SD DOT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SDDOT Mission:
To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:
Better lives through better transportation by being the best

Featured Graphic for GIS Day
(Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021)
Kimberly Zerr, GIS Coordinator and Kathryn Wesson, GIS Specialist provided real-time examples about the multi-faceted role GIS plays in SDDOT projects. Thanks Kimberly and Kathryn for showcasing the innovative work of the SDDOT!

Winter Highway Maintenance Plan:
The recently completed SDDOT Winter Highway Maintenance Plan **(WHMP)** was approved by the Transportation Commission at their meeting held Thursday, Oct. 28.

Find the full plan, as well as a condensed public-centered version, under the "Featured Resources" section on the homepage of our website: **https://dot.sd.gov/**

A more detailed version of the plan, designed specifically for our SDDOT staff, is found on the intranet site at: **https://intranetdot.sd.gov/forms.aspx.**

The Secretary's Corner

Strategic Planning

The Executive Team recently completed the **2021-2022 Strategic Plan**. Strategic planning sets goals for our organization, establishes priorities, and focuses our energy and resources.

Please find the full Strategic Plan and watch the video overview at: **https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/forms-publications/reports#listItemLink_1448**.

The Strategic Plan outlines our short and long-term strategic goals for the next year. At upcoming strategic plan meetings, all SDDOT staff will receive a key chain tag, note pad, and other visual daily reminders featuring our strategic objectives.

Strategic Objectives:
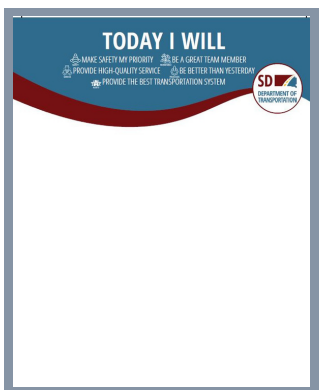**Safety:** Everyone Home Safe Every day
Service: Provide Excellent Services
Workforce: Value all Team Members
Processes: Continually Improve
Assets: Provide the Best Transportation System

When you glance down at your SDDOT key chain, or jot down a note on the note pad; please think about the ways in which you can personally engage with each **I Will** statement!

Impact Award Winners
showcasing their new shirts!

Congratulations to all of our Impact Award Winners. Thanks to those who sent in pictures! We will keep featuring the photos as received! **Don't forget, submit your Impact Nominations before Dec. 31, 2021 at: https://dot.sd.gov/impact-awards**

Branding Resources

If you haven't already - update your profile image on Outlook and Teams to the new SDDOT Logo, here's how:

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE IMAGE

TEAMS
•Open Microsoft Teams.
•Select your **profile picture** towards the top.
•Select your **profile picture** again. From there you can:
   •**Upload picture** - You will be taken to your saved files to choose a photo.
   •**Remove picture** - Remove your current profile photo.

•Update your profile in Teams (microsoft.com)

Microsoft Outlook
•In Outlook, click **File** to see your Account Information page.
•Click the **Change** link under your current photo.
•Depending on your setup, the next steps may vary slightly after you have clicked **Change**:
   •If you're prompted to sign in to Microsoft 365, click the **pencil icon** after you sign in, then select **Upload photo** to choose a photo.
   •If you're prompted to sign in Outlook Web App, click the **Browse** button after you sign in.

•Change your profile photo (microsoft.com)

**Find profile image logo files here:

Save SDDOT Templates to Word and Powerpoint: Click here and follow this guide!
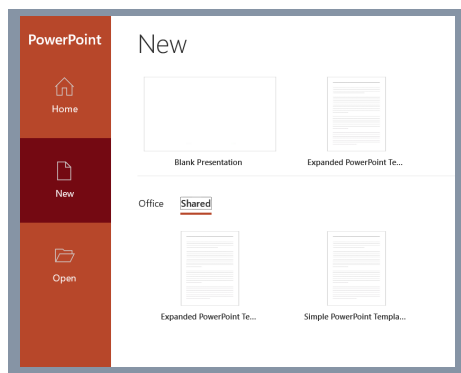
Reasons to Save the Templates:
- Eliminates the need to go back to the drive each time to resave the template
-Always updating - any time the communications team updates the template - you will have the newest version
- The SDDOT colors are pre-saved in the PowerPoint Template for easy use throughout the presentation.

