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Blizzard Buster (Sioux Falls Area)

Keith Voegeli, Jared Lahr,
Christine Wanless Family, and Curt Theisen



Plowabunga (Winner Area)

Doug Sherman, Gregg Ulmer, David Lolley,
Shannon White Buffalo and the Bartlett Family



Catch My Drift (Belle Fourche Area)

Belle Fourche HMW, Karl Hulin is pictured with
employees from Lantis Enterprise who recently
met their employee-named snowplow.



The Secretary's Corner

Employee Meetings:

Thanks to everyone for attending our SDDOT employee meeting this fall and winter. We truly appreciate your participation, and hope you found value in the experience.

As stated during the employee meetings, the Q&A portion was recorded, along with initial presentations by me and the directors. If you missed attending an employee meeting, I encourage you to take the time to listen to the audio recordings.

Thank you for the questions asked through the employee meeting survey process. All questions, with responses, are available at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/employee.aspx>



Transportation Hall of Honor:

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

The Committee seeks nominees who have gained the admiration of their peers and earned distinction in the transportation field. Nominee contributions to consider are technological innovations, political activity, legislative accomplishments, creativity, time and cost saving initiatives, and economic impact on behalf of public transportation efforts within our state.

Anyone is welcome to submit a nomination. Nomination forms are available online on our homepage at <https://dot.sd.gov> under the featured resources section; or by contacting Kari Kroll at 605-773-5105 or kari.kroll@state.sd.us. The deadline for submitting nominations is 5 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2023.



Find **Employee Meeting** recordings on the SDDOT Intranet site at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/employee.aspx> in the **2022-2023 Employee Meetings** section.



The IT Roadmap By Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist

- Roadmapping is the process of continually looking at where we want to be in five or ten years
- Eventually there will be multiple maps

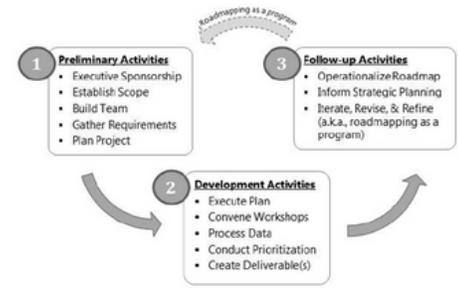
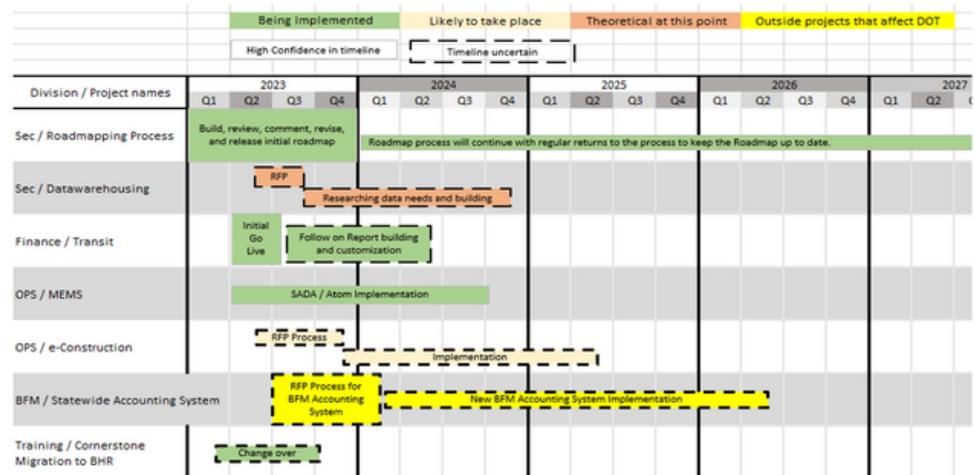


Figure 2: Three phases of a roadmapping project, with completed cycle indicating roadmapping as a program

The IT Roadmap is a high-level view of DOT’s software needs over time. The main purpose of the roadmap is to give us a sense as a Department of **what** needs to be replaced and **when!**

What is the purpose of an IT Roadmap? Our goal is to prioritize changes so that we don’t over commit staff time or budgets. We want to make the transition to new systems as smoothly as possible!

