



## Patterson named ODOT director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2013

PR# 13-008

Thirty-three year Oklahoma Department of Transportation employee J. Michael “Mike” Patterson was appointed director by members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission on Monday, March 4. Patterson, who has served as the agency’s Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer since 2010, will officially begin in his new capacity as ODOT director on April 1.

Patterson will succeed Gary Ridley, who is retiring as ODOT Director at the end of March. Ridley will remain on Gov. Mary Fallin’s Cabinet as Transportation Secretary.

“I am delighted with the selection of Mike Patterson as director and thank the commission for their hard work,” Fallin said. “The department has great leadership and this will be a smooth transition.”

Commission Chairman Greg Love said of the commission’s decision, “After much deliberation, the commissioners decided based on where the agency is at today that Mike Patterson was the right person for the job given his experience with the department and vision for the future.” Love continued, “The commission had a tough decision to make on replacing Director Ridley, largely because of a number of highly-qualified candidates. We felt that, by all appearances, ODOT is an extremely well-run agency and that promoting from within the ranks of ODOT would be the best way to go.”

Ridley praised Patterson’s ability to work with state leaders and his commitment to moving the department forward.

“In his three decades with ODOT, Mike has been instrumental in working with the state legislature and governor to ensure that transportation is a top priority in Oklahoma,” Ridley said. “I am confident that under Mike’s leadership, ODOT will continue to make great strides in improving our state’s transportation system.”

Patterson first worked for ODOT as a summer employee in 1970. He returned in 1980 as Deputy Comptroller and was promoted to Comptroller in 1984. In 1999, he was named Assistant Director of Finance and Administration and served in that capacity for 10 years.

“I welcome the opportunity to serve the department,” Patterson said. “ODOT is known nationally as one of the best and we will continue to be so. We will continue to be laser-focused on providing a safe, effective and efficient transportation system for the people, commerce, and communities of Oklahoma.”

An Oklahoma City native, Patterson holds a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and a master’s degree in Finance from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Along with his ODOT responsibilities, Patterson serves as vice chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Employees Credit Union.

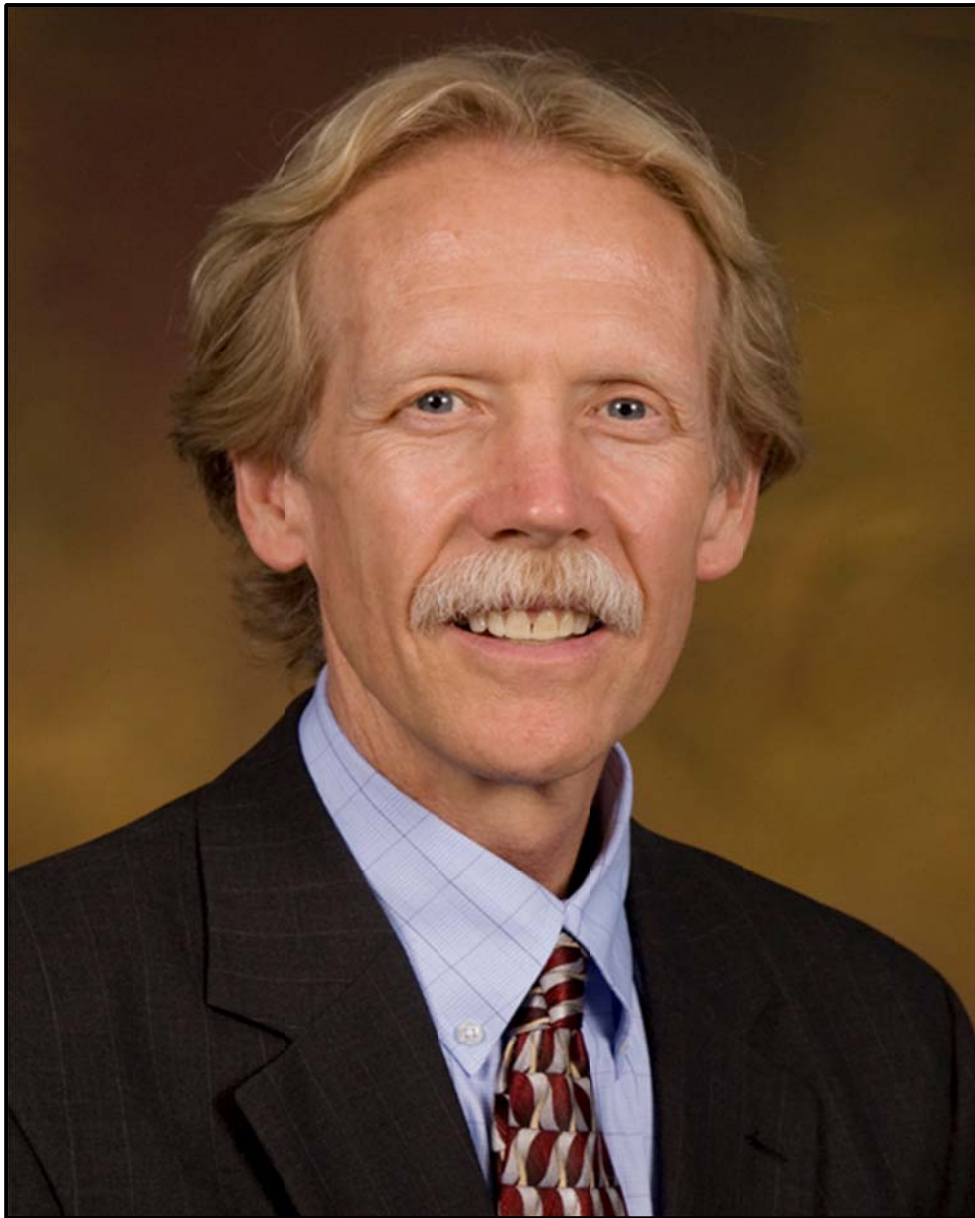
Patterson and his wife, Joy, live in Edmond and have two daughters and five granddaughters. He continues a tradition of family service to ODOT. His father, Joe, worked in the Planning Division from 1961 to 1987.

—[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us)—

**(Editors and News Directors: For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION  
200 N.E. 21ST ST. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000



Mike Patterson was appointed Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on Monday, March 4. He will succeed Gary Ridley, who is retiring as ODOT Director at the end of March.