

An aerial photograph of a complex highway interchange with multiple lanes and overpasses. A red fire truck is visible in the lower center, and various cars are traveling on the roads. The image is partially covered by a blue diagonal overlay on the left side.

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

BETTER LIVES THROUGH
BETTER TRANSPORTATION

 <https://dot.sd.gov> | <https://sd511.org>

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BETTER LIVES THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORTATION

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STAY
CONNECTED



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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

We continually build and expand upon our engagement with others to advance safety for all. We seek new ways to engage stakeholders and users of our transportation system, with the ultimate goal that everyone arrives home safely, each and every day!



Secretary Joel Jundt

As we reflect upon the critical role transportation plays in the lives of our citizens, we fully understand that people of all ages and all stages of

life count on the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) each and every day. We continuously seek innovative processes to better serve South Dakota travelers. We proactively implement technological advancements to improve efficiency and effectiveness. We continually build and expand upon our engagement with others to advance safety for all. Our entire SDDOT staff takes the responsibility of providing a safe and efficient transportation system very seriously. We seek new ways to engage stakeholders and users of our transportation system, with the ultimate goal that everyone arrives home safely, each and every day!

It's through partnerships with our fellow federal, state, local, and tribal partners that we are able to implement advancements within our planning protocols and safety practices. We strive to be the primary resource for South Dakota travelers.

Within the past couple years, SDDOT developed a winter storm informational page on our website <https://dot.sd.gov> to assist in communication efforts for travelers, emergency personnel, and the media to share vital road-related conditions and updates. This "one-stop shop" provides a central location of key resources for the traveling public during winter weather. In addition to providing the latest road condition information such as Interstate closures or reopening status, the site also features links to SD511, along with real-time photos and videos of our snowplow operators at work. We know that the more information we can provide about current and projected road conditions, the better travel decisions that can be made!

A key initiative the SDDOT recently developed is our expanded partnership with counties and tribes. During the 2024-2025 winter season; tribes and counties will be able to enter their **No Travel Advisories and Road Closures** directly into SDDOT's SD511 Traveler Information System for the first time. This localized information advances communication efforts for all South Dakota travelers. I want to thank everyone involved in this complex, yet vital, implementation process.

As always, I encourage everyone to sign up for SD511 customized notifications, a free service that allows users to receive text messages and/or email notifications with road closure updates and travel advisories along routes of your choice. You can also download the SD511 app to your smartphone to have the latest information at your fingertips.

The work our team does to advance safety is critical, whether during construction season or during a multi-day blizzard. A safe and efficient public transportation system is fundamental to our state's economy and success. Working side-by-side with stakeholders is vital to the maintenance and enhancement of the transportation system. Thank you for your partnership and continued collaboration. Together, we make better lives through better transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Jundt".

Joel Jundt, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Transportation

ABOUT US

MISSION - We provide a safe and efficient public transportation system

VISION - Better lives through better transportation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - Where we must focus our strengths and resources to overcome our challenges



SAFETY

EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERY DAY

SDDOT aims to improve safety by decreasing highway crashes and reducing workplace accidents and employee injuries.



WORKFORCE

GROW AND RETAIN A HIGH PERFORMING WORKFORCE

SDDOT is a service organization: engaging, training, developing, and retaining our workforce provides the greatest opportunity to be a top employer.



SERVICE

PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES

SDDOT recognizes the importance of listening to customer and stakeholder concerns and responding to their needs.

FOLLOW US -

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southdakotadot>

X: <https://www.twitter.com/SouthDakotaDOT>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/southdakotadot>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southdakotadot>

INVESTING IN OUR TRANSPORTATION FUTURE TODAY

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Over the past year, the SDDOT continued our efforts toward our strategic objectives and carrying out core duties. The figures and statistics on the following pages highlight this progress and identify areas for continued improvement.



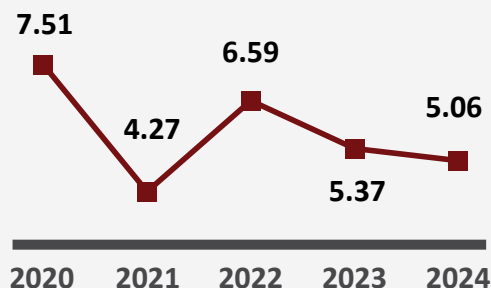
WORKFORCE SAFETY

SDDOT New Safety Program

The SDDOT took a step forward in workforce safety in 2024 by adding a dedicated safety team. The team focuses on new initiatives and ensures the highest level of safety within our operations.

The safety team plays a pivotal role in implementing safety policies, conducting risk assessments, and fosters a culture of safety excellence.

Lost Time Injury Incident Rate (events per 100 employees)



"The safety and well-being of our workforce is the foundation of our success. By prioritizing employee safety, we empower our team to deliver reliable, high-quality service to our customers with confidence."

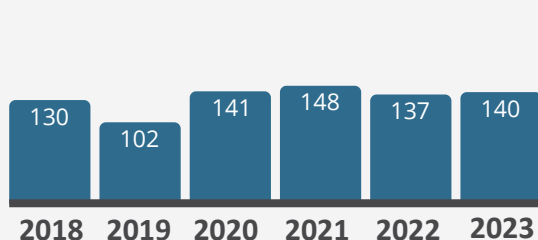
Craig Smith, Director of Operations



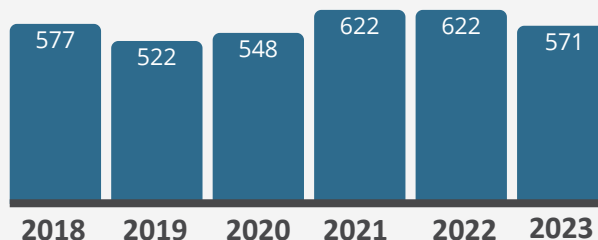
EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERY DAY

The three biggest contributing factors to these crashes are alcohol, speed, and unbelted occupants.

Number of fatalities in South Dakota



Number of serious injury crashes in South Dakota



"Our goal is to get everyone home safe every day. With the release of the **2024 South Dakota Strategic Highway Plan**, we've refocused our efforts on improving highway safety by reducing crashes related to lane departure, intersections, and driver behavior. We acknowledge that humans make mistakes, but by incorporating redundancy and innovative design solutions we can reduce the potential of crashes and their severity if they do occur. We can and must build a safer system."

Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering



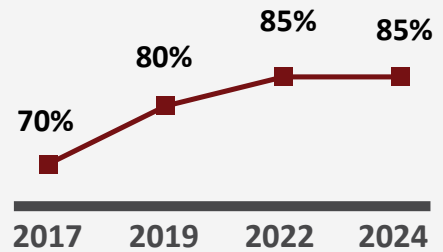


VALUE ALL TEAM MEMBERS

Grow and Retain a High Performing Workforce

The SDDOT has been working hard to build a dedicated workforce that is committed to providing a safe and efficient transportation system. Improvements made include: horizontal career plans, increased seasonal pay, referral bonuses, differential pay on weekends, and flexible work schedules.

Employees understand goals and priorities of the SDDOT



"The SDDOT is truly fortunate to have amazingly dedicated employees. Each and every member of our team contributes to providing a safe and efficient public transportation system for the public we proudly serve! Together, our team continuously strives to innovate and improve the quality of services for all who use our highways, airports, railroads, and public transportation systems."

Joel Jundt, Transportation Secretary



CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

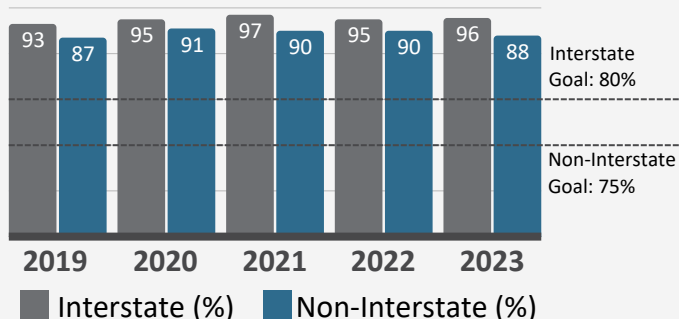
"As a transportation leader, the SDDOT is dedicated to continual process improvement to advance our vision of better lives through better transportation. Together as a team of 1,000 SDDOT employees, we strive to enhance customer satisfaction across all programs and services. As stewards of South Dakota's transportation system, we continually assess our greatest funding needs and identify resources to ensure our transportation system is well maintained today and into the future."

Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management



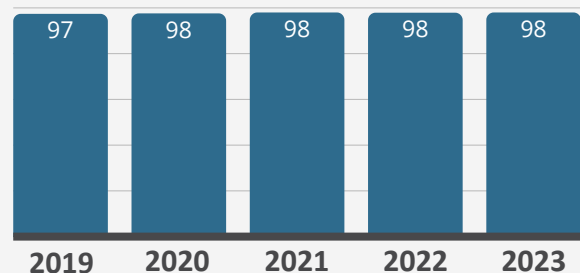
PROVIDE THE BEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Percent of pavements
in good or excellent condition



A specially equipped road and pavement data collection vehicle travels 90% of the state highway system each year, measuring roughness and recording roadway and pavement images.

Percent of state-owned structures
in good or fair condition



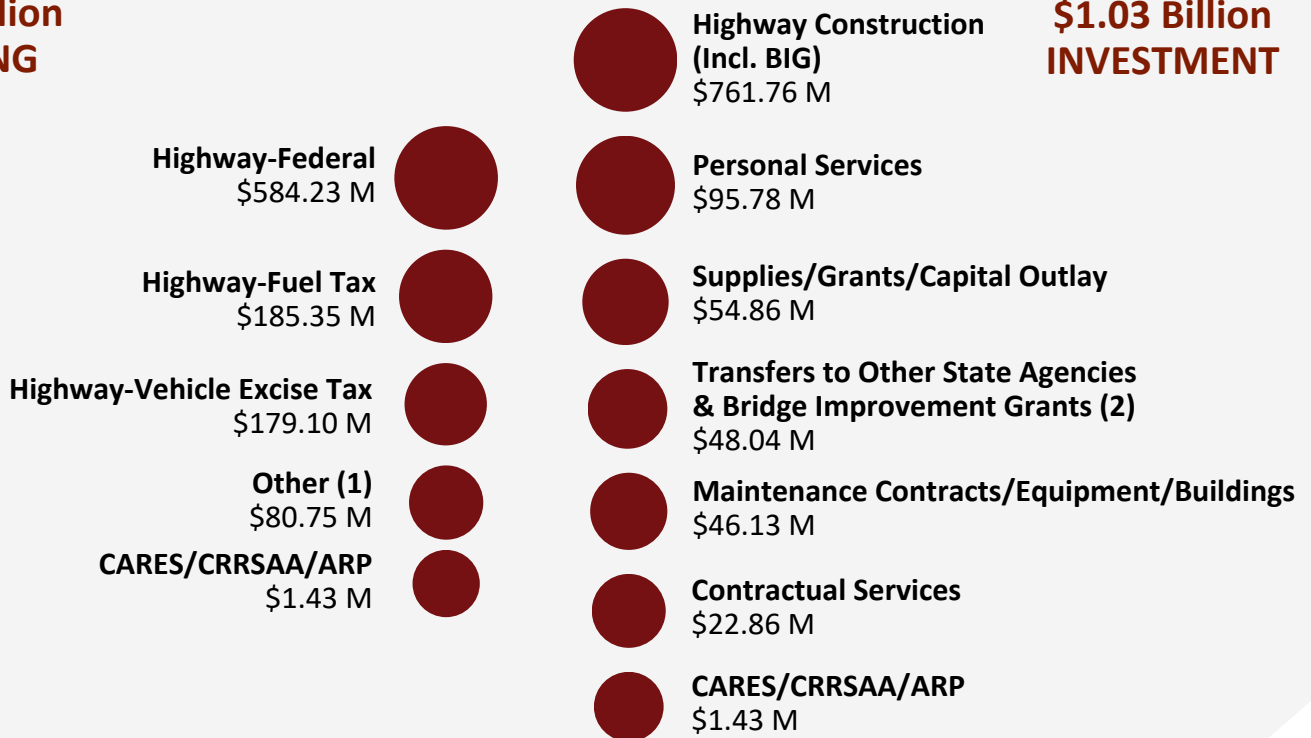
There are over 1,800 structures on the state highway system. State-owned structures are inspected once every two years, as required by the federal National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS).