Replacing software is expensive in terms of dollars and staff time. The purpose of the roadmap is help us set priorities about replacements and upgrades with available budgets and staff.



What does an IT Roadmap look like?

To get the information we need for the Roadmap, we will host a series of staff workshops (beginning in April) to develop a department-wide perspective.

Initial Steps – Roadmap Workshops:

- Meet with each office/program to:
- Review the systems they currently use
 - Identify problems and new features needed
 - Evaluate based on priority guidelines
 - Include BIT as their own meeting

This would be the initial round. Once the first roadmap is in place, there will be a continual process to go into deeper details with staff groups for updates.

This process will not always be about replacing software. We’ll find that some software works well and we will simply keep using it. Some software, with work, can be made to meet all our needs, and we can keep it. And, of course, some will need to be replaced.

I recently presented at a supervisor's forum. You can watch the presentation at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/> (Passcode provided to access the presentation)



R.U.P.E.R.T

(Remote Underground Pipe Evaluation Recon Tool)

By Josh Bench-Bresher, Shane Carnahan, Joanne Hight,
and Peyton Weyer



Asset Management plays a crucial role in the development of the state highway systems we enjoy and rely on today. Since the 1970's, the South Dakota Department of Transportation has developed asset management processes to optimize the highway network and make the most efficient use of funding. As **Secretary of Transportation Joel Jundt** has said, "Roads and bridges support so much of our way of life here in South Dakota. As the efficiency and condition of our highways and bridges continue to improve, so does our economy and quality of life."

At the SDDOT, we focus upon our vision of Better Lives Through Better Transportation! The big picture of "Better Lives Through Better Transportation" involves many processes. One very important process is culvert inspection. Culverts have an important role in a roadway system and can be difficult to maintain. When the data from the first round of culvert inspections was analyzed, it became clear that better tools to evaluate the condition of the entire length of each culvert were needed. In 2017 the department started looking at tools available on the market and what other states and entities were using for this task. One device that was being used by Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) stood out. MNDOT's equipment was called HIVE (Hydraulics Inspection Vehicle Explorer). It is a remote-control truck with a camera and lights that can pan up/down and left/right. This platform was appealing because it didn't require extensive training, it is highly portable, and it is low cost compared to the options on the market at that time. After some modifications to the design and a few more adjustments after using the initial prototype, the Remote Underground Pipe Evaluation Recon Truck or RUPERT was born.

To date, SDDOT has designed and built three versions of RUPERT.

The first design, **RUPERT 1.0**, was based on the MNDOT HIVE with some modifications.

RUPERT 1.0



Continued on next page . . .

RUPERT 2.0

RUPERT 2.0 (featured on the next page) was developed in 2019 as a replacement for a RUPERT 1.0 due to the need for mobility and functionality improvements. RUPERT 2.0 had a larger chassis and tires. It was easier to control due to being slower, and it had a more robust pan and tilt frame for the camera. Even though RUPERT 2.0 had some nice improvements, there was still room for more. Early in 2022, the decision was made to update the aging RUPERT 1.0 and 2.0 vehicles.



To gather input based on real world experience, the Asset Management Team arranged virtual meetings with field staff who used the previous versions of RUPERT across the state. There were a lot of great recommendations, many of which proposed the use of new technology that would greatly improve RUPERT and make the tool much easier to use. For example, the stationary 360-degree camera is easier to operate compared to the previous manual pan and tilt system and captures everything inside the culvert. The previous system required the operator to identify deficiencies then pan and tilt the camera to get a good view of it. The camera and vehicle controls also have an improved range reaching over 300 feet inside a culvert. **RUPERT 3.0** is equipped with a new chassis that utilizes rubber tracks for more stable footing and a significant improvement in traction.

RUPERT 3.0



After the first prototype of **RUPERT 3.0** was built and tested in the Summer of 2022, five more units were constructed and sent to Area Offices for further evaluation. To date, feedback has been very positive and noted vast improvement over the previous versions. The few suggestions for improvement that were received are now being considered in the final version that will be constructed for other Area Offices. The Asset Management Team expects construction of this next batch of RUPERT 3.0 will start Spring 2023 and hope they continue to be a viable tool for managing the statewide culvert system.

