

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### Page 2

Secretary's Corner

#### Page 3

On-Boarding Tips & Tricks  
Hall of Honor

#### Pages 4 - 7

National Work Zone Awareness

#### Page 8

Mentoring Minute

#### Page 9

Finance Corner

#### Page 10

SD Airports Conference  
Women in Science Conference

#### Pages 11 - 12

Training Update  
Steps in Replacing Software

#### Page 13

BHRA Open Enrollment

#### Page 14

MEMS Update

#### Page 15

Safety News

#### Page 16

Auditors Anonymous  
Reimbursement of Credits (OSA)

#### Page 17

Winter Maintenance Report

#### Page 18

SDSU NSTI Camps  
Maintenance Thank You  
Rapid City Region Safety Day  
Graduation Picture Reminder

#### Pages 19-22

#### Employee News and Updates

- New Hires
- Lateral Position Changes
- Longevity
- Retirements
- Mitchell Sign Crew
- Bowling Tournament
- Leo's Fish
- Admin Professional Day
- In Sympathy



Beginning in 2025, the Executive Team will transition to an **annual Impact Award**, recognizing one outstanding team or individual each year. This change allows for a more comprehensive evaluation of nominations submitted throughout the year.

We encourage continued recognition of individual and team efforts through the **KUDOS Board**, available on the [Intranet homepage](#), to appreciate fellow employees throughout the year.

Impact Award nominations can be submitted at any time, with the final deadline of Dec. 1, 2025. Please keep an eye out for SDDOT team members demonstrating exceptional service—and take a moment to submit a nomination. Access the nomination form by clicking on the graphic or via the [Intranet homepage](#).

### SDDOT vs. NDDOT Dakota Battle of the Blades



**Thaw Patrol, named by Winner Elementary's first grade class, won the Dakota Battle of the Blades vs. NDDOT.** The community of Winner and all South Dakotans rallied around Thaw Patrol, with over 36,000 votes cast in the Championship match alone! All photos and videos from the celebration event can be found on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/of-interest/sddot-snowplow-naming-contest>.

We want to sincerely thank all of our winter maintenance team members across the State for their excellent work throughout the winter months!

Please view this [Thank You Video](#).

## The Secretary's Corner



### SDDOT Internal Control Framework Implementation

I am pleased to announce that the SDDOT has been selected as the 22<sup>nd</sup> agency to implement the State's internal control framework. Once implemented, this framework will provide State leadership with a reasonable assurance that SDOT is meeting its operational, reporting, and compliance objectives effectively. **Allysen Kerr, Bureau of Finance and Management**, along with consultants from Baker Tilly, will assist us throughout this process.

We will be conducting a comprehensive risk assessment for each SDDOT division, focusing on operational, reporting, compliance, fraud, public perception, and technology risks. This process will unfold over three workshops, spanning 7 to 12 weeks.

The first workshop will focus on identifying risks, the second will prioritize them, and the final workshop will document robust controls for those risks classified as high or critical priority.

By the end of the implementation, we will have gained valuable insights into the risks associated with achieving our objectives. We will identify the critical controls needed to mitigate these risks and clearly document responsibilities. All findings will be reported to the State Board of Internal Control and other leaders within State government.

We have already designated several team members to facilitate this effort, but as we progress, we may need to involve additional individuals. This is a top priority for our team, and I ask for everyone's commitment to provide the necessary time and resources to ensure a successful implementation.

It's important to note that our work does not end with implementation. We will need to continuously review our controls, conduct self-assessments, and identify any additional risks and controls. This ongoing effort will help us better understand critical risks and enhance our prioritization of daily tasks. Thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative!

**As part of our commitment to a systematic review of organizational risks and controls, the SDDOT will be hiring a full-time employee to manage the internal control process.**

**If you have any questions about the implementation of the internal control framework, please contact Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management.**

## On-Boarding Tips and Tricks for Interns and New Employees

**Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist**

1. Put in your request as soon as possible. Six (6) weeks is fine. Four (4) weeks is a good target. Two (2) weeks is the minimum for non-emergencies.
2. Please plug in and turn on all computers and get all updates completed so it is ready for BIT and the new employee. It can take a few days for a computer to get fully updated as it goes through cycles of updating, restarting, and then more updates. Please start early.
3. For each Intern or new employee, you will need to fill out the **New Employee Onboarding form**. **Note, you will need to fill this all out at one time, as it times out if left for 30 minutes and does NOT save your info.** Definitely do not start this, then go to lunch or home for the day. Please have all info prepared beforehand!
4. When selecting **Account Types** accounts, there are two choices.
  - a. **Standard** – This would be for an intern working in an office that needs full access to Word, Excel, and the rest of the Office suite. Any intern who has a computer issued to them will need a full account.
  - b. **Modified** – If they just need email and TKS access, ask for a modified account. They are cheaper. For interns, this is often all they need.
5. If you need help, **Wayne Kayser is the Employee Onboarding manager for BIT.**

Find a document, complete with schematics about this onboarding process on the **Intranet** at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/empl/onboarding-tips-and-tricks-2025.pdf>.



