

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 2
Secretary's Corner

Page 3
Women in Transportation -
Barbara Cline of
Prairie Hills Transit

Page 4
Snowplow Contest Voting
Annual Holiday Smackdown

Pages 5 & 6
Primavera Tips and Tricks

Pages 7 & 8
Finance Corner

Page 9
Auditor's Anonymous &
Road Design's 21st Annual
Chili Cook-Off

Page 10
Mentoring Minute

Pages 11 & 12
Field Engineering Employee
Meetings
SDDOT Community
Engagement

Page 13
SDDOT Vehicle Procedures

Page 14
How Can I Learn ArcGIS Pro?

Page 15
Training & Development
Opportunities

Pages 16-17
**Employee News and
Updates**

- New Hires/Lateral
Position Changes
- Longevity
- In Sympathy

SDDOT Photo Contest Winners (Top 5)

The "2025 SDDOT Photo of the Year" chosen by staff was submitted by **Curt Theisen, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls.**

Curt took this photo at a Touch-A-Truck community event. It is featured on the cover of the **2025 SDDOT Annual Report.**



Submitted by **Jon Collins, Region Surveyor (Rapid City)**

Submitted by **Kevin Barry, Bridge Design Engineer (Pierre)**



Submitted by **Brock Antijunti, Statewide Airport Construction Specialist (Pierre)**

Submitted by **Patrick Wellner, Bridge Design Engineer (Pierre)**



The Secretary's Corner



2025 SDDOT Annual Report:

The **2025 SDDOT Annual Report** is available on our website. You can click on the graphic to access it. Printed copies will be provided to all legislators in advance of the upcoming session. We also distribute the report to our external stakeholders at the local, state, and federal level to thank them for their partnership and to share vital information about our innovative work.

This past year has been one of steady progress, strategic investment, and unwavering commitment to the people we serve. Across the state, our team worked with purpose to strengthen the public transportation system to keep our communities connected and our economy moving forward.

In 2025, we advanced key priorities that reflect **our mission: to provide a safe and efficient public transportation system**. From modernizing major corridors, reinforcing our partnerships, and advancing access to accurate and reliable construction and winter road conditions; our work remained focused on delivering meaningful, measurable value for every traveler.

We also continued investing in the future—expanding innovation, integrating new data tools, and improving the resilience of our infrastructure. This effort, in collaboration with our partners, allows us to meet current and future opportunities and challenges.

2026 SDDOT Strategic Plan:

Strategic planning sets goals for our organization, establishes priorities, and outlines key action steps for the upcoming year. The planning process ensures we are focused, aligned, and working together toward a clear vision. All SDDOT employees contribute to this process by continuously striving to innovate and improve quality of services.

In early 2026, supervisors will meet with staff members to discuss the priorities outlined in the **2026 Strategic Plan** and to provide staff with strategic planning materials. These meetings will also provide an opportunity to discuss questions, suggestions, and action items that derived from the fall employee meetings.

Please find the full **2026 Strategic Plan** and the **Today I Will** poster by clicking on the graphic. The documents are found on the Intranet as well as the SDDOT website in the reports section.





How Barbara Cline Built One of South Dakota's Most Vital Transit Systems

Written by Elora Haynes of Metro Magazine (Nov. 2025)

Please find the full article at <https://www.metro-magazine.com/10250859/how-barbara-cline-built-one-of-south-dakotas-most-vital-transit-systems>

When Barbara Cline began delivering Meals on Wheels in Spearfish, South Dakota, she didn't plan to lead one of the most expansive rural transit systems in the state. That decision, made over 30 years ago, grew into **Prairie Hills Transit**, which Cline is executive director — a lifeline serving riders of all ages across 16,500 square miles of western South Dakota.

How One Van Sparked a Regional Network: Cline's transportation career began in 1989 with the primary goal of filling a local gap. Her first project consisted of writing a grant, repurposing an old green healthcare company van given to her by her boss, and to start giving seniors rides. Initially Spearfish Senior Transportation, word spread quickly. Cline recalls parents seeing the van driving around town and reaching out on behalf of getting their children from daycare to school. "It seems I've never learned to say no," Cline says. "My team and I are committed to doing our best to help people."

As more towns and demographics reached out, Cline worked tirelessly to expand service. Today, **Prairie Hills Transit** operates dozens of vehicles, employs trained drivers and staff, and provides vital connection for residents in small towns and rural areas.