The goal for the Asset Management Team and RUPERT 3.0 is to keep our transportation system safe for years to come by creating “Better Lives Through Better Transportation”.



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
March 2023

TLN COURSES

[Construction Negotiating](#)

Mar. 28 | 9:00 am | Zoom

REQUIRED SUPERVISORY COURSES

[Civil Treatment Workplace for Leaders](#)

Mar. 28 | 1:00 pm | Sioux Falls

Mar. 30 | 1:00 pm | Pierre

Apr. 13 | 8:00 am | Pierre

[Interview & Selection](#)

Mar. 28 | 10:00 am | Teams

May 10 | 1:00 pm | Pierre

[Having Hard Conversations \(previously Documenting Discipline\)](#)

Apr. 4 | 9:00 am | Rapid City

[CPC: Taking the Coach Approach](#)

Apr. 5 | 9:00 am | Teams

NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[Grant Writing Class](#)

May 18-19 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Pierre

[NHI 134049 Successfully Managing Construction Scheduling & Risk](#)

Self-Paced, Online Course, approx. 4 hours

NEW SDLEARN LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

Looking for professional development courses or BHR courses? Check out the new SDLearn Learning Management System (LMS) at <https://sdlearn.csod.com>

Trouble trying to access BHR's [SDLearn](#) LMS?

For the Single-Sign-On (SSO) to work with [SDLearn](#) your email address in Employee Space needs to reference your work email. Follow these steps to check your email.

1. Log in to your [Employee Space](#) → Select **Proceed to Employee Space**.
2. Select **SoSD AzureAD**
3. Select **Edit Profile** → **Personal Information**
4. Double-click the email address to edit if necessary.

BHR SELF-PACE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



[Ignite](#) offers five different tracks to serve all levels of leadership and allows employees the chance to learn at their own pace. Each level has its own course curriculum page, learning path page, and recommended book list.

The five levels of leadership covered in Ignite include:

- **Any-Level Leaders** (AFE#7481) for those who do not supervise but have influence
- **Aspiring Leaders** (AFE#75F9) for those aspiring to be a supervisor
- **First-Time Supervisors** (AFE#74G7) for those new supervisors with 0-5 years supervisory experience
- **Mid-Level Managers & Experienced Supervisors** (AFE#7404) for those who supervise supervisors or have long-term experience as a supervisor
- **Senior Leaders & High-level Teams** (AFE#7498) for those people and teams serving at the highest levels

Engineering Safety Awards

Presented at the Winter Engineering Meetings in Feb. and March in Oacama



Safest Engineering for Rapid City Region: Tie - Custer (L) and Belle Fourche (R)



**Safest Engineering for the Pierre Region:
Pierre Area**



Left: Safest Engineering for the Aberdeen Region: Watertown Area



Right: Safest Engineering Mitchell Region: Sioux Falls Area

**Safest Engineering Statewide
winner is Belle Fourche!**

**Statewide Safest Operations:
Mitchell Region Operations! -
Picture Coming Soon!**



Welcome Back to the Mentoring Program!

By: Wyatt Reis and Ariana Griffey

Secretary Jundt's recent Information Interchange announced the SDDOT's Mentoring Program is back in full swing. The Mentoring Program is an excellent opportunity to help develop your career path, build, and establish a network of professional relationships, develop, and enhance your skill set, and improve your leadership qualities.

"The experiences and networking opportunities that I have gained through the Mentoring Program has really impacted me in gaining knowledge of the SDDOT organization and meeting fellow state employees that may not have otherwise been available." - **Wyatt Reis**

"The Mentoring Program has allowed me to make a positive difference in fellow colleagues careers at the DOT. I would not have this opportunity to get to know past mentee's throughout my everyday position." - **Ariana Griffey**

Registration for the program is open until April 5th, so get your applications in now. The Mentoring Program is open to ALL employees who have completed their probationary period. If you have questions about the program itself please feel free to reach out to any of the members on the **Mentoring Committee (June Hansen, Brad Remmich, Scott Eisenbeisz, Tim Wicks, Ariana Griffey, Joe Sestak, Wyatt Reis, John Villbrandt, Brad Norrid, Kellie Beck, Jason Baker, and Matt Dorfschmidt)**, or anyone you know who has participated in the program to get their perspective as well. The instructions to sign up are included below.

