

James Bass

Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation

Biography

James M. Bass serves as executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation. Previously he oversaw TxDOT's Financial Management Division, Toll Operations Division, and Project Finance and Debt Management Division.

Bass began his TxDOT career in 1985 working summers in the Fort Worth District. He worked part-time as an engineering aide in the Austin District's South Travis/Hays County Area Office while earning his bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduation, Bass began full-time as an accounting clerk in the Finance Division's Revenue Accounting Section, and later was promoted to budget analyst in the Budget and Forecasting Section.

Since then, Bass has worked extensively on preparation of TxDOT's Legislative Appropriations Requests, Operating Budgets and Cash Forecasting System. He also works on the agency's public-private partnerships and corresponds with the Legislative Budget Board, State Auditor's Office and the Office of the Texas Comptroller.

Bass was selected as finance division director in November 1999, and became chief financial officer in 2005. He became executive director in 2016. He and his wife, Patty, have a son and a daughter.