



JUNE 2026

Connecting the DOTs

Tentative 2027-2030 STIP



SDDOT will offer virtual and in-person public engagement options for the **Tentative 2027-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. The information is also being provided through an interactive virtual meeting room at <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>.

About the STIP:

The STIP is a four-year program listing projects developed through the coordinated efforts of the SDDOT, Transportation Commission, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, public agencies, transportation providers, citizens, and other interested parties.

Two live virtual presentations will be provided . . .

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 2 p.m. CT / 1 p.m. MT

Register in advance to participate via Zoom: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/joining/register/dzpIN9s1TTaSK8NsQ6iyLA>

Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 7 p.m. CT / 6 p.m. MT

Register in advance to participate via Zoom: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/joining/register/pnQObf20R6CwNStMPjAZVw>

The public may join SDDOT staff in person for either virtual STIP presentation at the Aberdeen Region Office, Becker Hansen Building, Rapid City Region Office, or the Sioux Falls Area Office.

Region-specific project data (and recorded presentations) will be shared during the Zoom virtual meetings. For complete **Tentative 2027-2030 STIP** information, please view <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>. The site provides opportunities to give written comment/share questions related to upcoming planned projects.

Questions: Contact **Levi Briggs, STIP Coordinator**, at 605-773-3590.

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The Secretary's Corner



South Dakotans Shaping Transportation

At the SDDOT, public engagement is one of the most important components of transportation planning. The roads, bridges, and infrastructure we develop serve communities across the state, and the perspectives of those who use our transportation system help us make better decisions.

Our upcoming **Tentative 2027–2030 STIP Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** meetings provide an opportunity for South Dakotans to learn about planned transportation projects, review upcoming construction activities, and share feedback that helps guide our planning efforts. The STIP identifies highway and intermodal improvements to preserve, renovate, and enhance South Dakota's transportation system. **However, the STIP represents more than a list of projects—it reflects long-term investments intended to support safety, mobility, economic development, and quality of life across South Dakota.**

Input from residents, businesses, local governments and other stakeholders, freight partners, and travelers helps us better understand community needs and priorities. Public engagement strengthens the planning process by bringing local insight into statewide decision-making and ensuring transportation investments strive to align with needs of the people we serve, albeit working with the limited funding available to us.

To expand opportunities for participation, SDDOT continues to offer an innovative virtual STIP meeting room alongside in-person meetings held in conjunction with the Zoom presentations. The virtual experience allows customers to access project information at their own convenience—eliminating many of the barriers that can limit participation such as schedules, travel time, or location.

Through the virtual STIP room, visitors can explore project maps, review planning information, learn more about proposed improvements, and provide feedback whenever it works best for them. This approach gives more South Dakotans the opportunity to engage in the process and stay informed.



Meaningful public engagement helps create stronger transportation solutions. By listening, collaborating, and providing accessible ways for people to participate, we continue to build a transportation system that meets the needs today while preparing for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities. Transportation planning works best when it includes the voices of those who use the system every day. I encourage all SDDOT staff to participate in the Tentative STIP meetings to learn more about our planned projects.

Western States Coalition Leadership Academy (WSCLA)

By Jaynie Spier, Employee Development Coordinator

The **2026 Western States Coalition Leadership Academy (WSCLA)** brought together 40 DOT employees from Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming for two weeks of development, collaboration, and hands-on learning.

With a wide range of operational roles present from all states, the academy created an environment for building leadership capability, strengthening partnerships, and exchanging ideas to benefit our agencies for many years. Throughout the two weeks, teams were formed and tasked with researching and presenting topics chosen by each state's Transportation Secretary.

The chosen topics included:

- Creating a primer on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for DOT employees;
- Three major limitations for the use of AI in a DOT setting;
- Identifying and building the case for three transportation focused AI applications;
- With funding likely to decline, what are the vital few transportation services or programs we must not allow to decline; and
- Making a case for employees returning to the in-person work setting.