Getting started:

Visit <https://www.mentoringconnection.com>

Click on **Become a Member** button

Enter the **Group ID: SDDOT**

Select your Role: **Mentor or Mentee**

Complete your User Profile & click Continue

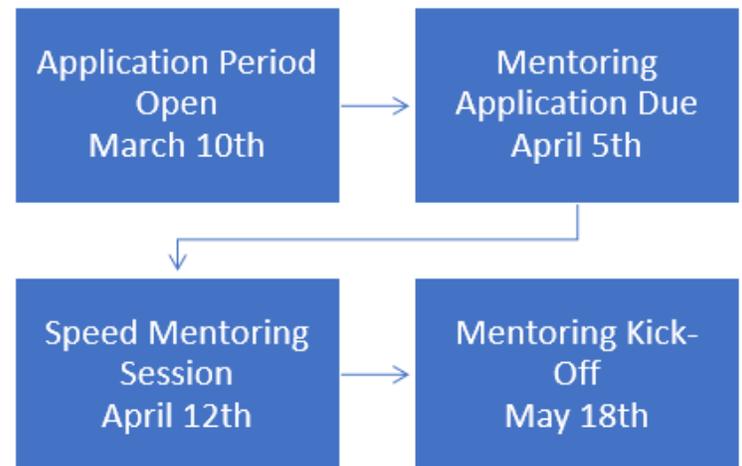
Complete your Application Form & click I'm Done

To log back in after creating an account:

Go to <https://www.mentoringconnection.com>

Enter your User ID and Password

Upcoming Key Program Dates:



Please take advantage of this opportunity to actively engage in the mentoring program for **your personal growth and professional development** within the SDDOT!

Make time for Mentoring!



WORKFORCE

"By making an effort to be a positive presence at work, you can improve employee morale among your coworkers and leave a lasting impression. Whether your actions are large or small, you can make a major difference."



Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

·Joanne Hight (Administration Program Manager) from Pierre will moderate “The Art of Authenticity.” The book is a guide to becoming a better leader by achieving your best self.

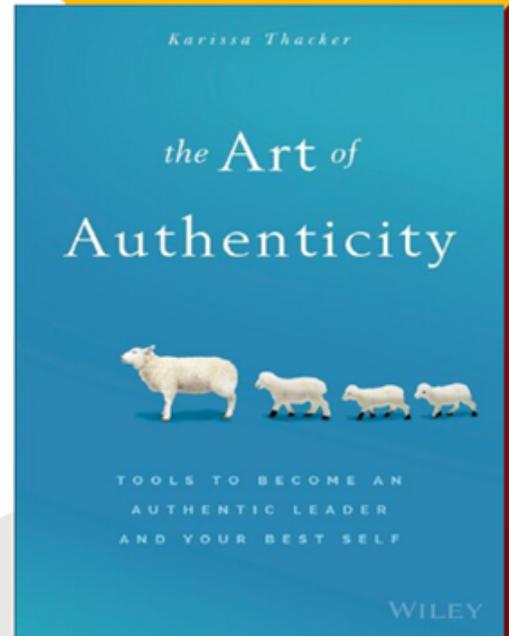
·The book club is limited to **35 people**.

·If you or someone you know would like to participate in the book club, please visit with your supervisor to make sure that your participation won’t impact your work schedule.

·Participation is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

·Books will be provided to all participants.

The book club will be held in person at:
Becker-Hansen Building Commission Room
700 E Broadway Ave Pierre SD 57501
Or via Microsoft Teams



Wednesday
June 7, 2023
11am – 2pm

*This is a working lunch.
Please bring your lunch

Contact Scott to sign up:
scott.eisenbeisz@state.sd.us
605-626-7874

*Registration Ends March 31, 2023



SDDOT will be recognized for being do-gooders!

By Kari Kroll

Feeding South Dakota will recognize SDDOT during the April's Volunteer Appreciation Month in the Group Volunteer feature.



March 2023



May 2022



June 2022



January 2023

What started as a few times a year thought has turned into a twice a month practice. Even better, we always have a full volunteer roster from the Central Office and Pierre vicinity folks. We meet after work hours for fellowship, laughs, and philanthropy. There is definitely group of dedicated folks that go any time their schedule allows and we have so much fun that new people are getting inducted into that group every month.

