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CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
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Maintenance chief for DOT to leave post

Martin C. Rissel, head of maintenance and operations for the state Department of Transportation since the early 1970s, will quit his post at the end of the month.

The 54-year-old Hallowell resident joined the State Highway Commission 32 years ago and is now among a handful of top department officials.

His responsibilities cover highway and bridge maintenance, state aid, traffic engineering, motor transport and the operation of seven field division offices across the state.

Transportation Commissioner George N. Campbell Jr. has named Aiden G. Small of Wintthrop, now the department's engineer of right-of-way, to replace him.

Rissel said Wednesday he's not certain what he'll do next.

"I've not really decided yet, quite frankly," he said. "I really don't know. I think everything considered, it was time. I've had an unusually broad experience for someone working in a state department.

"I just thought it was time for something else."

Rissel was a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Maine with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering when he joined what was then the Highway Commission.

During the first 16 years of his tenure, Rissel worked in the bridge division and by 1953 was working on a number of major bridge projects around the state.



MARTIN C. RISSEL

Rissel was responsible for the design of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Bridge between Lubec and Campobello Island, the Clinton A. Clauson Memorial Bridges over the Kennebec River in Fairfield and others in Medway and Portland.

He also designed a number of bridges that included innovative construction techniques, including the first all welded girder bridge and the state's first six-lane bridge.

In 1965, Rissel was named area engineer in charge of preliminary development of Interstate 295 through Portland. Three years later, he was appointed maintenance and state aid engineer.

Rissel took over his current duties in a department reorganization in the early 1970s. He belongs to a number of professional organizations and has served on highway and engineering panels in the Northeast.