



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**BETTER LIVES THROUGH
BETTER TRANSPORTATION**

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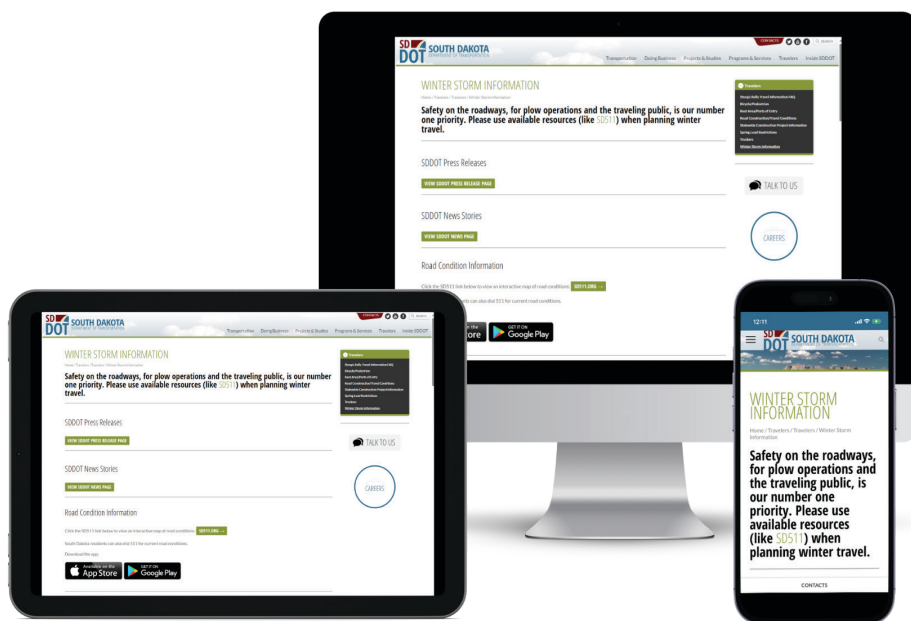
The South Dakota Department of Transportation gives public notice of its policy to uphold and assure full compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related Non-discrimination authorities. Title VI and related Non-discrimination authorities stipulate that no person in the United States of America shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, income level or Limited English Proficiency be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Any person who has questions concerning this policy or wishes to file a discrimination complaint should contact the Department’s Civil Rights Office at 605-773-3540.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The 2022-23 Winter Season was definitely one for the record-books. Our South Dakota Department of Transportation winter maintenance staff (and those behind the scenes) worked countless hours to keep South Dakota's interstate and state highway system clear and safe in some of the toughest winter weather conditions experienced in recent years. The unique thing about the 2022-23 winter season was the duration of the storms that impacted the state. South Dakota experienced several multi-day winter weather events that were very taxing for our employees fighting the elements. In addition, our personnel were involved in an unprecedented number of rescue missions to save stranded individuals across our state.



Secretary Joel Jundt



Due to the multiple winter events, the SDDOT added a page to the SDDOT website (entitled Winter Storm Information <https://dot.sd.gov/travelers/travelers/winter-storm-information>) to assist in communication efforts with travelers, emergency personnel, and members of the media. The web page was specifically designed to provide one central location of key resources for the traveling public during these massive storms. In addition to

providing the latest press releases for Interstate closure and reopening status, the site also featured media interviews and links to SD511. This web page also included photos and videos of our operators at work to help the public understand the gravity of the storm situations in which our maintenance teams were working. This website will be continually updated during the 2023-24 season as winter weather events move through the state.

In response to challenges experienced last winter, SDDOT is working to improve communication and messaging to drivers. In certain conditions, the SDDOT will be closing secondary highways and entering this into SD511. SDDOT is also working with participating counties and tribes to enter local road advisory and closure information into SD511. For the latest on road and weather conditions, please visit <https://sd511.org> or dial 511. Sign up for customized notifications on <https://sd511.org> for this free service that allows you to receive text messages and/or email notifications about road closure updates and travel advisories along routes of your choice.

Sincerely,

Joel Jundt, Secretary

South Dakota Department of Transportation

ABOUT US

MISSION

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system.

VISION

Better lives through better transportation by being the best.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Five strategic objectives form the heart of the plan and guide our path forward as we build better lives through better transportation. Throughout this report, icons highlight various strategic objectives and accomplishments met in 2023.



SAFETY

EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERYDAY

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



SERVICE

PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES

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



WORKFORCE

VALUE ALL TEAM MEMBERS

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



PROCESSES

CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

As a highly visible public agency with regulated funding, SDDOT processes must operate as innovatively, efficiently, and effectively as possible.



ASSETS

PROVIDE THE BEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND ASSETS

SDDOT diligently maintains and manages South Dakota's pavements and bridges, the assets with the highest financial value and greatest public impact.

