

To: FHWA-Staff
Subject: Key Assignment from Jeffrey F. Paniati

KEY ASSIGNMENT

I am pleased to inform you that **Irene Rico will be reassigned to the position of Virginia Division Administrator.**

Since October 2007, Irene has served as the Special Assistant to the Executive Director. In this position, she conducts major studies and serves as an advisor to the Executive Director on national transportation program and policy issues. Prior to this position, Irene served for 5 years as the Assistant Division Administrator in Virginia where she was responsible for managing staff, and promoting and implementing Agency policies, goals, and objectives. Irene has also served in other positions of leadership in the field including the Texas and New Mexico Divisions, the former Southern Resource Center, and the former Region 6 Office. Irene joined FHWA in 1985 as a Highway Engineer Trainee. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas El Paso and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico.

Please join me in wishing Irene well in her new assignment._____

KEY ASSIGNMENT

I am pleased to announce that **Mary Ridgeway will be reassigned to the position of Special Assistant to the Executive Director for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).**

Mary currently serves as the Assistant Division Administrator in Virginia, a position she has held since 2008. Prior to this assignment, Mary served as an Environmental Team Leader and as an Operations Team Leader in the Missouri Division. In both positions, she was responsible for leading a multidisciplinary team of transportation professionals in providing consultation and advisory services to State and local partners. Before joining the Missouri Division in 2001, Mary gained valuable leadership experience while employed as a Transportation Project Manager and Area Engineer with the Missouri Department of Transportation. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Engineering from Southern Illinois University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Missouri.

Please join me in wishing Mary well as she moves into her new position._____

The Heartland Award - Roberto Fonseca-Martinez, Virginia Division Administrator.

This award honors the memory of our fellow employees who were lost in the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Office Building in Oklahoma City and recognizes the dedication of the survivors who worked diligently to reestablish their office. This award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service to the traveling public. Their achievements are of marked national significance and reflect the high level of dedication and determination exemplified by the Oklahoma Division employees.

Roberto's career is deserving of this recognition. Roberto has served as the Virginia Division Administrator for 14 years and for the past 3 years he has simultaneously served as the Puerto Rico Division Administrator. Throughout his 38-year career with FHWA, Roberto has provided outstanding leadership in the implementation of the Federal-aid program. He has handled a number of high visibility and politically sensitive issues with great skill. In Virginia he was instrumental in advancing the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project and more recently, the 495 HOT lanes project in Northern Virginia pioneering the use of public-private partnerships. He improved the management of Puerto Rico's Federal-aid highway program, leading to the removal of its "high risk" status and driving improvements within the Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority. Roberto has also been an excellent mentor to emerging leaders in FHWA. He has been very active in recruiting and has been especially successful in recruiting Hispanics to FHWA. He has served on many corporate activities, often challenging traditional practices and procedures, leading to new and improved ways of doing business.