City of Springfield Public Works Director Marc Thornsberry has announced his intention to retire effective April 14, 2010, after 18 years of service to the City.

Thornsberry has accepted a position with the Federal Highway Administration in Jefferson City. He will work as the division’s traffic safety engineer beginning April 26, 2010.

He came to Springfield in 1992 from Jefferson City where he had served as public works director for Cole County; before that he worked as the engineering supervisor for the City of Jefferson City. He has served a total of nearly 40 years at the local government level.

As Director of Public Works, Thornsberry, 59, has overseen the City’s most varied department with more than 325 employees who are responsible for general services; street maintenance; engineering; stormwater services; traffic engineering; sanitary services; solid waste management; and department administration.

“We are very proud of the work Marc and his department have accomplished during his tenure,” City Manager Greg Burris said. “Under Marc’s leadership, our Public Works Department has won numerous awards and been on the cutting edge. Working with MoDOT to allow Springfield to host the first diverging diamond interchange in North America is one example of that vision.

“Marc’s work within professional and civic organizations exemplifies his dedication to his craft and his community,” Burris said. “Springfield is a better place because of Marc’s work here. We wish him the best as he starts this new chapter of his career.”
Thornsberry and the department have won numerous awards during his tenure. He was named one of the Top 10 Public Works Leaders by the American Public Works Association and was inducted into the Academy of Civil Engineers at his alma mater, the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla). He also received an honorary professional degree from UMR in 2006. In 2009, Thornsberry was honored by the Missouri Bicycle Federation for his efforts to advance Springfield’s trail and bike-route system.

“It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work with the dedicated professionals of Springfield’s Public Works department in providing essential public works programs and services for our community during the past 18 years,” Thornsberry said. “I will be forever grateful for the support and encouragement that my family and I have received from the community at large, the City’s professional staff, and the many elected officials who have worked tirelessly to make Springfield a better place to live and work.”

He is involved in a number of professional organizations, including the American Public Works Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is past president of the Missouri Chapter of the APWA, the Missouri Highway Engineers Association, and the Jefferson City Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Thornsberry also has been an active community volunteer as a member of Springfield Southeast Rotary, the United Way and the Salvation Army. He has encouraged and facilitated Public Works employees giving back to the community through the annual Day of Caring event for United Way, serving as holiday bellringers for the Salvation Army, and supplying gifts for kids participating in the annual Santa at the Footbridge activity.

He is married and has three daughters and one granddaughter.

Burris has named Assistant Public Works Directors Phil Broyles and Steve Meyer as co-interim department directors.

For more information, contact: Public Works Director Marc Thornsberry, 864-1902; or City Manager Greg Burris, 864-1006