INVESTING IN OUR TRANSPORTATION FUTURE TODAY

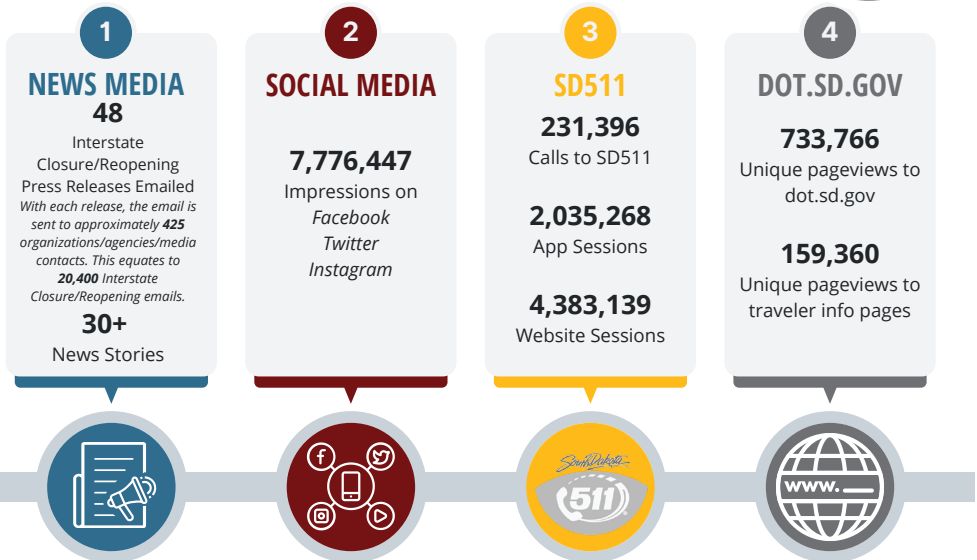
PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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.

"Last year's historic winter created many challenges for SDDOT from road closures, to motorist rescue missions, and what seemed like never ending storms. Despite these harsh conditions SDDOT's employees worked countless hours to provide safe travel throughout."

- Craig Smith,
Director of Operations

PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES 2022-23 Winter Storm Communications Statistics

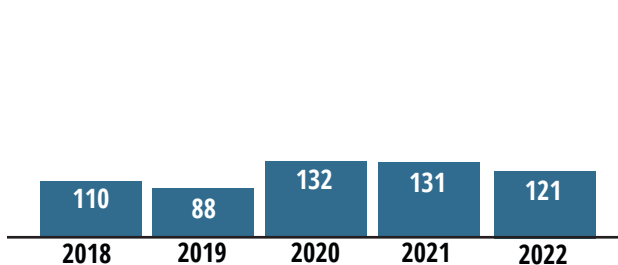


EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERYDAY

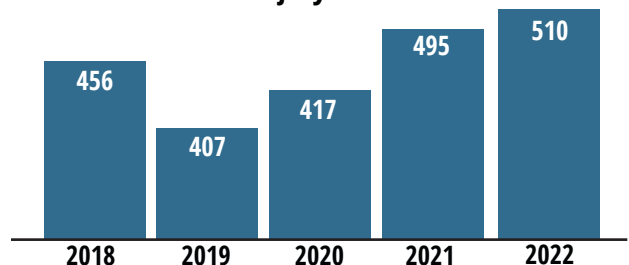
The three biggest contributing factors to these crashes are alcohol, speed, and unbelted occupants. Turn to page 12 of the report to learn more about safety initiatives at the SDDOT.



Number of fatal crashes in South Dakota



Number of serious injury crashes in South Dakota



"The SDDOT, along with local, state and federal partners, continuously evaluate ways to reverse the trend of increasing fatalities and serious injuries across our state and throughout the nation. Over the course of the next year, the SDDOT will develop an implementation plan for a zero-fatality goal. The purpose of carefully researching and developing this plan is to provide a shared and unified vision for all stakeholders."

- Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering



"Over the last few years, SDDOT has taken a purposeful and proactive approach to providing leadership opportunities to develop strong and capable leaders. As more and more SDDOT employees become eligible to retire, it is the departments responsibility to equip all employees to continue the momentum established by past and current leaders. SDDOT Leadership Development Opportunities offer different options for employee involvement. The department encourages each employee to work with a supervisor to discuss career opportunities and available training to assist with personal and professional leadership skill development."

- Joel Jundt, Transportation Secretary



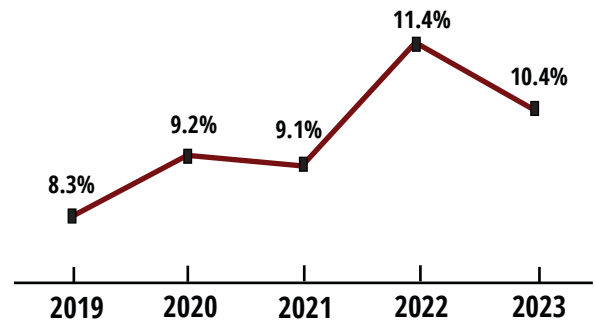
VALUE ALL TEAM MEMBERS

SDDOT Employee Turnover Rate

SDDOT has been working hard to improve the employee turnover rate. Improvements made in the past year include: horizontal career plans, increased seasonal pay, referral bonuses, and premium pay on weekends.

Interested in a career at the SDDOT?

Visit <https://www.dot.sd.gov/careers>. The SDDOT also works very hard to connect with the future workforce. The SDDOT offers generous collegiate-based workforce scholarships available for multiple positions within the department!



CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

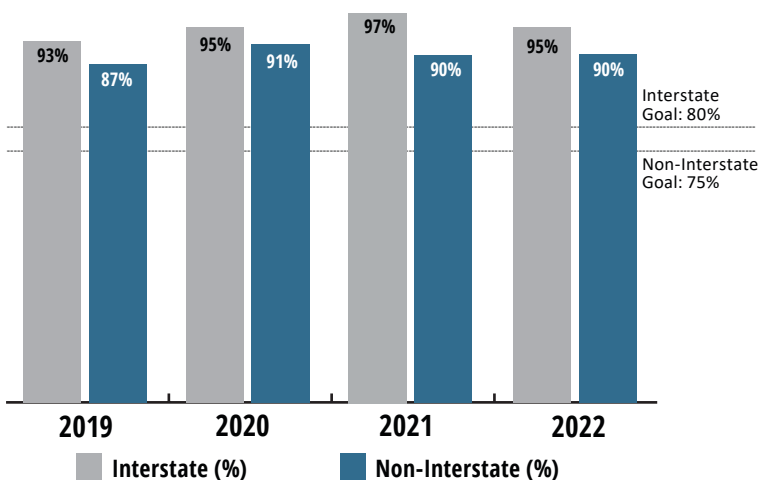
"Our work toward continuous improvement doesn't stop... We are focused on the need to continually implement and evaluate systematic processes across our department. Because of the hard work and dedication of our nearly 1,000 SDDOT employees, we can achieve our mission to efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system in the state of South Dakota."

- Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management

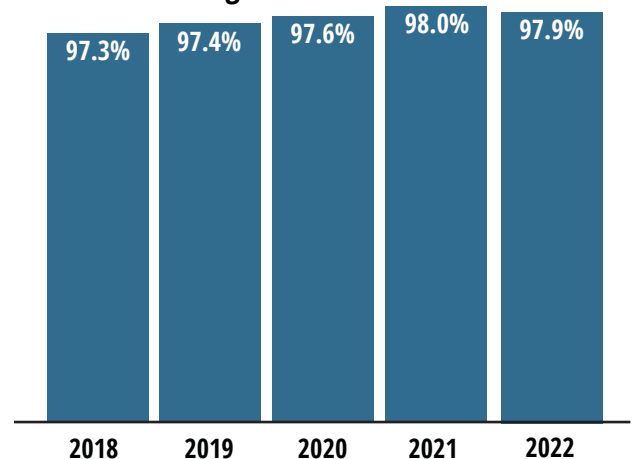
PROVIDE THE BEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM



Percent of pavements in good or excellent condition



Percent of state owned structures in good or fair 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.

There are +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).

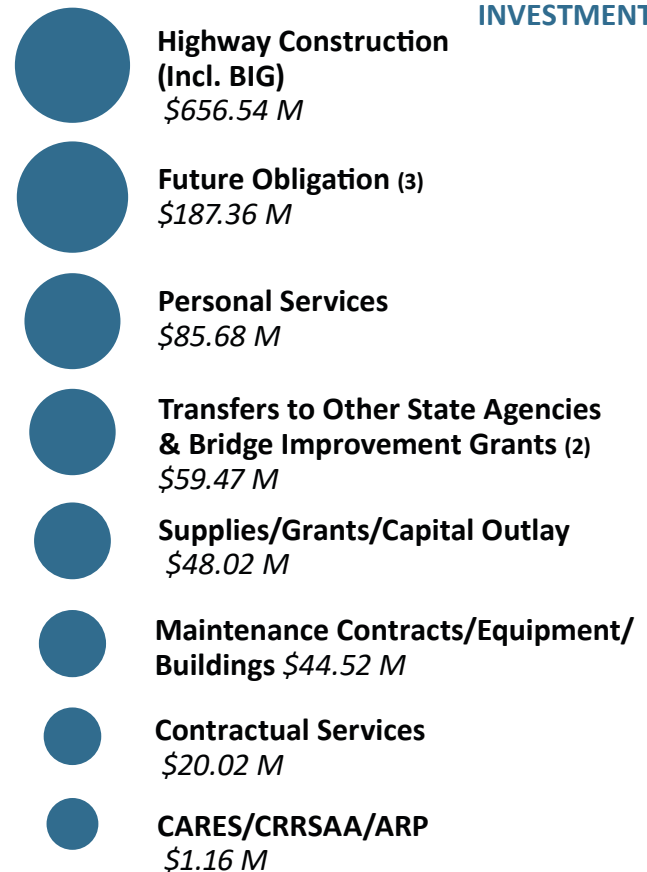
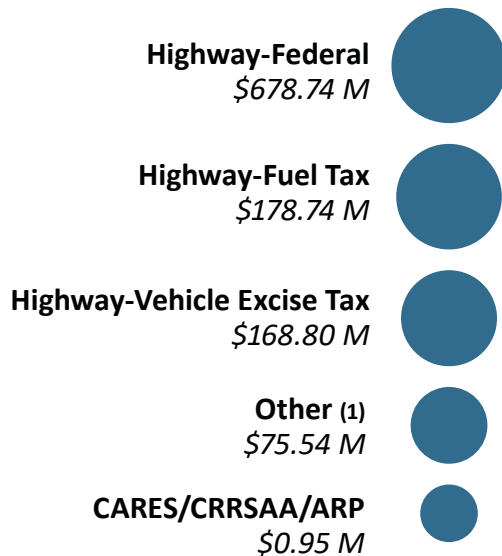
FINANCE OVERVIEW

As a public agency, SDDOT relies on various funding sources to support its work each year. SDDOT is committed to making responsible investments which achieve the greatest benefit for all residents and visitors. The figures below show our Fiscal Year 2023 revenues and expenditures in the areas of highway, transit, and aeronautics.

