



December 2022 Connecting the DOTs

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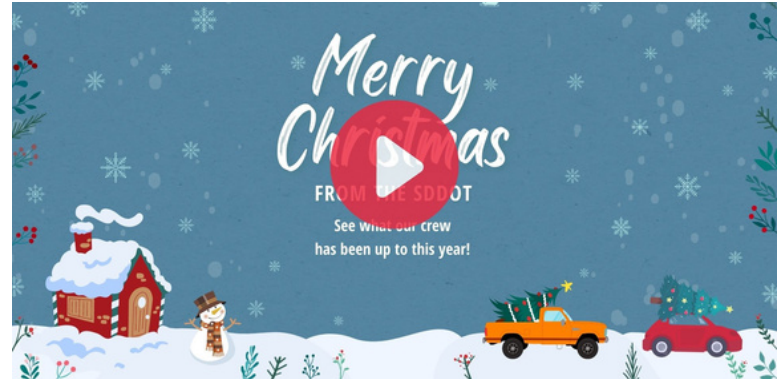
SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective
public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation
by being the best

As shared in the Information Interchange
on Dec. 15, 2022, please view our SDDOT
Christmas video message for the public.



Thanks for Voting! 2022 Snowplow Winning Names!

Aberdeen Area: Luke Ice Walker

Belle Fourche Area: Catch My Drift

Custer Area: Black Hills Cold Rush

Huron Area: Thawsome

Mitchell Area: Sleetwood Mac

Mobridge Area: Snow Force One

Pierre Area: Little Plow on the Prairie

Rapid City Area: Betty White-Out

Sioux Falls Area: Blizzard Buster

Watertown Area: Snowmagator

Winner Area: Plowabunga

Yankton Area: 605 Polar Express



The Secretary's Corner

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated SDDOT staff. No matter your position or location within our state, **YOU play a key role in the work we do EVERY single day!**

As the recent **storms** clearly demonstrated, our state transportation system is vital not only for the citizens of South Dakota; but those who rely on it from out of-state as well.

I want to personally thank our winter maintenance staff (and all of those behind the scenes) for the sacrifices made to keep our roads clear and safe in some of the toughest weather conditions these past two weeks.



The **December 2022 Winter Storm Information web page** was designed for our home page to provide a "one stop shop" for the latest information for travelers including press releases, TV and radio interviews, and storm photos and videos!

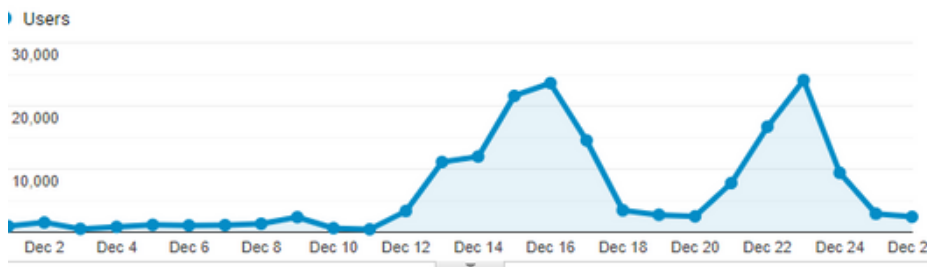


December 2022 Winter Storm Information



The **power of social media** was clearly demonstrated to communicate SD511 services and other vital travel information to the public during the winter storm!

2,795,400 People Reached via Facebook	1,137,113 Unique Users on Facebook
1,194,682 Impressions Via Twitter	71,703 Engagements on Twitter
5,051 Impressions Via LinkedIn	13,830 Shares on Facebook
3,346 People Reached via Instagram	9,767 New Facebook Followers
3,998,479	
People Reached Via Social Media Platforms!	
<small>Stats are from the 44 posts published between Dec. 12 - Dec. 18, 2022 & Dec. 21 - Dec. 24, 2022.</small>	
<small>Report was created on 12/27/2022 at 8:35 a.m. MT. Total reach is the left column stats added together.</small>	



The **dot.sd.gov website** user sessions peaked at 24,058 on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, with a total number of sessions in December (to date) of 207,586. **This excludes all state employee traffic! We average 50,000 user sessions during a typical month!**



December Mentoring Minute



The Mentoring Committee is decking the halls with appreciation for all the DOT employees who have participated in the mentoring program since its start in 2007. DOT is lucky to have so many employees willing to share their time and talent. We hope that you will consider being a mentor when the next session begins in 2023.

