

Good afternoon District One employees. It is with very mixed feelings that I announce my plans to retire from the Department effective Wednesday, November 23, 2016. While I have known this date would come at some point during the coming months, it hasn't been any easier to accept that I would no longer have the honor to serve as your Secretary. I have met with and spent time with many of you during the past five years and have been so impressed by the quality and commitment of the vast majority of our employees. I have developed a deep concern and love for this district and so many of you, I only regret that my position requires do much of my time that I couldn't spend more time with each of you.

I have every confidence that your new District Secretary and the District's leadership team will continue with the goal of making the district the Number One District at FDOT. I appreciate the support and daily efforts of all of you in serving our customers throughout District One. Our elected officials and local government staff have consistently thanked me for the outstanding customer service you provide in your dealings with them.

While we all know that there is no "perfect" place to work, I can tell you that during my forty years in the industry, both in the public and private sector, the Department and our current leadership team is the best I have been fortunate to work with and the Department is an excellent place to work. During my time in the private sector, I have met with and worked with DOT's all over the country, and in my mind we are the best in the country. That is one of the primary reasons I returned twice to the agency.

We have received significant support from Secretary Boxold in doing all we can to improve the work environment and provide opportunity to our employees to grow and develop. Secretary Boxold is one of the two best Secretaries I have had the pleasure to work for and with during my entire career at the Department, the other being Secretary Ben Watts.

Working with the members of the Leadership Forum, we have made significant progress in developing our leadership team, improving our support to all of you and making District One a safer work environment for our employees. I am hopeful that the progress we have made will continue through the commitment of each and every employee in District One to support your leadership team and help them by your willingness to be the best team member you can be.

I will soon be moving into my new role as the Transportation Director at the City of Orlando. I will have just over a ten minute commute on the days that I can bike to work. While I will miss all of you, I won't miss my daily three hour round trip commute to Bartow!

You can be sure that I will continue to support the District, my replacement and Secretary Boxold during my replacement's transition into the Secretary position in District One in order to minimize any disruption to all of you. Please feel free to call on me anytime I can assist you or when you are in Orlando. I will be keeping my personal cell phone number listed below.

Finally, I wish all of you the very best during the coming years. Billy

Billy Hattaway, District Secretary
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