FINANCE OVERVIEW

As a public agency, SDDOT relies on various funding sources to support its work each year. SDDOT is committed to making responsible investments that achieve the greatest benefit for all residents and visitors. The figures below show our Fiscal Year 2024 revenues and expenditures in the areas of highway, transit, and aeronautics.

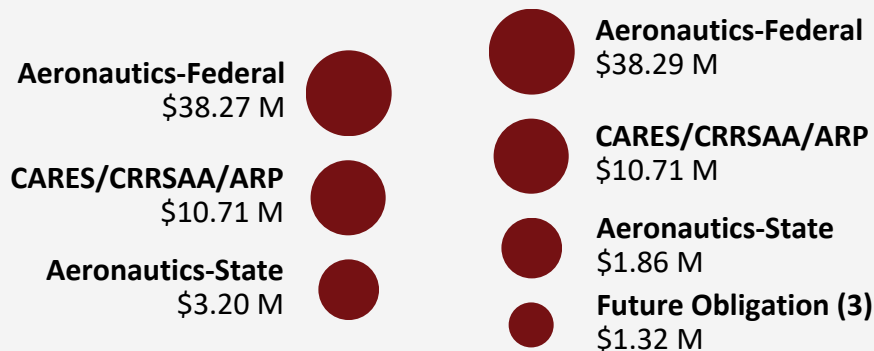
FISCAL YEAR 2024 HIGHWAY & TRANSIT

**\$1.03 Billion
FUNDING**



FISCAL YEAR 2024 AERONAUTICS

**\$52.18 Million
FUNDING**



**\$52.18 Million
INVESTMENT**

1. Other funding includes licenses, permits, and fees; interest, dividends, and rent; charges for sales and services; administered program revenues; non-operating funding including transfers from other state agencies for SDDOT to administer; surplus property sales, Bridge Improvement Grants (Federal Program).
2. Transfers to other state agencies refers to funds that SDDOT transfers to other agencies to administer highway patrol, radio communications, and other programs that keep roads safe.
3. Future obligation - funding to be spent on construction projects that have not been obligated to date.

DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS PROJECT UPGRADE



Motorists traveling on Interstate 90 and Interstate 29 in South Dakota are familiar with the large digital message boards that relay travel information messages. Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) display information that supports immediate, appropriate decisions by motorists in response to roadway, traffic, or adverse weather conditions. DMS enhances public safety, SDDOT's highest priority. With a few exceptions, DMS messages are only displayed when a response or decision by motorists is expected.

In 2024, the SDDOT awarded a contract to replace the cabinets, displays, and control electronics of all 30 existing DMS, which are more than 20 years old. The new displays will show full-matrix color and graphics including standard traffic symbols, such as highway shields, that conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The combination of traffic symbols and text increases message comprehension within the short viewing times available to drivers. Installation will begin in the spring of 2025 and complete during the summer.

The work includes one new DMS on westbound I-90 near Whitewood. The new sign is partially financed by and will be shared with the Montana Transportation Department, who will use it to inform travelers of adverse conditions on U.S. Highway 212 between Belle Fourche, SD, and Crow Agency, MT.

The SDDOT also plans to deploy additional DMS at critical Interstate highway locations, especially near interchanges with major non-Interstate highways, in 2026. Smaller DMS are planned for important non-Interstate locations as well.





41st Street DDI



FEATURED STORY

41ST STREET & BENSON ROAD DDI RIBBON CUTTINGS



The SDDOT celebrated two monumental milestones in 2024 with the completion of two **Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI)** in Sioux Falls. The completion of both of these projects were marked with ribbon cuttings at the work sites.

On Tuesday, July 2, 2024, federal, state, and local leaders, including U.S. House of Representatives member, Dusty Johnson, celebrated the completion of the Interstate 29 and 41st Street DDI with SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken. This is a priority corridor for the city and state, as I-29 and 41st Street are vital routes for commuters and local traffic. Data shows that 41st Street is the most heavily traveled street in Sioux Falls and throughout South Dakota.

On Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken were joined by federal, state, and local leaders to highlight the opening of the Interstate 229 and Benson Road DDI. The new interchange features three left turn lanes on the I-229 northbound off-ramp and dual right turn lanes. Project elements include bridge rehabilitation and widening, on and off-ramp improvements, pedestrian walkway enhancements, and new traffic signals and lighting.

Both projects were developed through the coordinated efforts of the SDDOT, the City of Sioux Falls, and the South Dakota Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). A DDI configuration increases capacity and safety, reduces congestion, and minimizes the cost of new infrastructure. Some other advantages are improved safety by reducing the number of vehicle conflict points and increased capacity by eliminating the left turn signal and allowing traffic to flow more efficiently through the interchange.

South Dakota's first DDI was opened at LaCrosse Street at Interstate 90 in Rapid City in July of 2023. In addition to the three completed DDI structures, three more are planned or under construction. The other DDI project locations are: 85th Street and I-29 (Sioux Falls/Tea/Lincoln County), I-90 and S.D. Highway 11 (Brandon), and I-90 and Pennington County Highway 1416 (Box Elder).



Benson Road DDI



FEATURED STORY

STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN



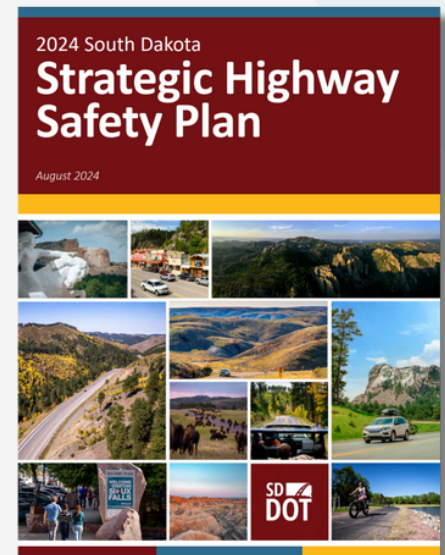
The **South Dakota Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)** vision represents a strong call to action for all South Dakotans, including traffic safety stakeholders and roadway users. The goal of this vision is for all travelers to reach their destination safely. The 2024 SHSP outlines interim objectives to make progress toward this vision.

