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Picture the SDDOT

Picture the SDDOT is designed as an internal contest to highlight the amazing work (and people) of the SDDOT! The contest will feature photos submitted by and voted upon by SDDOT staff!

PHOTO CATEGORIES:

- Secretariat Division
- Finance & Management Division
- Operations Division
- Planning & Engineering Division

PROCESS:

Feel free to submit any photos taken in 2025. Use this link <https://forms.office.com/g/HHMandpGkF> or scan the QR Code! This information is also available on the Intranet at [Picture the SDDOT](#).

TIMELINE:

- Deadline to submit photos is Friday, Nov. 14, 2025. Once the contest closes, staff will vote on photos within all four Divisions.
- Three (3) winners will be chosen within each Division for a total of twelve (12) SDDOT spotlight photos.
- From the twelve (12) staff-chosen spotlight photos, staff will then vote for one **2025 SDDOT Photo of the Year**.

Find additional guidelines on the submission site!

WINNING PHOTOS:

The top twelve (12) winning photographers and photos will be showcased with appropriate credits in SDDOT internal communication pieces such as the Information Interchange, newsletter, Lobby TVs, TEAMS backgrounds; as well as on our external website and social media platforms. All submitted photos will be placed into our SDDOT Flickr account folder for any SDDOT staff member to use for brochures, booklets, manuals, presentations, etc. This is a great way to highlight staff and build our photo library!

The final photo chosen by staff as the **"2025 SDDOT Photo of the Year"** will be featured as the cover of the **2025 SDDOT Annual Report** and used in annual national competitions.

The Secretary's Corner



2025 PEN Site Visit: Oct. 1 - 3, 2025



In May, SDDOT submitted our 2025 application to the **Performance Excellence Network (PEN)**, the regional Baldrige-based program that serves South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The application examines processes in leadership, strategic planning, customer-related procedures, workforce, and operations.

We are scheduled for our on-site visit with trained PEN volunteer examiners in Pierre and other locations (virtually) from Oct. 1-3, 2025. As part of their process, they may visit any SDDOT office/shop location.

The purpose of the site visit is very different from compliance/regulatory site visits. The results, a set of identified Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement, are provided for SDDOT use only. Results are not designed to be communicated to outside agencies.

PEN evaluates and recognizes organizations that are systematically improving measurable and quantifiable results. Continuous improvement takes work; it takes a commitment of time, resources, and energy. It also requires focus, persistence, and practice. The examiners will focus on our efforts for continuous improvement as an organization.

Click on the graphic to view our **2025 PEN application** or at [SDDOT Intranet - PEN Application](#). The site visit is not a “test”, be open in responding to examiner’s questions - **“please be yourself”!**

Below are SAMPLE employee questions that could be asked of an employee:

- How would you describe the culture at SDDOT?
- How do you hear about overall organizational performance at SDDOT?
- What are some examples of how you/your co-workers focus on customer satisfaction?
- Tell me about SDDOT values? Can you give me an example of how you and others live the values?
- How do you know what is most important for you to work on? How does your work help achieve the goals of SDDOT? Can you tell me how you are held accountable for your performance?
- How are people recognized and rewarded for good work?
- What kind of decisions do you make about your work? What data or information helps you make those decisions? Is it easy to get this information?

We want to help everyone feel prepared for the site visit. You can print/download the Strategic Plan by clicking on the link below. The SDDOT Mission, Vision, and overall Strategic Plan objectives guide our work daily. The PEN examiners are excited to have conversations with our staff!

Please prepare yourself, but enjoy the opportunity to talk about the great work of the SDDOT on behalf of those we serve! As a resource, please also reference our [Strategic Plan 2025](#).

EMPLOYEE MEETINGS

The annual SDDOT employee meetings have been scheduled. The employee meetings will again include breakout sessions, but with some modifications to allow employees an opportunity to discuss topics that interest them, not just the topics identified for each breakout group.

As we've done in the past, a survey will be shared with staff members in advance of their meeting to garner questions/topics to be covered. Please know your feedback helps determine the most effective ways to interact and receive input from our 1,000 employees.

There will also be an update on topics and ideas raised during the 2024 employee meetings, to include snow plow cutting edges, role of lead highway maintenance worker, remote work guidance, risk based inspection & testing, and implementation of Open Roads.