\$1.1 Billion
FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR 2023 HIGHWAY & TRANSIT

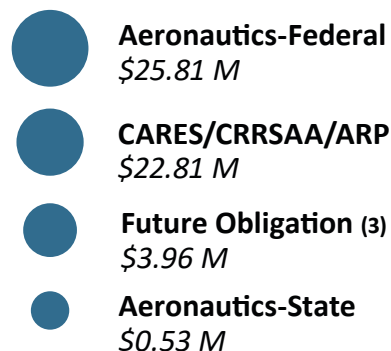
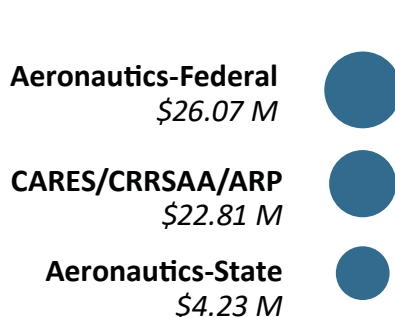
\$1.1 Billion
INVESTMENT



\$53 Million
FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR 2023 AERONAUTICS

\$53 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.

AWARD WINNING INNOVATION AMID INFLATION

Environmental sensor stations recognized by America's Transportation Awards as a national winner.



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

When faced with the challenge of the large, rural nature of South Dakota and how winter weather can impact road conditions on a statewide scale, the SDDOT needed weather data and camera images to properly inform its maintenance forces and travelers of real-time road conditions.

Environmental sensor stations (ESS) combine high-resolution video cameras equipped with self-contained infrared illumination, state-of-the-art meteorological sensors, an NTCIP-compliant controller, and cellular communications integrated into a robust roadside system used by SDDOT staff engineers. This technology makes winter maintenance decisions easier for SDDOT staff and travel decisions easier for motorists.

The SDDOT has a network of 120 environmental sensor stations designed to inform travelers of road and weather conditions. This enables travelers to make wise travel decisions and to be prepared for the conditions they will encounter. The stations inform SDDOT maintenance staff, enabling them to determine whether winter maintenance is needed and, if so, the appropriate maintenance strategies. Data and images are supplied to travelers via SDDOT's 511 website, mobile apps, and rest area kiosks. Data is incorporated into SDDOT's winter Maintenance Decision Support System, which recommends optimal maintenance strategies based on current and forecasted weather and road conditions.

In addition to directly impacting the traveling public and SDDOT staff, the National Weather Service (NWS) benefits from ESS as they are provided all weather observations and camera images. Initiatives like ESS is one of the reasons that the SDDOT was named the NWS 2023 Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence.

The ESS project also earned regional honors, in the Best Use of Technology and Innovation Category, at the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) Annual Meeting.

Savoy Tower



Savoy Tower North View



When motorists enter our state on Interstate 90 from the west, they are greeted by the beautiful Black Hills. Many commercial and local carriers travel I-90 every day and have seen some big changes taking place at exit 40, near Tilford.

A brand-new Port of Entry (POE) building was constructed at exit 40 to improve the experience for carriers entering the western side of the state. The POE includes a new building, parking lots, and features e-screening infrastructure. E-screening consists of several components that identify approaching trucks and check their weight, registration, fuel tax, and safety status. Compliant trucks can proceed past the POE without stopping, saving time and operational costs. The SDDOT also installed in-pavement sensors that detect overinflated and under-inflated tires and thermal brake sensors that check brakes on moving trucks. This technology is a key safety advancement.

The four-phase, multi-year project also reconstructed the I-90 eastbound lanes near exit 37 (Pleasant Valley Road), and the westbound on-ramp and eastbound off-ramp at exit 40 (Tilford). Another key aspect of the project was to replace the interchange and bridge at exit 37.

The project included the installation of a wildlife underpass beneath I-90, and the construction of wildlife fencing in the area. Various forms of wildlife use this crossing including elk, deer, small game, and even mountain lions.

These improvements show the multi-faceted approach that SDDOT projects take when looking to improve the state's transportation system. By combining numerous projects under one umbrella, the SDDOT positively impacts more motorists and creates better lives through better transportation.

New Port of Entry Tillford Exit 40



A NEW PORT OF ENTRY FOR WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

A new port of entry at exit 40 is among the many improvements made to Interstate 90 near Sturgis.



PROCESSES



SERVICE

2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

THE HERE, NOW, AND FUTURE OF DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

*How DDI's are moving
South Dakotans in a
whole new way.*



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, the SDDOT celebrated the opening of South Dakota's first Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), at LaCrosse Street and Interstate 90 in Rapid City. A DDI is an innovative, modern interchange design that can relieve traffic congestion and improve safety for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. In a DDI configuration, traffic crosses to the left side of the roadway allowing for ease of access to the Interstate.



Ribbon Cutting at LaCrosse Street - Rapid City

While the state's first DDI has been fully functioning and moving people and goods through Rapid City, additional DDIs are currently under construction on the opposite side of the state. The 41st Street DDI in Sioux Falls has been a project nearly ten years in the making. The DDI was chosen at this location because of the improved safety and traffic flow at one of our state's busiest intersections. 41st Street will be widened to



41st Street Diagram - Sioux Falls

three lanes in each direction between Marion Road and I-29. Signal and sidewalk improvements at the 38th Street and Shirley Avenue intersection will also be completed as a part of this project.

The Benson Road and Interstate 229 interchange is also currently under construction in Sioux Falls with the implementation of a DDI. "The northeast side of Sioux Falls continues to experience commercial and residential growth," says Travis Dressen, SDDOT Mitchell Region Engineer. "New development is beginning on the east side of I-229 and the interchange. Arterial improvements will better accommodate future and projected traffic volumes for all movements at the interchange."