South Dakota's SHSP provides the framework to create impactful change in reducing fatalities and serious injuries across all public roadways in South Dakota. The Plan itself provides real data and information about the types of crashes that most commonly occur across the state and the outcomes of those crashes so that efforts can be taken to mitigate the harm caused by them.

One way the SHSP works as a catalyst for impactful change is the sharing of "victim stories." These stories are real-life accounts of motorists who lost their lives on South Dakota roadways due to many of the various crash types discussed in the SHSP.

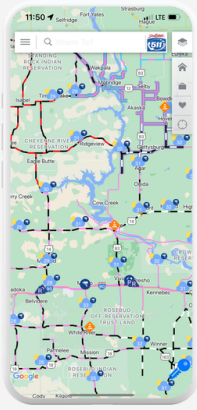
These stories outline the crashes involving Ron Olson, who passed away holding his wife's hand after being struck by a distracted driver. Andrzej Walczak, was rear-ended and killed by a speeding driver on his first motorcycle trip of his retirement. Candice Peterson, was killed by a drunk driver who failed to stop at a stop sign.

These stories are harsh reminders of why safety must be the number one priority, and why everyone must work together to prevent these tragic situations. Find additional information in the SHSP at <https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/SDDOT%20SHSP%202024.pdf>.



2024 SHSP Emphasis Areas

- Lane Departures
- Unbelted Vehicle Occupants
- Drug & Alcohol-Related Driving
- Intersections
- Aggressive & Speed-Related Driving
- Motorcycles
- Older Drivers
- Young Drivers
- Distracted Driving



FEATURED STORY

TRAVELER INFORMATION COLLABORATION WITH COUNTIES AND TRIBES



South Dakota travelers rely on SD511 for real-time travel information. This includes road conditions, closures, construction, incidents, weather forecasts, and roadway camera images, especially during the winter season. Until now, SD511 has provided information for Interstate, U.S., and S.D. highways. This winter, SD511 will also inform travelers of no-travel advisories and road closures on county and tribal roads.

During the severe winter of 2022 – 2023, when state highways were repeatedly closed due to heavy snowfall and poor visibility, some traffic chose to take local roads operated by counties, townships, and tribes. Some were directed to local roads by third-party navigation apps. Many became stuck or stranded and required rescue by local and state emergency forces in life-threatening conditions.

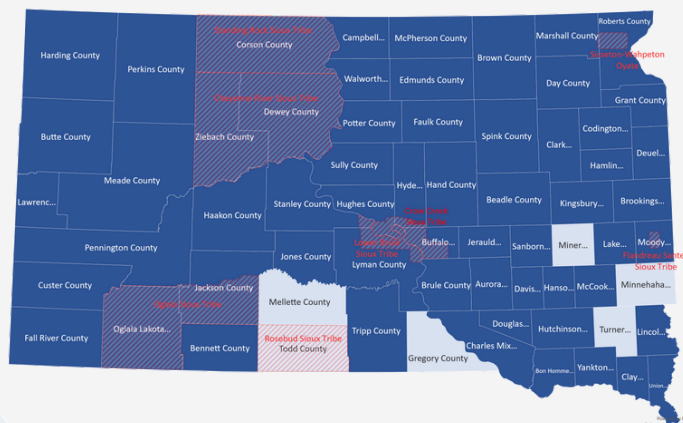


To avoid similar problems this winter, local officials will be able to designate their counties and tribal areas as “no travel advised” or “roads closed” during severe storms. The local restrictions will be displayed on SD511’s maps and road condition reports and transmitted to navigation app providers, enabling travelers to plan and complete their travel more safely.

Sixty of the state’s 66 counties and eight of nine tribes will participate this winter. Nearly 200 local emergency management, law enforcement, and highway officials are authorized to enter information for their agencies.

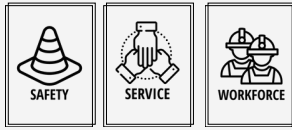
SDDOT provides a 511 website at <https://www.sd511.org>, mobile apps for both iOS and Android devices, and the legacy 511 phone number that can be dialed toll-free anywhere in South Dakota. Callers outside South Dakota can dial 866-MYSD511 (866-697-3511).

Counties and Tribes Registered to use SD511 as of 11/26/2024



FEATURED STORY

SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA FLOODING



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.

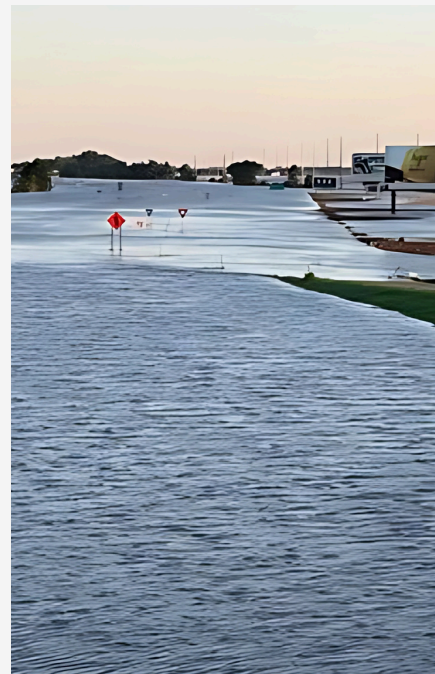
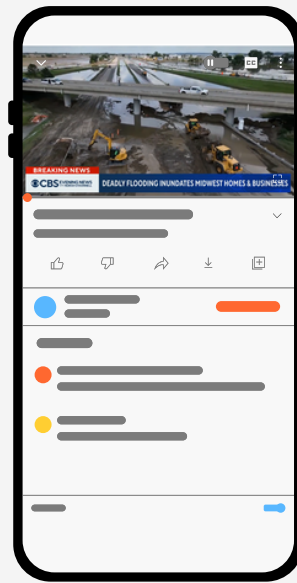
SDDOT crews were tasked with monitoring flood areas and restricting access to roadways deemed unsafe for motorists. Detour routes were established for Interstate 29, local roads, and state highways.

The situation became even more serious a few days after the initial rainfall 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 following are firsthand accounts and stories from SDDOT crew members in the field during this historic flooding event.