## Reminder: Nominations for Hall of Honor Close Friday, May 23, 2025



The purpose of the Transportation 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.

**Click on the graphic to access the Hall of Nomination form.**

Find the complete list of [Hall of Honor Inductees](#) located on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov> under Featured Resources.

Nomination forms are also available by contacting Kari Kroll at 605-773-5105 or [kari.kroll@state.sd.us](mailto:kari.kroll@state.sd.us).

**This is a milestone year for the Committee as we prepare to induct the one hundredth person into the Hall of Honor.** Contributions to consider when submitting a nomination are statewide technological innovations, political activity, legislative accomplishments, creativity, time and cost saving initiatives, and economic impact on behalf of public transportation efforts throughout South Dakota.

**Anyone is welcome to submit a Transportation Hall of Honor nomination.** Please share this recognition opportunity with fellow stakeholders throughout the transportation industry!



## National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 21 - 25, 2025)

The 2025 theme is **"Respect the zone, so we all get home."** Our awareness efforts emphasize the importance of personal responsibility behind the wheel. The **2025 Work Zone Awareness Week posters** will also be provided to SDDOT offices the week of the event.

### NWZAW Schedule of Events:

**Work Zone Safety Training Day** - Monday, April 21, 2025

**National kickoff event** - Tuesday, April 22, 2025

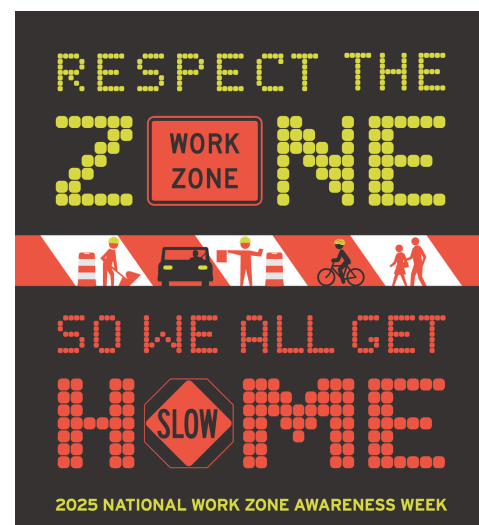
**Go Orange Day** - Wednesday, April 23, 2025

**Social media storm** - Thursday, April 24, 2025

**Media Event** - Friday, April 25, 2025

**Time:** 10 a.m. (CT)

**Location:** Sioux Falls Area Office



All contest photos with SDDOT staff members will be shared on our website and social media platforms during **"NWZAW - Go Orange Day"**. Thank you for contributing to this vital effort of promoting driver responsibility. Your participation helps reinforce our unwavering commitment to safety for all.

**"Go Orange Day" office decorating contest winner, and recipient of the newly created NWZAW "Go Orange" traveling trophy is . . .**

### The Finance Department in Central Office!

**Great use of innovative props Finance Team . . .**

**"Danger - you're over budget"!**





## National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 21 - 25, 2025) Continued

"Go Orange Day," office decorating contest photos from across the State.



**Aberdeen Region Office**



**The Operations Support Staff (Central Office)**



**Materials and Surfacing Team**



## National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 21 - 25, 2025) Continued



Road Design Department in Central Office



Project Development (Central Office)



Mitchell Region Office



## National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 21 - 25, 2025) Continued



**Inventory Management and Research (Central Office)**



**Bridge Office (Central Office)**



**Mitchell Region**





## Mentoring Minute

By: Ariana Griffey and John Villbrandt

Last month's Mentoring Minute talked about the **Mentoring Success Triangle**. The Success Triangle is based on the premise that for individuals to be professionally well-rounded, they must be competent in three specific skill sets:

- **Building Relationships** – demonstrating the ability to work effectively with others
- **Expertise** – mastering the specialized knowledge or skills that set you apart
- **Navigating the Organization** – taking the responsibility to understand the organization, its culture, and values – and making the effort to fit in

I think we all have a pretty good idea of what is meant by **building relationships**, it's getting to know the people we work with in the Department. And, it's getting to know them on a level where we feel comfortable bouncing ideas off them, asking their opinion, asking for advice, etc.

Likewise, I think we all know what is meant by **expertise**. It's developing and/or mastering your skills within your work responsibilities, or... becoming an expert.

But, when it comes to **navigating the organization**, I think we sometimes struggle to know what this means or what it actually looks like. Navigating the organization can be accomplished in many different ways and on many different levels. One form of navigating the organization is learning about different areas of SDDOT that may not normally be exposed to.

This year's mentoring pairs had three different opportunities to navigate the SDDOT. In January, they were able to learn (via webinar) a little bit about how each of the different offices within SDDOT plays a role in advancing a highway construction project from concept to contract.

