



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Kent Abernathy *Commissioner*



Kent Abernathy was named Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner in January 2025 by Gov. Mike Braun.

Kent brings a strong background of state agency administrative experience and a history of boosting agency performance levels to INDOT. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Following graduation, he served nearly seven years on active duty, including tours in South Korea and with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Beginning in 1986, Kent spent more than 15 years in the private sector, as a corporate banker and business consultant, where he gained a comprehensive knowledge of the factors that drive successful business and economic growth. He served as vice president at two Indiana banks and later founded a sole-proprietor consulting business providing strategic planning and management advice for companies.

In 2003, Kent volunteered to return to active duty in the United States Army, serving in leadership positions at the Pentagon and in Baghdad, Iraq. At the Pentagon, he served as a Crisis Action Team Chief, leading a team responsible for preparing detailed assessments and recommendations for use by national military leadership, Congress, and the White House. He also served as Director of the U.S. Central Command Washington Liaison office, where he worked with the Department of Defense, federal agencies, and foreign embassies representing the headquarters overseeing all military operations in 20 Middle Eastern countries. Kent retired from the Army Reserve as a Colonel.

Kent returned to Indiana in 2010 and served five years as chief of staff for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management under the administration of Gov. Mitch Daniels. In February 2015, Gov. Mike Pence appointed him as Commissioner of the 1,400-employee Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. In his two years as commissioner, he oversaw passage of landmark legislative reform that simplified and streamlined the Indiana motor vehicle code, leading the agency to a 96.3% customer satisfaction rating.

After leaving state government, Kent served as Executive Director of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, a temporary, bipartisan national commission created by Congress to review methods to increase citizen participation in military, national, and public service. Before being appointed INDOT Commissioner, he served as president of the Indiana War Memorials Foundation, a non-profit that provides financial support for the museum, memorials, monuments and parks honoring the valor, sacrifice, and history of Hoosier veterans.

Kent has a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point; a Master of Management from Oakland City University; and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College. Kent and his wife, Karen, live in Zionsville.

January 2025