Under Cline's leadership, the agency grew through collaboration and persistence: "The vision continued to evolve for over 30 years as other communities realized that transportation for unserved populations is a true lifeline for their residents," she says. Whether helping a patient reach a rehabilitation center or a student get to school, Cline believes transportation is a foundation for opportunity."

Prairie Hills Transit's Propane-Powered Innovation: Cline has also positioned Prairie Hills Transit as a leader in sustainable transit. Her latest initiative, transition to propane-fueled buses, combines environmental responsibility with cost savings. The agency built its own fueling station and proudly introduced the colorfully-wrapped fleet, which local communities have embraced. "When all the federal grants started offering no-emission or low-emission vehicles, we decided to apply for propane buses as well as building a fueling station on-site," Cline says. "We love the colorful wraps and the propane company wrapped three more vehicles at their expense." These efforts have helped reduce emissions while maintaining reliability across long rural routes. "The need for quality transportation in the healthcare clinics, hospitals and rehab has exploded," she says. Her team continues to form new partnerships to provide same-day and long-distance trips, filling a critical gap for residents who would otherwise struggle to reach essential services.

Cline's Influence on the Next Generation: Through her 36-year career, Cline has mentored many emerging leaders, both men and women, through local and national organizations. After more than three decades, Cline remains energized by Prairie Hills Transit's mission. Her vision continues to shape the future of mobility in western South Dakota. "If you love what you do and you make a difference," she says, "you've chosen a great career."

Snowplow Contest Staff Voting Opens in January

The contest officially closed on Dec. 15, 2025.

Currently, area engineers are reviewing all submissions and will provide their top recommendations to Secretary Jundt and the Directors.

Staff voting will then open in early January!



5th Annual Holiday Smackdown

Congratulations to the **Aberdeen Region** for winning the 5th Annual Holiday Smackdown!

Secretary Jundt presented **Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer**, with the official 2025 Award.

As shown in the graphic (provided by Mark Peterson), the Aberdeen Region has won the competition (to the benefit of their local community) multiple years!



Thank you to staff in all the Areas for participating in this friendly competition to benefit local community pantries!

In the end, **SDDOT donated 1,598 food items and \$3,863** to food pantries across our State.

A special thanks to **Kari Kroll** who works hard each year to organize MANY giving opportunities for our agency.

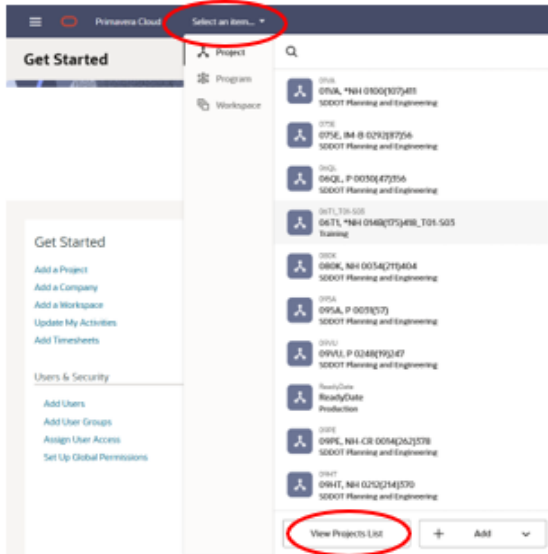
	# Food	\$ Cash	TOTALS
Central Office	207	710	917
Rapid City	584	318	902
Aberdeen	290	\$1610	1900
Mitchell	292	40	332
Pierre	225	1185	1410

Primavera Tips/Tricks – Create and Apply filters to a View

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 manner.

This tip demonstrates how to **Create and Apply filters to a View** in Primavera Cloud.