As additional studies are conducted, the SDDOT will continue to assess whether interchanges are candidates for a DDI. DDI projects are currently being planned for projects at exit 63 in Box Elder and exit 406 in Brandon.



Benson Road Interchange - Sioux Falls

SDDOT Staff at the Brown County Fair



Leaders at the SDDOT knew that new initiatives were needed to engage with the traveling public to share information and gather feedback on our transportation system.

The decision was made to be more intentional about meeting people where they are, in addition to inviting them to scheduled public meetings. The SDDOT participated as vendors at several different community events across the state

this past year to gather public feedback. Some of the events included the Black Hills Stock Show, Watertown Farm Show, Brown County Fair, and DakotaFest.

Public engagement (whether discussing plans for a construction project or winter maintenance) helps the SDDOT team continually identify and respond to the needs of customers. Community events also provide an opportunity to actively recruit for open positions.



SDDOT Staff at the Black Hills Stock Show



SDDOT Staff at DakotaFest

RETHINKING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A fresh perspective on interacting with the public is changing the way the SDDOT engages with the public.



SERVICE



WORKFORCE

2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

A WINTER FOR THE AGES

Prairie blizzards and snowstorms brought South Dakotans together through one of the toughest winters in recent memory.

When grandpa told stories about the brutal winters of his childhood, it was always assumed some embellishment was included in those far-fetched stories. However, after the 2022-2023 winter South Dakota experienced, all South Dakotans will have a similar story to share with their grandchildren.

Drifts Near Cactus Flats



With a record-breaking winter, SDDOT winter operations staff had to go above and beyond just to get their neighbors to the grocery store, school, hospitals, or anywhere else.

The numbers below only tell half the story, the most important part of the story illustrates the human aspect of these extreme winter events and how South Dakotans banded together to help one another. Dozens of stranded motorists were rescued by SDDOT plow operators.

2023 USAGE NUMBERS

Plow Truck Miles: 3.2 million
Previous Two Winters Avg: 1.4 million

Man Hours: 178,000 hrs
Previous Two Winters Avg: 77,000 hrs

Salt: 62,000 tons
Previous Two Winters Avg: 44,000 tons

Diesel Fuel: 1 million gal.
Previous Two Winters Avg: 540,000 gal.

BUDGET

FY23 Original Budget: \$20.5 million
FY23 Amended Budget: \$33.5 million

FY23 Total Winter Spend: 36.5 million

MATERIAL INFLATION

Salt: 10% Increase
Diesel Fuel: 220% Increase from 2021
FY21: \$1.79/gal. vs. FY23: \$3.94/gal.



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES



Plow Clearing the State Highway Near New Underwood

Mary and Tanner Hiton of Pierre, South Dakota - Photo Credit: Dakota News Now



A pregnant mother was escorted by a SDDOT snowplow to the hospital where she gave birth to a healthy baby. Lifesaving medication was transported across the state from plow to plow to ensure it got into the hands of the Bruers family.



Les Winsell, SDDOT Highway Maintenance Supervisor
Photo Credit: Dakota News Now



The Bruers Family

In the Pierre Region alone, SDDOT crews participated in over 50 rescue missions during the two storms just in December, and assisted hundreds of people during a time when the temperature and wind chills were in the minus 40 degree range. These actions of kindness were demonstrated by SDDOT snowplow operators working more than 14-hour days in the worst weather imaginable.



SDDOT Crews Work to Rescue Stranded Vehicles Near Vivian, South Dakota

A WINTER FOR THE AGES CONTINUED



SAFETY



WORKFORCE

2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

SAFE SYSTEMS APPROACH

Death and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make mistakes, redundancy is crucial, safety is proactive, responsibility is shared, and humans are vulnerable.



2023 SDDOT
FEATURED
STORIES

When one thinks of highway safety, it can be easy to focus on one or two specific road features or driver behaviors as the cause of crashes. However, safety is an interrelated function of the vehicle, roadway, emergency services, enforcement, education, and driver behavior. Many times, one influences the other and most of the time there are many that contribute to a crash.

Over the course of the next year, the department will be developing an implementation plan for a zero-fatality goal. The development of this plan has the potential to provide a shared and unified vision for all stakeholders while initiating multiple layers of protection. A fundamental component of this plan will review implementation of the:

SAFE SYSTEMS APPROACH

This approach focuses on six key principles

- 1.) Death and serious injuries are unacceptable
- 2.) Humans make mistakes
- 3.) Redundancy is crucial
- 4.) Safety is proactive
- 5.) Responsibility is shared
- 6.) Humans are vulnerable

Through the development of safer roads, safer speeds, safer vehicles, safer people, and post-crash care; lost lives and life altering crashes can be avoided.

In 2019 we recorded 102 fatalities and 407 serious injury crashes on South Dakota roads. Since then, we averaged over 137 lost lives each year and over 470 serious injury crashes. The trend is going in the wrong direction. We look forward to the development of the implementation plan, improving highway safety, and the opportunity to get everyone home safe every day.



SDDOT Crews Work to Place Reflective Beads on New Pavement Markings



Before Construction



After Construction - Mickleson Trail Underneath

The Fall River Chilson Bridge was constructed in 1929 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1993. Located on Old Highway 18, approximately six miles northeast of Edgemont, the historic bridge spans the George S. Mickelson Trail, 45-feet below, and had been posted since June 2017, due to concrete deterioration.