Brad Steeneck – Yankton Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor

Brad worked throughout the night on Friday, June 21, 2024, updating roads on the SD511 traveler information system and driving the Interstate 29 detour route to make sure everything was operating smoothly. Around midnight along the detour, Brad noticed a group of cars sitting at Norway Center (near the town of Hudson). He pulled in to check on the vehicles to ensure everyone in them was alright. An elderly couple was sitting in one of the vehicles which was running low on gas. The vehicle did not have enough fuel to make it back to any surrounding town, so they were effectively stranded on this detour route. Brad then drove ten miles back to the Beresford SDDOT shop to find an empty gas can and went to a local travel plaza to fill the gas can.





Brad returned to the elderly couple and filled their van's tank. Not only did he fill their tank but then followed them back to Beresford and made sure they had a safe place to stay during the storm. The couple kindly offered Brad cash for his troubles and Brad simply asked them to pay it forward down the road for someone else who may have a need.

Christian Anderson, Highway Maintenance Worker

Christian Anderson is a Highway Maintenance Worker based out of the Junction City SDDOT shop. Christian's home in Jefferson had severe flood damage, including substantial water damage in the basement and many damaged vehicles. Even though the flood was affecting him personally, he was at I-29 exit 4 helping build the levee. This dedication to public service is one of many examples of SDDOT employees going above and beyond during the flooding event.



Greg Rothschild, Yankton Area Engineer

Greg noted the dedicated effort of the SDDOT team pulling together on short notice to get the levee built. On the morning of Sunday, June 23, 2024, the crest was predicted for early in the morning on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and after a couple of weather pattern changes, that timeline was advanced all the way forward to June 23, 2024, at 6 p.m.; there was very little time to plan.

Greg said he is simply grateful for our dedicated SDDOT team members for their overall teamwork to build the levee in the short amount of time we had, it was truly unbelievable. It was a true team effort based on the number of guys who had no previous flooding experience, yet everything went very smoothly. It was great collaborative work in a very unexpected emergent situation.

"The selfless effort by our employees showcases these dedicated public servants we call our friends and co-workers. Thank you to everybody who played a role in the closing and reopening of Interstate 29 and the overall emergency flood relief efforts in many areas. The importance of the work we do was on full display as we worked side-by-side with our fellow local, state, and federal agencies."

- Secretary Joel Jundt



RAILROAD PROJECT FUNDING



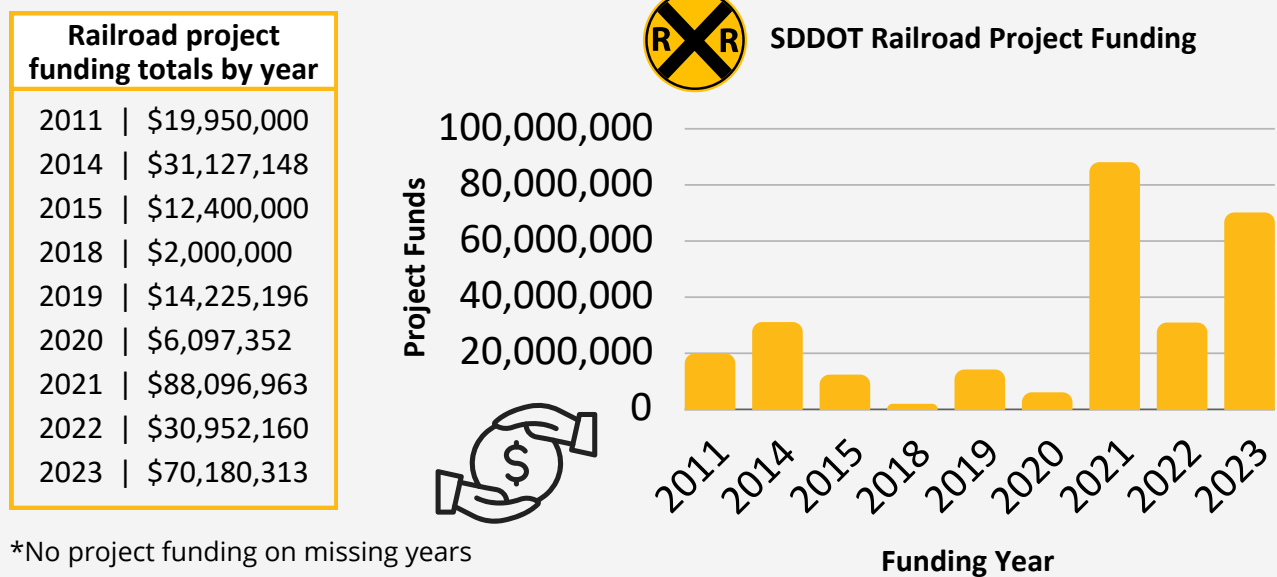
In October 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded the SDDOT approximately \$54 million in funding through the Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) Grant Program. The projects will benefit short-line railroads that serve as a crucial link in the rail supply chain. Selected projects will upgrade tracks, improve highway-rail grade crossings, construct new tracks, and more.

"The SDDOT had six proposed projects selected for FY2022/23 STC grant program funding," said Secretary Joel Jundt. "The selected projects are key to providing economic growth and increasing safety and efficiency for rail services across South Dakota and we appreciate Congress' continued support in funding this important federal program."

The SDDOT Rail office is currently managing grants for 11 railroad projects across the state. These projects include mainline upgrades to handle more freight, higher speeds, and repairs to bridges and culverts. Other projects build new sidings to streamline train traffic or create transload facilities for current and new industries. Funding sources include grants from the FRA, legislation, South Dakota Railroad trust fund, and local shares. The total value of the current rail projects is \$192,526,788.

These grant projects are typically active for an average of two-to-three years, with the construction phase of the project lasting one construction season.

The graph below demonstrates recent funds that were passed through the SDDOT Railroad office. The increased commitment to rail infrastructure in South Dakota is invaluable for strengthening our state's local communities.





FEATURED STORY

ADVANCING PUBLIC TRANSIT IN SOUTH DAKOTA



In 2024 the SDDOT Air, Rail, and Transit program conducted a study to better understand South Dakota's public transportation needs. The Department partnered with WBA Research to send a survey to residents to help plan for future transportation investments and to improve public transit services. Over 1,680 surveys were completed by members of the public. Results from the 2024 survey are currently being compiled.