We look forward to connecting, sharing updates, and hearing your ideas. Please mark your calendars and watch for additional details and a survey link as YOUR employee meeting date approaches.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Aberdeen Region Maintenance Staff in Aberdeen

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025: 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Mitchell Region Maintenance Staff in Aberdeen

Location: Aberdeen Ramkota Hotel

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025: 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. – Rapid City Region Maintenance Staff in Pierre

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Pierre Region Maintenance Staff in Pierre

Location: Pierre Ramkota Hotel

Central Office Staff:

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Employee Meetings/Celebrate Success)

Employee Meeting: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Group 1:** Secretary, Training, Legal, ITS, Project Development, Planning Administration, Local Government, Environmental, Materials & Surfacing, Internal Services, Internal Audits, Finance, Aviation Services, and Air, Rail & Transit

Celebrate Success: 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. All Central Office

Employee Meeting: 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Group 2:** Road Design, Right-of-Way, Transportation Inventory Management, Research, Bridge Design, Operations Administration and Operations Support

Location for employee meetings/Celebrate Success: Community Bible Church in Pierre

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in Pierre

Aberdeen & Mitchell Region Engineering Field Offices

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025: 1-2:30 p.m. in Pierre

Rapid City & Pierre Region Engineering Field Offices



Mentoring Minute

Goal Setting with a Purpose

By: Kellie Beck & June Hansen

Recently the mentoring participants were treated to a presentation on goal setting by Laura Ringling. Laura is an attorney and senior policy advisor in the Governor's office.

What is unique about Laura's story is that she set a goal to challenge herself physically as well as promote a cause about which she is passionate. She intertwined the goal setting she did to prepare for the run in **The 437 Project** and how to apply it in work and personal life goals. Laura shared two core principles of goal setting:

- If someone watched you for a week would they believe your goal matters to you?
- Never, ever quit the race at a checkpoint.

We all run into challenges as we are working toward a goal. The key is knowing the "why" we want to accomplish the goal and not quitting when we hit a "checkpoint". Laura shared the common pitfalls to avoid and science of goals that stick. Laura talked about building systems for consistency and developing checkpoint moments. She showed how to apply the goal setting tips and techniques in the work world. If you are interested in learning about goal setting and how to achieve your goals, the presentation is available on the [Mentoring Intranet Page](#).

As a bonus to the session, Secretary Jundt shared his thoughts on goal setting and how it applies to making the most of every day. This was an opportunity to hear from someone who has devoted his entire career to the Department. He shared experiences and lessons learned.

What is [The 437 Project](#)? This is a run across South Dakota for suicide prevention. It will be held Sept. 25-28, 2025. The runners depart from west side of the State to begin the 437 mile, relay-style journey across the State as they raise awareness for mental health and funds for the Helpline Center.

During the run, Laura will run 10 miles a day. The runners will be running 24 hours a day, so Laura will be running at various times in the day and night. There is a checkpoint in Pierre on Friday, Sept. 26, 2025 at Drifters from 4 - 5 p.m. (CT). Laura will leave from Drifters at 5 p.m. and run on S.D. Highway 34 east by the Cattlemen's. Other checkpoints are in Rapid City at Hilton Garden on Wed., Sept. 24 from 6 - 7 p.m. (MT); Mitchell at the Corn Palace on Sat., Sept. 27 from 7 - 8 p.m. (CT) and finally the finish line at Fawick Park in Sioux Falls on Sun., Sept. 28 from 1 - 2 p.m. (CT). **The 437 Project** invites everyone to come out to run, support, and encourage them as they pass through communities along the route.

Do you have a goal you want to achieve like Laura's for **The 437 Project**? The first step is to develop an action plan:

1. Clarify Your Why
2. Translate Your Behaviors
3. Design Your System
4. Plan for Checkpoints
5. Schedule Your First Review

Upcoming Mentoring Events:

- Wed. Nov. 5, 2025 from 1 - 5 p.m. (CT), End of Program Celebration, Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center, Ft. Pierre



Make Time for Mentoring!

SD DOT SDDOT SAFETY NEWS

September Safety

By: Jon Johanson, Safety Manager

Planning is a critical step for any project, whether it's a trip to town for groceries, a family vacation, buying a new boat or starting a new road construction project.



Making a plan is also critical for emergency preparedness. According to [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), September is National Preparedness Month. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters or emergencies.