Look for information on the start of the next Mentoring session in Secretary Jundt’s Information Interchange in March 2023.

The Committee would like to thank **Greg Rothschadl (Yankton Area) and Rick Walton (Belle Fourche Area)** for their years of service on the Mentoring Committee. Both are wrapping up their time on the committee and will be greatly missed. They just have one more meeting to go. Also, we want to thank and acknowledge **Bridget Carnahan (formerly Environmental Office)** for her service on the committee. She recently accepted employment outside of the DOT.

From all of us on the Mentoring Committee we wish you a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

Merry Mentoring!

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Kellie Beck | Matt Dorfschmidt | Scott Eisenbeisz | June Hansen |
| Brad Norrid | Wyatt Reis | Brad Remmich | Greg Rothschadl |
| John Villbrandt | Rick Walton | Tim Wicks | |



Congratulations to **Business Managers: Lanny Iwan, Monica Ortbahn, Scott Eisenbeisz, and Katie Peugh** for being members of the **3rd Quarter Impact Award** winning Fleet Transfer Team.



New Wellness beneFIT Benefit for DOT Staff

By Kari Kroll, Lead Well-being Champion

Earlier this fall, Secretary Jundt announced that the DOT had partnered with BHR to pilot a Well-being Champion program. The primary role of the champions is to be advocates/cheerleaders for the beneFIT Program as well as be a sounding board to share feedback with BHR regarding the well-being activities based on what they hear from their co-workers.

Basically, you now have a first-hand connection to all things offered by the state's well-being program ... at your fingertips!

The applications are in and the champions have been chosen – yay!! So, without further ado, let me introduce YOUR Well-being Champions:

- **Kari Kroll, Central Office**
- **Monica Ortbahn, Pierre Region & Mobridge Area**
- **Luke Neville, Pierre Area**
- **Doug Sherman, Winner Area**
- **Katie Peugh, Mitchell Region & Mitchell Area**
- **Tanya Liska, Yankton Area**
- **Logan Patrick, Sioux Falls Area**
- **Alicia Bauley, Aberdeen Region**
- **JoAnn Kayser, Aberdeen Area**
- **Jeff Brink, Watertown Area**
- **Bonnie Palmer, Huron Area**
- **Brenda Butler, Belle Fourche Area**
- **Connie Zeimet, Custer Area**
- **Krystl Vermundson, Rapid City Region & Rapid City Area**

As Champions, we are here for YOU. Be on the lookout for emails and promotional materials from your champion to keep you in the loop of YOUR wellness benefits. And of course, feel free to reach out to the Champion in your area or any one of us listed above if you have questions. If we don't know the answer, we will find out for you. **THAT is why we are here!**

Quick reminder, this pilot program is something ONLY DOT and SDSU have been offered. We are helping to shape the Well-being Champion program for other state agencies in the future. It can and will change as we move forward, but I am confident that this will be a great change for DOT and our great state of South Dakota!

Rapid City Area 8th Grade College and Career Fair (Nov. 4, 2022)

Pictured: Steve Kamarainen and Brock Swanson





DOT LMS Changing to SDLearn LMS

By SDDOT Training Team

Starting Feb. 1, 2023, the DOTLMS icon on your desktop will no longer be active. The icon will be replaced with the SDLearn image you see at the top of this article.

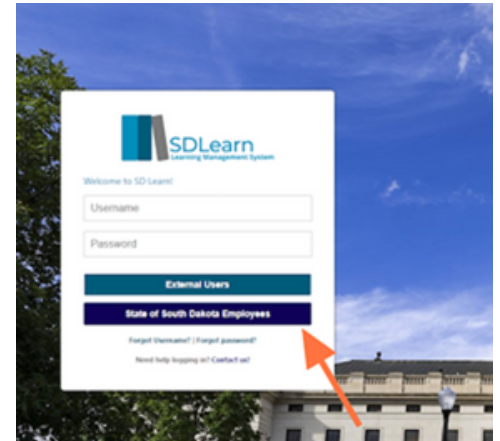
Bureau of Human Resources has purchased the same type of Learning Management System (LMS) that DOT currently uses. This system provides the same service that DOT's LMS currently provides except now it will be available for all state employees.