1. On the Main Page, click on **Select an item...** and **Select View Project List**.



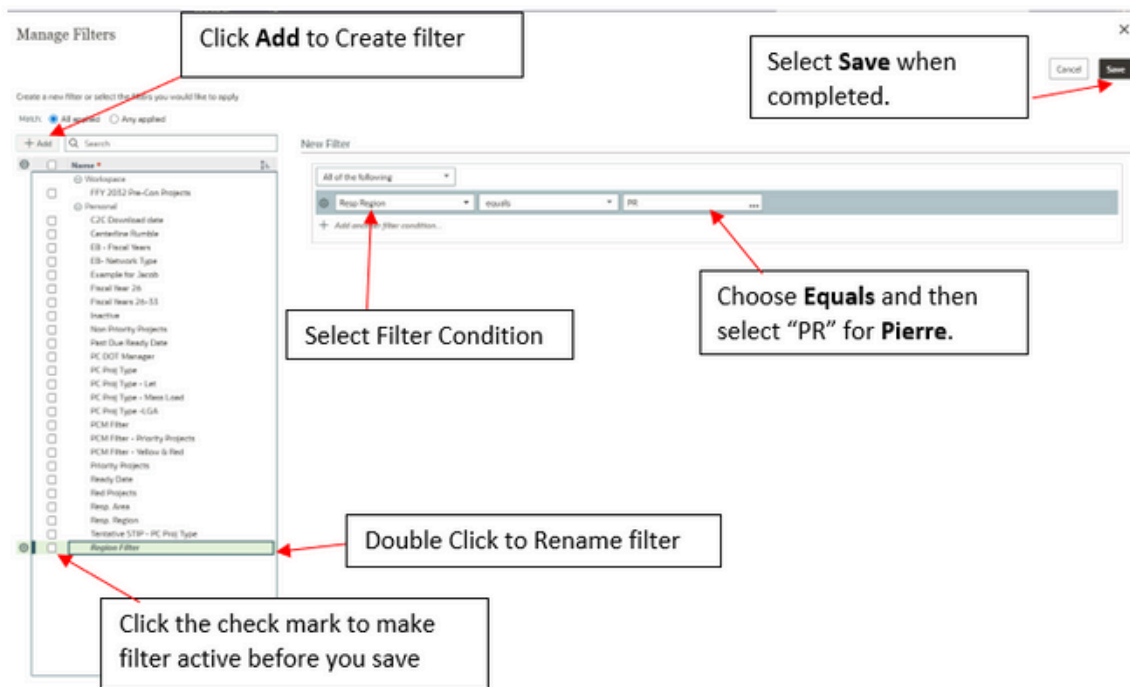
Note: The **Projects Page** will open to show all the Projects.

2. On the **Project Page**, select the **Filter Icon** and **Select Manage Filters**.

Network Type	Resp Region	Resp Area	PC DOT Project Manager	Project Manager	Construction Year	Fiscal Year	PC Fiscal Year
log Dgn - Grading	RC	CU	Rehorst, John	John Rehorst	2026	2025	2025
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	RC	CU	Rehorst, John	John Rehorst	2026	2025	2025
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	AB	HU	Welch, Michael	Michael Welch	2026	2026	2026
surfacing New Grade	AB	AB	Howard, Chad	Chad Howard	2026	2026	2026
short Grading	AB	AB	Malone, Mark	Mark Malone	2026	2026	2026
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	MI	WA	Mitchell DuChene, Stacy	Stacy DuChene	2026	2026	2026
grading	AB	HU	Rosecky, Jacob	Jacob Rosecky	2026	2026	2026
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	AB	AB	Welch, Michael	Michael Welch	2026	2026	2026
Bridge Maintenance	RC	CU	Johnson, Jamie	Jamie Johnson	2026	2026	2026
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	RC	CU	Rehorst, John	John Rehorst	2026	2026	2026
soar Protection	PR	PR	Johnson, Jamie	Jamie Johnson	2026	2026	2026
surfacing New Grade	PR	WA	Howard, Chad	Chad Howard	2026	2026	2026
short Grading	MI	SF	Riss, Brandon	Brandon Riss	2026	2026	2026
short Grading	AB	WA	Riss, Brandon	Brandon Riss	2026	2026	2026
log Dgn ALL w/ RD	PR	MO	Larson, Shelley	Shelley Larson	2026	2026	2026
short Grading	RC	BF	Malone, Mark	Mark Malone	2026	2026	2026
Bridge Maintenance	MI	MI	Thompson, Todd	Todd Thompson	2026	2026	2026
Grading	RC	RC	Rosecky, Jacob	Jacob Rosecky	2026	2026	2026
TAP	RC	RC	Green, Logan	Logan Green	2026	2026	2026

3. In the **Manage Filters** window, select the **Add** to create a new filter.
 - a. Double Click on new filter to rename, for the example below we will use **Region Filter**
 - b. Click the Check Mark to make the filter Active.
 - c. Select Filter Condition, for this example, select **Resp Region**, Select **Equals**, and then select **Pierre (PR)** as the Region.
 - d. When finished, click **Save**.

Primavera Tips/Tricks – Create and Apply filters to a View (cont.)