The Mickelson Trail, which passes through the area in a deep, man-made cut, consists of the former roadbed of the Edgemont-Deadwood branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad. The bridge was the only known surviving example of a pin-connected Pratt deck truss in South Dakota and may have been constructed or designed by the railroad.

Local residents and area landowners had voiced their concerns about longer drive and response times in case of fire or other emergency situations with the bridge closed. The SDDOT, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP), and Fall River County took action.

Work began in 2021 on the new structure, a 178ft., prestressed girder bridge. In 2023, the nearly \$2 million project was completed on time and the 22-mile detour that was in place for six years was no longer needed.

A NEW BRIDGE ON OLD HIGHWAY 18

*Local communities
and state agency
partnerships improve
interconnectedness in
southwest South Dakota.*



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

A RIBBON CUTTING IN JACKRABBIT COUNTRY

SDDOT, state, and local leaders celebrate the opening of the Interstate 29/20th street interchange south of Brookings.



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

Through a continued partnership with the City of Brookings, the state has invested not only time and expertise, but also a significant amount of monetary capital to ensure that our interconnected 80,000 miles of roadway in our state function as seamlessly as possible.

One of these partnerships was celebrated in August 2023 when Senator John Thune, Representative Dusty Johnson, and state and local leaders gathered for a ribbon cutting on the Interstate 29/20th Street Interchange in Brookings.

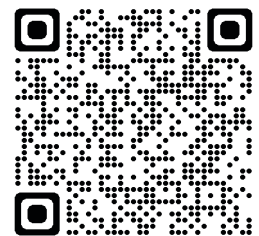
Work on the 20th Street Interchange started in the late 1990s with a planning study. This preliminary review was the start to the interchange project. In 2011, the state funded and managed a Brookings Area Master Transportation Plan that identified transportation improvements needed in the City of Brookings on city streets and state highways. After the study was complete, the state funded the Brookings County Master Transportation Plan in 2013 to review county needs and ensure the interconnectedness of city, county, and state infrastructure. The work provided the "Infrastructure Investment and Reinvestment" Plan in Brookings. Projects on 6th Street/U.S. Highway 14 were planned, designed, and constructed from the west end of town through the interchange and ended east of Daktronics/Swiftel Center. All of the planning work gave the Brookings community a significant advantage in securing a BUILD Grant in 2019.

SDDOT staff, in coordination with the City of Brookings, dedicated countless hours to design, to gain federal clearances, and to manage the construction project. The state will own and maintain this critical piece of infrastructure going forward. This new interchange is key to delivering a strong interconnected transportation system along the I-29 corridor.

Project Timeline Video: Exit 130 Construction Progression <https://youtu.be/j2NqDlxS0J8>



20th Street Looking East From the Southeast Ramp



Ribbon Cutting at Exit 130 Photo Credit: Nektr Marketing

Above normal seasonal snowfall and unusually late cold temperatures left much of South Dakota with a persistent and uniquely deep snowpack in the spring of 2023. The northeast corner of South Dakota experienced snow and cold into the month of April. Then the weather suddenly turned from winter to summer with temperatures rising above 80 degrees.

Bridge in Grant County



Due to the unique combination of late cold and snow followed by sudden warm temps, widespread spring flooding was common throughout the Big Sioux River Valley. Governor Kristi Noem signed Executive Order 2023-08 to declare a disaster in counties impacted by the spring flooding. The Executive Order requested federal resources to assist with the impacts of the flooding for state, local, and tribal partners. Many local and county roads were not suitable for travel and peak water levels were documented on the state highway system bridges.

Drones or UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) have been a valuable tool in the toolbox for SDDOT bridge inspectors for several years. During the spring flooding event, drones were used to monitor critical bridges over the Big Sioux River and its tributaries. In addition to traditional methods of estimating water levels (based on debris lines and water gauge readings), drones provided large scale overviews of the water level changes and potential impacts to structures.

Utilizing UAS to perform structure checks offers considerable advantages over conventional methods including speed, cost, improved safety, and a better understanding of the impact flooding has on the state highway system.

Bridge in Grant County



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS HELP SDDOT STAFF MONITOR SPRING FLOODING

The SDDOT utilized drones to monitor water levels and bridge conditions during flooding events.



PROCESSES



WORKFORCE

2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

CONSTRUCTION THROUGH THE ICE

The SDDOT used innovative solutions to replace the bridge over Blue Dog Lake in the dead of winter.



2023 SDDOT FEATURED STORIES

Even in the brutal cold of the winter months, the SDDOT continues to make significant progress on important construction projects. One of those projects during the winter of 2023 was the Day County Highway 446A bridge replacement over Blue Dog Lake, located northeast of Waubay.

Work on this project endured an unrelentless winter while being completed less than the original \$1.75 million originally budgeted. This location has been plagued with flooding issues for the last four years. The county received a Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) in 2019 to assist in the completion of this project. After much planning, Sioux Falls Construction (SFC) was hired to replace the existing 74-foot steel stringer single span bridge that was built in 1952 with a new four cell cast in place reinforced concrete box culvert.

The new culvert allows the county to adjust the road grade should lake levels rise in the future. To complete this work through the ice, a cofferdam was installed around the existing bridge. The installation of a cofferdam allows the construction site to be protected from the surrounding water and with continuous operation of transfer pumps, allows workers to excavate and prepare the road/lakebed to have the new culvert floor formed and concrete poured under dry conditions.