More recently, the mentoring pairs were able to listen to the March Transportation Commission meeting and the Executive Team meeting. Following the Commission meeting, Chairman Don Roby and Secretary Jundt visited with the mentoring pairs to explain the role of the Commission, describe some of the challenges, and answer any questions. The Executive Team meeting also presented an opportunity to learn how the SDDOT works at a level most of us are not familiar.

All three of these events gave the mentoring participants an insight into areas of the SDDOT that they most likely hadn't been exposed to previously. If you'd like to have this kind of exposure to the Department, please consider joining the mentoring program next time around.

Whether you're just starting your SDDOT career, or have been here for decades, everyone has something to offer to one another, whether it is knowledge on how to navigate the organization, networking, or technical knowledge. The mentoring program has established vital mentee-mentor relationships, holding immense value not only on a professional level but on a personal level as well. The mentoring program creates a positive and supportive environment where you are able to explore the SDDOT from a variety of different perspectives.



Pictured are **Secretary Joel Jundt** and **Transportation Commissioner Don Roby** addressing the Mentoring participants after the TC meeting.



Pictured are the Mentoring participants during the Executive Team meeting.

## Upcoming Mentoring Event:

Mid-point Energizer on May 7, 2025 from 1-4 p.m. (CT) at Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Ft. Pierre

**Make Time for Mentoring!**

## Finance Corner

### Vendor and Remit Address Verification



If the vendor address on the voucher is different than that on the invoice:

1. Check to see if it is the correct remit address.
2. Stamp the voucher cover sheet with the remit address verified.

**REMIT TO:  
VERIFIED**

If you do not stamp **REMIT TO: VERIFIED** on the voucher cover sheet, your voucher will be returned by the Office of the State Auditor with the message below. You will be contacted by **Brandy Hansen, Accounting Assistant, in the Finance Office** to check the address and stamp the voucher.

#### OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

Your voucher needs more information and/or correction.  
**DO NOT REMOVE THIS NOTE.** Thank you.

*Please verify remit address*

Date returned 4-11-25

Claim Auditor Emma Bigby – 773-2876



## 2025 South Dakota Airports Conference

By: Jack Dokken, Air, Rail & Transit Manager

The 2025 SD Airports Conference drew 166 attendees and featured presentations on airport pavements, Title VI requirements, airport inspections, tall structures, airport zoning, and legislative updates. While we missed having FAA representatives this year due to travel restrictions, we were still able to hold productive capital improvement planning meetings with airports; these meetings help identify and prioritize future airport development needs. SDDOT is grateful for the support of 21 different sponsors who helped fund the Airports Conference, as well as all the State and non-state presenters who shared their time and expertise.



## Women in Science Conference

By: Katie Sieverding, Rapid City Assistant Region Bridge Engineer

On March 11, 2025, **Hannah Zastrow, Journey Transportation Technician; Elizabeth Johnson, Transportation Planning Engineer; Kayla Hernandez, Journey Transportation Technician; Danny Varilek, Transportation Specialist; and Kate Sieverding, Rapid City Region Assistant Region Bridge Engineer** attended the Women in Science Conference at South Dakota School of Mines.

The WIS Conference is designed to promote STEM careers to 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls at a critical developmental stage when they begin to determine whether they “can” or “cannot” succeed in a STEM-based career. It was also an opportunity to introduce students to the SDDOT at a young age.

We brought a variety of interactive materials, including a lit traffic signal head, a stop sign, pavement marking tape and beads, a traffic cone, a snowplow monitor, a mini traffic signal loop detection system, Rupert, material testing equipment and samples, and a magnetic particle tester. Additionally, we had two computer monitors displaying a completed design walkthrough video, Rupert videos, and various photos. Students were most interested in Rupert and pavement marking beads.



Thank you to all who attended and to Kevin Valko, Christal Collins, Tel Saucerman, Bret Mattice, Naomi Thomas, Michele Gabert, Broc Swanson, Tanner Linderman, Jesse Nelson, and John Rehorst for their ideas.





## TRAINING UPDATE -

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

April 2025 (Upcoming Trainings)

### PLANNING & DESIGN

#### ADA 101

May 13 | 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

#### Accommodating Pedestrians in the Work Zone

May 13 | 1 - 3 p.m. | Sioux Falls

#### SDDOT Project Management Basics

Online in SDLearn

#### Bentley OpenRoads SignCAD Fundamentals

Online Courses in SDLearn

#### SDDOT Scope Management

Online in SDLearn

#### NHI 135048 Countermeasure Design for Bridge Scour & Stream Instability

Sept. 10 - 12 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Pierre (tentative)

### COMMUNICATION and TECHNOLOGY

#### Engagement Quick Tips

Online in SDLearn

#### DOT New Supervisor Playlist

Online in SDLearn

### It Pays to Train (IPT)

- Quick sessions to improve our employee culture
- Information on SDDOT's values, expectations, and processes
- Upcoming training announcements
- Questions and answers on all training topics

So, if today is the day you get paid, check out the Training session on SDLearn at 11 a.m.

#### Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting

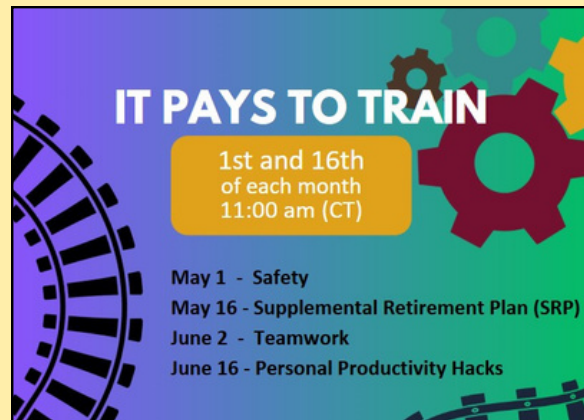
#### It Pays to Train (IPT)

May 1 | 11 - 11:45 a.m. CT | Teams

May 16 | 11 - 11:45 a.m. CT | Supplemental Retirement Savings

June 2 | 11 - 11:45 a.m. CT | Teamwork

June 16 | 11 - 11:45 a.m. CT | Personal Productivity Hacks



Miss the latest IPT session? They are all recorded and put on SDLearn. Click "Follow" on the [SDDOT It Pays to Train](#) playlist to be notified whenever there is a new recording added.

#### Dealing with Difficult Personalities

Playlist on SDLearn

#### New Employee Orientation

May 20 - 21 | 1 p.m. - 12 p.m. | Pierre

#### Computer Skills Basics

Upon request

#### Lab Tour (independent event from NEO)

May 20 - 21 | 1 p.m. - 12 p.m. | Pierre

### MAINTENANCE

#### Temporary Traffic Control & Safety in Short-Term Work Zones

Online in SDLearn

#### Computer Skills Basics

Upon request

#### Maintenance Training Series: Pavement Preservation Program

Online in SDLearn

#### Spotter Safety in the Workplace

Online in SDLearn

#### CDL Learners Permit

May 8 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

June 26 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Pierre

June 31 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Rapid City

#### AGC Hazardous Materials Endorsement

May 9 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

June 27 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Pierre

July 31 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Rapid City

#### CDL EDLT Class A & B Theory

May 5-7 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

June 23-25 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Pierre

July 28-30 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City

#### CDL EDLT Train the Trainer

May 8 | 12:30 - 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

June 26 | 12:30 - 5 p.m. | Pierre

July 31 | 12:30 - 5 p.m. | Rapid City

Lead HMW 2 HCP

Lead HMW 2 HCP

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve  
April 2025 - Safety Quick Tips



Take just a few minutes to watch this video designing for the health and safety of all SDDOT employees.

Today I will... make safety **my** priority.

<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/fe15c684-8518-4e2d-8327-11ef4042e2cb>

Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist

In the February Newsletter, I talked about the current technology upgrade roadmap and that four of our five major systems are in the process of being replaced. And how the fifth, C2C, is stable enough that we are in no hurry to replace it.

However, that still leaves dozens of smaller systems that may be getting too old to maintain. Or lack modern features that new technology makes available. A couple of recent examples are the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) and the Needs Book. Both systems were major steps forward when they were created. However, both books are now “dated.” In the case of the Needs Book, changes in outside technology broke the software. Both have recently had RFPs released to find replacements. So, how does a program go about getting their smaller but vital software systems updated?

**1. Work with the program manager to see if now is the time for a change.**

A major consideration is budget. And that is not just money it also includes whether BIT has the staff to support the change. Or if your own office has the staff. Adopting new systems can represent a major time commitment. Beyond that, if your system interconnects with others, there could be changes going on there that help determine your timing.

## 2. Catalog what is broken or missing.

Are there features that no longer work? Changes needed because of changes to Federal Reporting? Features such as the use of tablets or phones for field work needed. Basically, you are building the case for making the change and how urgent the need is.

### 3. Check with BIT to see if they can do the work.

Because all technology purchases involve BIT at some level, they are going to ask if they can do the work. In some cases, they can modify or update existing systems. Being able to answer yes or no if BIT can do the work is part of the case for going to an RFP. As of May 1, 2025, the BIT business contact is [Stephannie.Ramirez@state.sd.us](mailto:Stephannie.Ramirez@state.sd.us).

Please feel free to contact me at [Dawson.Lewis@state.sd.us](mailto:Dawson.Lewis@state.sd.us) for help with this. As of April 2025, I track technology RFPs within SDDOT.

## BHRA - Open Enrollment

Please start preparing for Open Enrollment, which will take place from May 1 to May 15, 2025. **You must take action during Open Enrollment and actively elect or opt out of coverage by logging into Employee Space between May 1 – May 15, 2025.** If you do not make your elections or opt out by May 15, you will be enrolled in the Washington High Deductible Health Plan with employee-only coverage. Your spouse and/or any enrolled dependent(s) will lose coverage, and you and your family will not be enrolled in any flexible benefits. You will not be able to make changes to your benefits until the next Open Enrollment period, or unless you experience a Qualified Life Event.


