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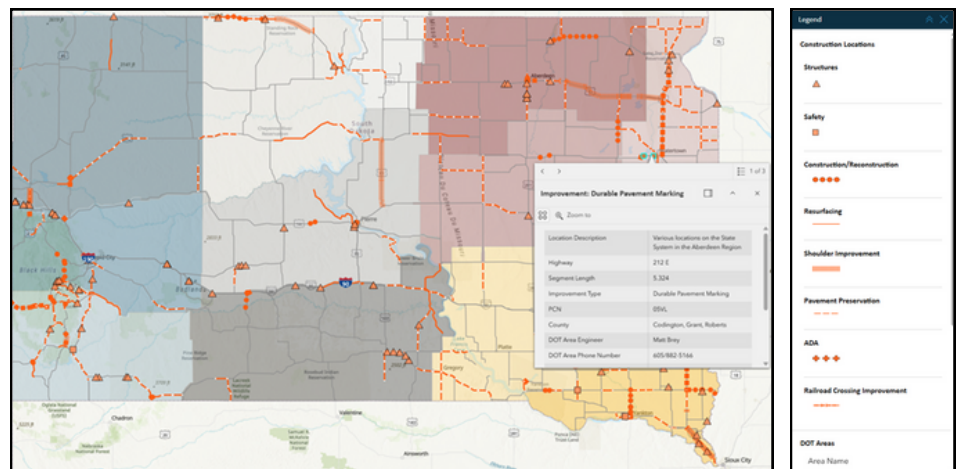
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2025 Planned Construction Map

Thank you to everyone who helped in the development of the **2025 planned construction map**. This is proving to be a great resource for our maintenance teams to access advanced information on all planned construction projects over the course of the construction season. It is also a great tool we are sharing with our external stakeholders.

When clicking on an orange icon, a person is able to view information about the project location, PCN, and more. The legend also provides additional information about the project type. The map will be updated late winter or early spring annually to reflect the projects planned for the upcoming construction season.

Find this newly developed **2025 planned construction** map on our website home page under the **Featured Resources** section. In this same section, we also have our Featured Projects map (which provides detailed information about high-impact construction projects statewide), as well as our **Interactive STIP map**, which provides information on projects in the four-year construction plan.



Click on the graphic to access the 2025 planned construction map.

The Secretary's Corner



Growing and Retaining a High Performing Workforce:

SDDOT is fortunate to have 23 returning interns and 33 new interns working with our organization this summer. I want to take time to recognize the valuable work provided by our interns.

Interns bring fresh perspectives, energy, and innovative ideas that can revitalize team dynamics and inspire new approaches. They provide valuable support on projects, help to lighten workloads, and improve overall productivity for the Department.

Internships also serve as an effective pipeline for identifying and training future talent, reducing long-term recruitment costs. Additionally, mentoring interns can foster leadership development for our staff, strengthening the organization's internal culture.

National Intern Day is Thursday, July 31, 2025. On that day (and every day) let's celebrate these future leaders and innovators! Please take a moment to thank our interns for their time given to the SDDOT this summer.

Photos below are from a couple intern events held this summer. The **SDDOT Intern Appreciation Event** was held in Pierre on July 15, 2025. Thank you to everyone who organized and led this hands-on training/appreciation opportunity for our wonderful interns!



The Governor's Office hosted all South Dakota State agency interns at their annual luncheon in June.



Spearfish Canyon Rockslide Emergency Response

Thank you to our amazing SDDOT team who worked tirelessly over the Independence holiday weekend when an emergent situation arose. On Saturday, July 5, 2025, a rockslide occurred on U.S. Highway 14A in Spearfish Canyon. SDDOT staff members were able to reopen Highway 14A on Sunday, July 6, 2025, thanks to the hard work of many.