While this method of construction is preferred, not all locations allow such control of the water, so the Day County site was fortunate in this regard. Additionally, a confined work environment, does allow the contractor to cover and protect their work when needed regardless of what temperatures and weather come their way. Therefore, they are able to work throughout the winter.

The project was completed and opened to traffic on Apr. 13, 2023, well before any other projects began elsewhere in the state.

To view drone footage from the project, scan the QR Code:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR8f3PB6zWBnnn_LZ7n80TU_XLXKw0iqR&si=-VYJk4QpNf2H_qD8



During Construction



During Construction

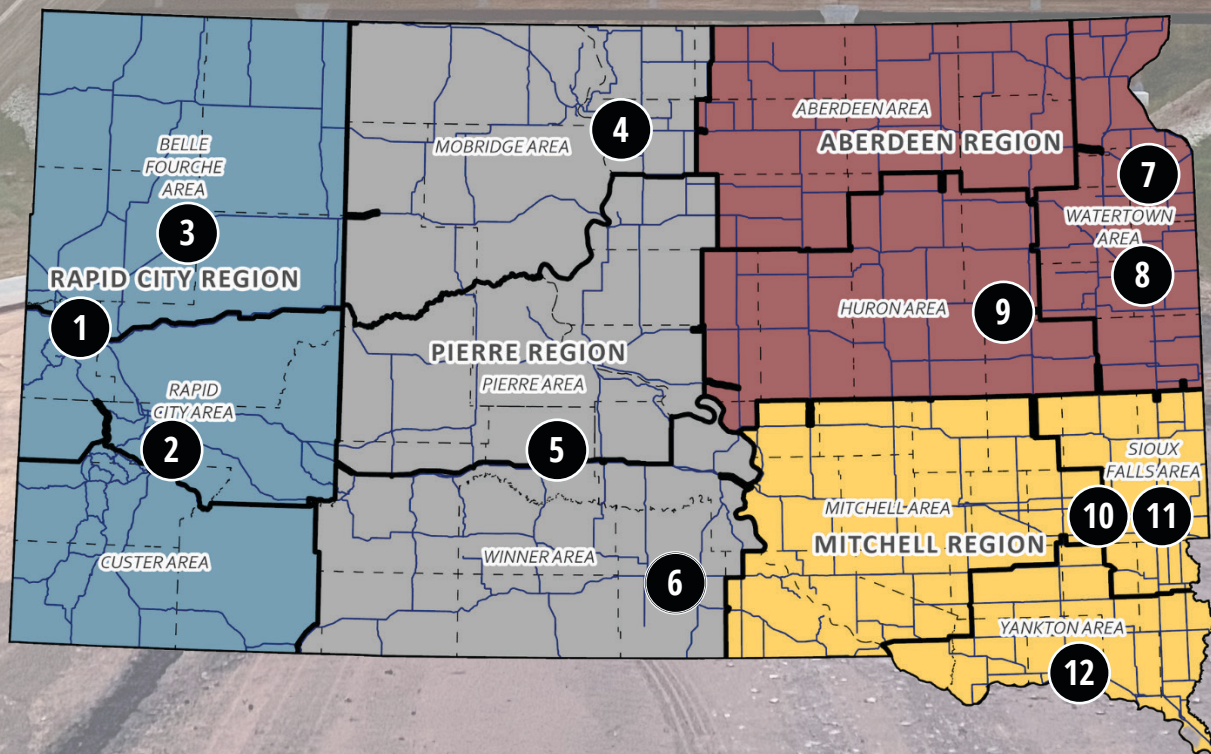
PROGRESS ACROSS THE STATE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONS

Moving SDDOT's mission forward wouldn't be possible without the concerted efforts of the Rapid City, Pierre, Aberdeen, and Mitchell Regions and the 12 Area Offices which are located to provide high-quality services to all South Dakotans. 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.



RAPID CITY REGION



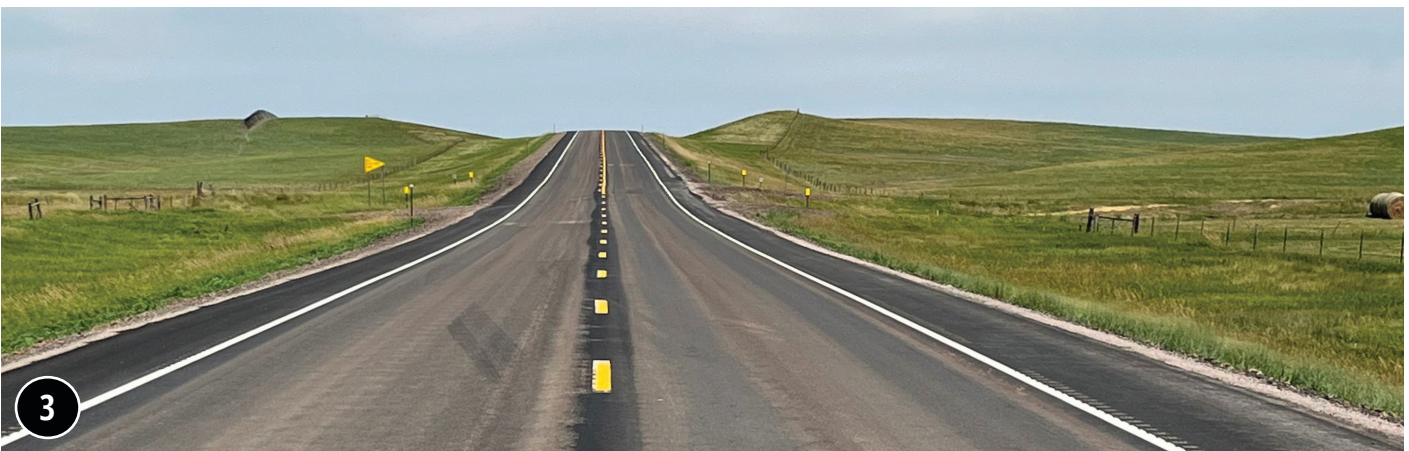
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S.D. Highway 34 from Belle Fourche to Whitewood This project constructed additional turning lanes and passing lanes on this important corridor from the northern Black Hills to Belle Fourche. The additional turning and passing lanes have increased the safety for all motorists and improved the flow of traffic.



