

Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison  
Topeka, KS 66603



phone: 785-296-3585  
fax: 785-296-0287  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

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Richard Carlson, Interim Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Contact: Steve Swartz, (785) 296-3585; cell (785) 221-5615; [stevesw@ksdot.org](mailto:stevesw@ksdot.org)

## **St. Marys resident named Interim Transportation Secretary**



Former state legislator and Pottawatomie County Commissioner Richard Carlson became the Kansas Interim Secretary of Transportation effective July 18.

Secretary Carlson, who will also serve as Director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority, was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback to replace Mike King, who resigned after four years as secretary to return to the private sector.

"I'm honored to oversee a state transportation system considered one of the nation's best as well as the outstanding Kansas Turnpike. The state's transportation system has long benefitted the health and economic well-being of Kansans, and I will work to make sure it continues to do so," said Secretary Carlson.

Beginning in 2004, the St. Marys native served 10 years in the Kansas House representing the 61<sup>st</sup> District of Pottawatomie County and northern Wabaunsee County.

For six years he was chairman of the House Taxation Committee and also served on the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce and Labor Committee. He was Pottawatomie County Commissioner for 12 years before being elected to the Legislature.

Secretary Carlson has worked in real estate and banking, as well as franchise development and investment for Burger King restaurants. He was active in the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America, serving as president, vice president and a member of the national board of directors.

Secretary Carlson is a graduate of Kansas State University and served in the Kansas Army National Guard. He and his wife, Cheryl, live on a ranch near St. Marys and have two sons and six grandchildren.

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