If you are interested in seeing these presentations, you can find them on **SDLearn** by typing "**Western States 2026 Presentations**" in the search bar.

SDDOT employees who participated in the training were Andy Vandell, Isaac Schultz, Brent Morford, Matt Dorfschmidt, Jana Uhrig, Corey Pinkley, Eric Larsen, and Brad Richards. These individuals noted the course had a positive impact on their work mindset and work goals.

Corey Pinkley shared, "The instructor was a very knowledgeable facilitator who was able to take questions from the group and use his own experience to help develop applicable answers for the class."

Another SDDOT participant noted they did not feel they were giving enough time to their staff prior to the course. The time spent at WSCLA confirmed that thought, explained why providing more time is important, and helped the staff member to engage more effectively with staff upon return.

If you are interested in participating in or learning more about WSCLA in 2027, please speak with your supervisor.

Pictured below are all 2026 WSCLA participants.



Pictured are SDDOT participants.



IT Systems Update

By: **Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist**

SDDOT is in the development and implementation phase of several new IT systems. These systems will strengthen our operations. However, this change doesn't come without some challenges as we transition from existing platforms. IT development can be dynamic as needs and implementation schedules are modified. BIT is providing monthly SDDOT system-related updates. These updates are posted on the Intranet at https://intranetdot.sd.gov/BIT_IT_Development_Updates.aspx. Below is a brief update about some of the significant systems in development and implementation.

EVERGREEN: EVERGREEN is the name for the new Human Resources system designed to replace TKS. As BHRA worked with agencies like ours to see how TKS is used, they realized that EVERGREEN was not fully meeting agency needs. It has been placed on hold indefinitely.

BISON: Project BISON is the name for the new State Finance system. The timeline for "go live" has been adjusted to **July 2027**. The updated BISON schedule includes:

- System Integration Testing (SIT): Begins mid-July 2026
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT): Tentatively scheduled for January–March 2027
- End User Training (EUT): Tentatively scheduled for May–June 2027

Current efforts are focused on refining the BISON solution in key areas such as Project Portfolio Management (PPM), Chart of Accounts / General Ledger / Budgetary Control, and Accounts Receivable.

MEMS: Maintenance & Equipment Management System (MEMS) Phase I, equipment and inventory management, was deployed nearly a year ago. Changes were being considered due to loss of some capabilities if TKS was replaced by EVERGREEN. Since EVERGREEN is on hold indefinitely, the focus area has been switched back to asset management. Focus is currently to prioritize assets and determine how they will be managed through MEMS.

eConstruction: The eConstruction system will replace the current Construction Measurement & Payment (CM&P) and Materials Sampling & Testing (MS&T) systems. The eConstruction implementation needed to be adjusted to align with BISON deployment to interact with the financial aspects. Work is ongoing to allow the new eConstruction system to communicate with the current financial system. This will allow for pilot projects next summer and readiness for full implementation after BISON goes live.

Needs Book: The Needs Book product launch and project wrap-up occurred with Project Management at the end of April. Look for the PDF version of the 2026 Needs Book to be released this Summer. The update will be located on the STIP Development page at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/stipdevelopment.aspx>. Additional information about this project will be available in upcoming DOT newsletters.

Bid Letting System: The bid letting system has been experiencing some issues and has become a priority to update and replace. An RFP is being prepared and is expected to be advertised later this summer. Once a vendor is selected a more definite schedule on replacement will be known.



BISON KDSR (Know, Do, Share, Report Back)

The monthly KDSR is your go-to resource to stay informed about BISON. Access it here: [May 2026 KDSR](#)
If you have questions or feedback, reach out to the BISON team at BISON@state.sd.us.

