



City of Harrisonburg
 Public Information Office
 409 South Main Street
 Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
 540-432-7701 (office)

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Contact: Ande Banks, Deputy City Manager
 540.432.7701
Ande.Banks@Harrisonburgva.gov

After 42 Years of Innovative Leadership, Reggie Smith To Retire

Harrisonburg, Va.—The City of Harrisonburg’s Director of Public Transportation, Reggie Smith, is retiring after four decades of public service. Smith, who retires on March 31, 2019, is not only one of the longest tenured directors in City history; he is the only person to have ever led the department, which was created in 1976.

Prior to embarking upon his career with the City, Smith, a native of Harrisonburg, graduated from Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Va., with a bachelor’s in business administration. Smith’s strong work ethic started early, while working as a paper boy for the *Daily News Record* and tending to the family business, Hilltop Grocery. After joining the city, that same work ethic enabled him to lead the department and transform it from a fleet of eight used taxis into the bustling transportation operation it is now.

On any given day, Smith oversees a fleet of 39 transport buses, 63 school buses and 12 para-transit buses operated by approximately 200 employees driving 2.2 million passengers a year.

Smith was not only integral to the department’s creation, but also to the growth and development of numerous City projects, including the department’s award-winning transportation facility, which was recognized by *Engineering News Record (ENR) Mid-Atlantic* as a “2015 Best Project” in the airports and transit category. He also oversaw several service expansions for the residents of Harrisonburg, including additional transit routes and vehicles to meet ever-increasing needs.

Under Smith’s leadership, Harrisonburg’s transit system expanded into one of the most unusual and comprehensive transit systems in Virginia. That’s because HDPT operates not just the municipal passenger bus system – it also coordinates the entire fleet of public school buses as well as the transit system for James Madison University.

Throughout Smith’s tenure, he has been a mentor to many, and left a legacy that will span for decades to come.

“Reggie worked hard; he never slowed down; and he was never afraid to try something innovative,” said Lee Foerster, the city’s retired Director of Parks and Recreation. “Reggie was always on the move. And, when you think about it, he was the one responsible for keeping all of Harrisonburg moving too,” said Foerster.

City Manager Eric Campbell commended Smith on the numerous accomplishments he has achieved throughout his 42-year career. “It is hard to imagine a department of public transportation without Reggie,” Campbell said. “His leadership and vision were pivotal to the creation of our transportation department and led to the impressive, progressive system we have today. While we are sad to see him go, this is a well-deserved retirement.”

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