

Mike Tagert
Commissioner of Transportation
Mississippi Transportation Commission

Mike Tagert has a broad background in intermodal transportation and economic development spanning the public and private sectors. Prior to being elected Commissioner in February of 2011, Tagert was Administrator of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, responsible for promoting intermodal transportation and attracting private investment for job creation and economic growth. He signed an International Agreement with the Panama Canal Authority to promote future trade and transportation via the Gulf of Mexico and Northeast Mississippi. The agreement strengthens Mississippi's strategic position for handling freight in anticipation of the Panama Canal widening and changing global freight patterns.



Other accomplishments include leading the successful designation of the Marine Highway (M-65) Corridor, an all-water route between the Port of Itawamba and the Port of Mobile, Alabama, to enhance freight capacity while reducing highway congestion. Tagert spearheaded various legislative initiatives, including Mississippi's Interstate Pest Control Compact, aimed at promoting trade while protecting the environment and agriculture.

Tagert is a former member of the Trade and Transportation Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Earlier in his career Tagert served as the Executive Director of the State Bureau of Plant Industry; a member of the Alabama Intermodal Infrastructure Advisory Board; Vice President of the Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations; and Vice President of Inland Rivers, Ports, and Terminals, Inc.

Tagert served in the United States Marine Corps and the Reserves for six years. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, and a Master of Science degree and a Master of Public Policy degree from Mississippi State University. In his position as Transportation Commissioner, he represents approximately One Million citizens in the Northern 33 counties of the State. Most importantly, he is married to the former Mary Love Mortimer of Kilmichael and they have four children: Frances, Harlan, Wilkes and Henry.