

KDOT secretary stepping down

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The top transportation official in Kansas is stepping down just before Christmas in the first major change at a state agency since Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly narrowly won reelection earlier this month.**

**Kelly's office announced Tuesday that Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz plans to return to private business. Lorenz's last day leading the state Department of Transportation is Dec. 23.**

**Lorenz spearheaded Kelly's successful legislative push in 2020 for a new, 10-year program of highway and bridge projects. Worth about \$1 billion a year, it also includes money to improve infrastructure for high-speed internet service and allows the state to build new toll roads or add toll lanes on existing highways.**

**Before Lorenz became the state's transportation chief in 2019, she was an executive at Burns & McDonnell, a Kansas City engineering and architectural firm.**

**Kelly appointed Calvin Reed, director of the department's design and engineering division, as interim transportation secretary until the governor nominates a more permanent replacement for Lorenz. The appointment must be confirmed by the Republican-controlled Kansas Senate.**

Associated Press