I would like to thank our Rapid City Area maintenance team who responded to the situation immediately and spent hours on site coordinating the removal of the boulders and debris. We are also thankful for our partners at Lawrence County Sheriff's Department and the South Dakota Highway Patrol for their assistance in keeping the public informed and safe during the removal process.

And, we are thankful for great working relationships with local companies. Despite the rockslide occurring on the holiday weekend, A-1 Drilling and Blasting Inc. of Deadwood, responded immediately to our call for assistance with equipment and personnel.



We have heard many compliments for our quick action through our social media accounts, phone calls, and emails. South Dakotans and visitors have expressed their appreciation for the prompt action by the SDDOT for the safety of all.

Please find a note of thanks below from the Department of Tourism.

"Thank you for getting the Spearfish Canyon highway cleared so quickly and safely. I know our visitors are grateful, too. Appreciate you and your team. Please extend our deepest THANKS to them!"

James Hagen, Department Secretary/Travel South Dakota.

New Mandatory Reporting Requirements - Effective July 1, 2025

As of July 1, 2025, all South Dakota State employees are required to report certain types of misconduct, following new laws (SB62 and SB63) and Executive Order 2025-04. These changes are aimed at making sure any suspected improper governmental conduct or criminal activity is reported promptly and consistently across state government.

Here's a quick summary:

- **What needs to be reported:**
 - If you have reasonable cause to believe another state employee has committed fraud, theft (involving public funds/property), a prohibited conflict of interest, or a crime involving abuse of position—you must report it to any supervisor.
- **What supervisors do:**
 - Supervisors are then required to report the issue to the Attorney General and Auditor General through the new electronic reporting system.
- **How to report:**
 - There's a new electronic reporting system you can use, and BIT will add a desktop link for all employees under the Governor's authority.
- **Resources and Training:**
 - The updated policy is in the State employee handbook.
 - The anti-retaliation policy has also been updated.
 - **Required training through SDLearn has been assigned** to provide more guidance on how to use the system and understand your reporting responsibilities.
- **Reference Bills and Executive Order:**
 - Senate Bill 62: <https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/281461.pdf>
 - Senate Bill 63: <https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/281634.html>
 - Executive Order 2025-04: https://governor.sd.gov/doc/SD_EO_2025-04_Establishing-a-Mandatory-Reporting-System.pdf

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your Director.



BHRA Watercooler:

Click on the graphic below to view this month's video.

The July Watercooler video includes information about the 2025 Leadership Conference, Lyra Health, LiveWellSD, mental health resources, and P-Card reminders!





Finance Corner

DEPOSITS: REFUND of OVERPAYMENTS or REIMBURSEMENTS

When submitting a check to the Central Finance Office for deposit, **please attach a copy of the original voucher and/or credit card statement**. This will ensure the deposit is coded correctly.

Reimbursement Examples:

- Overpayment on Direct Voucher payments
 - double payment or incorrect amount notated on invoice
- Overpayment on Credit Card purchases
 - double payment or incorrect amount notated on invoice
- Overpayment on Employee Travel
 - employee was reimbursed too much
- Reimbursement on Employee Travel
 - employee reimbursed from vendor and/or Federal Govt for certain travel-related costs
 - Example: AASHTO (reg fees, airfare, meals)

At times, the Department may be reimbursed throughout the Fiscal Year for transactions which were paid during the current Fiscal Year or prior Fiscal Year(s). There is specific coding which should be used to identify the reimbursement (based on the dates of the original payment and the reimbursement).

Examples of both MSA & DOT coding for these types of reimbursements are listed below.