"We will use the survey information to better our programs by pursuing different types of grants at the federal level which can bring additional funds into South Dakota to advance our transportation services," notes **Jack Dokken, Program Manager, SDDOT Office of Air, Rail, & Transit.**

An important component of the survey process was engaging the public. One unique tactic, in addition to engaging in surveys, was staffing a booth at the South Dakota State Fair held in Huron over Labor Day weekend. With the State Fair drawing nearly 200,000 visitors, this was a prime opportunity to engage with the public, answer questions, and encourage survey participation.

Another topic that Air, Rail, & Transit staff was able to talk to the public about was the \$1.6 million in funding the SDDOT received from the Low and No Emission Bus and Bus Facilities Grant from the Federal Transit Administration. This funding allowed River Cities Public Transit (Pierre), Prairie Hills Transit (Spearfish), and People's Transit (Huron) to add new propane-powered buses to their fleets. These propane-powered buses are being used to assist South Dakota citizens in their daily transportation needs in their local communities. Propane-powered buses offer numerous advantages, including lower operating costs, reduced maintenance requirements, and quieter operations.

These benefits translate into a more comfortable and enjoyable experience for passengers and drivers alike, further enhancing the appeal of public transportation in South Dakota.

FEATURED STORY

USING TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Participation in traditional in-person public meetings has declined nationwide over the past few years. The SDDOT wanted to provide options for public engagement for members of the public who are seeking information. This past summer, during the annual Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) presentations, SDDOT launched a virtual meeting room.



Virtual meeting rooms allow users to access all the information made available at an in-person public meeting but from the convenience of their desktop, laptop, or mobile device. Users are able to navigate the room and click into various displays and presentations to gather more project details.

A virtual meeting room used in conjunction with the annual STIP meeting this past summer was met with positive feedback. The SDDOT plans to continue to implement virtual meeting rooms in the coming years for both public meetings as well as construction projects to provide real-time project updates and information.

Text-In Project Notification System:

SDDOT also implemented a text-in project notification system that has leveraged the benefits of permission-based communication tactics. This system allows individuals to receive updates on specific projects across the state of their choosing by texting a unique keyword to the SDDOT. Once a user is opted-in for the service, the SDDOT is able to send a text message to the user's mobile device to inform the user of upcoming traffic changes, road closures, or other important project updates.

The SDDOT first soft-launched this text-in notification system in 2023 on the 41st Street Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project in Sioux Falls. During the summer 2024 construction season, this service was provided on 11 projects across the state. The SDDOT plans to continually expand this service. The total number of subscribers for project text-in notifications was 3,500 for the 2024 construction season. The total number of messages sent for the projects was nearly 31,000. For more information about the text-in notification system please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/text>.



FEATURED STORY

INTERSTATE 90 MULTI-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMPLETED



A multi-year reconstruction on Interstate 90 west of Sioux Falls, near Hartford and Humboldt, was completed in November 2024. Approximately 30 miles of I-90 between Salem and Sioux Falls was reconstructed over a four year period. The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) received \$61.573 million in discretionary federal funds through the 2021 INFRA Grant for the I-90 corridor from the Salem Rest Area to the S.D. Highway 38 and Hartford Interchange exit 390.

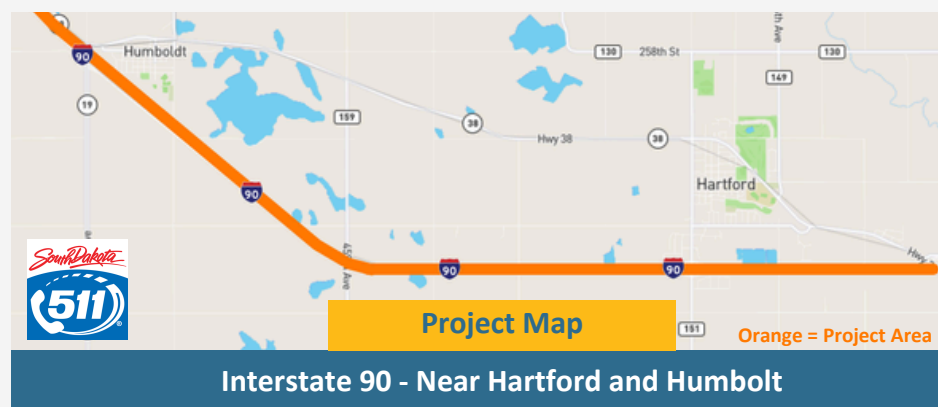


The first of two projects began in 2021 on the stretch of I-90 from Salem to Humboldt. These projects were completed over two construction seasons and wrapped up in November 2022. The projects reconstructed 15 miles of I-90 and included the replacement of two bridges and one box culvert on both the westbound and eastbound lanes.



The next segment included the final two projects to reconstruct I-90 between Hartford and Humboldt. These projects were completed in the 2023 and 2024 construction seasons. The existing pavement was removed and replaced with concrete surfacing and the bridge over S.D. Highway 19 at Humboldt (exit 379) was replaced. The final project was completed in November 2024, marking the end of the corridor improvement.

These four major reconstruction projects resulted in a smoother driving surface to improve the driver experience and enhance the safety of this busy section of I-90. The new bridges on the project replaced aging structures that were at the end of their useful life. The average daily traffic (ADT) for this section of I-90 is over 6,000 vehicles per day.



FEATURED STORY

INNOVATIVE HIGHWAY PROJECT DESIGNS



Initiating and implementing new ideas or methods to create value is one of SDDOT's core values. Innovation lies at the heart of these improvement efforts and one of the many places in the Department this innovation can be found is in project design. Continually striving for safer and more efficient designs to better serve the public is what drives new project designs. The following are some of the recent innovative designs the SDDOT has implemented in the past year:

Variable Speed Limits:

Two corridors in South Dakota will soon have variable speed limit zones. The first is designated for Interstate 29 between Flandreau and Brookings. This project is scheduled to begin in 2025. The second corridor to feature a variable speed zone will be located on Interstate 90 between Sturgis and Telford to follow.

