


TN**TDOT**
Department of
Transportation

Hispanic Heritage Month

MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

September 15 to October 15



The Civil Rights Division Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Employee Spotlight



Lando Santos



**Transportation Project Specialist Senior Project Development,
Design; Region 2 (Chattanooga)**

Hobbies: Playing guitar or bass, hiking, fishing, travel and spending time with my family.

Diversity Quote: “You get this overview effect where you realize how small we are and how fragile our planet is and how we’re really all in it together. You don’t see borders from space, you don’t see diversity and differences in people on Earth.”

Joined TDOT: December 2011

Tell us what Hispanic Heritage Month means to you and why?

I think Hispanic Heritage Month is important because it really validates us and our existence in the world. It’s basically saying, “we are here, we are everywhere”. There are a lot of Hispanic and Latinx people all over the world. I think we must understand that there are so many ethnicities that make up every place and community, and that’s what makes societies unique. Celebrating Hispanic heritage, and dedicating time to recognize other ethnicities and cultures reminds us that we are all together in this world.

What customs and/or traditions in your culture are important to you and why?

Tradition helps us to feel like we belong in this world when we’ve come from somewhere else. It also helps us to fit in when we’ve always been in the same place. And it provides a sense of belonging for those who may feel like an outsider. Carnival: It may have Catholic roots yet Carnival is well-known for its extravagant floats and parades, exotic dancers with glittery bikinis, and heaving street parties that begin days or even weeks in advance of the official Carnival date. It’s a time to either escape the country or head to a quieter, countryside retreat, or simply leave cares behind for a few days and embrace the nationwide holiday mood.

Describe an initiative that you feel can promote and engage others to participate in DEI efforts?

When diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are incorporated into any business, you can expect a more inviting, positive workplace where employees feel like they belong, are safe, and can do their best work. With DEI, a company will experience higher productivity, improved employee retention, and a healthier workforce.