4. The view will now display only projects from the selected Region.

Projects

Search

South Dakota DOT

Non Production

Production

+

 Add

Actions

Show: Values & Indicators

View (Edited): EB - Project ...

Q

Q

See

Name *	ID *	PCNProjectNbrList	CountyNames	Network Type	Resp Region	Resp Area	PC DOT Project Manager
Planning and Engineering - SDDOT Planning and Engineering							
Pre-Con - Pre-Construction							
2026 - FY 2026							
03UA, PT 0012(175)106	03UA	03UA, PT 0012(175)106; 03UC, PT 0212(161)135; 03...	Corson, Haakon, ...	Scour Protection	PR	PR	Johnson, Jamie
05U4, *EM 0073(73)62	05U4	05U4, *EM 0073(73)62; 07Y4, NH 0073(80)78	Jackson	Surfacing New Grade	PR	WI	Howard, Chad
06RG, P 0271(06)189	06RG	06RG, P 0271(06)189	Campbell	Reg Dsgn ALL w/ RD	PR	MO	Larson, Shelley
06RJ, P 1806(25)372	06RJ	06RJ, P 1806(25)372; 08EG, P TAPR(44); 08WB, P TAP...	Corson	Reg Dsgn ALL w/ RD	PR	MO	Larson, Shelley
08JL, NH 0014(250)138	08JL	08JL, NH 0014(250)138	Haakon	Bridge Polymer Chip	PR	PR	Thompson, Todd
09OU, P 0053(12)14	09OU	09OU, P 0053(12)14; 09LF, P 0047(126)50	Lyman, Tripp	Bridge Maintenance	PR	WI	Thompson, Todd
08E6, P TAPU(30)	08E6	08E6, P TAPU(30)	Hughes	TAP	PR	PR	Gran, Logan
04HO, PH 0030(19)	04HO	04HO, PH 0030(19)	Regionwide	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	XX	Covey, Hannah
04XF, *NH-B 0012(197)183	04XF	04XF, *NH-B 0012(197)183	Corson	Short Grading	PR	MO	Malone, Mark
09UU, PH 0030(48)	09UU	09UU, PH 0030(48)	Regionwide	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	PR	Larson, Shelley
08EE, P TAPR(42)	08EE	08EE, P TAPR(42)	Jackson	TAP	PR	WI	Gran, Logan
08W7, P TAPR(45)	08W7	08W7, P TAPR(45)	Jackson	TAP	PR	WI	Gran, Logan
06TK, PH 0030(44)	06TK	06TK, PH 0030(44)	Regionwide	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	XX	Larson, Shelley
09SA, NH-P 0031(57)	09SA	09SA, NH-P 0031(57)	Haakon, Jackson...	Reg Dsgn ALL w/ RD	PR	PR	Larson, Shelley
09WE, NH-P 0032(47)	09WE	09WE, NH-P 0032(47)	Dewey, Walworth...	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	MO	Larson, Shelley
09WF, NH-P 0031(62)	09WF	09WF, NH-P 0031(62)	Haakon, Hughes...	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	PR	Larson, Shelley
09WV, NH-P 0031(62)	09WV	09WV, NH-P 0031(62)	Haakon, Hughes...	Reg Dgn PM,Delin,R...	PR	PR	Larson, Shelley

Note: The Filter Function works on the **Activities Page** as well.

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)

Finance Corner

EMPLOYEE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS (INCIDENTALS)



When processing employee travel reimbursements, keep in mind that when using the **“MISC COSTS”** section and selecting **“INCIDENTAL COSTS”** from the drop-down box, sub-objects 52031200 (in-state) and/or 52033200 (out-of-state) are auto populated.

These two (2) sub-objects should only be used when reimbursement is for parking fees, baggage fees, etc. related to travel activity.

If the employee is not being reimbursed for these types of fees, please change the Account & Description when you IMPORT the voucher to reflect the proper reimbursement.

Examples:

OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT	REIMBURSEMENT DESCRIPTION
5203	TRAVEL	52031200	BAGGAGE or PARKING FEES (IN-STATE)
5203	TRAVEL	52033200	BAGGAGE or PARKING FEES (OUT-OF-STATE)
5204	CONTRACTUAL	52040300	RECORDED DEED
5204	CONTRACTUAL	52041600	REG FEE-AASHTO
5204	CONTRACTUAL	52042200	TIRE REPAIR
5204	CONTRACTUAL	52045300	CELL PHONE BILL REIMBURSEMENT
5204	CONTRACTUAL	52046200	CDL REIMBURSEMENT
5205	SUPPLIES	52050380	PANS or ALUMINUM FOR PROJECT
5205	SUPPLIES	52053980	BEVERAGES FOR EMPLOYEE MTGS
5205	SUPPLIES	52055580	SAFETY GLASSES REIMBURSEMENT



Finance Corner continued...