THANK YOU to everyone for your hard work and dedication to our community!

If you ever are in Pierre the evening of one of our events (5 – 7 p.m.), COME JOIN US! We'd love to have you! All you need to do is email me (Kari.Kroll@state.sd.us) to get signed up. Our volunteer events are private for just DOT staff so the only way in is through me.

Upcoming dates: April 13 & 25, May 9 & 25, June 6 & 22, July 11 & 27, and Aug. 8 & 24, 2023.

Transit Spotlight on Jessica Pickett, Transit Director of Palace Transit in Mitchell

By Jennifer Boehm

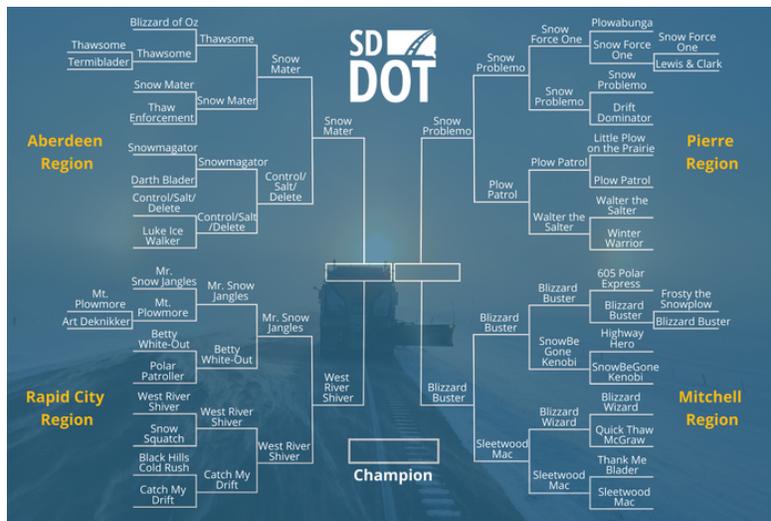


Why do you love your job? For Jessica Pickett, the director of Palace Transit in Mitchell it is a combination of serving customers, co-workers and being the best she can be. When Jessica was in college she was working for a non-profit whenever she wasn't studying. Through that experience, she learned she wanted to make her career in a non-profit agency.

After college she worked for a couple of for-profit businesses until she was hired at a transit agency. Jessica was hired at first to be their Palace Transit's Community Involvement Specialist working with their volunteer and head start programs before being promoted to the Transportation Manager position. Now Jessica is the head of the City of Mitchell's Community Services Department. Not only does she oversee Palace Transit, but she also oversees Mitchell's Adult Nutrition Program, Mitchell Volunteer Program, and the operations at the James Valley Community Center.

When asked 'What do you like about your job/life in transit?' Jessica said she enjoys the people! "I love the times I get to go out and drive the bus and meet the wonderful people we serve. The staff I work with are amazing and are truly caring individuals. The other transit directors are absolutely wonderful, incredibly knowledgeable, passionate, and extremely helpful."

In FY 2021-2022, Palace Transit drove 126,435 miles within Davison County, gave 74,948 rides which averages out to 1.7 rides per mile.



2023 SDDOT Named Snowplows Blizzard Bracket The public awareness campaign highlights the work of our 36 named snowplows in a bracketed single-elimination contest to determine the Fan Favorite! Entering the "Frosty Four", **22,000 votes** had been cast in the contest on our website or through social media. **Click on the Bracket to vote!**

Logan Patrick (and family) met the plow they named "Sleetwood Mac" from the Mitchell Area.

Aaron Climer, Mitchell Area snowplow operator, introduced his truck now named "Sleetwood Mac" to Logan, his wife Andrea, and son Jack.

Jack LOVED all the yellow SDDOT trucks!





SDDOT Workforce Evolution

By Dean VanDeWiele
(Originally written in 2016 - Still applicable today!)