1ST Annual SDDOT Holiday Smackdown
By Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant

Giving is gift that we all possess. Whether it be time or money, big or small, for those in need, any gift can make a difference. This year, we have ALL been challenged to share our gifts as we compete as a team – Rapid City Region vs. Pierre Region vs. Aberdeen Region vs. Mitchell Region vs. the Central Office in the first-ever SDDOT Holiday Smackdown.

What is the SDDOT Holiday Smackdown?
It is a charitable event competition held during the holiday season for the WHOLE department state-wide. This year, it's a food drive to help rebuild food supplies in local pantries.

What's in it for the WINNER?
·Bragging rights, of course.
·The region's name imprinted on the one of a kind Holiday Smackdown trophy as well as the honor of displaying the trophy for the year to show everyone who was victorious.
·A Certificate of Victory signed by Secretary Jundt to display for all time.
·The honor of selecting what type of collection will be held the following year.

The winner will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. CST/ 8 a.m. MST. The trophy and certificate will be presented to the winners at the Executive Team meeting that afternoon.

What do you have to do to be VICTORIOUS?
From 7 a.m. CST/ 6 a.m. MST on Friday, Dec. 10 until 4 p.m. CST/ 3 p.m. MST on Monday, Dec. 13, each region will collect as many non-perishable food items and/ or dollars to donate to food pantries in their areas as they can. Whomever collects the most, wins. It's that easy!

One point will be given to each food item collected. One point will be given to each dollar collected. The designated representative for each region will email Kari Kroll by 4:15 p.m. CST/ 3:15 p.m. MST on December 13 with the exact number of food items and the exact number of dollars collected for their region. Kari will put those numbers into the magical formula that evens the playing field between the teams. This calculation will determine the winner.

Have questions?
Each Region Engineer has been filled in on the details of the event. If you stump them, your next contact is Kari Kroll (kari.kroll@state.sd.us).

Meet the UAS Fleet and Pilots - By Larry Dean

Now that you know SDDOT UAS's are off the ground and flying, let me introduce you to the UAS fleet and pilots. SDDOT has purchased four **Skydio 2 drones** to be used as a tool to assist in inspecting bridges. There is a Skydio drone at each region. There are 8 FAA Part 107 certified pilots and all are Skydio Professional Operator Certified for flying Skydio drones. **The following SDDOT staff will fly the Skydio drones: Josh Olson, Bob Ahimbisibwe, Ron Bren, Brent Morford, Steven Kamarainen, Broc Swanson, Aaron Litka and Kent Lowe.**

Just like we have a naming contest for SDDOT snowplows, each of the region pilots have given their Skydio drone a nickname. Most of the drone nicknames were suggestions from the pilots' children. **Nicknames given to the Skydio drones: Aberdeen Region: Snoopy, Pierre Region: Bluebird368 (368 is Pierre's Unit number), Mitchell Region: Bluebird, and Rapid City Region: Pigeon Scan 1.** (The Rapid City Region pilots gave their drone the nickname because they thought about all the pigeons living under some of our bridges. Also, it turns out that pigeons are known for their homing skills and eyesight – a skillset they hope their drone will share.)

In addition to the four Skydio 2 drones, SDDOT has also purchased one Autel Evo II Pro drone to assist in collecting survey data. The Pierre and Mitchell Regions are currently sharing this drone until the survey proof of concept has been finalized. There are three FAA Part 107 certified pilots using this drone for the survey. The following SDDOT staff will be flying the **Autel Evo II Pro drone: Jon Nelson, Cody Asher, and Pete Hughes**.

The pilots also gave the Autel Evo Pro II a nickname called Clay Pigeon.

In conclusion, **Brent Morford (Pierre Region pilot)** stated, "Overall we really like what this little machine can do! We flew a nearby bridge yesterday as a practice run. It's just plain exciting to have this tool in-hand moving forward."

Tune in next month for the story about the development of the UAS program at SDDOT!

SDSU Meet and Greet Event
Recruitment Efforts at SDSU:

Rebecca Urban, Road Grading Design Engineer, has been spending a lot of time at SDSU talking with engineering students!

Rebecca was joined by **Earl Berg, Andrew Brown, Dan Sitter, and Rick Brandner** to talk to students about opportunities with the SDDOT.

Thank you to everyone helping recruit the next generation of bright minds at the SDDOT.