Being prepared for emergencies is a best practice regardless of where you live in South Dakota. Part of being prepared for emergencies is knowing what disasters and hazards could affect your area, knowing how to get [emergency alerts](#) and where you and your loved ones would go if you need to evacuate. [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) (WEA) are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public [alerting authorities](#) that can be broadcast from cell towers to any WEA enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. WEAs can be sent by state and local public safety officials, the [National Weather Service](#), the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) and the President of the United States.

Taking the time to create a plan now with your family is essential because your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know which [types of disasters](#) could affect your area, especially if you are travelling.

Another step in the planning process is considering the specific needs of your household. You know your family and their unique characteristics, such as ages, dietary needs, medical needs, language barriers, clothing needs, physical and mental capabilities, or disabilities. Consider your family's needs when building your [emergency kit](#).

Having a prearranged communication plan on how to contact one another and reconnect if separated can help reduce panic and worry during and after an emergency. The [family emergency communication plan](#) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is an example for those wondering how to create a communication plan.

For you and your family, establishing a family meeting place or evacuation point that is familiar and easy to find is another critical step in the planning process. If you have pets, you may need to include them in the plan. A family emergency meeting place is extremely helpful because it can enhance your family's readiness and reduce the impact of an emergency by expediting the recovery process after a catastrophe.

Ultimately, having a plan for emergencies and practicing it will help prepare you in the future if/when things go sideways.

Using Copilot Chat to Summarize Teams Meetings

By: Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Manager

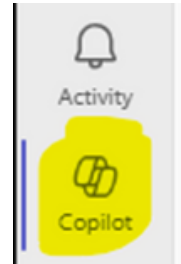
BIT is adding **Copilot Chat** to our applications, starting with Teams. Copilot is Microsoft's AI system, much like the better known ChatGPT.

An easy-to-use feature is that Copilot Chat can make a summary of a meeting transcript, greatly reducing the time to do the follow up notes.

The first step is recording the meeting with a transcript. This creates the transcript that Copilot Chat will use. Save the transcript as a Word document.

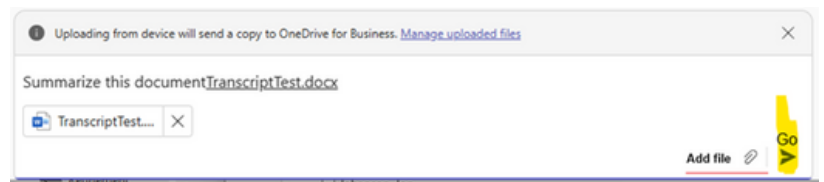
In Teams, start Copilot Chat by clicking the icon at the top of the left-hand menu.

Enter a prompt such as "Summarize this document"; "List key points"; or even just "summarize" then click the Go arrow.



Copilot will then generate the summary.

You cannot save the file. You must copy and paste it to another Word document.



Besides a summary, you can ask for **"Action items"** or **"List of key points"** and even create the text for PowerPoint slides.

Always double check that Copilot did it accurately.

Things to be aware of:

- Depending on how you word the prompt you get slightly different results (ex. summary, important points, concise summary, etc.).
 - One practice is to generate several versions, then combine the best parts into one document.
- There are two versions of Copilot:
 - Copilot Chat (also referred to as M365 Copilot Chat) - this is what the State uses.
 - Copilot Premium (or M365 Copilot).
 - This can be confusing when searching for help. Even SDLearn has a video called Use Copilot to Summarize Teams Meetings which refers to Copilot Premium, not Copilot Chat.
- The transcript doesn't work as well with hybrid meetings. If you have several people in a room with others online, Teams cannot identify individuals physically in the room and if the microphones are not good, Teams can have trouble transcribing accurately.

BONUS

You can upload any Word document or PDF and do the same!

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the SDDOT Booth at the South Dakota State Fair

SDDOT Staff Pictured in the State Fair photos below: Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operations Engineer; Steven Weisz, Mitchell Region Operations Engineer; Jay Peppel, Mitchell Area Engineer, Bret Mattice, Communications Specialist, Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer, Jack Dokken, Air, Rail, & Transit, Thad Bauer, Research Engineering Manager, Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer, Craig Smith, Director of Operations, and Mike Behm, Director of Planning & Engineering.



