

Sonja Simpson

Sonja Simpson is the Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), District 5. All Ohio Department of Transportation activities within the seven-county region of District 5 fall under the direction and guidance of the District Deputy Director. Prior to her appointment at District 5, Simpson was the Deputy Director of the Division of Operations in ODOT's Central Office.

Sonja has more than 17 years of public sector experience, and has held leadership positions in governmental agencies both inside and outside of Ohio. Her many professional success under her direction include the development and rollout of OHgo.com, ODOT's traveler traffic information website and app; the snow & ice removal performance evaluator program, used to quantitatively track winter plowing response efforts; and the online aircraft registration program for Ohio.

Just prior to ODOT, she managed street and traffic maintenance operations for the City of Columbus. She was on Columbus Business First's "Forty Under 40" list for 2012, and was named the American Public Works Association (APWA) Manager of the Year for Administrative Management in 2013. Recently she was presented the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Columbus Chapter 2017 Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award.

Sonja is originally from the Pittsburgh area, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and Master's Degree in Regional Planning from California University of Pennsylvania. She is currently *all-but-dissertation* (ABD), pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in Public Administration at Northcentral University. Sonja resides just outside of Columbus with her husband and three children.