ORIGINAL EXPENSE:	CREDIT REIMB (OPTION 1)	CREDIT REIMB (OPTION 2)	EXAMPLE:	
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR	OBTAIN CHECK FROM VENDOR & CODE BACK TO ORIGINAL MSA & DOT CODING	OBTAIN CREDIT INVOICE FROM VENDOR & CODE BACK TO ORIGINAL MSA & DOT CODING	MSA: 3040-52050880-1113332	DOT: M000P-152-2404
PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR	OBTAIN CHECK FROM VENDOR & CODE TO "REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR EXPENDITURE"	N/A	MSA: 3040-4950000-1110000	DOT: M000P-152-2404
*SUBMIT REIMBURSEMENT DEPOSIT & VOUCHER DOCUMENTATION INTO THE CENTRAL FINANCE OFFICE; ATTN: FAITH KINGS LIEN				

Questions: Please contact the Central Finance Office.



**For more BISON updates,
please visit the BISON
website at**
<https://www.sd.gov/bison>

Project BISON is happy to share this month's update. The BISON team will continue to keep you informed about the project.

[July 2025 KDSR](#)

Take a moment to read the full KDSR!
[KDSR SharePoint Page](#)

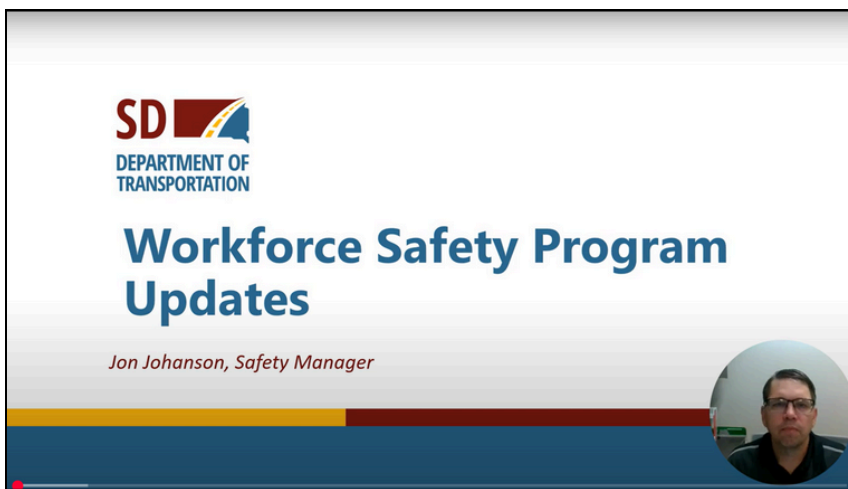
Workforce Safety Update - Progress Report Video

By Craig Smith & Safety Team

As part of the continued commitment to our core value of safety in all we do, we're pleased to share a video update from **Jon Johanson, Safety Manager**, on the progress we're making to our workforce safety program.

Since Rizikon, a workforce safety consultant, provided recommendations and an implementation plan, we've made meaningful strides toward building a safer work environment for all employees. Attached is an article from the October 2023 newsletter providing additional information on the recommendations from Rizikon.

Link to Workforce Safety Video Update: <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/Safety.aspx>



The video highlights our progress on:

- Hiring a dedicated safety team, including contact information for the Employee Safety Manager and regional safety coordinators;
- Initiating the replacement of outdated safety software to improve data tracking and decision-making;
- Reviewing safety committees to better support field operations and staff input;
- Organizing safety manuals and procedures to ensure clear, consistent, and accessible resources;
- Enhancing safety training tailored to employee roles;
- Increasing safety communication and outreach across the department.

These efforts reflect your feedback and the hard work of many across the agency. Thank you for your engagement, ideas, and continued focus on safe practices in everything you do.

Together, we are building a stronger safety culture—one where every voice matters, and every employee can help shape a safer workplace.

Let's keep the momentum going as we move forward with the shared goal of **Everyone Home Safe Every Day.**

SDDOT Staff Guidance: Encountering a Disabled Vehicle or Traffic Incident

By: Jon Johanson, Safety Manager and Christina Bennett, Construction & Maintenance Engineer

General Safety First – For All Staff

- Do not put yourself or others in danger.
- Call 911 immediately if you come upon a crash or hazardous situation and first responders are not yet on scene.
- Turn on your hazard lights and, if safe, alert oncoming traffic from a distance.
- Never move injured persons unless there is an immediate life-threatening danger (e.g., fire).
- Follow directions from law enforcement or emergency responders when they arrive.