During this transition, DOT training staff will work with Cornerstone, our LMS Vendor, to migrate all of DOT employees' training records to the new system. In the new system you will access your transcript the same way you do now. Single sign-on will also remain the same.

Are there differences between the two systems?

The only noticeable changes will be when you first log in. Select the State of South Dakota Employees button to access the SDLearn LMS using single sign-on. External users will access the LMS by selecting the External Users button.

The welcome screen will also be different. Four buttons on this page will allow you to search for learning, view your transcript and view a monthly calendar of upcoming classes. The fourth button is for supervisors who need access to approve employee training requests.



Pros of the new system include:

- Register for BHR classes in the new SDLearn LMS starting immediately. [Click here to visit SDLearn](#)
- Supervisors can assign BHR classes the same way they do now with DOTLMS.
- Online content is geared toward public service.
- Your course completions will be dynamically processed.
- One-stop shop - all compliance and cybersecurity courses will be located in SDLearn.

Cons of the new system include:

- Playlists and Curriculum will not transfer to the SDLearn LMS which means all new playlists and curriculums will be refreshed.
- The only curriculums available on February 1 are: New Employee | New Supervisor | Highway Maintenance Worker | Horizontal Career Path Level 2&3 | Snowplow Operator
- All classes prior to 2015 will be accessible via AFE numbers.

How do I know what LMS to access?

Register for BHR classes and review online content now in SDLearn.

All DOT classes will remain in the DOTLMS until February 1.

The SDLearn site is currently live, feel free to log in and view the current site.

Where are my training records?

Don't fear if your training records do not exist in SDLearn. DOT training staff is working with Cornerstone to migrate all your training records from 2015 to the present day.



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
December 2022

TLN COURSES

[Project Scheduling Series: Planning for Success](#)

Jan. 10 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom

[Project Scheduling Series: The Basics](#)

Jan. 24 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom

[Leading Across Generations](#)

Jan. 26 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Zoom

[Project Scheduling Series: Submitting, Reviewing, & Approving](#)

Jan. 31 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

[AGC Traffic Control Supervisor](#)

Jan. 26-27 | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm | Sioux Falls

[Media Training](#)

Jan. 31 | 8:00 am to noon | Chamberlain

Feb. 21 | 8:00 am to noon | Chamberlain

ADA COURSES

[Common Issues with ADA](#)

UPDATE! Jan. 18 | 9:00 am – noon | Aberdeen

[Accommodating Pedestrians in Work Zones](#)

UPDATE! Jan. 18 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Aberdeen

CERTIFICATION COURSES

<u>Structures</u> <u>Feb. 13-16 Pierre</u>	<u>Earthwork</u> <u>Mar. 20-23 Pierre</u>
<u>Erosion & Sediment Control</u> <u>Feb. 7-8 Pierre</u> <u>Feb. 22-23 Rapid City/Box Elder</u> <u>Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Sioux Falls</u>	<u>ACI Field Testing</u> <u>Feb. 14-15 Aberdeen</u> <u>Mar. 1-2 Rapid City</u> <u>Mar. 21-22 Pierre</u>
<u>Asphalt Concrete Aggregates Testing</u> <u>Jan. 9-10 Pierre</u> <u>Mar. 6-7 Pierre</u>	<u>Asphalt Concrete Mix Design & Production</u> <u>Mar. 27-30 Pierre</u> <u>Asphalt Concrete Hot Mix Testing</u> <u>Jan. 11-13 Pierre</u> <u>Mar. 8-10 Pierre</u>

December Public Transit Highlight

By Jennifer Boehm, Transit Transportation Specialist



Transit is not always about supplying a ride but also about the relationships you build with your customers. At **Yankton Transit**, **Terry Kirchner** and his staff are all about the customers. During the pandemic, he was contacted by United Way about how some people didn't have transportation to get to the distribution centers to pick up food.

Working with United Way and Feeding South Dakota, Yankton Transit delivered food to 295 families who otherwise would not have been able to eat. In 2021, Yankton Transit drove 140,000 miles and gave 60,580 rides. They travel throughout Yankton County with trips to Sioux Falls, Sioux City and Wagner. Most common type of passengers on the buses are people going to and from work but transporting children is a close second.