2026 International Aviation Art Contest

By: Nancy Hiller, Transportation Specialist (Pierre)

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) and South Dakota Pilots Association are seeking students to enter the 2026 International Aviation Art Contest. This year's theme is **"Fly to Save Lives"**. Flying isn't just about helping others—it can also help you. When people do air sports like paragliding, ballooning, or flying drones, it helps them feel happy, confident, and strong. Being up in the sky makes people feel free, it helps them connect to nature, and exercises complete focus on one single task, all of which are great for their wellbeing. We want students to imagine how aviation and air sports can help save lives.

We want to motivate and encourage children of all ages to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science. This art contest could be the beginning of a child's passion for aviation!

Our office will be judging the submissions and prizes will be awarded to the 1st - 3rd place winners in each age category. The top three place winners in each age group will be forwarded to Washington D.C. to participate in the national competition.

Find additional information, including a brochure on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/aerospace-education/>.

All entries must be received by Jan. 16, 2026.

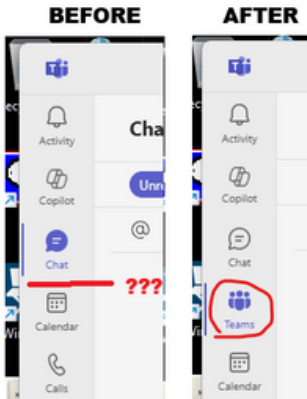
Entries should be mailed to:
SDDOT - Office of Air, Rail & Transit
700 East Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

Questions: Nancy Hiller at 605-773-4430 or via email at nancy.hiller@state.sd.us.



Is your TEAMS Missing its Teams Icon?

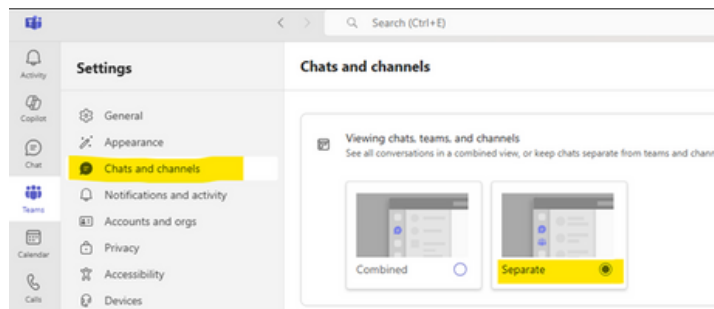
By: Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Manager



A bug developed in **TEAMS** in the last few weeks had caused the icon for your list of **Teams** to no longer appear in the menu bar on the left side of your screen. It is a bug and not everyone is impacted.

Microsoft is not sure what caused the icon to be turned off, but here is how to restore it.

1. By your profile photo in the upper right corner click the three dots ... and choose **Settings**
2. Click **Chats and channels**. Then click the radio button for **Separate**.
3. This will turn on the **Teams** icon. However, you may have to redo this after re-booting your computer.



Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication



On Sept. 17, 2025, a bridge dedication ceremony was held in Buffalo for **PVT Elmer Albertson**.

Thank you to John Matthesen, Belle Fourche Area Engineer, and Highway Maintenance Workers, Kyle Lewis and James Blaha, for attending the event to represent the SDDOT.

BHRA Watercooler:

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

The September Watercooler video includes information about the new BHRA website, Fall Training Calendar, State Flu Shot Clinics, Qualifying Live Events, and LiveWellSD Emails!



Additional Information:

New BRHA Website: [Website Link](#)

SDLearn: [Website Link](#)

State Flu Shot Clinics: [Website Link](#)

Qualifying Life Events: [Website Link](#)

LiveWellSD Portal: [Website Link](#)

Case example of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Bridge Deck Delamination

By Brent Morford, Region Bridge Engineer

Improvement and innovation are some of our core values. The use of UAS or drones has sustainably improved our safety and efficiency for bridge inspections while ensuring that the right information is provided to our design and construction teams. Bridge deck delamination occurs when the concrete on the bridge deck begins to break into smaller pieces.

