

2022 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

Paul C. Ajegba, PE

Director, Michigan Department of Transportation



Paul C. Ajegba, P.E. was appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), on Jan. 1, 2019. As Director, he has led the efforts to shepherd Gov. Whitmer's \$3.5 billion in Rebuilding Michigan road bond funding and has managed the largest transportation budgets and the most aggressive program of road reinvestment in Michigan history. Under his leadership, MDOT has championed electric and autonomous vehicle innovations, work zone safety initiatives, and construction delivery efficiencies such as the bridge bundling program. Director Ajegba has guided the department's focus on diversity and inclusion efforts and established the barrier-shattering Deputy Director - Chief Culture, Equity, and Inclusion Officer position within his leadership team.

Director Ajegba has held significant positions during his more than 31-year career with the department, including Metro Region Engineer, University Region Engineer, and Metro Region's Oakland Transportation Service Center Manager. During his seven years in the University Region, Ajegba oversaw the planning, design and building of several major projects, including the US-23 Flex Route, a project nominated for the America's Transportation Award and landing among the top 12 national finalists. Other notable projects include the I-94 improvements project in Ann Arbor/Jackson, the I-96/US-23 interchange, and the I-75 freeway project.

Director Ajegba established MDOT's Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Transportation Diversity Recruitment Program (TDRP) in 2013, with approximately 300 students participating to date. The program is a partnership between MDOT, the Federal Highway Association and Michigan colleges and universities, offering valuable on-the-job training to minority undergraduate students pursuing degrees in engineering. The goal of TDRP is to expose underrepresented groups of college students to engineering and transportation-related career opportunities through professional development, technical work experience, networking, and income to assist with college expenses.

Ajegba holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Prairie View A&M University and a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering from the University of Michigan. He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Michigan.

Ajegba is a member of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and serves on the following boards: The Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), ITS America, Mcity, the University of Michigan Civil and Environmental Engineering Friends Association (serves as Board Chair), the Engineering Society of Detroit, and the Mackinac Bridge Authority.