



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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**BUTCH ELEY**  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &  
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**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 22, 2023  
**TO:** All TDOT Employees  
**FROM:** Lori Lange, P.E.  
Assistant Bureau Chief of Engineering  
**SUBJECT:** Selection of TDOT Managers – Materials & Tests Division

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Travis Smith to TDOT Manager of Geotechnical Services in the Materials & Tests Division effective June 18, 2023.

The Geotech Manager must use a risk-based, data-driven process to manage the geotechnical needs of the state, including transportation improvement projects, alternative delivery projects, routine maintenance, emergency work, Unstable Slope Management Program, and University and in-house Geotechnical Research Projects designed to preserve transportation assets, maximize the service life of transportation infrastructure, and implement statewide technology advancements. This position will effectively manage resources, coordinate geotechnical activities, and ensure the exchange of information between Project Team members and stakeholders both internal and external. This position will implement Department policies, provide technical guidance, and manage the implementation of geotechnical research into TDOT's Work Program as part of the Division's strategic plan. The Geotech Manager will foster the implementation of national best practices that drive innovation, improve performance, and ensure project alignment with the Department's asset management lifecycle. This position will lead, mentor, and train Geotechnical Teams through empowerment, communication, and delegated authority.

Travis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and is a licensed engineer in the State of Tennessee. He joined TDOT in 2015 as the Civil Engineering Manager 1 in the Geotechnical Engineering Section, where he oversees geotechnical operations for Regions 2, 3, and 4. In addition to his regular geotechnical duties, Travis has played a key role in the development of TDOT's Unstable Slope Management Program (formerly the Rockfall Management Program), managed geotechnical on-call consultants, and provided assistance to the Project Management Division in developing the geotechnical aspects of the Project Delivery Network. Prior to his tenure at TDOT, Travis worked as a consultant for 13 years, gaining experience in geotechnical engineering, laboratory testing, CEI, and environmental projects. He actively contributes to professional organizations, serving as a voting member for the AASHTO Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP) and participating in various national geotechnical and geological groups. Travis is also a proud graduate of the Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI) in 2019.

With Travis's combination of department and consultant background and technical expertise, he will bring a high level of innovation and vision to Geotechnical Services. Please join me in congratulating Travis Smith on this well-deserved appointment.

HP/LL