Terry served 24 years in the military as a driver, dispatcher, and was part of transportation management (coordinating moving people and cargo), so it was an easy transition from the military to the civilian transit life. Every day, Terry makes sure the buses are rolling and dispatch is covered before he turns to his other responsibilities. He could be working on reports, vehicle repairs, technology issues, building repairs and/or driving the buses himself. The most important thing Terry has learned in his position is to be flexible to handle whatever is thrown your way from staff shortage to community needs.

Terry does like meeting all sorts of people due to his job. Whether it is working with agencies that use transit for their clientele or chatting with the passengers on the bus. When asked "what's a crazy thing that you have experienced in transit", Terry said they all seem normal to him anymore. Could be anything from a bus accident to a driver calling and stating a naked kid is running around. So if you are in Yankton, give transit a try. Who knows what you will see.



SDDOT Wildlife Mitigation Project Update

In 2019, the SDDOT conducted a research project to develop guidelines for wildlife vehicle collision mitigation (SD019-02). SDDOT staff utilize the decision guides throughout the transportation decision making process to determine if wildlife collision mitigation is recommended and what type of mitigation strategy is most feasible. Some of the mitigation strategies considered include vegetation management, signage, fencing, and structures.

Don't miss the January 2023 Connecting the DOTs Newsletter to read the results after the first full year of the Lawrence County wildlife fencing project!

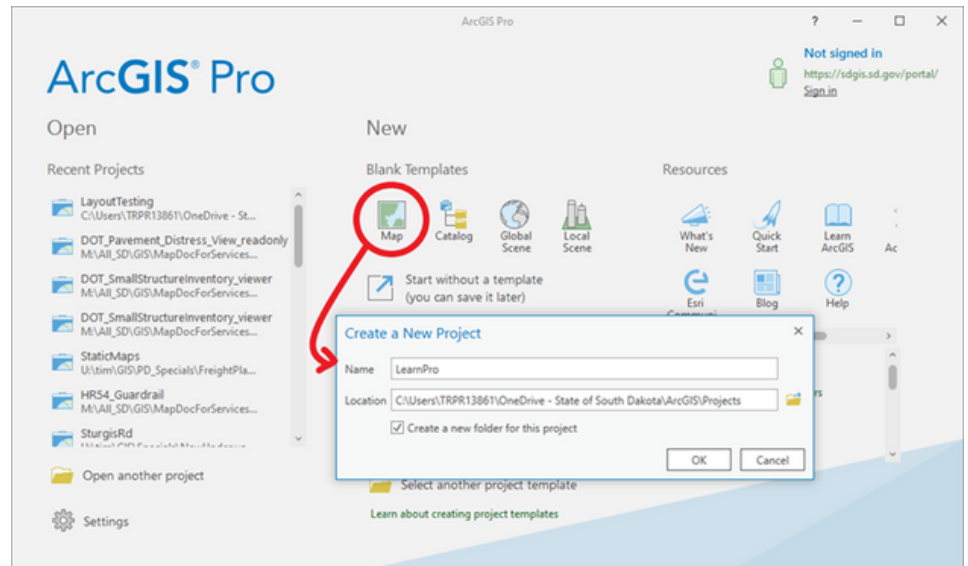


ArcGIS Pro: When Will We Get It?

By Kimberly Zerr & Kathryn Wesson

One of the topics discussed at the Central Office Employee Meeting was ArcGIS Pro and when DOT will officially move to the new software. We've discussed the transition to Pro in other Tips and Tricks articles this year, but the GIS Team hasn't deployed the new software to all DOT users yet. Why?

First, ArcGIS Pro is not just an upgrade to ArcMap. It is different software. Tasks that are done one way in ArcMap may need to be modified in Pro. Due to the differences, the GIS Team is still learning the new software. Our goal is to become more familiar with it so that when you have questions, we have answers. In addition to learning the software, we're also developing training materials. When the new software is deployed, we'll have how-to guides and videos available on LMS to help you get started.



Second, there are some bugs that need to be worked out and some tools and extensions that work in ArcMap but not in Pro. The GIS Team is working with BIT and power users to make sure we're prepared for the transition. If you'd like to help us test the software, let us know. If you're using ArcGIS Pro and you run into an issue, please contact us. We need to know about problems!