2

Lacrosse Street DDI The construction of South Dakota's first ever Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), was a landmark project for the SDDOT. The DDI became fully functional for those traveling through Rapid City in July 2023.



3

U.S. Highway 212 from Newell to Maurine This 48-mile-long project, from Newell to Maurine, consisted of 96 pipe repair sites, full depth reclamation of the shoulders, and placement of 125,000 tons of asphalt concrete pavement. Motorists will notice a smoother driving surface as well as improved drainage on the paved shoulders.

PIERRE REGION



S.D. Highway 47 in Walworth County This 14-mile project involved complete reconstruction of S.D. Highway 47, including the replacement of a narrow bridge near the S.D. Highway 20 junction. Travelers on this roadway will find improved sight distances, flatter in-slopes, and wider ditches for advanced traveler safety.



Interstate 90 from Presho to Reliance Spanning nearly 25 miles of Interstate 90, this resurfacing project also included bridge rehabilitation work on all structures in the project area. This project was crucial to improving this important transportation corridor through the central section of the state.



Winner Reconstruction A two-year urban reconstruction project on U.S. Highway 18 and S.D. Highway 44 in Winner was completed this year. In addition to the reconstruction, the project also improved sidewalks, ADA panels, lighting, and underground utilities.

ABERDEEN REGION



7
S.D. Highway 15 from S.D. Highway 20 to Milbank This grading and bridge replacement project is a vital corridor for those traveling in northeast South Dakota. The project reduced the number of no-passing zones by lowering vertical curves and added six-foot shoulders for safety.



8
U.S. Highway 212 Through Watertown This multi-year full urban reconstruction project included grading, storm sewer, roadway lighting, traffic signals, and more. This project improved the interconnectedness of one of South Dakota's largest eastern cities. Current average daily traffic (ADT) count on this stretch of U.S. Highway 212 is currently 17,119 vehicles and is expected to increase in coming years.



9
S.D. Highway 25 North of De Smet In addition to grading and resurfacing work, the project replaced multiple box culverts on this stretch of roadway. This \$18 million multi-year project will enhance safety.

MITCHELL REGION



Interstate 90 in McCook County Fifteen miles of Interstate 90 were completely reconstructed in McCook County. This reconstruction project included two bridges, one box culvert replacement, and two additional bridge preservations. In addition to this project, the westbound lanes of I-90 from Buffalo Ridge to exit 379 were reconstructed and the Humboldt exit bridge was replaced.



First Phase of South Veterans Parkway The first phase of South Veterans Parkway, between Cliff Avenue and South Western Avenue in Sioux Falls, marks the beginning of a monumental project for South Dakota. In 2020, the northern segment of Veterans Parkway opened to traffic and the South Dakota Transportation Commission agreed to complete construction of South Veterans Parkway to accommodate regional and future growth and development. Once completed Interstate 90 and Interstate 29 will be connected and accommodate growing transportation needs across this corridor.



S.D. Highway 52 near Yankton This project, near Lewis & Clark Lake, included shoulder widening, guardrail work, pipe extensions, asphalt concrete surfacing, and concrete pavement repair. This project gives travelers an improved driving surface and a safer roadway.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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BETTER LIVES THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORTATION

The SDDOT wants to take a moment to thank the winter operations staff who play a key role in keeping the traveling public aware of road conditions. Good internal communication among the SDDOT team statewide is absolutely vital for sharing accurate and timely information.

The National Weather Service offices across the country annually express appreciation to Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassadors who are doing great work to promote weather safety and preparedness. This year, the Aberdeen National Weather Service office nominated the SDDOT Communications Team for the 2023 WRN Ambassador of Excellence! Recipients of the Ambassador of Excellence award nationwide can be viewed on their website at https://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassador_recognition.

Below is a section of the NWS nomination of the SDDOT for the Ambassador of Excellence award . . .

“Throughout the severe 2022-2023 winter season in South Dakota, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) Communications team played a pivotal role in ensuring residents were well prepared for winter weather hazards. SDDOT consistently and frequently disseminated Weather-Ready Nation safety information through various social media and digital platforms.

Furthermore, SDDOT understands the importance of sharing their real-time webcam and snowplow imagery, which serves as vital visual cues for drivers, effectively preparing them for hazardous conditions. This content was also widely recirculated by the NWS, reinforcing its value. In addition to these efforts, SDDOT's innovative initiatives, such as the snowplow naming contest and the creation of educational materials like coloring sheets, crossword puzzles, and word finds, actively promote the core messages and themes of the Weather-Ready Nation campaign.”

The department thanks all SDDOT employees for their dedicated commitment to the SDDOT core value of safety!

Remember to always check
<https://sd511.org> before traveling!

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