EMPLOYEE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS (INCIDENTALS)

Examples (cont.):

EMPLOYEE TRAVEL: **INCIDENTALS**

When there are 'incidentals' marked for reimbursement, **please change the account & description once you've imported the travel detail** - this way the updated account and a complete description reflects what's being reimbursed; otherwise, accounts **52031200** &/or **52033200** are auto-populated & the words 'incidental costs' show up for a description. (Example: Parking Fees, Baggage Fees, Moving Expenses, etc.)

3. EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER REIMBURSEMENT CODING:

Keep in mind, that employees may be reimbursed for more than just travel, so make sure to code to the account which closely identifies the reimbursement, whether it be for contractual services, supplies, etc.

For reimbursements for **travel related activity**, the account should begin with **5203**.

For reimbursements for **contractual services**, the account should begin with **5204**.

Examples: dues & memberships = 52040200
 registration fees = 52041600
 cell phone usage = 52045300

For reimbursements for **supplies**, the account should begin with **5205**.

Examples: office supplies = 52050280
 coffee, water or pop for mtgs = 52053980
 gasoline = 52057080 (Retail Gasoline), 52057180 (Retail E10), or
 52057580 (Retail Diesel)

Auditor's Anonymous

As the year comes to a close and the exciting world of Audits keeps on turning, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a very Happy New Year.

Speaking of NEW YEAR, this January will begin the new **Retainer Agreement** year! How exciting! **For those of you writing new Work Orders, we want you to remember to use the NEW Retainer Agreement numbers on your 917 and 121 forms.**

If you are amending an OLD work order, please remember it remains under the OLD Retainer number – it does not move to the new one.

We have a couple retainers that are close to or meeting max of \$20Million (HDR and FHU) and want to remind you that if you have an amendment to any one of those, please contact Audits or LGA's Tiffany Karr or Joanne Hight to help you make the move over to the new retainer.

Conversations and meetings are in motion talking about the tracking of prime consultants and subconsultants. Audits will begin tracking both again with the new retainer until further instruction from the LGA team is pushed out. Please be on the lookout for any new information on how these items will be handled in the future. With that said, we will see you on the other side....in 2026!

Road Design's 21st Annual Chili Cook-Off



The Road Design Office celebrated its 21st Annual Chili Cook-off on Dec. 4, 2025. The seven tasty entries included two from **Ryon Bollinger**. His first entry was "Third Floor Bathrooms" which had an added sign of SORRY – Out of Order. As Road Design is on the third floor with unavailable bathrooms due to remodeling, we all got a chuckle over this. This entry was voted by staff as **Best Chili Name**. Ryon earned a certificate and a bottle of Special S*#t Seasoning. Ryon's second entry was "Bluey's Mum."

Another entry was "Bean There, Done That" created by **Randy Gossard**. This was staff choice for their favorite chili. Randy was awarded the **"Shocky Traveling Trophy"** and a certificate. This trophy is in memory of our friend and co-worker, **Neil Schochenmaier**.

Mitch Oehme entered his "Taco Chili", **Mark Liang** had "Pot of Destruction & Rebirth", and **Mark Malone's** chili was titled "Border Patrol's 'Hot Pursuit' Chili." All were delicious.

The judges were **Christina Bennett (Construction & Maintenance Manager Operations Support)**, **Ryan Johnson (Sr. Specifications Engineer Operations Support)** and **Damon Zeltinger (Transportation Specialist Operations Support)**. Judges picked "Cauldron of Doom" by **Bill Thomas** as "Best Chili". Bill was awarded a certificate, trophy, and his name on the Road Design plaque.

All the chili chefs were gifted a bottle of Frank's Hot Sauce. This event was held over the lunch hour with the help of co-chairpersons, **Julia Harkins** and **Jonathan Egge**. Supervisors graciously donated paper supplies, beverages, and awards. Desserts and sides were provided by our awesome Road Design staff.



Mentoring Minute



The Mentoring Committee is decking the halls with appreciation for all the SDDOT employees who have participated in the Mentoring Program since its start in 2007. SDDOT is lucky to have so many employees willing to share their time and talent. We hope that you will consider being a mentor when the next session begins in 2026!

