



Dear Colleagues,

Several minutes ago, Gov. Whitmer announced a number of changes to her cabinet that will be going into effect on Jan. 1 at the start of her second term.

After leading this department for four years, I have decided to retire from MDOT at the end of the year. It has been an honor to serve with all of you during my more than 32-year career at MDOT, working to ensure that roads across Michigan were being rebuilt or repaired so families could get where they needed to go safely. With that, I'm excited to announce that Brad Wieferich will assume the role of acting director of MDOT.

Brad is currently the chief operations officer, overseeing MDOT's seven regions, the Bureau of Development, the Bureau of Field Services, and the Bureau of Bridges and Structures. Prior to his appointment in May 2022, Brad was the director of MDOT's Bureau of Development (2015-2022), the engineer of design from (2009-2015), and held positions in the Bay, University, and Southwest regions (1995-2009). He has played a vital role in the advancement of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the governor's Rebuilding Michigan program, and the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. A registered professional engineer, Brad earned a Bachelor of Science from the College of Engineering at Michigan State University.

Thanks to everyone in the department, Michigan fixed 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges while supporting 89,000 jobs over the last four years, all without raising taxes by a dime. This included key economic corridors under Gov. Whitmer's \$3.5 billion Rebuilding Michigan program, record investments across four state budgets, and the bipartisan Building Michigan Together Plan supplemental package. Personally, I'm proud to have been a leader in efforts to establish the state's first Flex Route on US-23, a model of improved operations that can be emulated elsewhere. We've also left a legacy that includes establishing significant programs to provide opportunities for minorities and the disadvantaged, including work to establish MDOT's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Transportation Diversity Recruitment Program (TDRP) in 2013, with approximately 300 students participating to date.

Mostly, I want to express my appreciation for all of you and the sacrifices you've made, especially the past few years, to capitalize on an unprecedented investment to truly Rebuild Michigan. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our department and our state.

Best,

Paul C. Ajegba