1. Office-Based Staff (No Emergency Training or Field Experience)

- Do not attempt to assist directly at the scene.
- Pull over only if it is safe to do so, stay in your vehicle, and call 911.
- Provide clear information about the location and nature of the incident.
- Wait for first responders; do not leave your vehicle to direct traffic or approach the scene.

2. Field-Trained Staff (With TIM Training or current CPR/AED/First Aid training or Field Experience – On Duty)

- Follow SDDOT policies and guidance for assisting motorists and pulling vehicles during winter months, as applicable.
- If it's safe and appropriate, use your vehicle and warning lights to provide traffic control or scene protection until first responders arrive.
- Report the incident to dispatch and your supervisor as soon as possible.
- Assist only within the scope of your training and responsibilities. Use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against bloodborne pathogens.

3. Field-Trained Staff (With TIM Training or current CPR/AED/First Aid training or Field Experience – Off Duty)

- You are not obligated to intervene, but you may choose to assist within your comfort and training level. Use the appropriate PPE to protect against bloodborne pathogens.
- First, ensure your own safety and that of others.
- Call 911 and provide situational details.
- If you do stop, consider wearing a reflective safety vest if available and never enter active travel lanes unless absolutely necessary and safe.
- Do not use personal vehicles to block traffic unless it is critical for immediate safety.

TSMO: Transportation Systems Management and Operations

In July, **Dave Huft, ITS Program Manager**, coordinated a Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) workshop for SDDOT staff and others in transportation related agencies. TSMO is a strategic approach to improve safety, reduce congestion, and enhance the overall efficiency of the transportation system without necessarily adding new capacity. It uses operational strategies, including real-time data, analysis, and communication technology, to actively manage the transportation system and emphasizes coordination with other stakeholders.

Examples of TSMO Strategies:

- Work Zone Management
- Special Event Management
- Commercial Vehicle Operations
- Road Weather Management
- Traveler Information

TSMO:

- Represents a different approach for agencies that have traditionally designed and constructed roads and bridges.
- Requires an expansion of knowledge and skills to think differently.

TSMO directly affects:

- Planning
- Design
- Maintenance
- Customer service
- Safety
- Budgets

The Future:

The workshop included a self-assessment of SDDOT's TSMO-related capabilities in the dimensions of culture, systems and technology, business processes, collaboration, organization and workforce, and performance management. Participants identified numerous potential opportunities for improvement that will be considered in future weeks and months. A summary of the workshop and findings will be available in September.

Resources:

<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/tsmo/>



Captain Jon Stahl of Highway Patrol presented information about electronic screening advancements.

85th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally: Aug. 1 - 10, 2025



This graphic is now on our SDDOT homepage to guide the traveling public to the SDDOT [Rally Traveler Information page](#) for transportation-related information, including frequently asked questions.

Due to the increased traffic volumes during this annual event, the SDDOT team will once again activate temporary traffic signals and place speed limit reductions in multiple locations in advance of the official Rally kick-off. The SDDOT will also deploy message boards and speed trailers at various locations along with the permanent dynamic message signs (DMS) on the Interstate to display messages regarding traffic conditions, crashes causing delays, extreme weather events, and other vital messages as needed.

Sturgis Rally Traffic Counts:

The SDDOT will provide daily traffic counts at nine locations for vehicles entering Sturgis for the Rally. The information is released on week days over the course of the Rally. The daily counts are also posted to the [Rally Traveler Information page](#). Once the Rally is over and totals are compiled, a complete 2025 Rally report will be available on the SDDOT website.