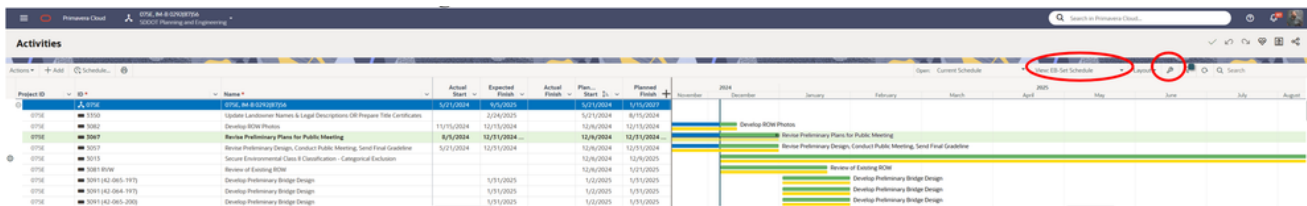
Primavera Tips/Tricks – Grouping and Sorting

SDDOT utilizes Primavera Cloud, which is a cloud-based scheduling software for the design phase of a project. Additionally, Primavera Cloud 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.

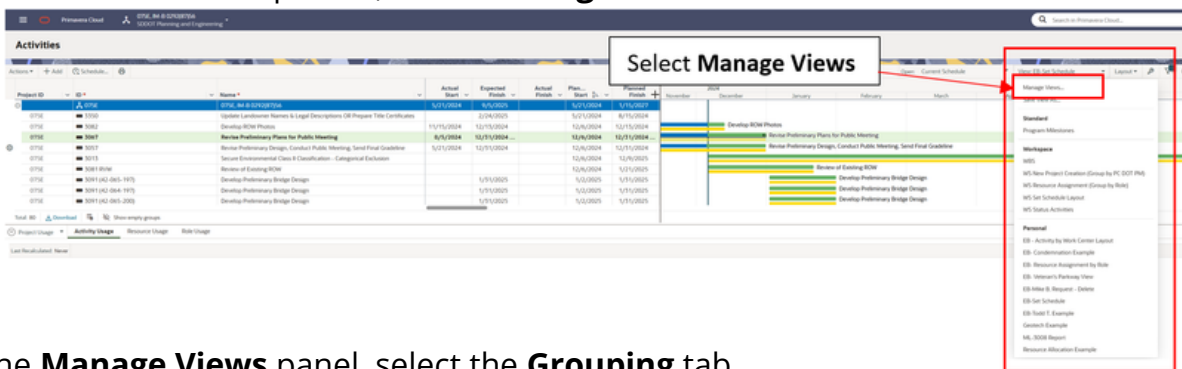
This tip demonstrates how to **Group and Sort Activities and Projects** on the activities page.

1. How to Configure Grouping

a. On the **Activities Page**, select **View** or the **Wrench icon**.

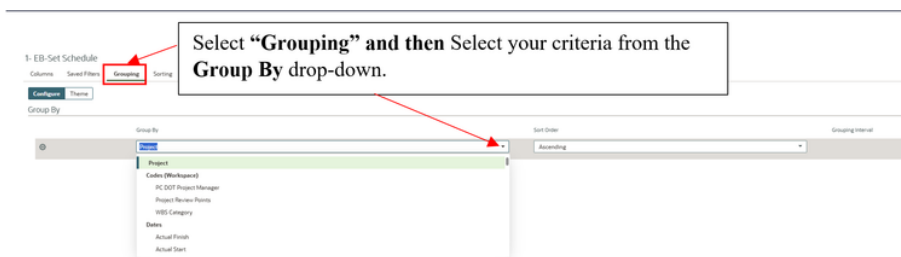


b. If you select **View** dropdown, select **Manage Views**.



c. In the **Manage Views** panel, select the **Grouping** tab.

d. Select your criteria from the **Group By** drop-down (e.g., WBS, Status, Activity Codes).



