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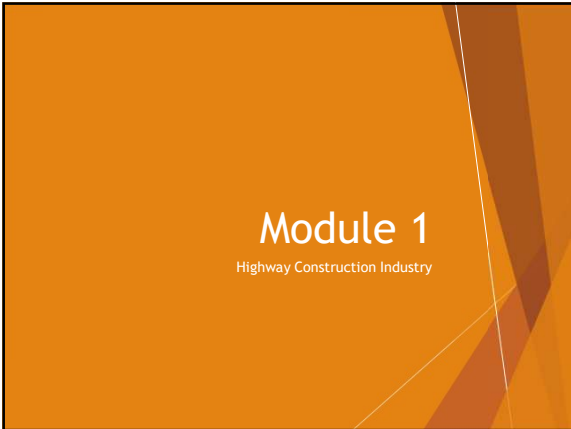


This Session will cover the following items:

- ▶ Open Positions
- ▶ Employment Expectations
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Training Programs
- ▶ On the Job Expectations

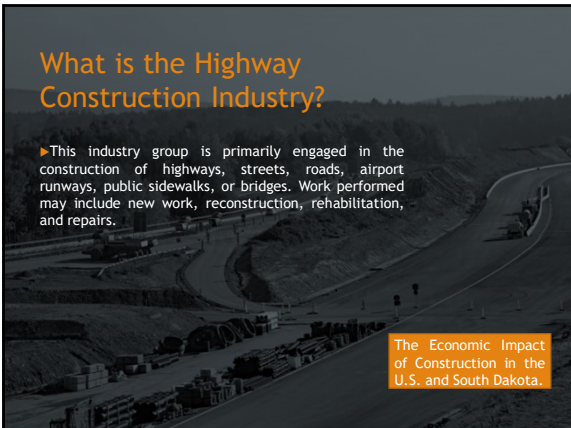
Good paying careers are available now!

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Module 1
Highway Construction Industry

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What is the Highway Construction Industry?

▶ This industry group is primarily engaged in the construction of highways, streets, roads, airport runways, public sidewalks, or bridges. Work performed may include new work, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and repairs.

The Economic Impact of Construction in the U.S. and South Dakota.

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Government Funding and Programs support the Highway Industry

- ▶ The Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST in America)
 - ▶ This act:
 - ▶ Delivers better roads and bridges
 - ▶ Modernizes infrastructure
 - ▶ Measures state-by-state greenhouse gas emissions
 - ▶ Increases funding for development of charging stations and other alternative fueling options for electric and zero-emissions vehicles
 - ▶ Addresses pedestrian and bicyclist routes
 - ▶ Funds green materials research

The U.S. economy's strength is directly linked to highway construction.

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Construction workers provide an invaluable economic service, maintaining and improving the nation's infrastructure, including critically important energy and communication systems, roads and bridges, and social infrastructure, including police, fire and health care facilities.

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Why work in the Highway Construction Industry?

- ▶ BUILD SOMETHING MEANINGFUL
- ▶ SALARIES & BENEFITS ARE GENEROUS
- ▶ WORK IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE OR COUNTRY
- ▶ EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT WORK PROJECTS REGULARLY
- ▶ THE INDUSTRY IS STRONG
- ▶ ESCAPE THE OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

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The road construction industry is offering you the opportunity of a lifetime - a lifelong career that provides you with great pay, great benefits and steady work!

GOOD JOBS ARE AVAILABLE NOW

- ▶ New funding boosts demand for skilled and unskilled workers
- ▶ Over 700 open positions are available in South Dakota
- ▶ The need for workers is in high demand and that demand is expected to grow 5% in the next 10 years

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Where are the Jobs in the Highway Construction Industry?

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Module 2


Career Pathways

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What Opportunities are Available?

Many jobs in the highway construction industry require minimal training or experience.

- ▶ One example: Flagger
- ▶ Flaggers are typically employed to control the flow of traffic around road construction sites. They erect warning and detour signs, position traffic cones and barricades, and inform the construction crew of any safety hazards.



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Sample Job Description: Flagger

Flagger Responsibilities:

- Using hand signals and direction signs to direct traffic around road construction sites.
- Communicating with other flaggers using hand-held radios to direct two-way traffic onto a single lane.
- Informing the construction crew of any traffic issues that may affect their safety.
- Appropriately positioning warning and detour signs around construction sites.
- Setting up barricades and traffic cones along construction sites to block off certain areas.
- Removing all signs, barricades, and traffic cones upon completion of construction work.
- Assisting the construction crew in the removal of rubble, debris, and hazardous materials.
- Recording the license plate numbers of motorists who neglect to obey traffic signs and directions.

