

District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt retires

Kevin Gantt, District Seven Engineering Administrator overseeing Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties, has retired from SCDOT.

Gantt first officially began as District Engineering Administrator on Feb 6, 2017.

Gantt is a 1993 graduate of Clemson University, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer with more than 28 years of experience at the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

He started his career with eight years of service in Greenville Construction, Gantt then worked in Greenville Maintenance for seven years, and eventually became the Resident Maintenance Engineer at Green-

ville Maintenance. In November of 2008, Gantt was promoted to Program Manager and worked in the Midlands Regional Production Group where he managed projects for the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and The Augusta Regional Transportation Study.

In April 2014, Gantt took a position in the Planning Office as an Asset Management Engineer and was very instrumental in the development of SCDOT's first Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

While at District 7, DEA Gantt managed and served with distinction and guided District 7 through several natural disasters including floods, tornadoes and a snow and ice event. Also, among many other accomplishments and successes, DEA Gantt's commitment to safety lead him to create several multi-county

safety officer positions in an effort to better serve our SCDOT employee's.

District 7 has greatly benefited from his leadership, professionalism, guidance and humanity.

We congratulate DEA Gantt on his retirement and thank him for his service to The South Carolina Department of Transportation, District 7 and the people of South Carolina.



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Internal Audits Services Director Wayne Sams to retire

Internal Audit Services (IAS) Director **Wayne Sams** has announced his retirement beginning July 1. Sams, a certified public accountant, began his time at SCDOT in September 2016.

Sams joined the agency at a time of transition for the internal audit office. Previously, the office reported to the SCDOT Commission. During the summer of 2016, Act 275 transferred the office to the State Auditor George Kennedy. With his support and the championing of internal audit by Secretary **Christy A. Hall**, Sams began reconstructing the internal audit function.

The new office, IAS, is built on Sams' philosophy that internal audit is a partner with the agency to help it achieve its mission and strategic goals more efficiently and effectively. This move away from "audit police" revitalized the energy and morale of the IAS team and restored the confidence of the SCDOT Commission, management, and staff. This transformed IAS into a trusted adviser for its stakeholders.

Sams assembled a high-performing team that encompasses expertise in assurance, risk, efficiency assessments, investigations, and information technology. This functional diversity provides IAS the capability to address all facets of the agency.

Using a risk-based audit approach, assurance engagements are designed to provide management with assurance that risks are effectively managed with well-designed internal controls. Other engagements are designed to assess whether agency resources are used efficiently. This latter type of engagement underscores Secretary Hall's message, and a quote by Mark Twain, that "continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."



Wayne Sams

Audits completed by Sams and his team generally result in action plans, developed in partnership with agency management, that contribute to the continuous improvement of SCDOT.

A few of the key improvements made during Sams' tenure include: better design of internal controls after identified cases of employee fraud; enhancements to cash management processes and procedures to ensure that cash is available to pay bills on time; reduction of the number of days to hire an employee; formal succession plans to address loss of key staff; and shortened time between ordering and delivering equipment.

Through these and other achievements, IAS has become a respected leader – not only by SCDOT – but also by other State agency and peer state DOT internal audit functions for advice and ideas.

"I will miss my SCDOT family. Your commitment to serving the citizens of South Carolina – especially in responding to disasters – is truly inspiring," said Sams.

In retirement, Sams and his wife, Lisa, plan to travel full time in an RV to see the country and do rehab projects with a Christian RV group for those in need. Sams enjoys street and landscape photography when he travels and plans to learn bird and wildlife photography.

Governmental Affairs Director Allen Hutto leaves SCDOT

Allen Hutto, Director of Governmental Affairs for SCDOT since 2014, resigned to become Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina, effective June 1, 2021.

As Director of Governmental Affairs, Hutto represented SCDOT in state and federal legislative matters and worked closely with legislative leadership during the passage of the "Roads Bill" in 2017.

He grew up in Orangeburg

and attended Orangeburg Prep. From there he graduated from the College of Charleston with a BA in History and then earned a law degree from USC Law School and a Master of Human Resources degree from USC's Darla Moore School of Business. Hutto lives in Lexington with his wife, Alicia, and their daughter, Laura.

Prior to working at SCDOT, Hutto held position at the Nelson Mullins law firm, the Manufactured Housing Institute of SC, the South Carolina Administra-



Allen Hutto

tive Law Court and the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation.