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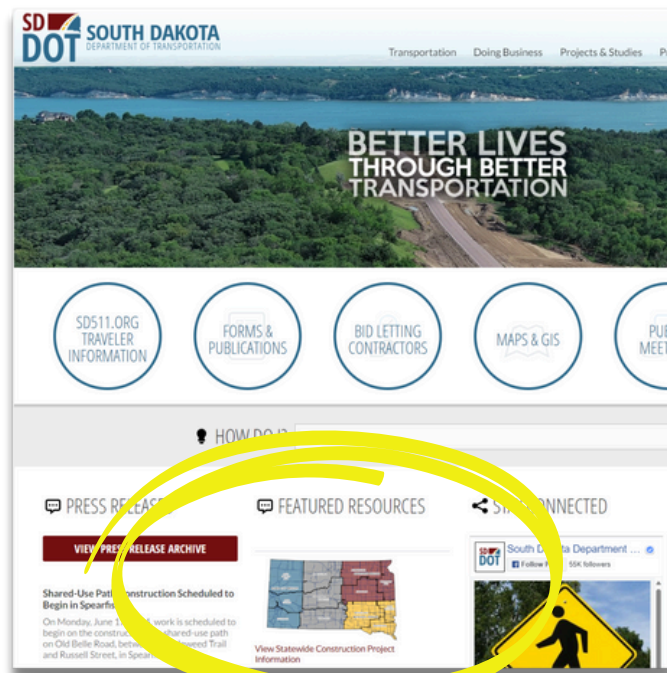
To increase available information on high interest construction projects, the SDDOT created featured project pages again this summer to showcase pertinent information and photos.

The SDDOT also continues to work on connectedness between resources. For example, SD511 is not only for winter road conditions, it is also helpful for viewing current road construction. SD511 links to the featured construction pages, furthering the reach of project information to travelers.

Informational items that users can find on the featured pages include: **project location map, detour maps, timeline, monthly project updates and anticipated future work, project photos and video, contract amount, and project contact information.**

The next time someone inquires about a highway project across the state - share this resource with them.

On our homepage, <https://dot.sd.gov>, you will find a state map under the "Featured Resources" section - once you click on the map you will be taken to the project pages.





The Secretary's Corner



Looking Ahead . . .
 41st Street DDI Ribbon Cutting
 in Sioux Falls
 Tuesday, July 2, 2024
 (10 a.m.)

FY2025 Salary Increase:

Through the dedicated work of legislators and the Governor in the 2024 legislative session, a 4% market adjustment will be applied to all eligible employees' base rates of pay for positions in all pay structures with the new fiscal year. The increase are reflected on the Monday, July 1, 2024 employee payroll.

Employees NOT eligible for the market adjustment include:

- Employees with a base rate of pay above the maximum of the pay range.
- Employees with base rates of pay within 4% of the maximum will receive an increase to the maximum of the range, and not above.
- Employees with an employment status of temporary, intern, seasonal, client, or student.
- Employees hired into permanent positions on or after June 9, 2024.
- Employees on a leave of absence (other than military leave) for more than six months prior to June 9, 2024.
- Employees who have chosen to waive the market adjustment and have informed BHRA in writing.
- Employees on a work improvement plan (WIP) submitted to BHRA as having unsatisfactory job performance.

FY2025 Pay Structure Adjustments:

The market value of all pay grades and career bands will move up 2.9% to maintain competitiveness of the pay structures.

If you have additional questions about base rates of pay or career bands, please talk with your supervisor or contact Kimberly Smith, HR Generalist.

Travel Reimbursement Rates for FY2025:

Due to the passage of HB 1060 during the 2024 Legislative Session, various travel reimbursement rates increase on Monday, July 1, 2024, including the mileage reimbursement rate and in-state lodging reimbursement rate.

Morgan Gruebele, BFM Chief Budget Analyst, noted in a memo that by streamlining these rates with federal standards, the state's travel reimbursement rates will be more reflective of the actual costs of travel.

Additional rate information is available in the link below:

<https://bfm.sd.gov/misc/TravelReimbursementRatesFY2025.pdf>

All current travel information is available on our Intranet site at:

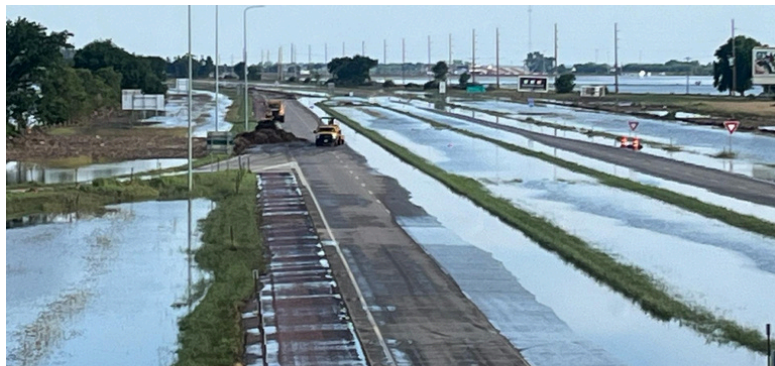
<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/travel.aspx>

HISTORIC FLOODING IMPACTS SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA

Beginning on Thursday, June 20, 2024, heavy rainfall started to cause minor flooding across much of southeast South Dakota. As rain totals increased, the flooding event quickly turned into a major natural disaster that had to be dealt with swiftly. SDDOT crews were tasked with monitoring flood areas and restricting access to roadways deemed unsafe for motorists. Detour routes were established for Interstate 29 as well as local roads and state highways.

The situation became even more serious last weekend with reports of the Big Sioux River cresting. Once again our SDDOT crews took immediate action and plans were mobilized to construct a temporary levee at exit 4 on I-29 north of Dakota Dunes at the request of the city of North Sioux City. Our employees worked quickly as they raced to get the levee in place prior to the Big Sioux River's cresting, which was seven feet higher than the previous crest record.

"The selfless effort by our employees showcases the dedicated public servants we call our friends and coworkers. Thank you to everybody who played a role in the closing and reopening of I-29 and the overall emergency relief effort. The importance of the work we do was on full display over the last week as we worked side-by-side with our fellow local, state, and federal agencies." **Secretary Joel Jundt**



Finance Corner

IT'S THE OFFICIAL START OF FY2025

The SDDOT Fiscal Year Begins . . .

**Monday, July 1, 2024
at 7 a.m.**

**Please review the FY25 REMINDERS MEMO
for the following items:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accrual Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel Reimbursements (Incidentals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• W-9's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Credits or Tax Refund Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leases/Software Maintenance Fees (SBITA) Coding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounts aka Sub-Objects Coding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel Reimbursement Rates (new for FY25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requisitions/Purchase Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vouchers to be sent to the Central Finance Office

PLEASE CONTACT THE FINANCE OFFICE FOR QUESTIONS
<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/FinanceContacts.pdf>

Open Enrollment Wrap - Up:

Open Enrollment Wrap-Up:

With FY25 Open Enrollment solidly in the rear-view mirror, now is the perfect time to go over a few things all benefitted employees will need to know when the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2024.

- Employees will see their reward dollars earned in FY24 deposited into their WEX accounts in mid-July.
- Be sure to review your first paycheck of the new fiscal year to ensure your benefit deductions and other important information are correct. If you have questions, contact BHRA Benefits at 605-773-3148 or at benefitswebsite@state.sd.us.
- All members enrolled in the health plan will soon receive new identification cards from Wellmark. If you need additional cards, please log in to [myWellmark.com](https://mywellmark.com) or call the Wellmark customer service team at 800-846-9183. You will not receive new cards from Delta Dental, EyeMed, or WEX unless you're a new member or have made changes to your plan.



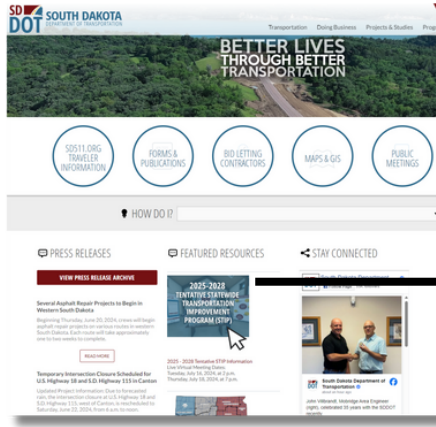
Transportation Commissioner - Rick Vallery



In May 2024, Governor Kristi Noem announced the appointment of Rick Vallery to serve on the Transportation Commission. Rick was raised on a ranch near Nisland, South Dakota. After graduating from Mitchell Vocational Technical School, he farmed and ranched with his dad and brother for twelve years. He then began a career with the South Dakota Farm Bureau. Over the years, he has worked with South Dakota Wheat, Inc., the South Dakota Oilseeds Council, the South Dakota Pulse Council, the Department of Agriculture, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Rick lives in Fort Pierre with his wife Carrel. He is very active in Community Bible Church. His hobbies include spending time with his grandkids, traveling, touring state capitols, touring different history museums, reading, and big game hunting.

2025 - 2028 Tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)



The SDDOT will offer various virtual and in-person public engagement options for the **Tentative 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. All **Tentative 2025-2028 STIP** information is being provided through an innovative, highly interactive, virtual meeting room on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>.

“Our virtual STIP meeting room offers community members across the state the chance to actively participate at their own convenience,” said **Joel Jundt, Transportation Secretary**.

The STIP is a four-year program listing projects developed through the coordinated efforts of the Department of Transportation, Transportation Commission, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, public agencies, transportation providers, citizens, and other interested parties. The program identifies highway and intermodal improvements to preserve, renovate, and enhance South Dakota's transportation system.

The virtual meeting room gives users the ability to interactively navigate meeting materials at their own speed, while providing the same detailed information that attendees could traditionally find at an in-person STIP meeting.

In addition to the features of the virtual room, there will also be **two live presentations** that users are able to attend via Zoom. Both meetings will include statewide project information. Details for presentations:

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 2 p.m. CT/1 p.m. MT

You may register in advance to participate virtually by clicking this [Zoom link](#)

Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. CT/6 p.m. MT

You may register in advance to participate virtually by clicking this [Zoom link](#)

The public may join SDDOT staff at a physical location for the virtual STIP presentation on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 2 p.m. CT/1 p.m. MT** at one of the four SDDOT office locations listed below:

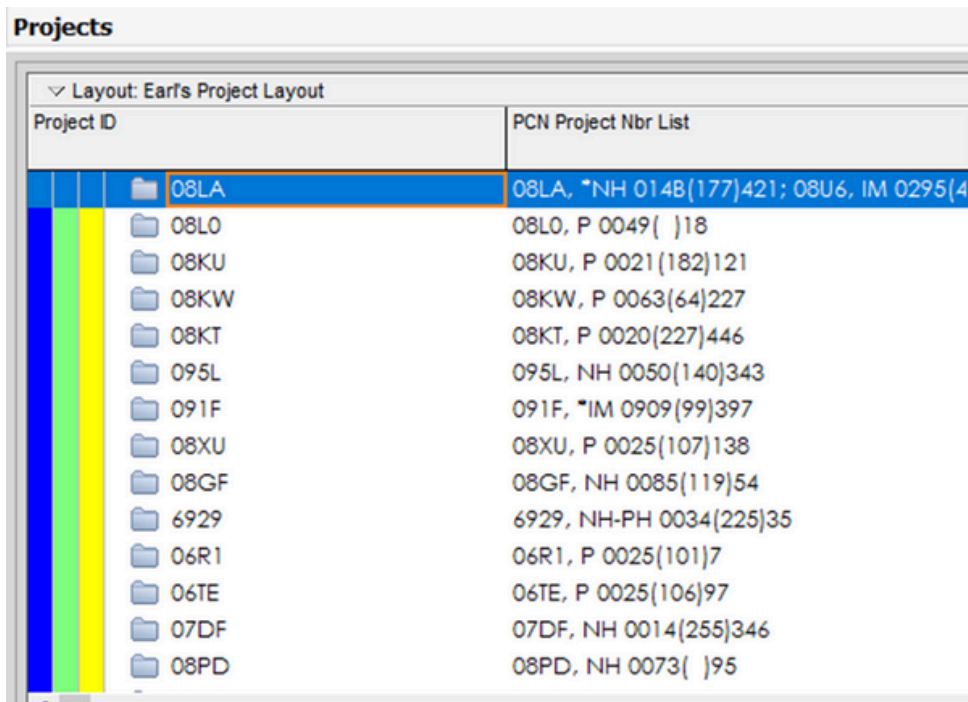
- **Aberdeen Region Office** – 2735 U.S. Highway 12 in Aberdeen;
- **Pierre Region Office** – 104 S. Garfield Ave. in Pierre;
- **Rapid City Region Office** – 2300 Eglin St. in Rapid City; and
- **Sioux Falls Area Office** – 5316 W. 60th St. North in Sioux Falls.

Primavera Tips/Tricks

SDDOT utilizes Primavera P6 scheduling software for the design phase of a project. Additionally, Primavera software is utilized for various aspects of project management to help with managing resource workloads (current & future) and to assist in the delivery of projects in a timely matter. Through the SDDOT newsletter "Connecting the DOTs", the project delivery team will periodically provide tips to help staff utilize the Primavera software.

This tip demonstrates how to **Status an Activity** in Primavera.

