systems, Public Transport and Electrification, and Active Mobility teams to integrate finance and investment perspectives into technical project designs and government advisory work.
- Design and deliver capacity-building initiatives for governments, transport authorities, ITDP teams, and other partners on transport funding, financing, financial analysis, and investment mobilisation.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Build relationships with government finance and transport agencies, regulators, financing institutions, donors, industry, academia, and other strategic partners.
- Represent ITDP in senior-level government engagements, financing discussions, technical committees, conferences, and regional and international forums.
- Collaborate with the ITDP team to integrate finance and investment considerations into technical projects and government advisory work.
- Present complex financial analysis and recommendations clearly to senior government officials, financing institutions, donors, and other decision-makers.
- Perform any other related tasks within the transport finance function assigned by the Africa Programme Director.

Qualifications

Education

- A PhD or Master's degree in transport economics, development finance, infrastructure finance, public finance, transport planning, urban economics, or a closely related field.

Experience

- At least ten years of relevant professional experience in transport finance, infrastructure financing, or development finance, including direct experience in financial modelling, investment structuring, or development bank project preparation.

- Demonstrated experience working on large-scale transport infrastructure projects (BRT, rail, e-bus, or similar) in a financial advisory, project finance, or technical assistance capacity.
- Direct working knowledge of the regulatory, fiscal and institutional conditions that shape transport investment in Sub-Saharan Africa, normally gained through prior work in the region.

Skills required

- Expert-level financial modelling skills, including advanced experience building BRT or transit business models, PPP financial structures, and cost-benefit analysis frameworks.
- Strong understanding of development finance instruments, blended finance structures, and PPP frameworks as applied to transport infrastructure.
- Proficiency in Excel for transport demand and financial scenario modelling.
- Fluency in English is required.

Competencies

- Highly analytical with exceptional quantitative reasoning skills and the ability to build rigorous financial models from first principles and defend them to sophisticated audiences.
- Self-directed professional who can own a workstream independently, from initial stakeholder engagement through to final deliverable, with minimal supervision.
- Collaborative team player who can work across technical disciplines and bridge the gap between finance, planning, policy, and engineering teams.
- Strong commitment to advancing ITDP's mission and to environmental and social justice, including gender equity and social inclusion in transport.

Preferred

If you meet the requirements above and some of the following, we would still like to hear from you.

- Experience working with African governments, development finance institutions, or bilateral donors.
- Familiarity with transport policy, BRT planning, and urban mobility systems, sufficient to communicate credibly with transport engineering teams.
- Understanding of electric mobility technologies, battery economics, charging infrastructure costs, and e-bus financing models as applied to African contexts, including total cost of ownership modelling for electric vehicle fleets.
- Familiarity with climate finance windows such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Nationally Determined Contribution Facility, and with green bond mechanisms.
- Proficiency in French or another second language, given ITDP Africa's operations across anglophone and francophone African countries.

Other requirements

- Availability to travel frequently within Africa and occasionally internationally.
- Candidates must be willing and able to be based full-time in one of the cities listed at the top of this description.

- Applicants must already hold, or be able to obtain, the right to work in the country where this role will be based.

Equal opportunity and adjustments

ITDP is an equal opportunity employer. We consider every qualified applicant without regard to race, colour, sex, gender, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, tribe or place of origin, national extraction, ethnic or social origin, disability, HIV status, age, marital status, family responsibility or pregnancy. Qualified women and qualified persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. We do not tolerate harassment or retaliation at any stage of recruitment or employment.

If you need an adjustment to take part in this process, including the interview and the written exercise, write to africajobs@itdp.org and tell us what would help. We will discuss it with you in confidence, and asking will not count against your application.

How to apply

Interested applicants can apply by sending the following information to africajobs@itdp.org with "Manager, Transport Finance" in the subject line:

- Resume and cover letter.
- A brief (three pages maximum) analytical note on a financing challenge facing BRT or e-bus deployment in an African city of your choice, and how you would approach solving it. We use this note only to assess your application.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. To be considered in the first round, apply by 15 October 2026. The position will remain open until filled.

How we handle your application

The information you provide as part of your application, including your resume/CV, cover letter, work samples, and any other supporting documents, will be used solely for recruitment purposes and to assess your suitability for this role. Your application will be handled confidentially by the ITDP Africa recruitment team and shared only with the relevant hiring panel. Application materials will be stored securely and retained only for as long as necessary to complete the recruitment process. Where appropriate, ITDP may retain your application for consideration for future opportunities.

ITDP does not charge a fee at any stage of recruitment. Any request for payment in connection with this vacancy should be treated as fraudulent.