Rich Zacher Honored at Custer Chamber of Commerce Banquet

Custer Elementary principal Barb Paulson stood in for Superintendent Mark Naugle who was ill, in presenting the Government Employee of the Year Award at the Custer Chamber of Commerce Banquet, to our very own Custer Area Engineer, Rich Zacher.

Reading from Naugle's nomination form, Paulson said Naugle had worked closely with Zacher over the past eight years in making important decisions about weather and its impact on the safety of the district's 1,000 students. Naugle said he often contacted Zacher for things other than weather closings as well.

"Whether it is guardrails, speed limits, weather or parking issues, I know I can talk with Rich and get a thoughtful response from a person who is looking for reasons to say 'yes' to my request, not looking for reasons to tell me 'no,'" wrote Naugle.

Congratulations Rich, on receiving the much deserved honor. The City of Custer and the SDDOT are extremely lucky to have you!
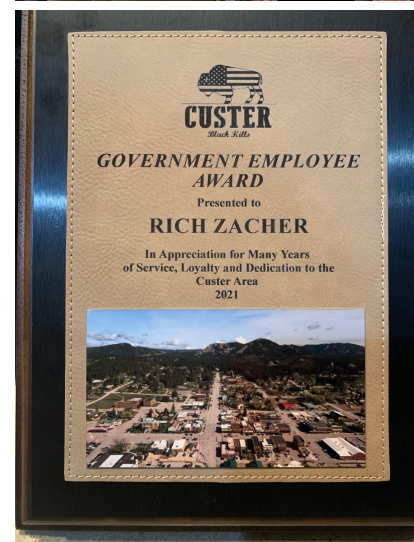
Clear Roads
By Danny Varilek, Transportation Specialist II

SAFETY

PROCESSES

Clear Roads is a national research consortium focused on rigorous testing of winter maintenance materials, equipment and methods for use by highway maintenance crews. Since getting underway in 2004, Clear Roads has grown to include 36 member agencies, each contributing $25,000 annually to fund research and technology transfer efforts. Representatives from the participating departments of transportation meet twice a year to discuss and prioritize projects, share effective practices, and review research results.
Primary Activities:

- Evaluating winter maintenance materials, equipment and methods under real-world conditions.
- Developing specifications and recommendations.
- Studying and promoting innovative techniques and technologies that will save agencies money, improve safety and increase efficiency.
- Supporting technology transfer by developing practical field guides and training curriculum to promote the results of research projects.

Member Roles and Responsibilities:

TAC members participate in project-related meetings and briefings on matters needing full membership resolution, and as subcommittee members on individual projects. The role of the TAC will include the following responsibilities and others that the TAC decides are appropriate.

- Participate in face-to-face meetings.
- Develop and vote on research proposals for funding each year. · Vote on Clear Roads matters involving research project selection, ad hoc funding requests, and operating procedures.
- Volunteer on the subcommittees for selected projects. (Subcommittees typically consist of 5 to 7 members.)
- Approve project subcommittee members.
- Review and approve project scopes developed by the subcommittees before advertising.
- Provide input on the best-qualified investigators to conduct projects.
- Provide guidance on implementation activities.

CLEAR ROADS
research for winter highway maintenance

Clear Roads continued . . .

Subcommittee Responsibilities:
- Participate in the evaluation and selection of the best-qualified investigators to conduct projects.
- Develop Scope of Work for projects.
- Work with the Administrator to ensure the Principal Investigator satisfactorily revises the project work plan prior to contracting.
- Participate in check-in teleconferences with investigators.
- Review project progress reports and annual reports.
- Approve project deliverables and final reports.
- Other duties as determined by the TAC.
- May designate non-Clear Roads members to serve in an advisory role on subcommittees.

Annual TAC Meetings:
The TAC meets face to face twice a year typically in April and September. The TAC may meet more frequently, either in person or by conference call, to review and approve research project interim 4 deliverables or to hold joint meetings with other winter maintenance research organizations. The location of face-to-face meetings will vary to best accommodate members from around the country and to keep costs down.

I keep a current list of completed and research in progress for SDDOT projects. Let me know if you would like more information.