Additional Open Enrollment resources can be found at <https://bhr.sd.gov/fy26plans/>.

As a reminder, Open Enrollment is conducted through [Employee Space](#). Please take the time to log into Employee Space before Open Enrollment to view your current benefits, dependents, and beneficiaries, and to ensure that you can make your elections when Open Enrollment begins.

### What's New for FY26?

The updated [FY26 Benefits Guide](#) is now available and includes important updates to:

- Health Insurance options
- Flexible benefits (including dental, vision, and more)
- Tax-advantaged savings accounts (HSA, FSA, etc.)
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- NEW! Our well-being partner, Propel, offers expanded resources to support your health and wellness goals

 [ALEX](#) – Your Personalized Benefits Counselor! Need help understanding your options? ALEX is an interactive virtual tool designed to walk you through your benefits choices in plain language. In just 15 minutes, ALEX will:


- Ask a few confidential questions
- Crunch the numbers
- Recommend options tailored to your unique situation

 Please note: **ALEX does not enroll you in benefits.** You'll still need to log into Employee Space to complete your elections.

### [FY26 Benefits Guide](#)

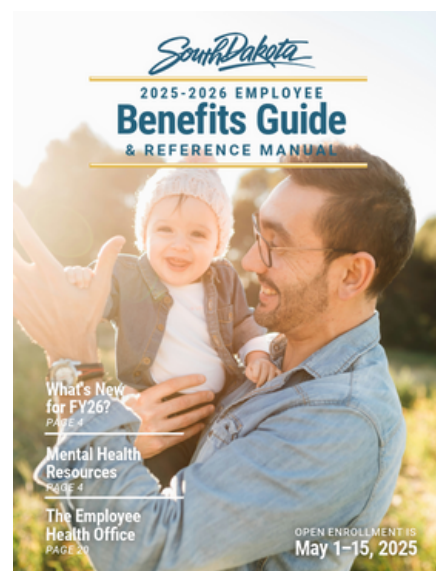
## Questions? We're Here to Help!

If you have any questions about your benefits or Open Enrollment, reach out to us:

 Phone: 605-773-3148

 Email: [benefitswebsite@state.sd.us](mailto:benefitswebsite@state.sd.us)

 Website: <https://bhr.sd.gov/>





## Maintenance Equipment Management System (MEMS) Update

By: Mark King, Maintenance & Inventory Management Specialist

The SDDOT has been working with a company called SADA Inc. to develop a new system that will include equipment, parts inventory, asset management, and maintenance management. MEMS will replace the old mainframe systems that were developed in-house during the 1970s – 90s. The new system uses a Google product called ATOM. The overall goal of MEMS is to improve the flow of information for users, which will assist area engineers and maintenance supervisors to better analyze and utilize available resources.

### MEMS processes include:

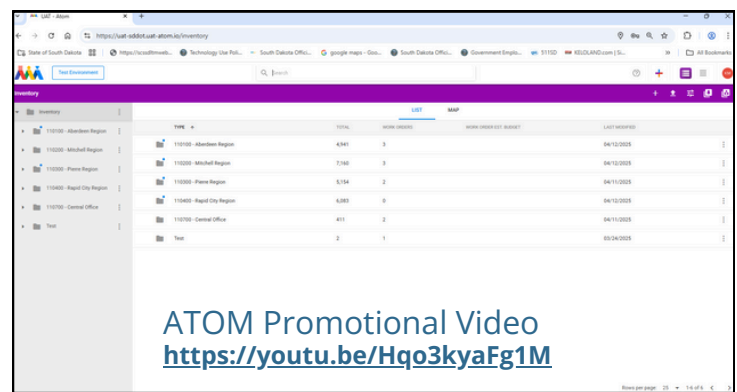
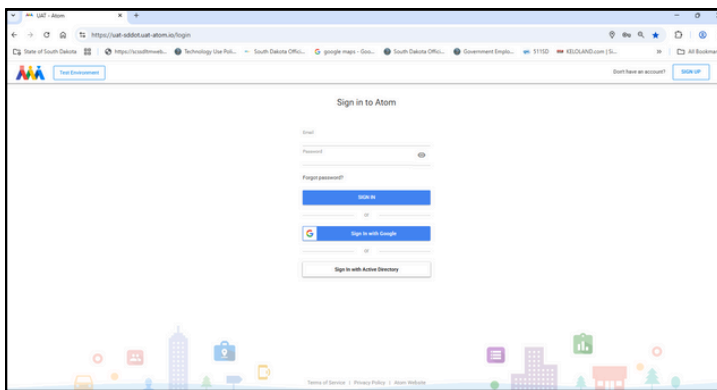
- Equipment management and scheduling
- Analysis of maintenance
- Annual maintenance planning
- Track maintenance work/inventory, assets, and equipment
- Ability to track work orders for both equipment and for maintenance activities
- Store and analyze data (road condition ratings, maintenance expenditures, etc.)