I grew up in the days of 8-tracks, bell bottoms, pinball machines, Elvis, and the revolutionary brain fart known as the "lawn dart". Yes, there's a beer drinking game for you. When talking to those folks who started their careers in the 60's and 70's, they would tell you about measuring with planimeters, big drafting tables, smoking in the offices (w/state issued ash trays), comp time in lieu of overtime, file cabinets galore, plan rooms, leaded gas, and snowplows w/internal heaters that would ensure your food would stay cold for the duration of your round.

Lee Iacocca influenced our 80's w/the "K" car...a hint better than the AMC Gremlin, but not much. DOT gobbled the "K" car up like Pac Man along w/our Datsun pickups. Computers were coming onto the scene and our design offices were transitioning from pen and paper to keyboards and screens. The computer was on a cart, and rolled around Road Design where you got to utilize the computer for a set amount of time to run your earthwork. If you had any questions, you could call out on the squad shared land line phone. Old plans could be reviewed on microfiche, and we could drive the roads w/video log. The 286 and 386 computers were monsters of the day, and 4 meg of Ram was a lot of memory. The 5 ¼" floppy was replaced by the 3 ½" disc, and whoah was it big when the CD came on the scene. As long as you didn't scratch it, memory was huge, and music/ data quality was preserved.

We brought in bag phones in the 90's, and wasn't I a cool dude with my 3 watt bag phone w/oversized digits in my 89 Chevy(non-extended cab, non AC, with an AM Delco radio, since AC and FM were considered luxuries, and would keep a young engineer sitting in his truck). What is this email thing, and I wonder if this will stick around? CEAL(green screen field office earthwork software) and IGRDS(Road Design earthwork software) went wayside for InRoads. Total stations came on the scene, and heaven forbid we blue top with this technology. We got rid of the single axle plow, the hammerhead came and went, Microsoft office became our standard, and the gridded green engineering paper became scarce, with Excel being the new norm. Computer memory was needed at an exponential rate, and a personal computer was now in every cubicle, every field office, w/every maintenance supervisor, and every lead worker. And we entered Power Point heaven or hell . . . you decide.

In the 2000's life got even faster. Flip phones started to replace CB radios, and the American w/Disabilities(ADA) Act became front and center. We were now cognizant of ADA in our projects and our buildings as many a DOT office/shop/rest area were being reviewed and re-designed with ADA in mind. Most snow plows finally had a warm shop to rest in at night. And the science of snow removal took the leap of faith going to 100% salt application w/MgCl or salt brine(which is better between MgCl and salt brine is a conversation that can entertain for hours pending who you talk to). Plows became \$200,000 computers on wheels, with an MIT degree and 200 hours of Xbox experience necessary to properly operate. **(Continued . . .)**

Storm water and environmental preservation became a part of every facet of DOT. ASD went to LRFD. In the mid 2000's, technology starting sprinting into our lives even faster w/the introduction of 511, the smart phone, the one call process, Sub surface utility exploration(SUE- thank you Mr. Hausmann), online plan reviews, interconnect fiber, the pdf, LEDs, high tension cable, PICs, access management, Primavera, Oman Systems, IRIS, MDSS...Lions & Tigers and Bears oh my. Wheh!! VanDeWiele....is there a point? Thought you'd never ask... (and after this cranial upchuck, may never be asked again!)

It always amazes me in talking to retired DOT when they come to visit, how they don't "recognize" it anymore. Is it the people, or is it the processes? Maybe its both... **Of all the things I mentioned, one of the biggest evolutions I have seen is the disposition of the Department towards it's greatest asset; it's people. The attempt to communicate and be transparent is at an all-time high.** Our internet, intranet, newsletters, shared drives, manuals and folders are now at our fingertips. In my short time w/the Pierre Area office, we've added monthly division reports, Twitter accounts (borrowed a suit coat for that photo), and this newsletter article are attempts to make our Department smaller, and more personable.

