

## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

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### **EARL J. “BUDDY” CROFT III**

IBTTA President

*Executive Director, Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority*

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Earl “Buddy” Croft is the Executive Director for the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority. Buddy’s responsibilities include the finance, operations and maintenance of the state’s four largest bridges including the Newport Pell Bridge, the largest suspension bridge in New England. With a \$32 million operating budget, Buddy also coordinates transportation activities with partner agencies, municipalities, and tourism entities. These include the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), the City of Newport, and other tourism and commerce entities throughout Rhode Island. Buddy was appointed to the position in 2006. Since becoming Executive Director, Buddy has modernized the state’s tolling operations to include the introduction of the E-ZPass system and Open Road Tolling for state motorists. Under his tenure RITBA has spent approximately \$180 million in construction and maintenance repairs to its bridges.

At IBTTA, Buddy is a member of the Board of Directors, currently serving as Immediate Past President. Before his appointment to IBTTA’s Board of Directors, Buddy actively served the association as a member of several committees including as Chairman of the IBTTA Audit Committee, on the Association’s Finance Committee, and as a member of the Government Affairs Committee.

Buddy also serves on the Executive Board of the E-ZPass Group and has served on the Executive Board since 2006. Prior to joining RITBA and IBTTA, Buddy was the Chief of Staff for the Rhode Island Family Court. Buddy oversaw 150 employees as well as the administrative matters of Court. He also served as the Drug Court and Truancy Court Coordinator and the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the Family Court in Rhode Island. During his time with the Rhode Island Court System, he served as the Vice Chairman for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the Chairman of the NADCP Fundraising/Development Committee.

A native Rhode Islander, Buddy holds a BA in Political Science from Providence College.

