

NEW UDOT DIRECTOR SEES ROADWORK AHEAD

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You only have to drive up I-15 once to appreciate that it's a road that needs to be improved - now, not later.

With those words, Thomas R. Warne accepted Gov. Mike Leavitt's appointment as the new executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation during a press conference Friday. The appointment becomes effective June 26. Warne replaces Craig Zwick, who has accepted a leadership position in Brazil for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Leavitt said Warne has worked in virtually every area of transportation.

"He knows this business from the ground up," Leavitt said. "He has extensive experience managing large transportation projects and dealing with rapid growth, which is one of our state's biggest challenges."

Warne has served as deputy director and chief operating officer of the Arizona Department of Transportation since 1992. He has also worked as the state's construction engineer, with oversight of the state's \$400 million highway construction program.

The growth in Utah is similar to the growth affecting Arizona, Warne said. The two factors that will define the department's success in the future are how well it provides the infrastructure for the state to move into the next century and the quality of its services to the people of Utah, he said.

"The Utah Department of Transportation needs to serve as the focal point for vision and leadership providing quality transportation services for the citizens of this state and those who visit," he said.

But equally as important, this government agency must provide the best service possible, he said.

"The citizens of this state experience quality when they interact with private entities. They should experience quality when they interact with government. We are in the business, and will continue to be in the business, of redefining government and how it operates, and how we provide high-quality products and services to the people of this great state.

"Ultimately, it's the customers who will validate whether we're successful or not," he said.

Warne is known nationally for his expertise in "partnering and total quality management," a highway construction method that unifies the state, the contractor and the designer to minimize conflict and maximize efficiency. He is the author of "Partnering for Success."

A graduate of Brigham Young University, Warne earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Arizona State University. He is a registered professional engineer in Arizona.