



# FILIBERTO SOTELO

Engineering Policy Unit Chief

## **Q. How did you become interested in engineering?**

**A.** I was always interested in how things worked and enjoyed math and science. I wanted to be an architect but eventually decided to give engineering a try. My internship during college reinforced that engineering was what I wanted to do for my career.

## **Q. What aspect of engineering are you focused on at IDOT?**

**A.** I am responsible for managing and publishing the Bureau of Design manual, which contains IDOT's engineering policies. I am accountable for the development, implementation and interpretation of the policies that govern construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the highways, intersections and interchanges on the state highway system.

## **Q. Favorite part of the job?**

**A.** One of my favorite parts of my job is when I'm able to help solve difficult policy issues or give guidance where there may not be a straightforward solution. I rely on my engineering judgment and experience to help me provide the best practical solution.

## **Q. What do you do in a typical day?**

**A.** It varies day by day. Some days I'm working on updating the policy manual. I may be in meetings related to research efforts or answering questions from the districts on a particular policy question. It definitely makes my days interesting and diverse.

## **Q. How much does teamwork play a role in your day-to-day activities?**

**A.** Teamwork is an essential part of my job. The collaboration between my bureau and others at IDOT, our districts and even national committees helps shape policy. It is not a solitary effort but a team effort at both the state and national levels.

## **Q. One thing you'd like the public to know about the work of an IDOT engineer?**

**A.** A lot of effort, research and collaboration goes into making sure we have good policies in place to design and build the best projects for the traveling public.

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