Clear Roads website can be viewed by going to **www.clearroads.org**
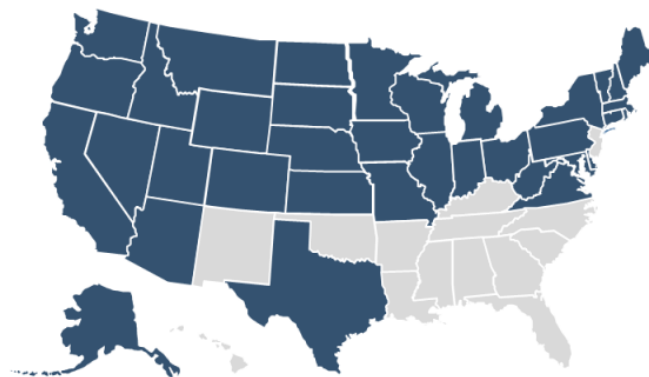
States highlighted in blue are involved in Clear Roads.

Using Definition Queries to Filter Data
by Kimberly Zerr, GIS Coordinator and
Kathryn Wesson, GIS Specialist

There is no doubt that ArcMap is an effective resource in creating presentations of data, but perhaps more importantly is how we analyze said data. This is where the real power of ArcMap can be leveraged.

One such method of analyzing data is by using a definition query to retrieve a subset of features in a layer. Think of a definition query like a filter; it will display only the records that fulfill the query. Whereas the Select by Attributes tool highlights the queried features and records, a definition query will effectively hide (but not delete!) the data that does not match the query. If you want your layers to pull directly from the source but have no need to edit the data yourself, definition queries are the way to go!

Definition queries are constructed using the query builder, like the way you would construct an expression in the Select by Attributes tool. Definition queries and the Select by Attributes tool are very similar, and either can be used to find the answer to your question. It simply depends on the result you need.

ArcMap uses a query-building wizard to take a lot of the guess work out of writing SQL statements. In the Definition Query tab within the Layer Properties, click on the Query Builder button. The selection query you input into the window that comes up will tell the server what data you want from it. It can be very simple or, in some cases, a very complex string of statements.

For example, a very simple SQL statement for Bridges-DOT in DataHound would look like this:

StructureType = 'bridge'
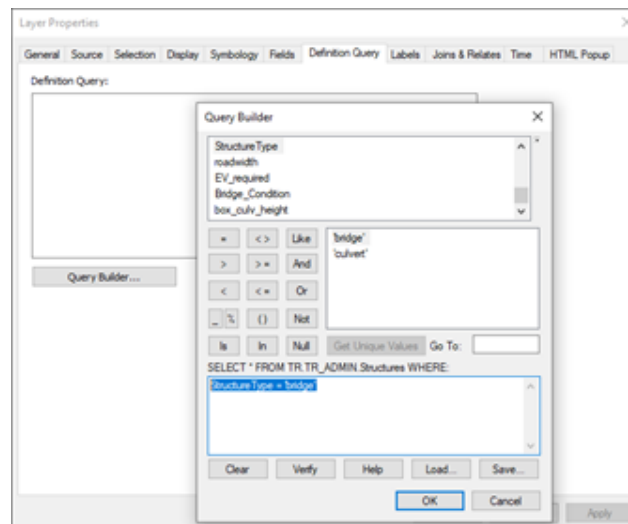
Using Definition Queries to Filter Data continued . . .

This would effectively return only the features and records in the table that are bridges. A more complicated example would look like this:

StructureType = 'bridge' AND yearbuilt > 1983

Can you guess what this expression would return?

The top window in the query builder wizard is a list of all the fields that are contained in the Bridges-DOT layer. The middle section of the tool contains the operands or operators (left hand side) that can be used to return the unique values for each individual field. The bottom section is used to build the expression based on the user's needs.

One noteworthy item to remember is the click sequence. It takes two clicks to select a field, one click to select an operator, and two clicks to select an operand. Two, one, two (2,1,2). After creating the expression, confirm that you have the syntax correct by clicking the Verify button. Then click OK to get out of the Layer Properties and see the results of the query displayed in your map window.

In the Table of Contents, right click on the Bridges-DOT layer and click on "Open Attribute Table." Notice that the records in the table only reflect those pulled out by the query.
To recap, using definition queries in your daily GIS tasks is helpful for visualizing subsets of data without needing to export the data from its source. Consider using a definition query in your next GIS project!

PROCESSES

Be the Right Help at the Right Time

By Brad Norrid and Wyatt Reis

Need help? What do you do? You ask for help for someone that knows the **What, Where, When, Why and How to get it done**. It may be a phone call, an email, or better yet just sticking your head in someone's office and saying "Got a minute? I need some help." Most of do this all the time. There is no shame, no issues, it's just part of getting things done.

