

# THE CONNECTOR

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## Hall, Patton, Keys: *Top leadership changes at SCDOT*

By Pete Poore

For the second time in two years, Governor Nikki Haley appointed **Christy A. Hall** as Acting Secretary of Transportation, on July 2, 2015, effective immediately. The Governor made the appointment following the resignation of Janet P. Oakley in June.

Acting Secretary Hall had been serving SCDOT as the Deputy Secretary for Engineering since May of 2014. In that position, she was responsible for managing all engineering operations; preconstruction, construction, maintenance and traffic engineering in support of SCDOT's \$1.5 billion program.

Before serving a brief term as SCDOT's Acting Secretary from February to May 2014, the South Carolina native held the position of Deputy Secretary of Finance and Procurement from 2011-2014. In that role, she deployed revised business practices and cash management techniques that led to restoring a sound financial position for an agency with a peak cash demand of over \$100 million during the summer months.

The Acting Secretary has more than two decades of service at SCDOT. She began her career in Road Design and held numerous management positions including Program Manager, District Construction Engineer (DCE) in District 3 and District Engineering Administrator (DEA) in District 2. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

The Clemson University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering said she is honored to serve in this key leadership position for the agency. "I am proud of SCDOT's employees and their dedication and commitment to service for South Carolina. Together, the leadership team and all SCDOT employees and our partners will work to provide



**Christy Hall**  
Acting Secretary  
of Transportation



**Ron Patton**  
Deputy Secretary  
for Intermodal Planning



**Brian Keys**  
Deputy Secretary  
for Finance and Procurement

the best and safest possible highway system to provide mobility for our citizens and visitors, and give South Carolina an advantage in economic growth," said Hall.

Speaking at the SCDOT Commission workshop and meeting on July 16 in Columbia, Commission Chairman Jim Rozier commented publicly on Acting Secretary Hall's appointment. "This Commission is in lock-step supporting Christy and this organization under her leadership. We are excited about our direction. Her plans are absolutely excellent and we are 100% supportive of Christy," said Rozier.

As Acting Secretary Hall took the reins of the agency, she had two Deputy Secretary positions to fill due to retirements. On July 2, 2015, **Ron Patton** was announced as the new Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning, effective immediately.

Patton has served in a number of leadership roles for SCDOT. Most recently he held the position of Chief Engineer since June of 2010. Prior to that role, he served as the Director of Planning and Environmental from December 2001 to 2010. He also spent nine years as a Program Manager for much of Upstate South Carolina. Patton began his career at SCDOT in 1991 as a Hydraulic Engineer in the Hydrology Office.

He is a 1990 graduate of Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. The native of Greenville, South Carolina is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

Acting Secretary Hall appointed **Brian Keys** as Deputy Secretary of Finance and Procurement on July 6, 2015, effective on that date. Keys has served in several

leadership roles for the agency, most recently as Director of Rights of Way since 2013. Prior to that position, he served as the Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, Locations and Design from 2007 to 2013. He held a number of key positions in Preconstruction from 1990 to 2007. He was responsible for ensuring the obligation and delivery of federal-aid eligible and state projects, as well as assisting in overall program management for his assigned region.

The Columbia native began his career at SCDOT in 1986 as an engineering intern while completing his undergraduate degree. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1991. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

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