

# TRANSPORTATION

# SPOTLIGHT



## STEVEN ALLEN

### COMPANY:

TN Department of Transportation

### TITLE:

Director of Strategic Transportation Investments Division

### TRAINING ORGANIZATION OR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:

Tennessee State University  
Nashville Tech

### CERTIFICATION/DEGREE:

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering  
Associate of Engineering in Architectural and Building Construction Engineering Technology

[memphis.edu/setwc](http://memphis.edu/setwc)



**Q:** How did you select your certification program or college major ?

**A:** My Interest in house plans in high school led to me earning an Associate Degree with goal of becoming an Architect.

**Q:** What was the biggest influence in your selection of career pathway?

**A:** A surveying course I took at Nashville Tech led to a summer job surveying which resulted in me changing my major to Civil Engineering.



**Q:** What attracted you to the transportation industry?

**A:** My first full time job was in curb and gutter construction on roadway projects which led to employment with the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

**Q:** What is your favorite aspect of your job?

**A:** Being able to actually see the project you were a part of once it is built is the most fulfilling aspect.



**Q:** How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

**A:** Creating the Project Safety Office and developing safety projects that we know have saved lives is the most rewarding community impact.

**Q:** What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

**A:** Being able to travel the entire state of Tennessee and seeing the diversity across the state is very interesting to me.

**Q:** What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

**A:** Being the leader of a Team and providing mentoring to the younger engineers really motivates me.

**Q:** If you could go back in time and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for the future, what would it be?

**A:** Psychology would have been a helpful course, as learning to deal with staff is critical to your team's success.

**Q:** What advice would you share with students or anyone considering your profession?

**A:** Choose this profession only if it fulfills your goals. You should have strong math and science background with practical applicability. If you love what you are doing, it is not a job!