Or perhaps you've been on the other side of the coin, where somebody pokes their head into your office and asks the question to you "Got a minute?". You turn out to be the person who knows the **What, Where, When, Why and How to get something done**. Perhaps they just need a sounding board to get your viewpoint on a situation. This could take you a few seconds, minutes, or longer depending on the questions and the help needed. Most of us do this all the time to help others get things done and do not even think anything about doing it.

So, what's the big deal? We do this all the time you say. Sometimes we ask for help. Sometimes we're giving the help. Did you ever consider this it's just a way of mentoring somebody and more specifically it's a situation that calls for a situational mentor? The Mentoring Connection works on the premise that a situational mentor is the getting the **Right Help at the Right Time**. We all do this during our normal day-to-day job.

If you're currently in the mentoring program and your mentee needs help with something that's not in your knowledge base or skill set, it's easy to just pick up a phone and call someone to see if they can help. "But they aren't in the mentoring program," you say. Oh, just the opposite, actually everyone in the DOT is in the mentoring program officially or unofficially! **Everyone can be the "Right Help at the Right Time!"** We all do it every day answering questions, introducing people to others, teaching tasks, etc. Whether you are "in" the mentoring program or not. Welcome Aboard to serving as a mentor to your fellow employees!!

Don't be afraid of being or using a **"Situational Mentor "**or the being the **Right Help at the Right Time**. We all have knowledge skills and abilities we can share with others. It has always been a part of our SDDOT culture to pitch in and help one another. **So, be ready to Be the Right Help.**

Have a blessed day, and remember Make Time for Mentoring!

Mentoring Program Kickoff

WORKFORCE

The 2021-22 Mentoring Program includes **36 mentoring pairs**! The mentoring program is designed to help SDDOT employees improve skills, knowledge, and network.

The mentoring pairs attended the **Dynamic Mentoring Session** on Nov. 4, 2021, which is the official mentoring partnership kick-off.
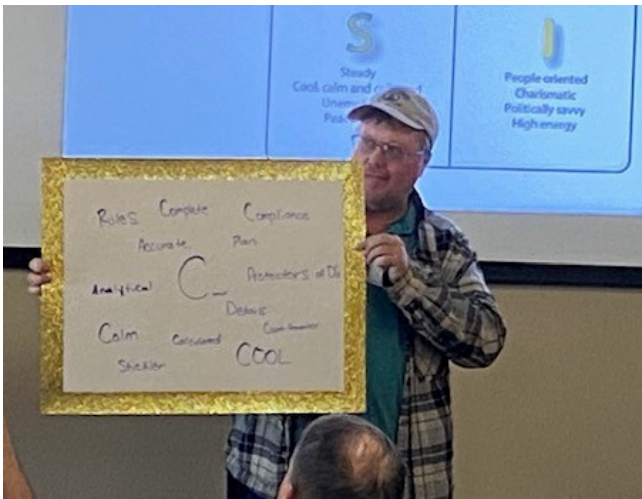
Audits/Internal Services Hosts Fundraiser for PARS

Each year, Audits/Internal Services hosts a bake sale/biscuits and gravy fundraiser at central office. All proceeds are donated to the Holiday FEAST Program through Pierre Area Referral Service (PARS). The PARS program provides a holiday meal for families across central South Dakota who may not be able to afford one.

PARS' goal for the 2021 holiday season is to provide a holiday feast to 350 families at Thanksgiving and 350 families in need at Christmas. The cost to provide a holiday feast for a family is $75 this year.

Thanks to everyone at Central Office who participated.

Pictured is Rip Ray presenting $975 raised through this fundraising event to the PARS staff.

Thanks to everyone who generously brought goodies for this fundraising event:
Tony Wieser (IS),
Rochelle Grambihler (Audits)
Terri Boyle (Transit)
Jana Uhrig (Audits)
Chris Ott (Audits/IS)
Rip Ray (Audits)
Mike H. (BIT)
Brian Kenzy (IS)
Laura Blotzke (Finance)
Niki Miller (IS)
 Bobbi Galinat-Paul (IS)
Carol Evans(Operations Support)
Kari Kroll (Secretariat)
 Joanie Blair (Finance)
Logan Gran (Project Development)

Westbound Presho Rest Area Opened:

After being closed for the summer for building and parking lot renovations, the westbound Presho Rest Area along Interstate 90 is now fully open to the travelling public.

