James D. Armstrong is the “2013 Manager of the Year - Transportation”

American Public Works Association tabs Assist. Administrator with top honor

In a nationwide competition, the American Public Works Association (APWA) named Charleston County Assistant Administrator James D. Armstrong as its “2013 Manager of the Year - Transportation”. Armstrong will receive the prestigious award later this year at the annual International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Chicago.

For more information on the award: http://www.apwa.net/who_we_are/history/Awards

James D. (Jim) Armstrong has been part of Charleston County since 1988. There are probably very few roads in the County Jim hasn’t worked on improving in one way or another. Jim played a critical role when the citizens needed help the most serving as a liaison with the S.C. National Guard during recovery from Hurricane Hugo in 1989. In 1996, Armstrong took the position of Pavement Manager and was in charge of the County's 1,500-plus mile road system. By 2002, he was promoted to manage the Roads Management Division in Public Works and five years later he was named Deputy Public Works Director of Transportation. Next he managed the County's RoadWise Program that carries out the Transportation Sales Tax funded projects, before taking on his current position as Assistant Administrator and overseeing both the Transportation Development and Public Works departments.

“Jim has been tireless in his efforts to promote and manage our Transportation Sales Tax Program. He is equally comfortable in meeting with highway commissioners and the governor as he is inspecting road construction,” said Charleston County Administrator Kurt Taylor. “Jim is gracious to all, and a true pleasure to work with. In short, I am proud to work with Jim, and am proud of all he does to represent Charleston County.”

Letters from area leaders: http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/2111-001.pdf

Jim’s role as a leader came to the forefront as the Transportation Sales Tax projects grew in size and scope. Armstrong put together a skilled team of engineers who developed a specific strategy to bring these projects to fruition. Most notably, Jim started a new design-build method that saved the County both time and money on the Palmetto Commerce Parkway and the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Improvement projects. The projects are funded with tax dollars straight from Charleston County citizens. With that in mind, Jim searched to find other funding streams in the form of grants at the local, state and federal level. Finally, construction can be a difficult process for people dealing with the traffic delays, noise and other side effects. To minimize the stress, Jim encouraged communication with the public using traffic alerts and news releases through the local media and on the County's website and social media sites to keep people updated and informed.

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- written by Shawn Smetana -