***Note** - You can add multiple **Group By** criteria.

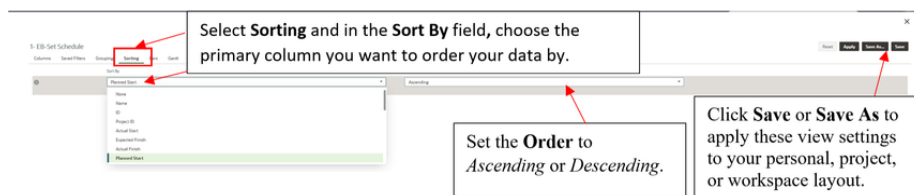
2. How to Configure Sorting

a. While in the **Manage Views** panel, select the **Sorting** tab.

b. In the **Sort By** field, choose the primary column you want to order your data by.

c. Set the **Order** to *Ascending* or *Descending*.

d. Click **Save** or **Save As** to apply these view settings to your personal, project, or workspace layout.



If you have questions about the Primavera Cloud software, please reach out to the Project Delivery Team.

Earl Berg (Earl.Berg@state.sd.us or 773-7191)

Kathryn Faubel (Kathryn.Faubel@state.sd.us or 773-3567)

Sale Complete for Wolsey Interchange/Yale Railroad Line

Data provided by: Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel and Jack Dokken, Air, Rail & Transit Program Manager

South Dakota's rail-preservation efforts date back to the late 1970s, when the state began purchasing rail corridors that were facing abandonment to ensure continued freight service and to support rural communities. Over time, this strategy has produced strong results on lines such as the Mitchell–Rapid City (MRC) corridor and the Sioux Valley Railroad line, where federal and state investment helped transition deteriorating rail assets back into successful private operation.

The SDDOT is pleased to share that negotiations for the sale of the Wolsey Interchange and Yale Railroad Line to Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E) are complete. The purchase agreement has now been finalized by both SDDOT and RCP&E. The final step in the process, Surface Transportation Board approval, is currently pending.

A BIG THANKS to everyone who contributed to this complex effort. From on-site inspections and permit reviews to detailed legal and technical document preparation and many meetings. **Special thanks to team members who played key roles throughout the process, including Karla Engle, Paul Coppock, Jack Dokken, Misty Siedschlaw, Rocky Matson and all others involved in negotiations, coordination, and support.** Your dedication and professionalism have ensured a smooth process and continue to advance our mission of Better Lives Through Better Transportation.

Railroads were the first major transportation infrastructure in South Dakota and are an important part of delivering better lives through better transportation. The State of South Dakota, acting through SDDOT, currently owns active railroad lines. SDDOT got into the rail business in the early 1980s. At that time, railroad companies were facing bankruptcy and were planning to abandon rail corridors throughout South Dakota. The loss of freight rail service threatened South Dakota's ability to compete in the marketplace. By buying threatened rail lines, the State ensured continued freight rail service for communities that were dependent on railroads to get commodities to market.

Since acquiring these lines, SDDOT has partnered with the federal government, local governments, and private industries and donors to rebuild large segments of previously threatened rail lines. These investments have revitalized rail service in South Dakota.

For example, when the State acquired the Mitchell to Rapid City rail line in the early 1980s, the number of railcars shipping on the line averaged 1,000 cars per year. By the time SDDOT sold this rail line in 2021, over 10,000 railcars were shipping on the line each year.

Shipping by rail results in less wear and tear on our highways and is often more cost-effective, which improves profits for South Dakota's farmers, ranchers, and industries. Because of these successful revitalization efforts, SDDOT has returned many rail lines to private ownership and put the lines back on the property tax rolls. SDDOT's latest rail line sale involves the interchange at Wolsey and the railroad that runs from Huron to Yale, South Dakota. SDDOT is selling these assets to Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad.

How Much “Trust” Do We Put Into Safety?

By: Chuck Layton, Safety Manager

Every day, we depend on a variety of safety measures both personally and professionally—often without even realizing it. For example, we trust that our brakes will respond when needed, the safety harness will provide reliable protection, and the bucket attachment on the skid steer to remain securely locked. These moments of trust are woven into our routines, shaping how we approach both familiar and unexpected situations.

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the profound influence trust has on both our daily routines and workplace interactions. It's astonishing how much faith we place in others. For instance, when I lived in Anchorage, AK, I often observed pedestrians stepping boldly into crosswalks as soon as the signal granted them the right of way. They trusted drivers to stop, regardless of the challenging conditions. Anchorage winters are notorious for their icy roads, strong winds, heavy snowfall, all of which make it tough for vehicles to halt even at slow speeds. Evidence of these difficulties was everywhere: bent stop signs from cars sliding into them. Yet, pedestrians continued to rely on drivers' ability to stop safely. Unfortunately, that trust sometimes led to injuries and damaged vehicles.

Trust plays a pivotal role not just for pedestrians, but also for bicyclists navigating busy streets alongside cars and large commercial vehicles. There is an inherent risk and trust factor shared by both the motorists and cyclist. Rather than fixating on fault or apportioning blame when accidents happen, it's far more impactful to prioritize the real-world consequences—these outcomes are what truly matter, regardless of who was technically correct.

Adopting this mindset inspires us to carefully assess the risks we face on the road each day. It underscores that safety must be more than just following rules or technical guidelines—it requires a genuine commitment to proactive measures. By emphasizing shared responsibility and heightened vigilance, we create an environment where everyone benefits from safer conditions.

Cultivating a strong safety culture means moving beyond passive optimism and taking deliberate action to ensure that safety protocols are consistently upheld. Rather than assuming everything will go smoothly, it's essential to actively verify that measures are in place and functioning as intended. This involves embracing practical habits—such as routinely wearing personal protective equipment, placing wheel chocks when needed, fastening seat belts every time, and conducting regular equipment inspections and brake checks. These actions, though simple and easy to implement, gradually become second nature and have a profound impact on overall safety.

Additionally, among the array of proactive strategies available, slowing down when circumstances demand extra vigilance stands out as one of the most powerful ways to prevent accidents. By making these practices part of our daily routine, we not only reduce risks but also foster an environment where safety is a shared responsibility and a collective priority. This approach reinforces a culture where everyone is empowered to act thoughtfully and consistently, ensuring safer outcomes for all.

Furthermore, exercising Stop Work Authority and conducting thorough Hazard 360 Assessments empowers us to identify and address potential hazards before they escalate into incidents. By remaining alert to the “Trust Factor” and supplementing it with purposeful, consistent actions, we avoid leaving safety to chance. Ultimately, it's our collective awareness and willingness to act that forms the bedrock of a secure environment for everyone involved.

Our **Safety Values** must align with: *“Better Lives through Better Transportation”*

Interstate Highway System - 70 years of Advancing Connections:

On June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act, launching one of the most significant infrastructure achievements in American history. Seventy years later, the Interstate Highway System continues to connect communities, support commerce, advance safety, and improve mobility across our state and nation. For seven decades, America's Interstates have connected people to opportunities, families to loved ones, and businesses to markets. What began as a planned 41,000-mile network has grown into more than 48,000 miles of roadway serving all 50 states.

South Dakota Construction Legacy:

In South Dakota, Interstates 90 and 29 serve as critical corridors for residents, visitors, and commercial transportation. Each day, these routes help move people and goods safely and efficiently across our state and beyond. **The Interstate Highway System is more than pavement—it's a critical link in America's economy.**

Transportation Professionals - Advance Safety, Enhance Mobility, and Foster Economic Growth:

As we reflect on 70 years of progress, we also recognize the generations of transportation professionals whose dedication has built, maintained, and improved this remarkable transportation legacy. Behind every mile of Interstate is a story of planning, engineering, construction, and maintenance. I want to thank each of our SDDOT employees – past and present - for your commitment to public service. While much has changed since the Interstate Highway System was originally developed, our mission remains the same: providing a safe and efficient public transportation system.