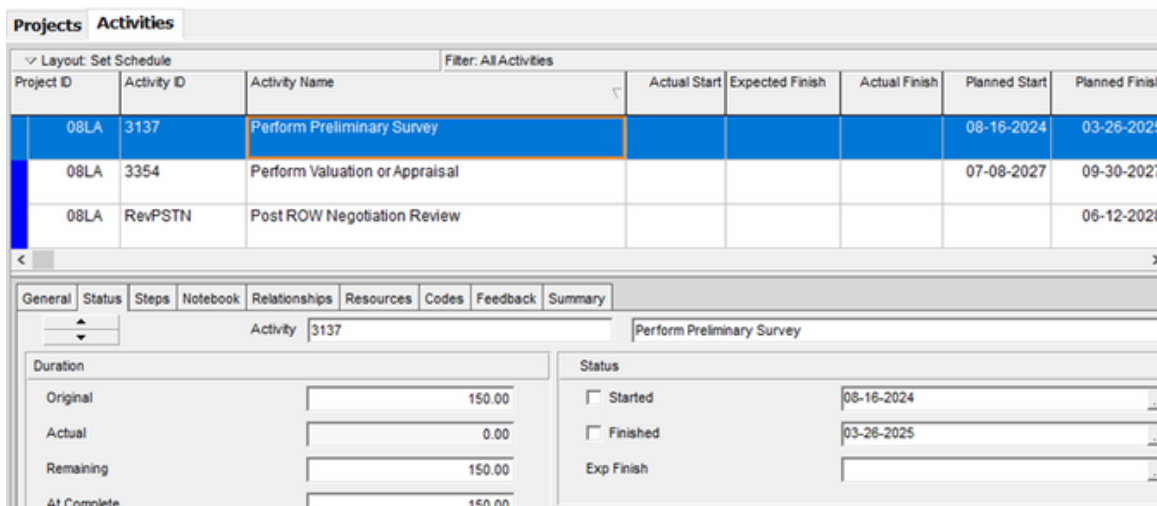
1. On the main page select and open a project.



Project ID	PCN Project Nbr List
08LA	08LA, *NH 014B(177)421; 08U6, IM 0295(4)
08LO	08LO, P 0049()18
08KU	08KU, P 0021(182)121
08KW	08KW, P 0063(64)227
08KT	08KT, P 0020(227)446
095L	095L, NH 0050(140)343
091F	091F, *IM 0909(99)397
08XU	08XU, P 0025(107)138
08GF	08GF, NH 0085(119)54
6929	6929, NH-PH 0034(225)35
06R1	06R1, P 0025(101)7
06TE	06TE, P 0025(106)97
07DF	07DF, NH 0014(255)346
08PD	08PD, NH 0073()95

The **Activity** tab will open for the project.

2. In the **Activities Tab**, select the **Activity** that you would like to update the status and then.
a. Select the **Status Tab** on the Activity Details.



Project ID	Activity ID	Activity Name	Actual Start	Expected Finish	Actual Finish	Planned Start	Planned Finish
08LA	3137	Perform Preliminary Survey				08-16-2024	03-26-2025
08LA	3354	Perform Valuation or Appraisal				07-08-2027	09-30-2027
08LA	RevPSTN	Post ROW Negotiation Review					06-12-2028

Activity: 3137		Perform Preliminary Survey	
Duration		Status	
Original	150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Started	08-16-2024
Actual	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Finished	03-26-2025
Remaining	150.00	Exp Finish	
At Complete	150.00		

AUDITORS ANONYMOUS BACK TO THE BASICS

Now that you know a little bit about your Audits team, we will begin educating you on items we are looking for and common mistakes we see. Remember that if the paperwork comes to us complete, we will have fewer questions and you won't need to "fear" a call or email from us.

Most common errors:

When signing a 904, make sure the work order, contract, invoice number, consultant, and voucher amount all match the invoice attached.

When invoicing, the consultants should be using the most current overhead rate. Once Rip approves the overhead, any invoices dated past that date must use the current overhead. **They should NOT apply the rate according to the labor date.** Any specialty rates (such as equipment or mileage rates) should also be approved within that letter, if applicable.

Make sure all supporting documentation is included:

- While many of our consultants reimburse meals at the \$40 state rate, those that do not need to include their receipts.
- For any travel, make sure all documents such as meals, lodging, mileage, car rental, etc are attached.
- Affidavits for news articles.
- Subconsultant/Vendor invoices and all their supporting documentation.

Stay tuned for more tips and tricks in next month's newsletter.



We are looking forward to celebrating the completion of our second Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) within the state of South Dakota. We will host a ribbon cutting with local, state, and federal stakeholders in a few weeks. This DDI is located on 41st Street and Interstate 29 in Sioux Falls; one of the busiest streets in the State. Thank you to all planning and operations staff members who have played a role in the development of this interchange; which will provide added safety features for the traveling public.



May Mentoring Minute

What mentees say about the mentoring program!

By Scott Eisenbeisz and Jason Baker

In an effort to strive for continuous improvement, the Mentoring Committee sends out a program evaluation after every mentoring cohort. Often, great ideas for the program stem from the comments received from these evaluations. Participants are also asked to provide comments about their experience with the mentoring program.