Thank you to all SDDOT employees who have spent (and will spend) countless hours preparing, working at the Rally (including the TOC), and dismantling everything when it is over. There are many SDDOT staff “behind the scenes” across the State making things run smoothly each year! Your collective efforts will enhance safety for all road users during the 2025 Sturgis Rally.



Reminder - Updated 'Move Over' Law in Effect

The expanded law now requires drivers to take action when approaching any vehicle displaying flashing amber, yellow, or blue lights—not just law enforcement or emergency responders. This includes tow trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, utility crews, and even private vehicles using proper hazard lighting while stopped on the shoulder.

What drivers must do:

- On multi-lane highways: Drivers must move into the lane farthest away from the stopped vehicle, when it's safe to do so, and pass with caution.
- On two-lane roads: Drivers are required to slow down at least 300 feet in advance, and reduce speed to 20 mph below the posted limit, or to 5 mph if the speed limit is 20 mph or less.

Consequences for violating the law:

- Violations are a Class 2 misdemeanor, carrying a minimum \$270 fine.
- If a crash occurs because of a violation, the offense becomes a Class 1 misdemeanor, which comes with steeper penalties.

Click on the graphic to watch a social media video showcasing the updated law.



TRAINING UPDATE -

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

Upcoming Training

Click on the SDLearn graphic or use this link to sign in: [SDLearn](#)Search by the **complete course name** listed.**Defensive Driving Playlist** - SDLearn Playlist

Fire Extinguisher Safety
 Fire Extinguisher Safety: Part 1 – Fight or flee
 Fire Extinguisher Safety: Part 2 – Using Extinguishers
 Operate a Fire Extinguisher Safely

Box Cutter Safety

Materials Handling Safety
 Workplace Safety Essentials
 Office Safety

PLANNING & DESIGN

SDDOT Project Development Series
 Project Management Basics
 Scope Management
 Cost Management
 Quality Management
 Schedule Management**NEW**

EnvisionCAD OpenRoads Designer Roadway

Aug. 4-7 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Zoom

NHI 130130 Inspection of Unlined Rock Tunnels

*includes Peer Review Session with FHWA
 Oct. 21-22 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City

Bentley OpenRoads Playlist - Online in SDLearn**COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY****Working in Indian Country**

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 | 1p.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre

Continuous Improvement: Working Smarter, Not Harder - Online in SDLearn**Bullying in the Workplace**

Preventing Bullying and Incivility in the Workplace
 Keeping Information Secure in Remote Work
 Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace

Dealing with Stress - SDLearn Playlist**LEADERSHIP**

SDDOT Supervisor Summit & Media/Public Engagement
 Aug. 18-19 | Pierre

Drug & Alcohol Testing for Supervisors – Reasonable Suspicion - Online in SDLearn**Advancing Performance Excellence: Baldrige 201**

July 31 & Aug. 14 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Webinar

BHR Leadership Conference

Sept. 4 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Pierre

MAINTENANCE**MEMS Overview June 2025**

Introduction to the ATOM system - Online in SDLearn

New Drainage Courses in SDLearn:

Maintenance: Roadway Drainage
 Drainage Features Maintenance for Safety

CDL EDLT Class A & B Theory

Aug. 4-6 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls
 Sept. 8-10 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Pierre
 Oct. 6-8 | 8 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. | Rapid City
 Dec. 8-10 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

CDL EDLT Train the Trainer

Aug. 7 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls
 Sept. 11 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Pierre
 Oct. 9 | 12:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
 Dec. 11 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

Spotter Safety in the Workplace - Online in SDLearn**Mower Safety**

SDDOT Mower/TLN: Tractor Mower Operator Safety Trg.