For 70 years, the Interstate Highway System has seamlessly moved people, products, and possibilities — demonstrating how transportation improves lives, strengthens communities, and creates opportunity.

Then.



Now.



News You Can Use

Your Monthly Update in Under Four Minutes!



June Watercooler

This month's topics:

- 1. Open Enrollment Follow-Up
- 2. The Well-Being Reward
- 3. The Explore the Outdoors Challenge
- 4. SDLearn
- 5. The Bureau Buzz

Click here to watch on [YouTube](#) or the [OneDrive](#)!



Picture the SDDOT
Photo Contest



2nd Annual "Picture the SDDOT" Photo Contest

Picture the SDDOT submission deadline is Friday, Nov. 13, 2026. The contest features photos submitted by and voted upon by SDDOT staff. Submit photos [here](#) or scan the QR Code! Contest information is also available on the Intranet at "[Picture the SDDOT](#)".



Click on the graphic to access the nomination form. The [Impact Award Informational Flyer](#) provides additional details too.

Please take the time to recognize the hard work of your co-workers!



2026
IMPACT AWARDS

Submit a nomination for a team or an individual who has gone above and beyond in demonstrating the Department's mission and vision!



Reminder: We encourage continued recognition of individual and team efforts through the SDDOT KUDOS Board! It's a great way to highlight and appreciate the contributions of individual employees all year long! The Kudos Board can be found on the homepage of the Intranet.



Submit your nominations by Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 for consideration!





June Mentoring Minute:

Teeing up a Successful Mentoring Relationship By: Tel Saucerman and Scott Eisenbeisz

Hey mentees and mentors! Hopefully, your mentoring journey has gotten off to a momentous start, and it will only continue to get better and better. Your mentoring experience depends so much upon relationship building and what you put into it, so put an emphasis on spending quality time with your mentor or mentee and keep taking the initiative to learn and grow and do GREAT things.

Here is a quick illustration to show you the importance of BOTH the mentor and the mentee in our mentor/mentee relationships.

You've established a mentor/mentee relationship, and you've chosen a goal to accomplish. For the sake of this illustration, your goal is to drive a golf ball as far as humanly possible. We're all familiar with a golf tee, but did you know that originally a tee was a small cone-shaped mound of sand, on which a golf ball is placed to be driven. This is advantageous for your golf swing, for driving the ball farther, less friction, and positions the ball right where you want it. It's about getting all the components and moving parts to work together smoothly and efficiently to achieve a desired outcome.

And unless you're from England, you may not know what a "tor" is. A tor is a high, usually rocky hill. From atop a hill, you can see farther, and you can hit the ball much farther. This is the benefit of a mentor. Now put the tor and the tee together, and you have the maximum benefit of driving the ball farther; there's virtually no limits when you combine the tor and the tee.

To summarize, without the tee, maybe you drive the ball a pitiful 100 yards. By utilizing the tee, you manage to drive an impressive 200 yards. With the tee and the wonderful position of the tor, you improve to an awesome **Happy Gilmoresque** 400 yards. You see what we're getting at. **You've heard it said: TEAM stands for "together everyone achieves more." The emphasis is on "together"! Mentors benefit, and mentees benefit, and together you benefit everyone!**

You can achieve great things, but first you have to take a swing. Ok, if you're not going to say it, we'll yell it out for you, **"FORE!!!"**

Mentoring Upcoming Events:

Construction Project Tours

- Rapid City - July 15, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (MDT)
- Pierre - July 21, 2026 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CDT)
- Sioux Falls - July 22, 2026 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CDT)

Make Time for Mentoring!