MEMS allows users to access and analyze maintenance data and easily create reports from the data.

### MEMS Project Schedule:

The project for replacing the SDDOT's current equipment management system (EMS), supplies inventory management system (MSA), various asset management systems, and the maintenance performance system is well underway and nearing completion of **Phase 1**. Phase 1 includes the replacement of the old mainframe equipment management (EMS) and supplies inventory system (MSA). Phase 1 will impact anyone who assigns work orders for equipment or does inventory transactions. This will include shop foreman, equipment technicians, region and area secretaries, maintenance supervisors, and lead workers. **Our hope is to go live with MEMS for equipment and supplies inventory management, after the July 23, 2025, pay period is completed.**

ATOM and Operations Support will be conducting training for users of the equipment and inventory management system beginning after the holiday on **July 4, 2025**. Training will also be provided to people who need information such as reports, spreadsheets, and graphs from the system.



Phase 2 of the project has started with some discussions with the department's asset management engineer and GIS staff, and will get going strong once Phase 1 is fully implemented. At that point, Operations will be pulling together users of the various asset systems we use to get their input in designing the system for all the assets. Phase 2 will bring a lot of the department's assets into one system and include mapping of all those different assets. Phase 2 is expected to take about a year to complete, but will be ongoing as data is collected and more assets are brought into the system.

Once Phase 2 is implemented, Phase 3 of the project will begin. Phase 3 will be the phase where maintenance work is brought into the system and tracked. This will require bringing in maintenance personnel to help design the system, so it collects the information needed and is easy to use.

After Phase 3 is fully implemented, the project will move on to Phases 4 and 5, which will include budgeting and level of service.

## SDDOT Safety News

By: Jon Johanson, Safety Manager



# SDDOT SAFETY NEWS

## National Water Safety Month

For many of us, the weather has finally gotten to the point where we are seeing bicyclists and motorcyclists on the roads almost daily. With the promise of warmer weather, many are starting to get their watercraft ready too. Watercraft are undoubtedly great fun and they provide the ability to reach some great fishing holes.

For many of us, watercraft are mostly intended for pleasure, like fishing, water skiing, tubing, or just cruising around. Watercraft are also used for work operations, like transportation and law enforcement. Regardless of how it's used, every type of watercraft has safe operating procedures and [required safety equipment](#) that should be utilized during use.

All things considered, watercraft safety can be a very broad subject. Does watercraft safety begin when the boat trailer is hitched up to a vehicle, when the canoe is strapped down or when the



boat is in the water? What about stand-up paddleboards or those [big-wheeled tricycles that you can drive from land right into the water?](#)

According to the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, American Red Cross, National Drowning Prevention Alliance, National Recreation and Park Association and World Waterpark Association, May is [National Water Safety Month](#). Your Safety Department knows that other activities can get you on or near water, so here are few water-related activity safety tips to start the conversation on the subject. See how many more your teams can come up with!

- Always wear a [Personal Floatation Device \(PFD\)](#), when near or on water.
- Do not leave small children unattended around any bodies of water. If playing near or on water, small children should wear a PFD.
- Children under 13 years old must always wear a USCG - approved life jacket when

underway in a vessel unless the child is below deck or in the enclosed cabin of a boat.



- Before going out on your watercraft, ensure you are familiar with its use and the operation of equipment.
- Whether going out as a group or solo, be sure to let someone know your plans, destination, and time/date of return at a minimum; the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) recommends the use of a [float plan](#).
- Check the weather before you go. The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), provides [marine forecast](#), [boating tips](#), and more.
- Skiing and wakeboarding are great fun but can also be [dangerous when not careful](#).
- Stay current on [local](#), [state](#), and federal [regulations](#) and [laws](#).
- Tubing can be a fun and [enjoyable watersport when done safely](#). Anyone being towed under 13 years old must wear an approved life jacket. Pro tip: Anyone going tubing should wear a life jacket to be safe.
- Having a drink while fishing or sitting on the dock is within reason, but most anything is alright in moderation. Avoid heavy drinking, strong prescription medications, or any recreational drugs while on or near water. Pro tip: [it is against the law in South Dakota to operate a watercraft while under the influence](#).
- Make sure: Plug is in. Inflate/deflate valve is sealed. Fuel is full. Emergency gear onboard.



## Auditor's Anonymous

### Timeline - Deadlines - All the Fun Times

This may be short and sweet, but we want to make sure the following items are on your radar.

- **End of Fiscal Year** – this is typically before the Juneteenth holiday – keep an eye out in your emails from Finance on those deadline dates!
  - We won't be able to process any payments until Finance gives us the ok.
- **New Retainer Year!** – Starting January 1, 2026, we will be on the new retainer!
  - Keep this in mind for consultants you plan on working with. If you would like to verify if they are on the retainer or not, please feel free to reach out to anyone in audits or Tiffany Karr, Consultant Services Specialist.
  - Once a Work Order (WO) is open under a contract number, IT STAYS on the contract for all future invoices and amendments. The only time this will change is if you close the WO and reopen it on a new contract number/retainer.
- **Contract/Retainer Expirations**
  - Pay attention to the timing of your negotiations

### Audit's Emoji Game Competition

(Must be SDDOT personnel to win)

Audits wants to start a friendly competition! We are going to **periodically** place questions in the newsletter!