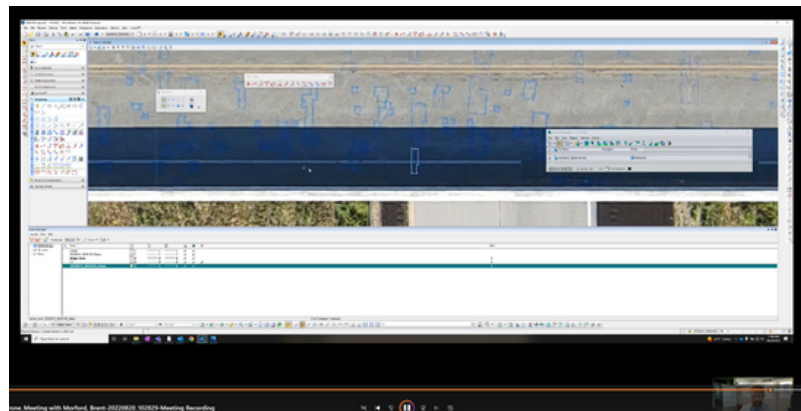
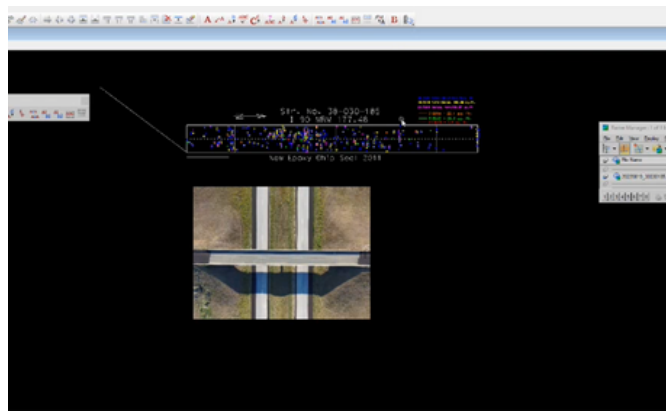
With UAS technology, we now can provide a better representation of where these issues are occurring. This improvement not only helps our design teams but also our construction administration teams as well through providing more accurate information. Here's a quick synopsis of how we've leveraged this technology. I hope you can use it or something similar in your jobs to help drive our organization forward.

Our process is as follows:

1. In the field, we find and mark delaminated areas of the bridge deck with paint. (We generally do this with traditional hammer sounding techniques.)
2. Take an aerial photo of those markings.
3. Import that aerial photo into Microstation.
4. Scale the image in Microstation.
5. Use linework to trace the delamination areas as depicted in the photo.
6. Microstation can find the sum of these delamination areas which we ultimately report.

In 2022, I recorded a [how-to video](#) about this ([part 1](#)) and shared it with our crew and the other Regions. The main video is about 45 minutes long because I go into detail about the whole process from start to finish. Later, I made a couple short follow-up videos ([part 2](#)) and ([part 3](#)). Our maintenance staff is now familiar with this process and they do the CAD work themselves. The only things I do are take the aerial photo and review the CAD work they produce afterwards.

Below are a couple screenshots from that how to video. On the left is a photo that was just imported. On the right, the aerial photo has been scaled and tracing of the delaminated areas has started.



This whole process been a significant benefit in terms of safety and time-savings. Hopefully, it helps someone else as well.

Finance Corner

TRAVEL VOUCHERS

Employee travel template dates can NOT overlap with a voucher that was already paid, whether the reimbursement is for gas, meals, mileage, hotels, plane tickets, forgotten receipts, etc.

If the dates overlap, the following error would appear (after the 1pm and 4pm validation run).

Voucher EMPL 120691 Z110RB009136 - The template has dates that overlap with a voucher that was already paid.
Changes might need to be made to the template.

Please make changes in the Batch Load system.

This error would appear if the employee had a previous travel voucher that had the same date or dates as the current voucher and the template will have to be reset, corrected (duplicate dates deleted), and reimported.



Website Process Improvements

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Public Meeting - S.D. Highway 10 Through Sisseton
9/18/2025 5:30 PM

S.D. Highway 10 - Sisseton from 8th Avenue East to 460th Avenue/County Highway 1.

Improvement Type: Urban Grading, AC Surfacing, Pedestrian Bridge Structure, Curb & Gutter, Lighting, ADA, Storm Sewer, LSDC Overlay, Approach Slabs, Sidewalk, PCC Shared Use Path

[View Details](#)

Public Meeting - S.D. Highway 25 From S.D. Highway 38 to the Hanson and Minor County Line
10/28/2025 5:30 PM

Improvement Type: Grading, Interim Surfacing

[View Details](#)

[View Calendar](#)

Several website improvement projects are in the design phase. The goal of each project is to advance communication opportunities for our internal and external stakeholders. A new website enhancement added this week is a Meetings and Events section on our homepage which includes a listing of upcoming public meetings and events as well as a monthly calendar. Meetings are added once all details are finalized and verified by staff.