Finally, ArcMap isn't going away completely until at least 2026. That's when Esri plans to discontinue it. The GIS Team hopes to deploy ArcGIS Pro to DOT in 2023 so you'll have plenty of time to get used to the new software. Until then, we're working hard to prepare ourselves to work with you on the transition. If you have questions on ArcGIS Pro, or want to become part of our testing group, reach out to us!



SDDOT Community Connections:

On Friday Nov. 25, 2022, five employees from the **Sioux Falls maintenance crew** decorated a tow plow and entered it into the Annual Sioux Falls Parade of Lights.

The employees were: Driver was **Jared Lahr**; and **Curt Theisen, Josh Bethke, Mark Burger, and Josh Timmerman** walked along the four corners of the truck & tow plow. Photos provided by Keith Voegeli, Highway Maintenance Supervisor



Decorated plows in the **Corn Palace City** rolled down Main Street as the Mitchell Area went all out for their local Parade of Lights!

It was a team effort getting the plows decorated as a small accumulation of snow happened the day before the parade.

Everyone took turns decorating when they could and plow operators even did double duty helping out between shifts.

They might not have won this year, but they are still #1 in our hearts!



The Yankton Area got in the Christmas Spirit during Yankton's Parade of Lights! Assisting with the festivities were **Nathan Loecker** (Driver), **Tanya Liska** and her sons **Treyson** and **Trenton** (Walkers), **Sam Caba**, **Cooper Kuchta**, **Tanya Liska** (Decorators). Other helpers included **Ray Haenfler** and **Brian Huber**.



On Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, the Sioux Falls Area office celebrated Christmas with a office wide potluck!



Air, Rail, Transit conducted a collection for the Veterans Home as a way to give back during the holiday season!





SDDOT Community Connections:

Pennies for Robert - Central Office Fundraiser Recap By Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering

Pennies for Robert provides anyone with a cancer diagnosis can receive travel and lodging assistance whether you come into Pierre from outlying areas for treatment at the Helmsley Center, or live within 60 miles of Pierre and need to leave our area for treatment. No application or income information is required...just a cancer diagnosis. We know there is enough to worry about when dealing with cancer without the worry of travel expenses.

Total raised: \$3,024.04

Event Fundraiser Winners:

Pictured left to right are Dani Doorn, Steve Gramm, Lexi Lasse, and Greg Pollreisz.

Dani and Steve won cookies, made by **Logan Gran**. Lexi won the quilt made by **Carol Evans**. **Greg Pollreisz** won the raffle, which he kindly donated back to Pennies for Robert!



Stachemaster Winners:

- Tyler Green
- Larry Dean
- Chris Ott



Totals for the **lighten your load** was 9.5 lbs. for 1st and 3rd floor and 7.8 lbs. for 2nd floor. If we're conservative and assume \$11/lb., that's over \$190!



A huge thanks to Kari Kroll, Larry Dean, Rayleen Rabeth, Joel Gengler and many others for helping with events, collections, counting, paper coins, email updates, and much more.



Find a video of **Dani Doorn** playing the violin at the fundraiser on the U-Drive at: <U:/PD/Temp/Dani Playing Violin 2022>



SDDOT Community Connections:



The Office of Inventory Mgmt. & Research is collecting warm blankets/sleeping bags and coats this holiday season for the local needy. In 2021, we had a drive that included personnel from within the DOT Central Office & Pierre Region and resulted in the collection of several coats and blankets, hats, mittens/gloves, winter boots were also collected. The items were then distributed to the public at the Community Banquet as a part of the Christmas Adopt a Family Program through Social Services.

In the spirit of the upcoming holiday season, we again invite you to dig deep into your closets and rummage sales boxes and help make the chill of winter a bit more bearable for those less fortunate. There is still a great need for coats and blankets/sleeping bags in the Pierre/Ft Pierre community. In addition, this year we ask you also to bring in your extra gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and snow boots. Items are needed for both children and adults. All items need to be in good shape and clean.

Marked boxes were placed on each floor of the Becker-Hansen building in which donated items could be placed.

If you have any questions, you may contact either Noel Pothast at 773-3339 or Sheila Jandt at 773-5384.