The game will consist of a series of emojis (The Emoji Game) that will either be a movie, song, OR it will be a question from a previous newsletter. So keep your eyes open, there are prizes for the **first three** that answer correctly! Please contact **Danae Dean, Auditor**, either at [danae.dean@state.sd.us](mailto:danae.dean@state.sd.us) or on Teams with your answer.

### First Emoji Puzzle:



## Reimbursement of Credits Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has recently seen more vouchers with employees claiming credits. Like other states, South Dakota has a policy that credits **do not** have a monetary value to the state and thus cannot be reimbursed.

### OSA Auditing Handbook, Page 10

Reward points, vouchers, rebates, coupons, promotional credits, etc. are not eligible for reimbursement when submitting expense reports as they are not a form of "out of pocket" payment.

- Meaning you did not personally pay for the goods or services with your own money for the current expense – instead you used a pre-earned reward, voucher, etc. to cover the cost.



## SDDOT Preliminary 2024-2025 Winter Maintenance Report

By: Danny Varilek, Transportation Specialist

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has released its preliminary winter maintenance report for the 2024-2025 season, covering the period from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. While April's figures are still being processed, the preliminary data provides a clear snapshot of this past winter's operations and spending.

### Winter Maintenance Budget and Expenditures

The anticipated budget for winter maintenance during this period was \$28,058,325.00. As of March 31, actual spending reached \$12,946,111.60, with additional April expenses to be reported next week.

Contracting costs, which include services for extended-hour and 24-hour snow routes as well as snow ridging, were budgeted at \$39,000.00. Actual contracting expenses came in slightly under budget at \$33,383.91.

The state also recorded nine snowplow hits during this timeframe.

### Material Usage by Region

Material usage varied significantly by region, with Rapid City leading in several key categories:

- **Aberdeen**
  - Road Salt: 6,882 tons (\$523,174.96)
  - Salt Brine: 318,513 gallons (\$77,713.43)
  - Enhanced Brine (Ice B Gone): 14,440 gallons (\$442.00)
  - Abrasive Blend: 72 tons (\$3,488.15)
- **Mitchell**
  - Road Salt: 12,319 tons (\$892,366.85)
  - Salt Brine: 628,625 gallons (\$142,078.30)
  - Abrasive: 923 tons (\$34,086.89)
- **Pierre**
  - Road Salt: 4,584 tons (\$402,640.61)
  - Salt Brine: 7,779 gallons (\$1,944.63)
  - Magnesium Chloride: 59,114 gallons (\$93,199.29)
  - Abrasive: 124 tons (\$4,806.89)
- **Rapid City**
  - Road Salt: 13,570 tons (\$1,314,466.05)
  - Salt Brine: 81,592 gallons (\$27,665.01)
  - Magnesium Chloride: 95,816 gallons (\$137,266.48)
  - Abrasive: 1,554 tons (\$65,277.99)

### Statewide Totals and Year-Over-Year Comparison

For FY25 to date, the total material usage statewide includes:

- **Road Salt:** 37,355 tons
- **Salt Brine:** 1,036,509 gallons
- **Magnesium Chloride:** 154,930 gallons
- **Enhanced Brine:** 14,440 gallons
- **Abrasive Materials:** 2,673 tons

Compared to FY24, the use of salt and brine has increased significantly, with road salt usage rising from 31,117 tons and salt brine from 800,861 gallons. However, magnesium chloride usage has decreased from 230,103 gallons last year to 154,930 gallons this year. The use of Enhanced Brine has nearly tripled, indicating a possible shift in treatment strategies.

As winter weather continues to challenge road maintenance operations, the state remains committed to balancing safety, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

## SDSU National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) Camps



### 2025 Camp Dates:

**Option 1: June 1-7, 2025**

**Option 2: June 8-14, 2025**

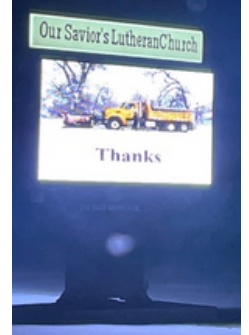
- Entering grades 9–12 (as of the 2025–2026 school year)
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (out of 4.0)
- Completed algebra (or will be qualified to enroll in coming school term)
- Interested in engineering, science, transportation or technology.

**Application Deadline: May 10, 2025**

<https://www.sdstate.edu/civil-environmental-engineering/national-summer-transportation-institute>



**Brian Chase, Sisseton Highway Maintenance Supervisor**, shared a picture of this sign that he took one EARLY morning. The sign thanking snowplow operators was located at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in South Shore.



### Rapid City Region Safety Day

The Rapid City Region hosted an informative and educational safety presentation from Butte Electric displaying the deadly power of electricity and how to manage it.