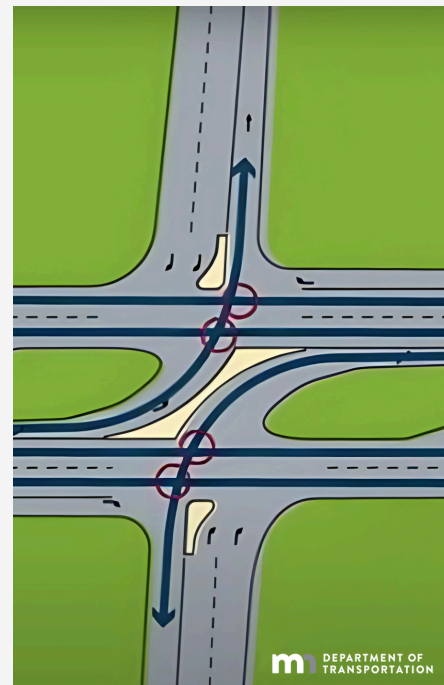
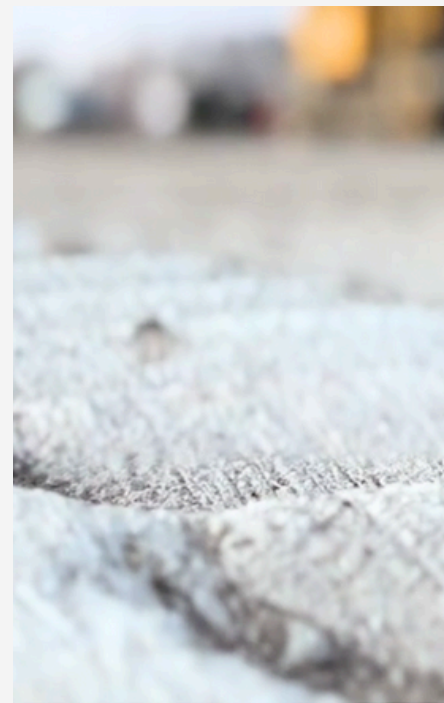
The variable speed system works by using sensors to detect temperature, pavement conditions, traffic counts, and other relevant information to provide a recommended speed limit to SDDOT staff. As applicable, speed limits will be reduced during winter weather events and then be reset as conditions allow.

Centerline Rumble Strips:

Centerline Rumble Strips (CLRS) are a simple but useful tool used to prevent lane departure and head-on collisions. The SDDOT is increasing the use of centerline rumble strips on rural roads with 500 or higher Average Daily Traffic (ADT). CLRS are a proven countermeasure demonstrating a nearly 60% reduction of these deadly crash types in South Dakota and nearly 50% nationwide.

Reduced Conflict Intersections:

Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCIs) are intersections that reduce potential conflict points by modifying the left turn and through movements for the cross-streets. Minor road traffic turns right followed by a U-turn downstream from the intersection. Several RCIs are planned and currently in design along U.S. Highway 16 outside of Rapid City, based on recommendations from the U.S. Highway 16 Corridor Study that was completed in 2021.



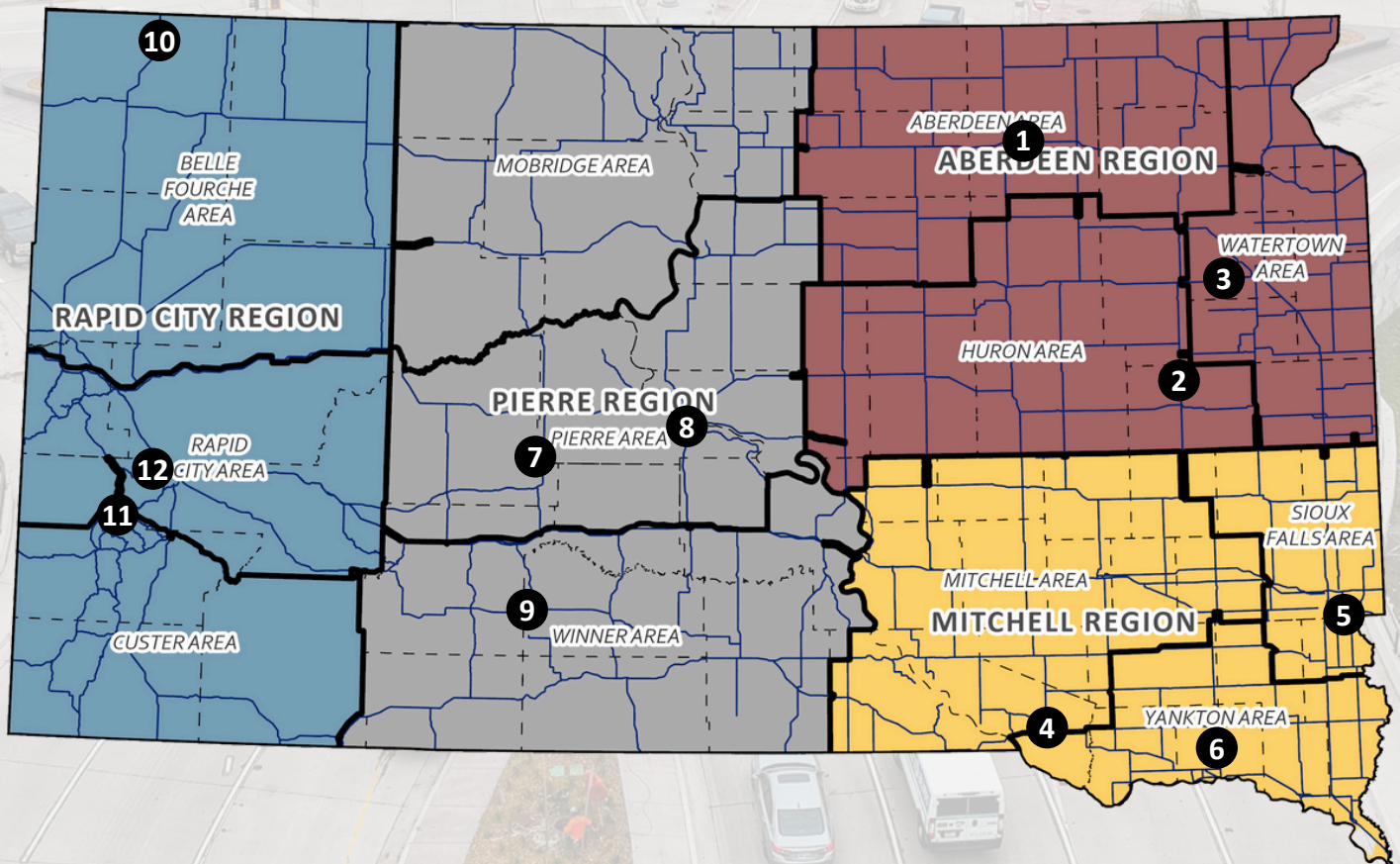
PROGRESS ACROSS THE STATE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONS

Moving SDDOT's mission forward wouldn't be possible without the concerted efforts of the Aberdeen, Mitchell, Pierre, and Rapid City Regions across South Dakota. Each Region is geographically divided into 12 Area Offices to best meet the needs of local residents. Whether traveling through South Dakota's Black Hills and Badlands, rolling hills and prairies, or towns and cities, the SDDOT's regional workforce is ready to face any challenge confronting our state's transportation system.

MAP OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS BY REGION

Numbers indicate projects that are described in the upcoming pages.



For additional project information please visit:
<https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/construction-info>

ABERDEEN REGION



1 **U.S. Highway 12 - Aberdeen to Bath:** This project along a growing stretch of Highway 12 included grading, concrete paving, lighting, and a new reinforced concrete box culvert. The addition of turn lanes further enhances safety along this corridor with ever-increasing traffic volumes.



2 **S.D. Highway 25 – North of De Smet:** October marked the end of the second phase of this two-year project as new asphalt surfacing was placed and increased shoulder widths were completed. In addition to grading and resurfacing work, the project replaced multiple box culverts on the roadway.



3 **U.S. Highway 212 – Between Clark and Watertown:** This reconstruction project milled and overlaid approximately 21 miles on Highway 212 from Clark to west of Watertown. In addition to the mainline work, two miles of shoulders and service roads were also resurfaced in Watertown.

MITCHELL REGION



S.D. Highway 46 – East of S.D. Highway 50 to Wagner: This regrading and paving project on Highway 46 west of Wagner improved the safety of the roadway. A pipe culvert was also replaced with a reinforced box culvert to improve drainage in the area.



Interstate 229 – Cliff Avenue Median Crossovers: This project is the first in a series of projects to improve the I-229 corridor and includes the modification of the median crossovers with a temporary structure in preparation for the 2025 and 2026 interchange reconstruction of the I-229 and Cliff Avenue Interchange.



U.S. Highway 81 – North of Yankton: This project further expanded from a two-lane to a four-lane highway north of Yankton. This four-lane highway now runs for six and one-half miles north of Yankton, further improving the interconnectedness of South Dakota's transportation system.

PIERRE REGION



U.S. Highway 14 – From Midland to Four Corners Junction: This project consisted of asphalt resurfacing, full-depth reclamation, and pipe work. This portion of Highway 14 is a popular route for motorists traveling from Pierre to Rapid City. The project will improve safety and user experience.



Missouri River Bridge - Pierre to Fort Pierre: The John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge is being constructed just 10 feet north of the former similarly named bridge. It will have updated features for functionality and aesthetics. Currently open for traffic, the total project completion is anticipated for Summer 2025.



S.D. Highway 44 – White River to S.D. Highway 63 Jct. | S.D. Highway 63 from S.D. Highway 44 to Interstate 90: This multi-route project consisted of full-depth reclamation with asphalt surfacing on Highway 44. The intersection of Highway 63 and Highway 44 received lighting upgrades to improve safety at this rural intersection. Highway 63 also received updated surfacing and bridge repair work.

RAPID CITY REGION



10

U.S. Highway 85 – Ludlow to North Dakota State Line: This project in the northwestern corner of South Dakota included a full-depth reclamation, cold milling, asphalt concrete surfacing, and pipe work. The project increased the smoothness of the highway surface by removing cracking, which will also improve the strength and stability of the highway.



11

Mount Rushmore – S.D. Highway 244: A bridge, that had reached the end of its useful life, was replaced just west of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Turn lanes were added for safety near the Mount Rushmore Kampgrounds of America (KOA) at Palmer Gulch Resort and improved sight distances create a safer area around the Willow Creek Campground and Trailhead.



12

Rapid City – Anamosa Street Bridge: The Anamosa Street Bridge over Interstate 190 in Rapid City was in need of replacement due to age and weight restrictions. New luminaires are being replaced along the I-190 corridor to provide reduced light pollution for surrounding neighborhoods.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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“The South Dakota Department of Transportation is blessed with an amazing staff of nearly 1,000 people working across the state. Each employee uniquely contributes to providing a safe and efficient public transportation system for those who travel to and through South Dakota! I want to personally thank our SDDOT team members for their dedication to the SDDOT for the people of South Dakota. Thank you for continuously striving to innovate and improve the quality of services for all who use our highways, airports, railroads, and public transportation system.”

-Joel Jundt, Secretary of Transportation

“I was stranded on U.S. Highway 16A at the 2nd south pigtail bridge at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024. Two workers from SDDOT stopped and helped me to get a tow truck after several failed attempts. They talked to the tow truck people to make sure they knew my exact location and how to get there. And they made sure I was safe from the heat. I can’t express the gratitude I have for them. I realized after they left, I didn’t get their names. I just know one was a Chicago Cubs fan and both live in Custer. Thank you SDDOT for having such terrific employees.”

-Kathy G.

“My wife and I, both in our 70s and disabled, were on our way to Sioux Falls for a doctor’s appointment when we had a tire blowout. I called the roadside assistance number for my insurance twice without much help. After sitting in the vehicle for a little over two hours south of Brookings on I-29, a SDDOT truck pulled up to see if we needed help. After explaining my medical situation, they told me to stay in the vehicle and they changed the tire. I was then instructed to go to their Flandreau office to fill the tire with air. I am writing to you with the hope that their superior will shake their hand and give them a pat on the back for us. Both of us and the traveling public appreciate them. Thank you.”

-Steven R. Cooley

[HTTPS://DOT.SD.GOV](https://dot.sd.gov)

[HTTPS://SD511.ORG](https://sd511.org)

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