Below are just a few of the comments received from the last cohort:

“Better understanding of the department.”

“I personally gained a great network of peers.”

“I was able to grow my professional network and expand on my SDDOT institutional knowledge.”

“Made a 5-year plan and set incremental goals to achieve. “

“Confidence is the biggest for me. I am better prepared for my career with the DOT. “

“The mentor program brings people together from different parts of the state and different areas of the DOT. Admin staff get to know maintenance staff, and people new to the DOT get to know the executive team. One of the great things about the DOT is the accessibility to the Executive team. You get to see an overall view of the DOT and get connections with people in other parts of the organization. The mentors. It is a great group of people willing to help others and share what they know.”

“Creating a positive networking program that one can learn from and have not only a career but lifelong working relationship/friendships through.”

“It allows current employees the opportunity to expand their career options if they wish. Also allows employees to see the full picture of what the DOT is all about.”

“Meeting people and having conversations with people that might not ever talk or be around each other.”

As you can see, there are a lot of benefits to participating in the program and the Mentoring Committee invites YOU to join in.

2024-2025 Mentoring Program Registration Coming in September!

APWA North American Snow Conference

The APWA North American Snow Conference was held April 28 – May 1, 2024. The conference includes expert-led snow and ice education sessions to an exhibit floor full of the latest winter maintenance solutions.

This was a chance for attendees to join their peers and take advantage of everything the Snow Conference had to offer.

The SDDOT sent four attendees from our maintenance and equipment staff, who felt the conference was a great opportunity to do just this.



From left to right: **Kyle Willis** (Lead HMW, Pierre); **Scott Witlock** (Region Operations Coordinator, Aberdeen); **Brad Steeneck** (HMS, Junction City); **Brian Wacholz** (Equipment Management Specialist, Operations Support).

Our attendees learned lessons about the calibration of trucks – if this is not done on at least a yearly basis, there is no way the data we are collecting can be accurate. They also learned we see a cost increase of 25-30% due to changes in Federal Regulations. This could affect our ability to keep up with meeting our fleet needs by limiting the number of trucks we may be able to replace on an annual basis, and something staff will monitor.

Attendees met with companies that could do inspections of our existing hoop salt buildings to assess preventive maintenance or other issues that may need to be addressed with them, the inventor of the tow-plow, Force America representatives teaching the complexity of truck hydraulics, snow plow blade suppliers describing the variety of blade types that exist, and brine makers talking about their systems and possible demos they could do for SDDOT.

“I learned about a few products such as nutra-wash to help break the seal on the salt to wash off the trucks and lubra-seal for the conveyor chains on the sander, as well a few different plow blades that I think would work well.” – **Kyle Willis**

“There is a great deal of technology out there that continues to evolve, and I feel like we are doing a pretty good job of keeping up with it based on what we saw from vendors at the conference.” – **Scott Witlock**

All attendees said the conference was a worthwhile experience, and they would gladly attend again in the future. It was also a chance for them to meet and spend time with other DOT employees from around that state, sharing what goes good and bad in their areas, what products they have used, and what has or hasn't worked for them. “I also furthered my networking throughout the state by meeting them.” – **Brad Steeneck**



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
June 2024 (Upcoming Training)



Durable Bridge Using Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer & Hybrid Reinforced Concrete Columns (MPC-23-511)

July 15 | 10 – 11 a.m. | Zoom



SD DANR Underground Tank Operator Training

July 16 | 1 – 5 p.m. | Mitchell
July 17 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City
Oct. 15 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City
Oct. 16 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls



CDL EDLT Class A & B Theory

July 22-24 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City
Aug. 19-21 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls
Sep. 16-18 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Pierre
Oct. 21-23 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City
Dec. 9-11 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

CDL EDLT Train the Trainer

July 25 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
Aug. 22 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls
Sep. 19 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Pierre
Oct. 24 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
Dec. 12 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls



CDL Learners Permit

July 25 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City
Aug. 22 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls
Sep. 19 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre
Oct. 24 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City
Dec. 12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

AGC Hazardous Materials Endorsement

July 26 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
Aug. 23 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls
Sep. 20 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre
Oct. 25 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
Dec. 13 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

Principles of Excellence: Baldrige 101

July 23 & 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Webinar)



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
June 2024



Roadway Safety

Take one minute to watch this video designed for the health and safety of all SDDOT employees.

Today I will... make safety my priority.