CDL Learners Permit

Aug. 7 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls
 Sept. 11 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre
 Oct. 9 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City
 Dec. 11 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

AGC Hazardous Materials Endorsement

Aug. 8 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls
 Sept. 12 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre
 Oct. 10 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City
 Dec. 12 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls



TRAINING UPDATE -

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

Upcoming It Pays to Train Sessions

IT PAYS TO TRAIN

Aug. 1 | Core Value: High Ethical Standards

Aug. 15 | Section 508 ADA Compliance

Aug. 29 | Core Value: Stewardship

Each session runs from 11 - 11:45 a.m. (CT)

*The exact deposit "payday" day of the week may vary depending on weekends and holidays.

The Brookings Area Transit Authority (BATA) Celebrates 35 Years of Service

The Brookings Area Transit Authority, popularly known as BATA, celebrated 35 years of providing transportation for residents in Brookings and the surrounding area recently.

BATA commemorated the milestone by hosting an open house event at their new transit facility.

"It's just amazing how it's grown," said **Executive Director Travis Bortnem**. "It's just needed so much in Brookings. The big thing that we like is to let people know about BATA more, so you don't have to find out about it when you actually need it." The SDDOT is happy to partner with BATA as they provide excellent public transit services to northeast South Dakota. BATA provided 153,000 rides this past fiscal year. Read the [full article](#) by *The Brookings Register*. Below are pictures from the open house.





Mentoring Minute

July Mentoring Minute – Curiosity

By: Nicole Bridge from The Training Connection*

(*Article used with permission)

In this month's newsletter, we're talking about curiosity. That word might sound like it belongs floating off on a hot air balloon in the sky rather than in an article about professional development. But the truth is: harnessing curiosity inspires a sort of thinking that has immediate practical use in your work.

Curiosity is defined as "a strong desire to know or learn something." It's a state of heightened interest that makes you embrace the unexpected or unusual as a means of gathering information. Curiosity makes us feel engaged with what we're doing and leaves us open to possibility and discovery which casts a happy, exciting light on our world – even at the office.

Be Curious to Learn Better

It's highly worth finding opportunities to cultivate a curiosity in our work because if we're connected to what we're doing, we'll inevitably be more successful. When our interests are piqued, we tend to do things such as ask more questions, find additional aspects of a project, or get involved in, and confidently speak up about what we know. Not only that, but studies also show people who are curious learn faster and feel calmer. Learning something new triggers the brain's reward centers, which in turn releases dopamine. This happy hormone helps to lower anxiety and gives us a feeling of contentment.

Curiosity to Widen Perspectives

Last year Psychology Today, published about the benefits of cultivating curiosity. They quoted Albert Einstein's famous line "I have no special talents, I am only passionately curious." The article went on to explain that being curious about other people, including their backgrounds and opinions, makes us more likely to seek their points of view and try to empathize with them. Widening your perspective, listening to others, learning more about the context of someone whose viewpoint is different than your own, might open just the space needed to develop new ideas and solutions.

Curiosity's Biggest Hurdle

Small children are extremely curious; just think about how many questions they ask! As we grow older, that intense question-asking tends to fall off as we start to know everything. Or at least we think we do. Asking questions is an important component of curiosity, especially quality questions.

[TheBigThink.com](https://www.thebigthink.com) explains that there are two types of questions: divergent and convergent. Divergent questions often involve wondering about the "whys" and "what ifs." Convergent questions (who, what, where) get to the bottom of the basic story quickly. But they also lead us to firm answers and information that has already been agreed upon by the group. In this way, convergent questions tend to be curiosity killers. So, ask questions, and try starting with divergent ones first to keep the group from getting locked into just one way of thinking.

Create Opportunities to Be Curious

Think of ways to get your curiosity going as a matter of practice. You might, for example change one of your regular habits, such as where you park at the office or the route you take to the cafeteria. Or go big with a completely new hobby such as birdwatching or swimming. When we change our routine, we lean into those big questions of wondering instead of incurring exact answers.

Mentoring Continued . . .