Noel Pothast/Inventory Mgmt. & Research
Sheila Jandt/Bridge SDDOT Central Office

Totals for this drive will be shared in the January newsletter! Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Featured story
about Duane
Strand, father of
**Pierre Area
Engineer, Dan
Strand.**



LeRoy Iedema, Richard Ringling and Duane Strand crank out nearly 60,000 toy cars each year from their 12x10-foot workshop in Platte.
Photo by Billy Gibson

Duane Strand gets lots of 'smileage' out of making toy cars for children

Billy Gibson
editor@sdrea.coop

Frustrated moms across the ages have been searching for a surefire method for getting an unruly child to simmer down.

Duane Strand is pretty sure he's found a failsafe solution: toy cars.

Several years ago, Strand began building tiny wooden cars in his nondescript backyard shed in Platte. He recalls visiting Pierre one evening and having dinner at a local restaurant when a young boy suddenly started pitching a fit and hollering at the top of his lungs.

Strand just happened to have one of the cars in his pocket. He reached out and handed it to the child and was rather amazed at the result. Not only did the whining stop forthwith, but that boy's frown turned upside down as the

kid started beaming from ear to ear. "He quit yelling right then and there. His whole attitude changed," Strand recalls. "These cars really have a soothing effect on the kids."

That's the impact Strand is shooting for as he and his three-man team of retirees crank out nearly 60,000 toy cars each year. They're looking to squeeze all the "smileage" they can get out of the toy cars they build.

The main construction crew includes retired farmer Richard Ringling and retired mechanic LeRoy Iedema. Ringling usually works the drill press to create holes in the wood where the axles will go. Then Iedema follows up by pressing the wheels onto the axles. He came up with a way to make sure the wheels roll straight and stay in place and dares anyone to try and pull off a wheel.

There are others who join in the

process: Justin Kok cuts the wood into manageable blocks; Brett Wynia performs repairs on the drill presses, band saws, sanders, routers and other pieces of equipment when they break down; and Curtis Versteeg helps to sand down the rough surfaces on the cars.



Toy cars are distributed by military personnel serving overseas.

And just down the road from the shop is the Platte Lumber Yard, where many of the material supplies are stored until needed for production. Strand said it was the folks down at the lumber yard who initiated the vital connection with

Boyd's Hardwood Gunstock that keeps the operation humming along.

"Without Boyd's we wouldn't be able to do any of this," Strand said.

Dustin Knutson, a member of Central Electric Cooperative and part owner of the company that bills itself as the largest after-market gun stock maker in the world, is a Shriner with a heart for community service and said he was all-in when Strand approached him about supporting the program by supplying excess wood.

"They're really easy to work with," he said, noting that he keeps one of the cars on his desk. "They take whatever they can get and they show up consistently. We started saving off-cut blocks of wood specifically for the cars. The laminated wood works well because it's colorful and looks good and the kids can pick out their favorite one."

Strand's distribution system is a bit scatter shot but he still manages to send them all over the globe. Anyone he knows who is planning a trip gets a supply of cars. Knutson, for instance, takes them with him when he travels for business or pleasure, whether vacationing in Mexico or hunting in Africa.

"People in America may think these are just simple toys, but I've been in parts of the world where a toy for a kid is a stick and a rock," Knutson said. "But these little cars give kids something to smile about. Duane and his guys are just beautiful people doing good things for the good of humanity and we're happy to help them any way we can."

The toys also ride along in ambulances, military satchels and police vehicles in the event a child needs to be calmed. They show up in doctor's offices, churches and other venues.

The operation is affiliated with a group called Toys for God's Kids, a non-denominational organization based in Denver. Strand is the only affiliated "smile maker" in South Dakota.

While the three-man crew claims they're working harder than they used to before retiring, Iedema assigns a greater value to his toil beyond the opportunity to put a smile on a kid's face. He said his heart doctor has informed him that he's in better shape than before he started woodworking three years ago. He's slimmer, more active and feels a lot better. Strand chips in, "...yeah, and he's

Number of tiny cars
made last year

59,640

by Duane Strand and his
toy making team in Platte

more ornery than ever, too!"

Collectively, the guys crank out about 250 cars a day crunched inside the 12 x 10-foot shed. Each unit has to be dipped in linseed oil to protect children from any potential toxicity. The toys are boxed and shipped to their destination at the recipient's expense.

