



## Civil Rights Division



## Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division is celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by recognizing some of our employees.



**CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

### Employee Spotlight: Bhargav Patel

Transportation Project Specialist Senior  
Region 1, Bridge Department

He enjoys traveling, cooking, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

“We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Joined TDOT Family July 2009

#### What does Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month mean to you and why?

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a good opportunity to share the history, culture, and experiences from my motherland. It also highlights what has been and/or can be accomplished by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

#### What had the biggest influence on your career?

My parents had a big influence on my career. When we first moved to the USA in 1994, they started their lives all over again with very little to their name and had to learn a whole new language. In the span of 10 years, they purchased, managed, and remodeled several hotels. I was very involved in a lot of construction work during the remodeling phases because of my parents' language barriers. I have seen what my parents have accomplished with very little and I know I can accomplish a lot more with what I have been provided.

#### The TDOT EPIC initiative was launched recently. How do you see your role as empowering people and influencing the culture?

My team and I will continue to encourage each other and grow together.

#### How do you suggest we create a workforce that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Continue to give everyone the opportunity to highlight their backgrounds, cultures, and accomplishments. Diversity brings in new ideas, experiences, and perspectives that leads to creativity and better problem-solving.