



Justin P. Powell

Chief Operating Officer

Justin Powell is the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commission's nominee to be the Secretary of Transportation. He has served as Chief Operating Officer for the SCDOT since 2023. In that capacity, he manages the day-to-day operations of SCDOT including its \$5 billion construction program and maintenance of the nation's fourth-largest state highway system.

Powell joined SCDOT in 2019 as Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration with responsibility for SCDOT's \$2.7 billion budget and oversaw the growth of the construction program from \$3 billion to \$5 billion. In 2022, he was promoted to Chief of Staff, serving as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Transportation and led numerous strategic initiatives on the Secretary's behalf.

Before working for SCDOT, he served as Assistant County Administrator in Horry County where he provided financial leadership to the County's \$500 million roads sales tax program, managed a project to restore freight rail service to a three-county region and supported the County's response to numerous disasters and subsequent resiliency efforts. In addition, Powell has also worked at other local government agencies including the Dorchester County, the City of Greenville, and Fairfax County, VA.

Powell was raised in Charleston, South Carolina and is a graduate of James Island High School. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wofford College.

Powell and his wife, Ashley, live in Lexington, South Carolina with their two children, Ella and Gus.