Items to be featured include meetings or events in which the public is formally invited to participate and engage with SDDOT staff. Please note, this is not designed as an internal SDDOT staff meeting calendar.

Each meeting on the list (and in the calendar) features a clickable link to the public meeting webpage for additional details.



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.

PROJECT BISON UPDATE

We're excited to share that **System Integration Testing (SIT)** – a major step forward in the Project BISON implementation – is set to begin at the end of September and continue through February 2026. This phase is a crucial opportunity for validation that the system successfully functions as a whole. SIT will confirm that business processes, data flows, and system integrations are working as expected in a near-final environment. SIT will consist of the testing phases listed below:

Finance/Procurement Module Testing (Late September - November)

This initial module testing validates that BISON can process individual transactions correctly and is ready for end-to-end business process testing. Similar to the Conference Room Pilots, testing will be conducted by module (e.g., General Ledger, Payables, Fixed Assets, etc.).

PPM/AR Module Testing (November - December)

PPM module testing will focus on the following activities:

- Validation of converted project and grant award data.
- Validation that projects, awards, and project budgets can be created successfully based on the design and configuration of the PPM module.
- Validation that transactions can be processed against projects successfully and financial accounting for those transactions are correct in both the PPM sub-ledger and the General Ledger.

End-to-End Testing (December - February)

End-to-end (E2E) testing focuses on validating business processes across components (e.g., full lifecycle of transactions). The E2E phase will also test interfaces and the associated data that is being interfaced either into BISON or out of BISON. This testing validates that the interfaces operate as expected and the data from those interfaces is executable in the overall business process. Security roles will also be tested as part of E2E.



Participants in the phases, including the initial Finance/Procurement Module Testing sessions and PPM/E2E, will receive invites later this fall. There will be a remote kickoff session held before each phase. **The FIN/PRO Module Kickoff will be held on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025**, with invites/agenda to come. Subsequent kickoff information will be distributed as its finalized.

Please reach out to **Kellie Beck, Director Finance & Management**, if you have any questions. Your continued input is greatly appreciated as we move into this pivotal testing phase. Thanks again for your ongoing dedication and support of Project BISON!



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



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.

October 2025

	Working in Indian Country Tuesday, Sept. 30 – Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. CDT 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT Pierre
	HCP 101: Employee Focus – Understanding the Horizontal Career Path Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025 1 – 1:25 p.m. CDT Teams Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025 9 – 9:25 a.m. CDT Teams
	TLN: Snow Fences – The What & the Why Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT Zoom
	TLN: De-Escalation Training for Persons in Crisis Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT Zoom
	The Key 14: Using the Supervisor Effectiveness Insight (SEI) Online in SDLearn
	Maintenance Manual Overview Online in SDLearn
	Earthwork Calculations for Highway Construction Online in SDLearn
	Fundamentals of Culvert & Storm Drain Inspection Online in SDLearn
	Basics of Bridge Inventory Data & Inspection Reports Online in SDLearn

New Online
Classes

IT PAYS TO TRAIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 ; 11:00 AM

Core Value: Safety

Topic: Snowplow Drivers 320 Form

3rd Annual SDDOT Golf Tournament

Members of Central Office had a “hole” lot of fun in their golf tournament on Sept. 5, 2025.

Congrats to the winning team of **Jess Marlow (Air, Rail, & Transit)**, **Hadly Eisenbeisz (Bridge Design)**, **Chad Babcock (Planning & Engineering)** and **Levi Briggs (STIP Development)**.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

September New Hires:

Eric Oelkers, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls
 Jennifer Paul, Transportation Specialist I, Sioux Falls
 Jerry Longbrake, Highway Maintenance Worker, Eagle Butte
 Ronald Richards, Highway Maintenance Worker, Custer
 Chris Feddersen, Highway Maintenance Worker, Murdo
 Andy Barff, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sturgis

September Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Mehmet Alkurtar, Assistant Region Bridge Engineer, Sioux Falls
 Kyle Rolf, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City
 Jordyn Bossert, Journey Transportation Technician, Winner

September Longevity:

Lana Lambert, Environmental Analyst – 35 years (Central/ LGA)
 Rick Gordon, Construction Engineer Manager – 35 years (Central/ Operations Support)



Rick Walton, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (Belle Fourche), (right) received his 40-year longevity pin from **John Matthesen, Belle Fourche Area Engineer.**

Rick Gordon, Construction Engineer (Pierre), receiving his 35-year longevity pin from **Christina Bennett, Engineering Manager (Pierre).**



Bruce Van Zee, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Platte), receiving his 20-year pin from **Travis Sparks, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (Mitchell Area).**

Josh Gullickson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Murdo), pictured in the middle, received his 10-year longevity pin from **Jim Lolley, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (Winner),** and **Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer.**



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Congratulations to the following Bridge Design team members . . .

- **Andrew Undt (Structural Engineer)** passed the PE exam in April.
- **Evan Rumrill (Structural Engineer)** passed the PE exam in July.
- **Katrina Davidson (Assistant Bridge Management Engineer)** passed the FE exam in July.
- **Branka Radulovic (Structural Engineer)** passed the FE exam in August.

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam focuses on general engineering principles, passing it earns the designation Engineer-in-Training (EIT) or Engineering Intern (EI).

Professional Engineer (PE) Exam is taken later, after meeting work experience requirements, and tests in-depth knowledge in a specific discipline. Passing it qualifies someone to be licensed as a Professional Engineer (PE).



Congratulations to Dave Timmons (retired), who received the **Wright Brothers Master Pilot** award on Sept. 11, 2025.

Established by the FAA, this award recognizes pilots with 50 or more years of continuous, safe flight operations.



Jake Powers, son of Dave Powers, ROW Appraiser (Sioux Falls), completed his basic training with the Air Force on Sept. 4, 2025, in Texas and will complete his school training as a Cyber Security Analyst at Corry NAAS in Pesacola, FL.



Perry Griffith, Transportation Specialist (Air, Rail, & Transit), received a challenge coin from Governor Rhoden for 31 years of service! He is pictured receiving the coin and plaque from **Jack Dokken, Program Manager (Air, Rail, & Transit)**.



Cody Lorenz (Structural Engineer - Pierre) and his wife, Sunshine, welcomed their son, **Keagan Hiraya**, on July 11, 2025.

Keagen weighed 6 lb. 13 oz.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates



Tom Horan, Rapid City Region Operations Engineer, Kate Sieverding, Rapid City Assistant Region Bridge Engineer, and Todd Seaman, Rapid City Area Engineer, attended the career fair at South Dakota School of Mines on Sept. 16, 2025.



Matt Brey, Watertown Area Engineer, attended the Career Fair at North Dakota State University on Sept. 17, 2025.



Travis Dressen, Mitchel Region Engineer, Rebecca Urban, Road Design Engineer (Pierre), and Heidi Olson, Human Resource Manager (BHRA) attended the career fair at South Dakota State University on Sept. 17, 2025.



Eagles Jersey Day

Ariana Griffey, Structural Team Lead Engineer (Pierre), Dustin Witt, Highway Safety Engineer (Pierre), and Mark Leiferman, Engineering Manager (Pierre) decided to have an Eagles Jersey Day on the opening day of the NFL season when the **Super Bowl Champion Eagles** hosted the Cowboys.



DOT NET: SDDOT engineers attended the DOT NET Field Tour in Sioux Falls on Sept. 10, 2025.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates (in Sympathy)



Sympathy is extended to **Stacy Parmely, Accountant (Pierre)** on the recent passing of her grandfather.

Charles "Chuck" James Johnson passed away on Aug. 29, 2025. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at Minnehaha Funeral Home in Dell Rapids. Interment will be at a later date at Union Cemetery in Flandreau.



Sympathy is extended to **Patricia Thompson, Accountant (Pierre)** on the recent passing of her father,

Michael Leo Curtin passed away on Sept. 1, 2025. Christian Funeral Mass was celebrated on Sept. 8, 2025, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City. A graveside service followed at the Black Hills National Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to **Myron Haar, Equipment Technician in Aberdeen,** on the recent passing of his father.

Larry Harr passed away on Aug. 25, 2025. His Celebration of Life was held at the Spitzer Miller Funeral Home Chapel in Aberdeen on Sept. 5, 2025. Interment followed at the Bowdle City Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel & Special Assistant Attorney General,** on the recent passing of her mother. The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date.