<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/deb0d858-f35d-48e9-aff2-3258501a68ef>



Recruitment - Build Dakota Statewide Workforce Partnership

Kevin Heiman, Project Engineer Manager - Yankton Area, and Robert Ward, Engineering Supervisor - Aberdeen Area attended the **Build Dakota Scholarship Signing Day** at Southeast Technical College last week in Sioux Falls. Lincoln Kippes and Benjamin Alberts both committed to SDDOT through this statewide workforce initiative.

Watch a [KELO story](#) about the growth and economic impact of the Build Dakota program over the past 10 years featured one of our sponsored students noting his workforce commitment to SDDOT.

Watch the full news story by clicking on the photo of Lincoln, Benjamin, and other students during the STC signing ceremony.

Both young men will be employed by the SDDOT as Engineering Technicians after completing a Civil Engineering Technology degree at STC. Lincoln (pictured with Kevin) will work in Yankton and Benjamin (pictured with Robert) will work in Aberdeen.



June 2024 Retirements

We are grateful to all retirees for the MANY years of service given to the SDDOT!
We wish you all the very best!



Dan Martell (right), Aberdeen Region Traffic Engineer Supervisor, retired from SDDOT after 38 years. Dan received his plaque proclamation from Gov. Noem from **Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Engineer Manager**.



Dave Timmons received recognition from **Secretary Jundt** for 38 years of service in the aviation services program. Dave served as a pilot and mechanic.



Greg Aalberg, Sioux Falls Area Engineer Manager, retired after 36 years of dedication to the SDDOT.

Pictured to the right are Greg's plaque and proclamation from **Gov. Noem**.

June 2024 Retirements Continued

Mark Preszler (right), Aberdeen Region Equipment Shop Foreman, retired from SDDOT after 33 years. Mark (right) received his plaque and proclamation from Gov. Noem from **Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Engineer Manager.**



Mike Will, Project Engineer for the Watertown Area, retired with 24 years of service. Mike (right) is pictured with **Jeff Brink, Engineering Supervisor.**



Greg Droz, Miller Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, retired from the SDDOT after 19 Years. Greg (right) is pictured with **Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer.**



John Tanner, Pierre Area Highway Maintenance Worker, retired from the SDDOT after 15 years of service. John worked in the Gettysburg, Unit 351 shop.

“Counting on You” Safe Driving Campaign

Share your personal message or story with the communications team to help spread the word about the importance of safe driving!



ROOM TO LIVE


"Over the years raising my kids, I generally made them all watch safety videos from the Internet regarding seat belt safety.

Once one of my kids argued with me about seat belts being safe, after that I sent them a copy of every press release I saw that showed someone losing their life because they didn't wear a seatbelt and were ejected from a vehicle.

While, I'm sure my kids thought that was a bit much, I simply wanted to prove the point that had the person chosen to wear a seatbelt and avoided being ejected, there might have been "room to live".

We can all be better drivers. The reality of the situation is that seat belts help reduce the injuries (and deaths) that occur in car crashes.

Hopefully my kids will continue this tradition with my grandkids someday when they are ready to drive."




“

Early in my SDDOT career, seat belt usage was encouraged; but not required. Since I grew up in an era where seat belts weren't used, I found wearing a belt an inconvenience. One day I was traveling on S.D. 44 with another engineer. I had just crested a hill when I noticed a semi had pulled up to an intersection and appeared to be waiting for me to pass.


Several seconds later my passenger yelled that the semi-truck was moving. As I refocused my attention to the semi I realized that I did not have time to stop nor could I take the ditch as I would hit the trailer. I instinctively swerved to the left into oncoming traffic; as I passed the semi swerved back into my lane. After we had calmed down and our blood pressure had returned to normal, we both reached over and clicked our seat belts into place.

That near miss made me conscious of the risk I was taking with my life and the lives of those I love. Today I am not comfortable driving or riding a car until I am wearing my seat belt.

MIKE CARLSON
Rapid City Area Engineer, SDDOT



Send your message/story and photos to: DOT.COMMUNICATIONS@state.sd.us



CORE VALUES

PEN believes in:

- Extraordinary Dedication
- Deep Engagement
- Passion for Excellence
- Customer Focused, Results-Driven
- Servant Leadership
- Leading Edge Expertise

Performance Excellence Network (PEN) is the regional Baldrige-based program that serves South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. **In our last application in 2020, PEN recognized SDDOT at the Achievement Level.** This award was received after the culmination of a rigorous evaluation of our management and performance systems. Organizations recognized with the Achievement Award, the second highest recognition level, are demonstrating a commitment to the implementation of quality management principles and systemically improving measurable results.

One of the significant contributors to the recognition at the Achievement Level was the commitment and dedication of our employees. PEN specifically noted our employee's commitment to our mission as a strength.