Internal Curiosity: Daydreaming

We've been talking a lot about the outward-facing process of earning about the world around us, but let's not forget about the internal ways we can open our minds. Daydreaming is one path to lowering stress (as long as you aren't doing it at times when you shouldn't be). Try to let daydreaming happen organically when you're wandering the grocery store or listening to your favorite music on a walk. Even if your daydreams seem unrelated to current life, a vision of pulling a sword out of a stone to save a kingdom or imagining how you'd redecorate your house if you won the lottery, your mind's wanderings often include a clue about what you really want and the narrative you're building.

Ask a Mentor

Mentors can share a lot of ideas for remaining curious and engaged with our work. Try asking yours:

- Do you have any habits you can try to change simply to make things more interesting?
- When do you feel like your interests are the most piqued in team or project meetings?
- Do you try to inspire curiosity in your employees?
- What kind of strategies do you use to stay engaged with your work?

Independence Day Mentee Stretch Assignment:

Over the Fourth of July weekend, mentees **Jessica Gilbert, Accountant and Auditor I**, and **Katie Wilkerson, ROW Specialist**, took on a unique stretch assignment as part of their professional development journey. They organized a SDDOT float for the Fort Pierre Parade.

Guided by their mentors, **Brad Norrid, Winner Area Engineering Manager**, and **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel**, the project served not only as a valuable learning experience, but also as a powerful way to engage with the community.

With the support of **Kyle Willis, Pierre Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, behind the wheel and **Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant**, helping distribute candy and SDDOT swag, the float was a resounding success. But the parade appearance had a deeper purpose beyond celebration—it was a strategic effort to raise public awareness about safety in construction zones.

"We wanted to remind people that behind the orange cones and high-visibility vests are individuals just like them. We have families, and our goal is the same as everyone else's: **to get home safely at the end of the day.**"

Pictured left to right:

Kari Kroll, Jessica Gilbert, Katie Wilkerson, and Kyle Willis.



Make Time for Mentoring!

Auditor's Anonymous

To ICC or to not ICC . . . That is the Question

ICC stand for Interim Cost Clause – aka CYA Clause

-Did you know that Stand Alone Contracts cannot be extended if they are expired?

If a Stand Alone Contract expires, that contract is considered dead and a new contract must be written. **A Stand Alone Contract will never be allowed to have an ICC Amendment.**

-Work Order Expirations

Work orders are slightly different – if the Retainer is still **LIVE** you can use an ICC to extend the expired work order. It is a preferred practice to time extend prior to the work order expiring with an email and a 121.

If you find yourself needing to use the ICC under a live retainer but your work order expired – the following paragraph must be included in the amendment letter or email.

It is understood and agreed between the parties that certain work was performed by the consultant before this amendment was approved. Further, it was the intent of the parties that the consultant performs this work and be paid in accordance with the contract. In light of the foregoing, the parties hereto ratify the acts of the consultant which may have been performed during this period of time and agree to pay for his services which were performed. The effective date of this amendment shall be ORIGINAL OVERALL COMPLETION DATE with an overall completion date of NEW OVERALL COMPLETION DATE.

If your work order EXPIRED under an EXPIRED retainer – a new work order under the new retainer will be required to pick up where the last one left off.

Please remember to be diligent when setting end dates/expiration dates, as there are times the only thing that can be done is to create a new work order or contract in order to have the work completed.

Now is a great time to check dates on your work orders and/or contracts since the current Retainer Contracts in use will expire 12/31/2025.

