Gary K. Trietsch, P.E.

Trietsch is the Executive Director of the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA). HCTRA has 127 miles of toll roads in the Houston area. It is a unit of the Harris County government. Trietsch worked in the private sector for over five years before becoming Executive Director of HCTRA. Previous to that he worked for over 40 years with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). He was the District Engineer of the Houston District from 1995-2008.

Honored for his contributions in the field of engineering and to the State of Texas, Trietsch received the 1991 Dewitt C. Greer Award, the 1996 Transportation Engineer of the Year from the Texas Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the 1997 Dr. L.I. Hewes Award from WASHTO, the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the 2004 American Public Works Association’s Visionary Public Servant Award, and the 2005 Houston Engineer of the Year Award. In 2005, Trietsch received the University of Texas at Arlington’s Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award. Founding President of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) of Texas from 1993 to 1994, Trietsch is also a member of both the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. In August 2008 Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack led Harris Commissioner’s Court in naming a park in honor of Trietsch and his wife, Bonnie.

In November 2009 the Texas Chapter of the International Chinese Transportation Professional honored Trietsch as their first recipient of the “Transportation Giant” award. In November 2010, the Texas Transportation Institute presented him with the 2010 Research Champion Award. Trietsch also serves on the Texas Transportation Institute Advisory Council and the University of Texas at Arlington College of Engineering Board of Advisors.

Trietsch joined TxDOT’s Fort Worth District in 1967, working summers and part time while attending the University of Texas at Arlington. He earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1970; his master’s degree was awarded in civil engineering in 1974. He became assistant district design engineer in 1985. Two years later Trietsch became director of the safety and traffic operations section in the Safety and Maintenance Operations Division in Austin. In 1988 he was responsible for the central permit operations, traffic safety, traffic engineering and traffic management systems sections as the assistant division director for traffic operations in the Maintenance and Operation Division. In 1992, Trietsch was selected as director of the division. He later became the Houston district engineer in October 1995.

Major projects during Trietsch’s tenure in Houston include the US 59 Gateway to Houston, Spur 527, removal of the Baytown Tunnel, IH 45 Pierce Elevated, IH 610 West Loop, IH 45 Galveston Causeway, IH 10 West - Katy Freeway, Tomball Tollway, and the Beltway 8 Ship Channel Bridge.