Continuous improvement takes work; it takes a commitment of time, resources, and energy. It also requires focus, persistence, and practice. Through the extensive evaluation process, PEN will help us identify notable strengths and opportunities for improvement. Watch for additional information and your opportunity to participate in the PEN application/evaluation process in the coming months.

We are excited to begin the process for the 2025 PEN application. As an organization, we are focused on the need to continually implement and evaluate systematic processes across our department. The PEN evaluation examines processes in leadership, strategic planning, customer-related procedures, workforce, and operations.

Results from the AGC/DOT June Fishing Tournament

Information provided by Ryan Johnson – Senior Specification Engineer

The 2024 AGC Summer Fishing Tournament hosted by the **Associated General Contractors (AGC)** of South Dakota in partnership with **SDDOT**, held June 20-21, 2024, was a fantastic event filled with camaraderie and competition. With 27 teams, **including eight from SDDOT**, the tournament was a blend of networking and outdoor enjoyment.

The event kicked off with a banquet at The Signature Lodge by Cheyenne Ridge Outfitters, featuring delicious food and a lively Calcutta auction on Thursday evening. Participants enjoyed breakfast and snacks during Friday morning's check-in before heading out for the main event. The fishing competition lasted until the afternoon weigh-in at the lodge, where teams showcased their catches.



"Next Year's Winners" - 1st Place



"Carp Chasers" - 3rd Place



"Browns" - 4th Place



"Lights Out"



"Aberdeen"



"Hidden Timber"

Results from the AGC/DOT June Fishing Tournament



"Operations"

The excitement continued into the evening with more great food, the presentation of awards, and the distribution of door prizes. Among the highlights, three SDDOT teams claimed spots in the top 5, with a special congratulations to the SDDOT team composed of **Bill Englehart** (retired), **Jason Humphrey** (Pierre Region), and **Jordon Kitts** (Project Development) for securing the championship.



"Walleye Hunters"

A heartfelt thank you to all participants! I encourage more participation for the event's return next year. This event not only celebrated fishing prowess, but also fostered connections and community spirit among its participants.



Front Row (L to R): Jason Humphrey, Christina Bennett, Ben Brown, Jordon Kitts, and Tim Brown (retired)

Back Row (L to R): Ben Moennig, Chris Ott, Sam Gilkerson, Zachery Smalley, Bill Englehart (retired), Andrew Brown, Ryan Johnson, Owen Richards, and Brad Richards

Not Pictured: Cody Asher, Kevin Kayser, and Carol Evans

(Photo by Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management)

SDDOT Intern Appreciation Day (June 26, 2024)

Thanks to everyone who helped plan and participated in the SDDOT sponsored Intern Appreciation event in Pierre. SDDOT interns around the state gathered together with SDDOT staff! Activities included a drone presentation, bridge tour, lunch, presentations, ice breakers, and trivia. Secretary Jundt capped off the day with a discussion about career planning.





2024 South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor Inductees Named

Jim Myers and James Loiseau have been named as the 2024 Hall of Honor Inductees! They are the 98th and 99th inductees into the Hall of Honor.

The purpose of the Transportation Hall of Honor is to recognize individuals who have made a lasting, valuable, and/or unique contribution to South Dakota's air, highway, public transit, or rail transportation system.

The committee seeks nominees who have gained the admiration of their peers and earned distinction in the transportation field. Contributions to consider when submitting a nomination are technological innovations, political activity, legislative accomplishments, creativity, time and cost-saving initiatives, and economic impact on behalf of public transportation efforts within the state.

The 2024 inductees to the South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor are the late **Jim Myers, former Director of Railroads at the SDDOT**, and the late **James Loiseau, former President and Owner of Loiseau Construction, Inc.**



Jim Myers was born in Yankton, South Dakota. Myers was elected to and served on the Yankton County Commission for six years and was then elected mayor for two years.

Jim was hired by the State of South Dakota in 1979 and appointed Director of Railroads after years of lobbying the legislature on railroad-related issues.

Jim eventually became Secretary of the Department of Transportation and also Governor Janklow's Chief of Operations. He was a key figure in turning a rail catastrophe into an opportunity.

James Loiseau grew up on a farm three miles west of Egan, South Dakota. He would attend Hanson's Mechanical Truck School in Fargo and after years of hard work founded JR Loiseau Construction in 1976 which would later become incorporated as Loiseau Construction in 1987.

James worked as President and owner of Loiseau Construction Inc. for 46 years. He was president of LICA in 1990 and president of the AGC in 2003.