Strand doesn't know how much longer he's going to be able to keep cranking out cars. He'll reach the age of 90 in a few months and his friend Ringling has a plan: "I told him when he turns 90 we're going to take him up by the interstate and take a picture underneath the sign that says I-90. Get it?"



SDDOT Professional Development Public Speaking By Dustin Witt, Highway Safety Engineer

This past year, I attended the half-day **Media and Public Meeting Training** offered by the communications team. Pictured above is me with **Steve Gramm and Phil Clements** working on a public presentation outline. The course included SDDOT staff from across the state who hold varying job titles and responsibilities. Some participants were very comfortable with public speaking (whether at a public meeting or giving a media update on a construction project), while others didn't enjoy the idea of public speaking at all. After the media training class, I wanted to pass along a professional opportunity which I have used to further develop public speaking skills.

Do you have a fear of public speaking, or maybe just want to polish up your speaking skills? Do you find it difficult to come up with the words when asked a difficult (or any!) question? Do you want to work on your leadership abilities? Or do you want to improve your skills in leading and facilitating meetings and working on time management? **I found myself feeling the need for improvement in all these areas when I joined River City Toastmasters seven years ago.**

It seemed like an intimidating step to take because the members all knew each other, and they all seemed very proficient at giving presentations and running very organized meetings. I felt I would be judged as an outsider coming in who has a fear of public speaking. What I found was a very welcoming and encouraging group of people willing to act as mentors to my growth in public speaking and leadership. I have now received certificates from Toastmasters International as a Competent Communicator and a Competent Leader, which became goals of mine after joining the club. I cannot express enough gratitude to the club as I have grown tremendously in these areas.

Now as the current president of the club, I find myself mentoring and encouraging others. I would like to extend an invitation to fellow DOT employees who want to take this leap into personal and professional development. In Pierre, the club meets over the noon hour at the Lutheran Memorial church every other Wednesday. We frequently invite guests to see "what it is like". Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this development opportunity! I hope to see you there someday!



For those who live outside of the Pierre area, I can assist in helping
you connect with a club near you.

Another great resource is: <https://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club>

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



December New Hires:

- Thad Nafziger, Journey Transportation Tech – Pierre
- Dale Johnson, Highway Maintenance Worker – Sturgis
- Jessica Gilbert, Accountant I, Central Office – Pierre
- Thomas Ascher, Highway Maintenance Worker – Chamberlain
- Jon Anderson, Highway Maintenance Worker – Webster
- Andy Domeyer, Equipment Technician – Sioux Falls
- Jacob Lincoln, Pavement Condition Engineer – Pierre
- Kyle Maier, Highway Maintenance Worker – McIntosh
- Thomas Paradeis, Highway Maintenance Worker – Flandreau

December Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

- Brian Gengler, Highway Maintenance Worker – Sioux Falls
- Karen Mentele, Accountant II, Central Office – Pierre



Scott Syverson is a new Highway Maintenance Worker in Sisseton. Scott and his wife live near Peever where he also also works in farming and raising cattle.



Joanne Hight, Administrative Program Manager, had her self-proclaimed "4th best day of her life" recently! On Nov. 17, 2022, she got to sit in the co-pilot seat on the state plane on the trip to the 85th Street Public Meeting.

Photo provided by **Steve Gramm, Planning Squad Leader,** and **Andrea Bierle, Environmental Engineer II (who is pictured with Joanne).**



A new roadside attraction appeared on the south side of S.D. Highway 20, between Reva and Prairie City recently. A "monster truck" with hay bale tires! **Amy Klein-Greba, Training Specialist** and **Brenda Butler, Senior Secretary, Belle Fourche** stopped to take a picture!



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



December Longevity:

Doug Sherman, Area Engineer – 35 Years (Winner Area)

Mark Leiferman, Office of Project Development Program Manager – 35 Years (Central Office)

Jason Kraft, Highway Maintenance Supervisor – 25 Years (Mobridge Area)



Dave Huft recently received his 40, 45, and 50-year longevity pins from Secretary Jundt.

Previously, our longevity pins were only created up to 35 years. What a wonderful testament to the SDDOT that we have an ever-growing number of staff who have worked for more than 35 years for our organization!

Dave will have 52 years of longevity!