Training & Development Opportunities

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

**Simplified coding is available for ALL training courses!
Use function 1175; no AFE needed!**



- If you would like the recurring meeting added to your calendar, email DOTLMS@state.sd.us.
- If you'd like to know when a new recording is available, follow the [SDDOT It Pays to Train](#) playlist on SDLearn.

New Courses in SDLearn:

- Pavement Repair Calculations and Worksite Planning
- SDDOT Construction Manual Overview
- Western States 2026 Presentations
- Construction Safety Awareness: Working Safely in Work Zones
- Buy America Informational Webinar

Upcoming Courses:

- First Aid/CPR/AED | July 14, 2026 | Pierre
- NHI 135048 Countermeasure Design for Bridge Scour & Stream Instability | Sept. 22-24, 2026 | Pierre
- NHI 130053 Bridge Inspection Refresher | Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2026 | Sioux Falls

Click on the SDLearn graphic or use this link to sign in: [SDLearn](#)



Search by the **complete course name** listed.

Finance Corner



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

First Annual Chip Happens Dip Competition

Information By Hannah Covey - Pierre Region Traffic Engineer

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026, the Pierre Region Complex (Maintenance Shop, Repair Shop, Pierre Area, and Pierre Region Staff) competed in the **first annual Chip Happens Dip Competition**. We had 14 entries and 23 ballots collected. Participants tried the delicious dips and received an "I Voted" sticker.



The winner was **Kallie Fees, Pierre Region Accounting Assistant**, with her Strawberry Cheesecake Dip. She is shown receiving her trophy from **Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer**. The competition was FIERCE with **Anna Mefferd** in a close second with her "The Dip" which was a warm, crab rangoon filling with homemade wonton chips. Honorable mention was **Jacob Larson** with his "Fire in the Mole!" spicy guacamole. All entries were delicious.

We did have one entry, that although was in a personal container, tasted suspiciously similar to the jalapeno artichoke dip at the Walmart deli. But maybe **Jason Humphrey** just knows the recipe or perhaps it was a "Choke of Genius". Thank you to all that participated!

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Kelsey Goodridge, Jaynie Spier, Brenda Thomas, and Tel Saucerman had the pleasure of experiencing **Michele Beeler's** outstanding portrayal of "Kate" during the theatre production of *Sylvia in Pierre*.



2026 SDDOT Bowling Tournament Winners

By: Mary Hoyt (Central Office - Pierre)

- 1st place: **Laurie Gustafson & Micah Howard**
- 2nd place: **Joshua Janes & Cheri Bartlett** (not pictured)
- 3rd place: **Sarah Gilkerson & Jim Hyde**
- 4th place: **Anna Mefferd & Carl Chambers**

We had 48 teams of 2, for a total of 96 people that bowled this year.

Pictured left to right: **Jim Hyde, Sarah Gilkerson, Joshua Janes, Laurie Gustafson, Micah Howard, Anna Mefferd, and Carl Chambers.**



Congratulations to **Austin Martensen (Junction City Maintenance Worker)** and **Julia Ensminger** on the birth of their baby boy!

Crew Gerald Martensen was born on May 28, 2026, weighing 3 lbs. 9oz. and was 16 inches long.

Crew was born early at 31 weeks.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates - New Hires, Promotions/Lateral Position Changes, and Longevity

June New Hires:

Cody Bettelyoun, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mission
Wesley Bridges, Highway Maintenance Worker, Isabel
Daniel Frieden, Construction Technician, Rapid City
Joseph Gerber, Highway Maintenance Worker, Presho
Don Jennings, Highway Maintenance Worker, Presho
Jarin Malsam, Equipment Technician, Aberdeen
John Peck, Highway Maintenance Worker, Bonesteel
Michael Warejcka, Highway Maintenance Worker, Chamberlain
Bryan Wellman, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City
Terrance Weickum, Highway Maintenance Worker, Chamberlain



June Promotions/Lateral Position Updates:

Robert Carrico, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Aberdeen
Austin Taylor, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Plakington
Glenn Walz, Engineer Manager I (Region Design Team Lead), Mitchell



Miles of Service

June Longevity:

Scott Simonsen, Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Yankton Area)
Luke Kohls, Senior Construction Technician – 20 years (Watertown Area)
Travis Lopour, Aggregate Lab Technician – 20 years (Central Lab – M&S)
Scott Eisenbeisz, Region Business Manager – 20 years (Aberdeen Region)
Kris Royalty, Survey Crew Chief – 25 years (Mitchell Area)
Justin Purintun, Highway Maintenance Worker – 25 years (Huron Area)
Brian VanDam, Transportation Project Manager – 35 years (Sioux Falls Area)
Eric Stroeder, Highway Construction Project Engineer Manager – 35 years (Mobridge Area)
Dave Huft, Program Manager – 55 years (Central Office / ITS)

**Dave Huft, Intelligent Transportation Systems
Program Manager, (Central Office - Pierre) is
celebrating 55 years of service in June.**

**Dave has achieved a remarkable milestone as
the longest-serving employee in the history of
the South Dakota Department of
Transportation.**



SDDOT Employee News and Updates Employee Longevity - Miles of Service



John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer, (right) presents **Eric Stroeder, Mobridge Area Engineering Supervisor,** with his 35-year longevity pin.



Justin Purintun, Highway Maintenance Worker, DeSmet, (right) received his 25-year longevity pin from **David Jennings Highway Maintenance Supervisor – Huron Unit 191.**



Luke Kohls, Sr. Construction Technician, Watertown (left) received his 20-year longevity pin from **Jeff Brink, Engineering Manager, Watertown.**



Darrel Henrichsen, Sr. Construction Technician, Rapid City (left) received his 20-year longevity pin from **John Gerlach, Engineering Manager, Rapid City.**



Scott Eisenbeisz, Aberdeen Region Business Manager, (left) received his 20-year longevity pin from **Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer.**



Employee Longevity - Miles of Service



Scott Simonsen, Highway Maintenance Worker (Menno), celebrated 20 years of dedicated service to the SDDOT. Presenting Scott with his longevity pin is **John Huber, Maintenance Supervisor** (right).



Myron Haar, Aberdeen Region Equipment Tech, (right) received his 10-year longevity pin from **Jeff Walz, Aberdeen Region Shop Foreman**.



John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer, (left) presents **Raymond "RJ" Joens, Highway Maintenance Supervisor - Unit 372 (Eagle Butte, Isabel, McIntosh)** with his 10-year longevity pin.



Andrea Bierle, Environmental Engineer II, (right) received her 10-year longevity pin from **Joanne Hight, Admin Program Manager**.



Celebrating SDDOT Retirements

Kevin Griese, Geotechnical Engineer Manager, retired on June 8, 2026. Kevin worked for SDDOT for over 38 years. Congrats to Kevin on his retirement!



Monte Rice, Senior Region Design Manager, Mitchell Region, retired in June with more 35 years of service. Congrats to Monte on his retirement!



Congratulations to **Donnie Ehlers, Highway Maintenance Worker**, who retired June 8, 2026, after eight years of service at the Hayes Shop. Pictured is Donnie with his grandson Grayson.



In Sympathy



Sympathy is extended to Dail Mollard, Labor Law Compliance Officer (Central Office - Pierre) on the recent passing of her mother.

Mary LeHew-Nutter-Badger-Archer passed away on June 7, 2026, in Soldotna, Alaska.

Mary's Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, at the Ft. Pierre Senior Center.



Sympathy is extended to Susan Geigle, Senior Secretary (Central office - Pierre) on the recent passing of her sister.

Tammy Lynn Kabris passed away on June 3, 2026, in Rapid City.

Tammy's visitation was held on June 8, 2026, at Kirk Funeral Home with burial the following day at Pine Lawn Memorial Park in Rapid City.