Banquet information will be announced at a later date.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

June Longevity:

Bob Ward, Highway Construction Project Engineer Supervisor – 25 years (Aberdeen Area)
 Kim Nelson, Right of Way Analyst – 25 years (Central Office – Road Design)
 Ryan Johnson, Senior Specifications Engineer – 25 years (Central Office – Operations Support)
 Brian Huber, Project Technician – 25 years (Yankton Area)
 Steve Weisz, Operations Engineer – 25 years (Mitchell Region)
 Phil Malde, Road Design Engineer – 30 years (Mitchell Region)
 John Villbrandt, Area Engineer – 35 years (Mobridge Area)
 Drew Ruedebusch, Survey Crew Chief – 40 years (Mobridge Area)

June New Hires:

Ethan Huls, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls
 Kelly Berndt, Highway Maintenance Worker Eagle Butte
 Mitchell Oehme, Road Design Engineer - Pierre
 Craig Stein, Highway Construction Project Engineer
 Dean Bentz, Highway Maintenance Worker - Bonesteel
 Ryan Miles, ROW CAD Tech - Sioux Falls
 Troy Rich, Journey Transportation Tech - Custer
 Benjamin Hammer, Highway Maintenance Worker - Aberdeen
 Mark Vaughan, Highway Maintenance Worker - Isabel
 Stacy Two Eagle, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mission
 Tucker Hansen, Sr. Right of Way Title Examiner - Pierre
 Tanner Linderman, Road Design Engineer - Rapid City
 Landon Schoenfeld, Roving Mechanic - Winner
 Michael Gunn, Highway Maintenance Worker - Lemmon

June Promotions & Lateral Changes:

Bruce A Schroeder, Custer Area Engineer - Custer
 Christopher Novak, Highway Maintenance Worker - Hot Springs
 Matthew Grohs, Bridge Inventory Analyst - Pierre
 Matthew Dorfschmidt, Region Traffic Engineer - Aberdeen
 Jeffrey Walz, Equipment Shop Foreman - Aberdeen



Bennett Jonathan Egge was born on May 28, 2024, at 8:07 a.m. He weighed seven pounds, seven ounces; and was 20 inches long.

Bennett's parents are **Jonathan and Amanda Egge** from Pierre. **Jonathan** is a **Transportation Utilities Coordinator**, **Amanda** is a **former Geotech**, Uncles **Benjamin (Certification) and Andrew (Road Design)**, and Grandpa **Tim Brown (retired Finance)**.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates



Layla Rae Nelson was born on May 22, 2024, at 11:49 p.m. She weighed six pounds, five ounces; and was 19 inches long.

Layla's parents are **Jordan and Tiffany Nelson** from Winner. **Jordan Nelson is an Engineer III for Winner Area.** Layla has an older brother named Beckham.



Tripp Deacon Curtis was born on June 13, 2024, at 10:24 a.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Tripp's grandmother is **Kimberly Nagel, Senior Secretary for Winner Area.** Pictured is Tripp with his older brother, Maverick.



Brad Horstman, Winner Area Transportation Project Manager, (right) received his 35-year pin from **Brad Norrid, Winner Area Engineer Manager.**



Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer (left) presents **John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer (right)** with his 35-year pin.



Brian Huber, Yankton Area Project Technician, received his 25-year pin from **Kevin Heiman, Yankton Area Engineer Manager.**



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Kim Nelson, Right of Way Analyst, Central Office - Road Design, received her 25-year pin from **Tom Druyvestein, PE | Engineering Supervisor.**



Ryan Johnson, Senior Specifications Engineer in the Pierre Operations Support Office, (middle) received his 25-year pin from **Craig Smith, Operations Director,** and **Rick Gordon, (left) Pierre Construction Engineer Manager.**



Susan Frederick, (left) Accounting Assistant in the Finance Office (Pierre), received her 25-year pin from **Patricia Devitt, Accounting Manager.**



Steve Weisz, (left) Mitchell Region Operations Engineer, received his 25-year pin from **Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Patrick Brueggeman, Transportation Engineer in the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) office (Pierre), received his 15-year pin from **Dave Huft, Engineer Manager.**



JoAnn Kayser, Aberdeen Area Senior Secretary, received her 10-year pin from **Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer.**



In Sympathy



Sympathy is extended to **Karla Engle, SDDOT Chief Legal Counsel,** on the recent passing of her husband. Ryan Darling, of Blunt, passed away on June 3, 2024.

A celebration of Ryan's life was held in Blunt on June 7, 2024.



Sympathy is extended to the Vrooman family with the passing of **Gerald "Jerry" Vrooman** on June 2, 2024. Gerald is the father of **Janice Reede,** a former **Road Design Administrative Assistant,** and also the grandfather of **Dennis Brooks, Transportation Analyst in the Road Design Office, Sioux Falls.**

Funeral services were held on June 8, 2024, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Pierre.