Marilyn Patterson, Transportation Analyst (left), and Jerry Ortbahn, Federal Funding and Grants Specialist (right) received their 40 and 45 year pins presented by **Steve Gramm, Planning Squad Leader (center).**



Director, Mike Behm (left) presented Mark Leiferman, Office of Project Development Program Manager, with his 35-year longevity pin.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

Jason Kraft, HMS (left) presented Steve Deibert, HMW Herreid (right) with his 15 year longevity pin.

Congrats to Jason for celebrating 25 years with DOT in December!



Congrats to **Kurt McKane** on his recent retirement in the Aberdeen Area. Kurt had over four years of service as a **Highway Maintenance Worker** in Webster.

Kurt is pictured with **Bruce Schroeder, Aberdeen Area Engineer** (left) and **Melvin Malsam – Unit 151 Highway Maintenance Supervisor** (right).



Congratulations to **Terri Boyle, Air, Rail, Transit Transportation Specialist I** on her October wedding celebration with Zach.

Zach was a former SDDOT employee working for the Pierre Highway Maintenance crew, and is the son of **Susan Geigle, Finance Secretary**.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

Please meet **Vivianne Jae Dunham** who was born on Nov. 19, 2022, weighing 7 lbs. 11.5 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Vivianne is the daughter of Jarrod and Lacey Dunham. **Jarrod is a Journey transportation Technician in Winner Area.**



Meet **Scarlett Geneva Dietmeier** who was born April 27, 2022, at 8 lbs. 11oz. and 19 3/4 inches.

Joe, Jenna and Natalie welcomed Scarlett to their family. **Joe Dietmeier is a Land Surveyor-In-Training in the Road Design office.**



Hannah Covey, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer, delivered a baby boy (Walter Boone) on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24, 2022). He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21.5 inches.



Jameson Curtis Sherman was born on Dec. 8, 2022. He weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21.5 inches. Jameson's parents are Todd and Meghan Sherman. Jameson is grandbaby #8 for Doug and Val Sherman. **Doug is the Area Engineer in Winner.** Jameson is pictured with his two older brothers, Jaxon and Kade.

In Sympathy . . .



Sympathy is extended to **Rian Edwards, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker in White River** on the passing of his grandmother, **Mary Edwards**.

Mary passed away on Nov. 30, 2022, at the Winner Regional Long Term Care Center. Funeral services were held on Dec. 5, 2022, at the Winner United Methodist Church with burial in the Winner City Cemetery.

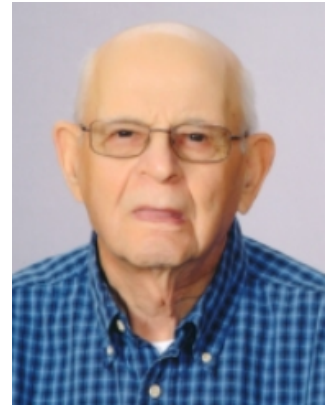
Mary was a longtime SDDOT employee. She was the Senior Secretary for the Winner Area for 37 years. She retired in 1989.



Sympathy is extended to **Dan Martell, Engineering Manager, Aberdeen**, on the death of his father **Harry Martell**.

Harry passed away on Nov. 3, 2022, at Avera St Luke's in Aberdeen. Funeral services were held on Nov. 9, 2022, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen with burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Military honors were provided by Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post 24.

Harry worked for the SDDOT as a Highway Maintenance Worker in Redfield from 1975-1995, and continued his service to the DOT as a part-time employee after his retirement.



Sympathy is extended to **Wayne Hein, Aberdeen Region Operations Technician**, and family, on the passing of his brother-in-law **Jim Bahr**.

Jim passed away unexpectedly of natural causes while deer hunting on Nov, 26, 2022. Funeral services were held Dec. 3, 2022, at Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Groton.

Jim began his nearly 35-year career with the SDDOT in 1978. He was the Lead Highway Maintenance Worker for Unit 168 in Aberdeen.



Sympathy is extended to **Brian Versluys, Lead Worker for the Aberdeen Shop**, on the passing of his mother. Leatrice "Lea" Ila Versluys of Brandon, died on Wed., Dec. 7, 2022.

A memorial service was held on Fri., Dec. 16, 2022, at the Horvath Remembrance Center in Marshall, MN.