Look for information about the next Mentoring session in **Secretary Jundt's Information Interchange** in March 2026.

The Committee would like to thank **Wyatt Reis (Winner Area)** and **Tanya Liska (Yankton Area)** for their service on the Mentoring Committee. Both are wrapping up their time on the Committee and will be greatly missed.

We also want to welcome **Josh Timmerman (Yankton Area)** and **Tel Saucerman (Rapid City Region)** to the Mentoring Committee.

Upcoming 2026 Mentoring Events:

Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

Date/Time: **Jan. 29, 2026 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (CT)**
 Featured book: **The Seven Commitments of a Great Team by Jon Gordon**
 Moderated by: **Phil Clements, Pavement Management Engineer**
 Location: **Room B-17 (Pierre) and via Microsoft Teams**

Make Time for Mentoring!

Field Engineering Employee Meetings (Dec. 16-17, 2025)



SDDOT Holiday Community Engagement

Rebecka Wallingford, Transportation Specialist II (Grants and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinator) was part of the organization that decorated the 45-foot Christmas tree at the State Capitol.

Governor Rhoden stopped by to inspect their work!



Unit 152 (Faulkton, Ipswich, and Leola) donated their remaining traffic cone keychains from Walk-to-School Day to the Faulkton County Courthouse to use as ornaments on their SDDOT Christmas tree!

The keychains will be given to any children that visit.

SDDOT - Holiday Community Engagement

Parade of Lights in Mitchell

The **Mitchell Area Maintenance** crew participated in the annual Parade of Lights in Mitchell. Thank you to **Aaron Climer (Highway Maintenance Worker, Mitchell)** and **Charlie Goldammer (Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Mitchell)** for driving the plows in the parade!



Parade of Lights in Pierre

SDDOT staff had a great time participating in this year's Parade of Lights with our snowplow decked out in holiday lights and penguins. Being part of the parade was a fun way to get out of the office, connect with the community, and interact with people along the route. It also gave us a chance to promote the Name the Snowplow contest and provide a safety reminder . . . **"Don't Crowd the Plow!"**

Walking alongside the float and handing out candy and bracelets were **Secretary Joel Jundt, Jessica Gilbert, Kari Kroll, Karla Engle, and Katie Wilkerson**, with **Kyle Willis** driving the snowplow. We also couldn't have done it without the decorating help of **Merlin Bennett, Terry Porter, and Todd Madden**, who attached the lights and signs—graciously made by **Shelley Larsen**—and made sure the plow was safe and parade-ready.

The Parade of Lights was a fun evening filled with holiday spirit, teamwork, and plenty of smiles from the crowd. It was a rewarding experience and a great reminder of the importance of community involvement.

Special thanks to **Les Winsell, Taylor Brusven, Julie Stevenson, Dean VanDeWiele, and Brad Norrid** for all their ideas, input, and help in bringing this community opportunity together.



SDDOT Vehicle Procedures

Reminder: Please DO NOT take a state vehicle when roads conditions are **No Travel Advised as shown on SD511. Please reschedule the meeting or appointment for safety purposes! For the latest road conditions: <https://www.sd511.org/>.**

DOT Vehicle Procedures for Central Office Staff

At recent Central Office Employee meetings, several questions came up about DOT vehicles. Here's a quick overview to help clarify how vehicle assignments, reservations, and maintenance work.

Vehicle Assignments and Pools

Central Office employees either have a vehicle assigned to them or check out a vehicle from one of several DOT pools.

- A small number of employees who travel frequently have individually assigned vehicles.
- Most staff will check out a pool vehicle when traveling for work.

Pool vehicles are available for staff at:

- Becker-Hansen Building (Pierre)
- Sioux Falls Area Complex
- One Stop Complex (Rapid City)

Reserving a Pool Vehicle

- Pierre and Sioux Falls: Reserve by sending a calendar invite in Outlook to the vehicle for your travel time. Include the departure and return times—don't just mark "all day." You will receive an acceptance of the invite if the vehicle is available – please wait to receive this, if denied it means the vehicle is not available for your travel times.
- Rapid City: Reservations are handled through Microsoft Teams. Contact Steve Kamarainen for details.

⚠️ NEVER take a vehicle without reserving it first. Always return the keys and binder to their proper location as soon as you return—even if after hours. Someone else may have that vehicle booked early the next morning.

Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs

The Equipment Management Specialist, Brian Wacholz, runs a monthly Preventive Maintenance (PM) report for all Central Office vehicles, whether assigned or in a pool. Vehicles due for oil changes or other service are identified, and notifications are sent to the appropriate Program Manager or assigned user.

This report depends on the vehicle mileage recorded in TKS. The mileage you enter on your timesheet is what keeps our maintenance tracking accurate. Entering mileage correctly ensures that vehicles receive timely service and that maintenance costs are properly captured. Likewise, opening a work order whenever service or repairs are performed helps confirm that maintenance was completed and keeps PM reporting accurate.

Staff should contact the applicable personnel for their office/location for required PMs, minor issues, repairs, warning lights, or service:

- Central Office Pool vehicles:
 - From Pierre: Niki Miller, Internal Services (nikoles.miller@state.sd.us)
 - From Sioux Falls: Doug Amundson or Cameron Sprecher in the Partsroom
 - From Rapid City: AJ Hatch, Rapid City Region Equipment Shop Foreman
- Assigned vehicles in Pierre: Tim Blow, Pierre Equipment Shop Foreman
- Assigned vehicles outside Pierre: that Region's Equipment Shop Foreman

Before any service or repairs are conducted, work orders need to be opened.

All A–C class vehicle repair payments are processed by Nicole Brooks, Operations Support Senior Secretary (nicolem.brooks@state.sd.us). Be sure to include the work order number with any invoices for service.

Keeping Vehicles Clean

Please treat DOT vehicles with respect and care.

- Remove all trash, wipe up spills, and clean windshields before returning.
- If you have an assigned vehicle, keep it tidy and well-maintained.

Lately, several pool vehicles have been returned in poor condition—with food crumbs, spills, and debris left behind. Please do your part to keep vehicles clean for the next user.

Questions and More Information

If you have questions about DOT vehicles or equipment, contact your Region Equipment Shop Foreman, the Equipment Management Specialist, or the Operations Support Program Manager.

You can also find detailed guidance in the SDDOT Fleet Management Manual, available on the SDDOT Intranet under Forms/Manuals/Reports: <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/SDDOTFleetManagement.pdf>

How Can I Learn ArcGIS Pro?

**By: Jeff Brosz, Transportation Specialist,
Office of Inventory Management and Research**

Are you still using ArcMap and worried about moving to ArcGIS Pro? Well, I was in your shoes not too long ago. The thought of learning a whole different program to do GIS was a little frightening considering I didn't know a lot about GIS to start. I could do a little bit in ArcMap for what I needed to do HPMS. Just enough to make me dangerous.

I didn't want to read a manual or learn by Googling it. I bet you are feeling the same way that I did. There should be a better way to learn how to use ArcGIS Pro without a lot of effort or time.

I complained about learning ArcGIS Pro to our **GIS Coordinator Kimberly Zerr**, and she told me she had an easy way to get started. I could do it at my convenience and at my own speed. She told me to go to **SDLearn** icon on my computer desktop, open it and click on "Search for Learning Opportunities". She told me to type "GIS" in the search bar.

I was a little skeptical, but I did it anyway and up popped videos she made to help people get started with ArcGIS Pro. I watched them all and they were very helpful. I could have ArcGIS Pro open and follow along with what she was showing, pausing the video to do what she was showing in the video. It took me no time to go through the videos and get comfortable doing what I needed to do in ArcGIS Pro. In fact, I am doing a lot more in ArcGIS Pro than I did in ArcMap. I discovered ArcGIS Pro is a lot easier.

If you are feeling just like I was, I highly suggest you go to SDLearn and watch the videos. They are very informative and easy to follow. In no time you will be an ArcGIS Pro like me!

Shout out to the GIS Team Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson for all their guidance and patience in my GIS quest!



Project BISON



BISON Bites is Live now on the SharePoint. BISON Bites video is designed to keep everyone informed, inspired, and aligned with the goals. We encourage you to take just a few minutes to watch it—and then share it with your teams

BISON Bites is a great opportunity to learn about Project BISON.

https://stateofsouthdakota.sharepoint.com/sites/SD_ProjectBISON-ChangeChampions/SitePages/BISON-Bites.aspx

Thanks for helping us spread the word—and the knowledge. While you are there look around the SharePoint site and learn more about the project.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve



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

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

January 2026	
	<p><i>It Pays to Train</i> sessions highlight SDDOT's core values while diving into timely, relevant topics.</p> <p>Date: Monday, January 5, 2026, 11:00 am Location: Teams Core Value: Improvement with Jason Humphrey Topic: PDCA process IRL with Brenda Thomas</p> <p>Ask DOTLMS@state.sd.us for a meeting invite so we are on your calendar each month!</p>
	<p>TLN: Snowplow Truck Maintenance – Best Practices to Reduce Corrosion Jan. 7 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. CT Zoom</p>
	<p>TLN: Taking Initiative: How to be a Leader in Your Own Role Jan. 21 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Zoom</p>
	<p>TLN: Intelligent Construction Jan. 28 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. CT Zoom</p>
	<p>TLN: Leading a Productive Meeting Jan. 29 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CT Zoom</p>
	<p>TLN: The Art & Science of Uncomfortable Conversations Feb. 3 9 – 11 a.m. Zoom</p>
	<p>AGC: Traffic Control Supervisor Feb. 3-4 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CT Sioux Falls Feb. 17-18 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MT Rapid City</p>
TUESDAYS WITH TRAUNER CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERIES	
	<p>TLN: Scheduling Toolbox Jan. 6 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Zoom TLN: Reviewing a Baseline Schedule Jan. 13 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Zoom</p> <p>TLN: Reviewing a Monthly Schedule Update Jan. 20 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Zoom TLN: TIA/Time Extension Request Review Jan. 27 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Zoom</p>
WINTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATES	
	<p>Bituminous Office Jan. 22 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Teams Office of Bridge Design Jan. 27 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Teams Concrete Office Feb. 5 9:30 – 11 a.m. CT Teams</p> <p>ADA/Civil Rights/Labor Compliance Office Mar. 16 3 – 4:30 p.m. CT Teams Traffic Control Mar. 23 3 – 4:30 p.m. CT Teams</p>
	<p>Bridge Deck Delamination Surveys: UAS-Aided Reporting Online Course</p>
	<p>SDDOT DMS Guidelines: Overview Online Course</p>
<p>NO MORE AFE'S FOR TRAINING! Use function 1175 or 2775</p>	

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

December New Hires:

Tamara Kintz, Sr. Right of Way Specialist, Sioux Falls
 Stephen Davis, Highway Maintenance Worker, Miller
 Thomas Sullivan, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sturgis
 Nathan Hohn, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mitchell
 James Remmers, Highway Maintenance Worker, Webster
 Adeline Abernathy, Materials Lab Tech (Asphalt Mix Design Lab Tech), Pierre
 Stanley Jr. Young, Highway Maintenance Worker, Kadoka
 Christopher Hammersley, Equipment Technician, Pierre
 Jamie Green, Accountant I, Pierre

December Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Zachariah Red Crow, Highway Maintenance Worker, Pierre
 Tyler Kennedy, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Pierre
 Brittan Hullinger, Engineer II (Assistant Geotechnical Engineer), Pierre
 Tanner Eggert, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen
 Chaz Shuff, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen

December Longevity:

John Burshiem, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Sioux Falls Area)



Terry Reitz, Highway Maintenance Worker (Clark) pictured on the left received his 15-year longevity pin from **Dave Jennings, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (Huron)**.



Jeff Brink, Engineering Supervisor (Watertown) pictured on the left, received his 10-year longevity pin from **Matt Brey, Watertown Area Engineer**.



Darin O'Farrell, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, (Milbank) pictured on the left, received his 10-year longevity pin from **Brian Chase, Watertown Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor**.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Penelope James Johnson was born on Oct. 17, 2025.

Penelope is the daughter of Jamie Johnson (Office of Bridge Design) and the granddaughter of Jim Hyde (Pierre Region).



Bill Schwarz, Erosion Control & Landscape Designer and his wife had their third child.

June Louise James Schwarz was born Nov. 17, 2025. June joins siblings Theodore (5) and Samuel (2).



Congratulations to **Hannah (Covey) Bolton, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer**, and her husband Ty, who were married on Sept. 27, 2025.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates (in Sympathy)



Sympathy is extended to **Darin Charlson, Transportation Analyst in Inventory Management (Pierre)**, on the recent passing of his father.

Orville "Orv" Charlson passed away on Dec. 8, 2025, in Pierre. Funeral services were held on Dec. 13, 2025, at Trinity Episcopal Church with burial at Riverside Cemetery.

Orv was a long-time SDDOT employee, serving in the role of Right-of-Way Engineer for the ROW Office. He retired from the SDDOT after a long career.