The ACEs review process is designed to develop the employee and focus on training, while giving that ever valuable feedback. The time and effort that goes into this process is a testament of how important our staff is. The Department now actively conducts surveys to get feedback on how to improve our workplace. Because it is . . . OUR workplace. Administration (your immediate supervisors) reviews this feedback and is taking an active role(and being held accountable) to work on opportunities to improve our workplace. Staff is very active in strategic planning tackling items like contract time, backing accidents, encroachments, road reporting, crash mitigation, project finaling, etc. **Bottom line; If you haven't found an opportunity to contribute, influence, or better your workplace, you haven't been looking. Never before has the opportunity to create a DOT for the people, by the people, been so apparent.**

Do I like all this change? I would be lying if I said "Yes". I'm a creature of habit like everyone else. And sometimes going back down memory lane riding in my brothers 73' Mustang with an AC/DC 8-track blaring and the wind in my hair (no gray then) just sounds appealing. **Do I see the benefit of ramping up of our efforts to engage our people, utilize our people, and make it OUR DOT? I'd say absolutely "Yes". DOT is now embarking on the "Baldrige" process; another business reflection and study to review opportunities for improvement. And, I believe we are onto something regarding these processes of empowering and putting such emphasis on our staff.** I have worked with some truly amazing and talented people, who as long as they are a part of our Department direction, will ultimately ensure their own happiness and their own fulfillment. And in the process they will ensure DOT survival, DOT success, and ultimately . . . DOT evolution. (Elvis has left the building!)

Finance Corner - Processing Purchase Order Invoices

By: Patricia Devitt, Accounting Manager

When paying Purchase Order Invoices, it is **very important** to make sure that the PO's are getting paid correctly.

Example:

23POxxxxxx gets paid by a direct voucher, these are the ones the secretaries can process for payment.

23Sxxxxxxx (starts with the year then a **single letter** and 7 numbers) goes to **Susan Frederick** to process for payment.

All PO's sent in for processing need to have the invoice attached to the PO, your DOT/MSA coding written on the back sheet and signed. Please do this ASAP after receiving.

Make sure you check the partial box for all invoices unless it is the last or only invoice paid on the PO. If it is the last or only invoice you would check final so Susan can make sure the PO gets closed.

Lately, the 23Sxxxxxxx (starts with the year then a **single letter** and 7 numbers) PO's have been getting paid by direct voucher and not getting to Susan. This results in a lot of work at the end of the fiscal year when trying to close the PO's.

If you have any questions, you can call Susan Frederick at 605-773-2951 or email.



SERVICE

Providing Excellent Service

By Chris Ott, Internal Services/Audits

Program Manager

Don Mentele has been the SDDOT "Bumble Bee" driver for the past three years. On the morning of Tuesday, March 7, 2023, Don was on his way from Mobridge to Aberdeen when he witnessed a single vehicle rollover on Highway 12 near Roscoe. Don acted quickly, pulling his truck safely to the side of the road. He then assisted the driver whose pickup had ended up on its roof in a snow-covered ditch.

Don was able to keep the driver conscious and calm while trapped in his vehicle in the snow-filled ditch. Don stayed with the driver for 15-20 minutes in below-zero wind chill temperatures until law enforcement and paramedics could arrive. Thank you Don for helping out a fellow South Dakotan in need on a brutally cold morning. We appreciate your willingness to provide excellent services for a motorist in need in a truly scary situation.

The Bumble Bee is available for all employees' usage! The schedule is:

Monday: Kadoka, Rapid City, Philip

Tuesday: Mobridge, Aberdeen, Watertown, Huron

Wednesday: Sioux Falls and Mitchell



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

Public Engagement – Women in Science Event



Stacy DuChene, Consultant Management Engineer, took the opportunity to present at Women in Science Day in Sioux Falls on March 6, 2023.

This event promotes science and technology careers for 8th grade girls.

Stacy used the 41st Street DDI floor mat to talk about the design of this innovative Sioux Falls construction project, and provide an interactive experience.

2023 James H. Jenssen Scholarship

The **2023 James H. Jenssen Scholarships** is available for application again this year for students attending or planning to attend SDSU or SDSM&T to pursue an undergraduate degree in engineering.

This scholarship fund was established by the Jenssen family in memory of Jim Jenssen, who worked many years in a variety of positions for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. These scholarships are offered to those students demonstrating the ability to become an asset to the engineering field. The opportunity to apply for this scholarship is only available to family members or relatives of current or former DOT employees, as further detailed in the attached requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship opportunity, please contact Mike Behm, Director Division of Planning & Engineering. The completed application, with other required information, must be submitted to the Mike by April 30, 2023.

If you know of someone who may qualify for and be interested applying for these scholarships, please forward this information to them.

