

## **UDOT HEAD TO STEP DOWN FOR LDS CHURCH POSITION**

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State officials were caught off-guard by news that Utah Department of Transportation Director W. Craig Zwick will fill a high-level, full-time position in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Leaders announced Saturday during their semiannual General Conference of the Mormon Church that Zwick, 47, had been chosen as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

The Salt Lake City native and former construction company official has led the agency overseeing road maintenance and construction statewide since January 1993.

The new church assignment "was quite a surprise," Zwick said Monday. He was notified shortly before the formal announcement. Church President Gordon B. Hinckley gave Gov. Mike Leavitt "a little bit of advance warning," said Zwick. "He was sensitive that he didn't want the governor startled."

Leavitt press secretary Vicki Varela said he intends to move quickly to replace Zwick.

"Craig Zwick has been a pivotal player in positioning Utah for the growth of the '90s," said Leavitt Monday.

Zwick said his departure date from UDOT won't be known until details of the church assignment are finalized, probably later this week. He said the new post may take him to South America where he served as an LDS mission president in Chile from 1989 to 1992.

He said he would maintain close contact with UDOT until an interim director is selected "so we don't lose any momentum."

Zwick replaced Eugene Findlay as UDOT executive director in the beginning of Republican Leavitt's administration. The agency has about 1,780 employees in regional offices in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Orem and Richfield.

Zwick has lobbied hard for state and federal spending on improving highways, especially traffic-choked Interstate 15 -- even when that meant supporting sizeable increases in the state gasoline tax.

Though he testified frequently on Utah's Capitol Hill, none of his proposed gas-tax hikes -- which reached as high as 15 cents per gallon -- received the support of state lawmakers.

His tenure also included a messy federal wiretap trial in 1994 involving UDOT phone lines. UDOT District Director Clarence Sturzenegger and two government corruption investigators were acquitted of wiretapping which occurred before Zwick came to the agency.

In 1994, Zwick presided over the biggest management restructuring in UDOT history, a reassignment of 12 top-level managers and division of upper levels of the department more clearly into administrative and engineering functions.

Officials said the change, accompanied by stepped-up management training, was aimed at making the department more customer-friendly and efficient.