### Celebrating Graduates:

Spring is a wonderful time of year to celebrate academic achievements and future endeavors! If you or a family member has a milestone graduation this year, please send photos to Julie Stevenson by Friday, May 9, 2025, for the May newsletter and for our annual SDDOT video collage.

With the photo, please include the graduate's name, high school or college from which he/she is graduating, future education or work plans, and your name/position as the SDDOT employee. **Sample below:**

#### Ellie Olson - Graduating from Spearfish High School

She plans to attend SDSU to study sports medicine with the goal of becoming an athletic trainer at either the high school or college level. **She is considering playing drums in the Dakota Pride.**

**Ellie** is the daughter of **Heidi Olson, BHRA Human Resources Manager.**



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### April New Hires:

Caleb DeGarmo, Equipment Technician - Rapid City

Cyle Phillips, Highway Maintenance Worker - Gettysburg

Stacy Martinmaas, Right of Way Technician - Pierre

### April Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Peter Iverson, Assistant Region Bridge Engineer - Pierre

Joel Flesner, Highway Construction Project Engineer Supervisor - Belle Fourche

Raymond Joens, Highway Maintenance Supervisor - Eagle Butte

### April Longevity:

Joanne Hight, Program Manager – 20 years (Central Office – LGA)

Levi Duncan, Project Technician – 25 years (Mobridge Area)



**Roger Flint, Huron Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor,** (right) received his 25-year longevity pin from **Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer.**



**Brenda Thomas, Training and Development Specialist,** received her 25-year longevity pin for working for the State of South Dakota from **SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt.**



**Bonnie Palmer, Huron Area Senior Secretary,** received her 20-year longevity pin from **Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer.**





## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### Mitchell Region Sign Crew Recognized

On March 20, 2025, **Corey Pinkley, Mitchell Region Traffic Engineer; Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer; and Craig Smith, Director of Operations**, thanked the Mitchell Region sign crew for their outstanding work in 2024. The sign crew installed 19,685 square feet of signs throughout the Mitchell Region in 2024.

Certificates from Sec. Jundt, recognizing their efforts were presented to **Sioux Falls Highway Maintenance Workers Brian Gengler, Tanner Lind, and Keith Lundstra (Lead)**.

L-R in the picture: Corey Pinkley, Craig Smith, Brian Gengler, Tanner Lind, Keith Lunstra and Travis Dressen.

### SDDOT Annual Bowling Tournament in Pierre

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, concluded the SDDOT Annual Bowling Tournament. **Brad Gall, Road Design Lead Engineer, and Dave Voeltz, former STIP Coordinator**, won 1<sup>st</sup> place. **Steve Gramm, Planning Squad Leader, and Mary Hoyt, State Highway Funding Specialist**, came in 2<sup>nd</sup> (and received the honor of running the tournament next year). **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel, and Steve Withers, Highway Maintenance Worker**, received 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and **Carson Tschetter, Road Design Engineer, and Derek Ferwerda, Engineering Manager**, placed 4<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you to everyone who participated in the tournament. Bowlers wore pink in memory of SDDOT staff member, Laura Blotske.*



1st Place Winners



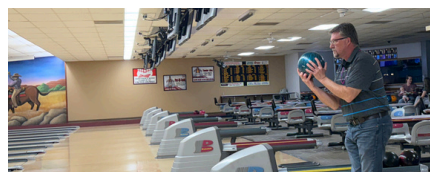
2nd Place



3rd Place



4th Place





## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Congratulations to ten-year-old **Leo Wallingford** for winning a Trophy Fish Award from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. His smallmouth bass was 19.5 inches long, just shy of the state record. Both Leo and his catch were featured in Scout Life magazine.

Leo is the son of **Rebecka Wallingford, Grants & Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinator**.



Administrative Professional Day was Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Pictured are **Susan Geigle, Senior Secretary for Finance and Management**, and **Rayleen Rageth, Senior Secretary for Air, Rail, and Transit**, receiving some well-earned gifts from their departments.

### April Retirements:

Congratulations to **Paul Nikolas, Road Design Engineer**, who retired in April with 33 years of public service to the State of South Dakota.



### New Family Members:



**Doug and Val Sherman** welcomed **Sawyer Faith Secker**, their 14<sup>th</sup> grandchild, on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. **Doug is the Winner Area Engineer**.

She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Doug and Val are accompanied by Sawyer's siblings, Izzy, Beau, and Barrett.

## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

**Patti Devitt, Accounting Manager in the Finance Office (Pierre),** welcomed grandson, Jackson Joseph Devitt.

Jackson was born on Saturday, April 12, 2025. He weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz.



### In Sympathy:



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and co-workers of **Robert Shannon, a former Highway Maintenance Supervisor in the Mobridge Area.**

Robert passed away on April 8, 2025, in Dupree.

A funeral service was held on April 12, 2025, at Pioneer Hall in Dupree. Burial was held at Dupree Cemetery.