Flagger Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED.
- Certification through the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).
- Proven experience working as a flagger.
- Sound knowledge of state traffic regulations.
- The ability to stand for extended periods.
- The ability to work as part of a team.
- The ability to work in harsh weather conditions.
- Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills.
- Exceptional observation skills.
- Effective communication skills.

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▶ **SALARIES AND BENEFITS ARE GENEROUS**

- ▶ Pay is above average with good benefits as you progress
- ▶ 2019 median pay of \$17.31/hour in a variety of jobs




▶ **IT'S A CAREER, NOT JUST A JOB**

- ▶ Work hard, move up, and enjoy the life you want
- ▶ No experience necessary
- ▶ Opportunities to gain skills

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Career Opportunities

Examples of Entry-level positions

- ▶ General Laborer
- ▶ Flagger
- ▶ Parts Runner
- ▶ Truck Driver (with or without CDL)

Generally, there are no specific educational requirements for an entry-level position in the highway construction industry. Employers look for people with skills such as:

- ▶ Experience working with tools.
- ▶ Physically able to do the work.
- ▶ Heavy lifting may be required.



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Career Opportunities

Skilled positions - examples

- ▶ Welder
- ▶ Heavy Equipment Operator, Crane Operator
- ▶ Concrete Finisher
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Foreman
- ▶ Truck Driver (with CDL)
 - ▶ Specialized Vehicle Drivers/Operators



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Average Salary Information

Welder

- Median Salary 2019 \$42,290

Heavy Equipment Operator

- Average Salary 2021 - \$56,680

Carpenter

- Average Salary - \$45,170


Cement Mason/Concrete Finisher

- Average Salary - \$20.86/hour

Foreman

- Average Salary - \$52,475 to \$73,956

Most companies offer benefits for employees and returning employees – Health insurance, PTO & 401ks are typical.



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Training Opportunities

- ▶ Youth Apprenticeship Programs
- ▶ Adult Apprenticeship Programs
- ▶ On-the-Job Training
- ▶ CDL – Commercial Drivers License
 - ▶ There is a high demand for people willing and able to have a CDL
- ▶ Certificate Programs
- ▶ Technical College Degree
- ▶ College Degree

Scholarships are available for students pursuing an education in the construction industry.


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Do you have what it takes?

Generally, there are no specific educational requirements for an entry-level position in the highway construction industry.

You should be comfortable working with tools and be physically able to do the work; some heavy lifting may be required.

Many opportunities are available from office support to pilot car drivers to hands on laborer. Become familiar with the type of work you are most interested in.



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Module 3

Placement

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Typical Job Requirements Include:

- ▶ Good attitude
- ▶ Willingness to work and show up on time
- ▶ Access to reliable transportation and willingness to travel
- ▶ Physical ability to do the work
- ▶ Passing a drug test and/or background check
- ▶ Soft Skills
- ▶ Ability to communicate – cell phone, email, voicemail

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SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

The construction industry is focused on safety. Most companies provide OSHA and other safety training. In addition, they can provide:

- ▶ Clothing/Safety Vests
- ▶ Hard Hats
- ▶ Foot Protection
- ▶ Hand Protection
- ▶ Eye/Face Protection
- ▶ Hearing Protection

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Typical Job Expectations


- ▶ 8 to 12 hour days
- ▶ Overtime Opportunities
- ▶ Work outdoors
- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Work independently and as part of a team
- ▶ Be on time and dependable
- ▶ Flexible job locations

Get a workout and while you work!

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Where to find a job in construction?

- Referrals/Word of Mouth
- Networking
- Department of Labor
- Employment Agencies
- Contractor Website
- Career Resource Centers
- High Schools and Colleges
- Social Media
- Newspapers
- Radio

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How to Apply

- ▶ Applications
- ▶ Create a resume that includes:
 - ▶ Employment information and past experience
 - ▶ Can be paid or volunteer
 - ▶ Education experiences
 - ▶ Skills or Certifications
 - ▶ Contact information
 - ▶ References
- ▶ Interviewing
- ▶ Post-Interview Follow-up



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The construction industry is looking for you to fill in-demand positions.

- Are you willing to work hard?
- Are you looking to build a career?
- Are you willing to show up on time and be dependable?
- Are you ready to earn a good income?



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We need you to fill jobs in South Dakota!

Next Steps:

1. Have your updated resume ready.
If you don't have one, we can help you prepare one.
2. Meet with contractors.

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SDRoads2Jobs
CONSTRUCTION
CAREER AWARENESS

Thank You and Good Luck!

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