Access the fillable application on the Intranet site at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/>.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

March Longevity:



Deanna Lehrkamp, Senior Secretary (Central Office/Office of P&E Administration) celebrated 30 years of service!

Deanna is pictured receiving her plaque and longevity pin from **Administration Program Manager, Joanne Hight.**



Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer receiving his 25-year longevity pin from Craig Smith, Director of Operations.



Winter weather delayed this presentation . . .

Congrats to Doug Sherman (Winner Area Engineer) for 35-years of service! His longevity pin was presented by **Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer.**



Nathan Loecker, LHMW in Yankton was given his 20-year pin by Maintenance Supervisor John Huber (left).



Chris Voelker, LHMW in Madison was given his 20-year pin by Maintenance Supervisor Steve Schneider. Chris started his career with DOT in Sioux Falls and has been the LHMW in Madison for five years.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Andy Kessler, LHMW in Tyndall was given his 10-year pin by Maintenance Supervisor John Huber (left).



Submitted by Taylor Hyatt: "Caught this pic of my dad, **Mike Lauritsen**, on the SD511 website plowing near Wallace today at 9:30 a.m. (Sat., March 18, 2023) Super cool pic!"

Mike is a Highway Maintenance Worker in the Watertown Area.



Paula Huizenga, Grants Program Engineer, and Lana Lambert, Transportation Analyst, supported **Engineering Manager, Doug Kinniburgh** from afar with their "**Team Dougins**" shirts during a recent scuba diving trip to Cozumel, Mexico!



Identity crisis for **Mike Carlson, Rapid City Area Engineer**, after the first day of the AGC-DOT summit in Oacoma. Good thing Mike is such an easy-going guy! Photo submitted by Christina Bennett.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

Meet **Lyle and Anita Norling's newest grandson, Beau Lyle Gannon.** Beau was born on Feb. 19, 2023, weighing 5.15 lbs. and was 18 inches long!

Lyle is the Lead Highway Maintenance Worker for Beresford in the Yankton Area.



Billy Schwarz (Landscape Architect in Road Design) and his wife, Beth, had a baby boy on Feb. 28, 2023.

Samuel Darren Schwarz weighed 7lbs. 2oz. and joins older brother Theodore.



Burdell Keith Voegeli was born on March 19, 2023, to Tim and Maddie Voegeli. Burdell weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Burdell joins two sisters Whitley (3) and Pearl (2). This is the 7th grandchild for Keith & Tami Voegeli and the 1st grandson.

Keith is the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Sioux Falls.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

March New Hires:

- Patrick Bollinger, Grading CAD Technician, Pierre
- Matthew Grajczyk, Highway Maintenance Worker, Webster
- John Doorn, Civil Engineering Technician, Sioux Falls
- Hannah Zastrow, Highway Maintenance Worker, Custer
- Eric Brush, Highway Maintenance Worker, Clark
- Corey Engelstad, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls



March Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

- Edward Kaelin, Highway Maintenance Worker, Pierre
- Jonatan Haskell, Region Operation Technician, Mitchell
- Rodney Larson, Transportation Project Manager, Pierre
- Justin Till, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Buffalo



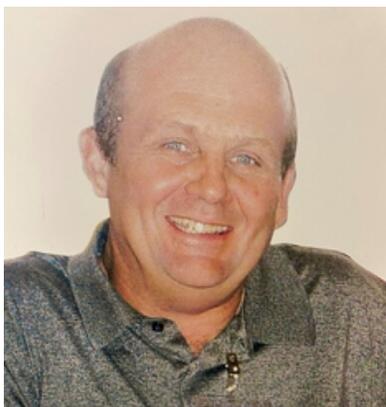
Heidi Olson, BHR Human Resource Manager and Jim Dorfschmidt, Transportation Project Manager, attended the Spearfish High School Career Fair in March.



Jonathan Egge, Right-of-Way CAD Technician, and Bill Thomas, Grading CAD Technician, attended the North Dakota State College of Science Career Fair in March.



In Sympathy . . .



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and co-workers of Ricky Farris who passed away on March 11, 2023. Ricky retired from SDDOT in 2019.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Winner United Methodist Church in Winner, SD.