To reiterate:

Expired Stand Alone Contract cannot use ICC = New Contract

Live Retainer + Live Work Order = Email & 121 Extension Amendment

Live Retainer + Expired Work Order = ICC & 121 Extension Amendment

Expired Retainer + Expired Work Order = New Work Order under New Retainer

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

July New Hires:

Troy Musfelt, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City

Dustin Hunsley, Region Materials Technician, Pierre

July Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Christopher Peters, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Sioux Falls

Rodney Schweitzer, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Redfield

Christopher Voelker, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Sioux Falls

Brandon Riss, Road Design Engineering Manager, Sioux Falls

Steve Schneider, Region Safety Coordinator, Sioux Falls

July Longevity:

Misty Siedschlaw, Transportation Specialist – 20 years (Central/ Office of Air, Rail & Transit)

Mark Bates, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 25 years (Mobridge Area)

Jon Liebe, Highway Maintenance Worker – 25 years (Watertown Area)

Rob Hansen, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 35 years (Mitchell Area)

Todd Hertel, Region Operations Engineer – 35 years (Aberdeen Region)



Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operations Engineer, received his 35-year pin from **Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer.**



Misty Siedschlaw, Central Office Transportation Specialist, received her 20-year service pin from **Jack Dokken, Air, Rail & Transit Program Manager.**



Todd Madden, Pierre Area Highway Maintenance Worker, (right) received his 15-years of service pin from **Les Winsell, Pierre Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates



Clark Guthrie, Pierre Region Beautification and Billboard Technician, retired from the SDDOT after 37 years. Clark started his career in Murdo with the maintenance crew. He was a member of the Pierre Region traffic crew, striping 1000's of miles of roadway! He then took his current position.

Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer; Jim Hyde, Pierre Operations Engineer; and Hannah Covey, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer, presented Clark with a challenge coin and proclamation from Governor Rhoden.

The 106th Annual American Legion Family State Convention for South Dakota was held June 19-22 in Huron. The state convention allows members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, and Sons of the American Legion to come together for business, election of officers, and networking.

Wyatt Reis, Winner Highway Maintenance Supervisor, was voted the Sons of the American Legion - Detachment of South Dakota Commander for 2025-2026. This is a one-year term, with a two-year term limit. He was previously the Vice Commander of the South Dakota Detachment from 2023-2025. Wyatt is one of the founding members of the Gregory Post Six Sons of the American Legion Squadron. He has served as the Commander of the Gregory squadron from being chartered in 2021 until 2025.

Wyatt qualifies as a member of S.A.L. because of the military service of his great-grandfather, Axel Peterson (WWI - Army), and grandfather, Milo Reber (WWII - Army). He also has several other relatives who were involved in military service.



The 291 Maintenance Crew Helps with Historical Marker Restoration in Vermillion

Jacob Quail, a member of the Vermillion Rotary Club, noticed that a historical marker on Cherry Street looked worn down and was initially placed in 1966 with support from the Vermillion Rotary Club and the State Highway Commission.

In conjunction with Vermillion Rotary Club, Clay County Historical Preservation Commission, WH Over Museum, **Brad Steeneck, Junction City Highway Maintenance Supervisor**, and members of the **291st maintenance crew** were able to have it transported to Sewah Studios in Ohio, where it was refurbished and then sent back and replaced.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates (New Family Members)

Lucy Ione Egge was born on April 11, 2025. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 inches long. She joins big brother Bennett.

Lucy's parents are Jonathan and Amanda Egge from Pierre. Jonathan is a Transportation Utilities Coordinator, Amanda is a former Geotech. Lucy's other SDDOT connections include uncles Benjamin (Certification) and Andrew (Road Design), and Grandpa Tim Brown (retired Finance Department).



Congratulations to Greg (and Lauri) Rothschadl on the summer wedding of their son, Beau. Greg is the Yankton Area Engineer.

Beau was a SDDOT intern at the Yankton Area Office during college. Beau works for Stockwell Engineers, Inc. and he and Emma reside in Yankton.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates (In Sympathy)



Sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and co-workers of **Joe Beel, Highway Maintenance Worker in Mission.** As noted in the June newsletter, Joe passed away on June 21, 2025.

A graveside service was held on July 19, 2025, at Mount Hope Cemetery in Valentine, Nebraska.



Sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and co-workers of **Charlie Trent, Pierre Region Equipment Technician.**

Charlie passed away June 29, 2025. Services are pending at this time.