The building was completely remodeled. The parking lot had significant repairs performed, including the creation of additional parking and a new lighting system. Next spring/summer, a similar renovation will take place to the both the building and parking areas on the eastbound rest area. If you are travelling westbound along I-90, please stop to check out the newly renovated building and parking lot.

Pictured: Dick and Connie (traveling through S.D. from Idaho) were our first official guests to the newly opened westbound Presho Rest Area. They graciously allowed the SDDOT team to share their photo on social media sites to alert travelers to the rest area opening!

SDDOT Employee News and Updates:

Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:
Dustin Witt, Highway Safety Engineer - Pierre
Kelly Hudecek, Certification and Accreditation Program Administrator - Pierre
Christina Bennett, State Construction & Maintenance Engineer - Pierre
Ben Brown, Transportation Specialist II - Pierre
Logan Gran, Planning Engineer - Pierre
Makayla Campbell, Concrete Technician - Pierre

New Hires:
Brad Patterson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City
Logan Mulder, Journey Transportation Tech - Aberdeen
Branka Radulovic, Structural Engineer - Pierre
James Wilson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Pierre
Chad Perman, Highway Maintenance Worker - Selby
Addison Juhnke, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls
Clayton Fosheim, Highway Maintenance Worker - Kadoka

November Longevity:
Lyle Lenius, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 30 years (Aberdeen Area)
Brenda Flottmeyer, Project Engineer – 30 years (Rapid City Area)
Jay Peppel, Area Engineer – 30 years (Mitchell Area)
Craig Smith, Division of Operations Director – 30 years (Central Office)
Steve Gramm, Planning Squad Leader – 30 years (Central Office)

SDDOT Employee News and Updates:

Congrats to Rod Gall, Yankton Area Engineer on his upcoming Retirement!

Rod notes, "After 41+ years with the DOT I will be retiring on December 8th. It has been a great career and I would like to give thanks to all who made it a successful journey, and made it a great place to work."

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Keith Voegeli (Highway Maintenance Supervisor) giving **Brad Cox (Lennox Highway Maintenance Worker)** his 30 years of service pin.

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Abby Mueller, Region Operations Technician, Mitchell Region Office welcomed her first grandbaby. Linden Kay was born Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, at 5:09 a.m. She weighed 7lbs 2oz and 20.5" long. Parents are Bailey and Austin Koch of Newcastle, NE.

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Keith Voegeli (Highway Maintenance Supervisor) giving **Kevin Wiebers (Lennox Highway Maintenance Worker)** his 10 years of service pin.

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Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer, giving **Jay Peppel, Mitchell Area Engineer** his 30 years of service pin.

Caution!!!
RETIREMENT
Ahead!

After 41 + years of dedicated work with the DOT Captain Rodney Gall has decided to jump ship.
Please join us as we congratulate Rod on his retirement.
December 6th
Yankton Area Office
Cake, ice cream and snacks
Starting at 2 PM

WORKFORCE

Lexi Lassle, Senior Secretary and Tyler Green, Equipment Management Specialist pictured at the Motorcycle Museum while attending the WASHTO SCOM Conference in October!

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Kirk Henderson, Project Engineer receiving his 10 year pin from **Greg Aalberg, Project Engineer Supervisor (Sioux Falls Area)**

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Justin Smith has accepted the **Lead Highway Maintenance Worker position in DeSmet.** Justin has worked for the DOT for several years now and will be an asset to our team.

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Doug Kinniburgh, Local Governments Engineer Manager (right), presented **Cody Axlund, LGA Lead Bridge Engineer (left),** with his 15-year pin.

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Brenda Flottmeyer, Project Engineer, presented with her 30-year pin from **Project Engineer Supervisor, John Gerlach (Rapid City)**

Statewide Repair Shop Meeting:

Thanks to Equipment Shop Forman, Steve Rhoades and staff, for organizing and hosting the first-ever statewide SDDOT Repair Shops meeting. The meeting/training was recently held in the newly completed Mitchell Area Repair Shop. The training event was attended by 47 statewide DOT staff members; including the four Shop Foremen, Equipment Techs, Equipment Mechanics, Fab Techs, Partsroom Techs, Operations Engineer and Region Coordinator. The two-day meeting included shop and partsroom tours, trainings, and general discussion about procedures. This is a great example of SDDOT dedication to continual process improvement and sharing best practices. Thank you to everyone who participated in this learning opportunity.

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Partnership Award for Rapid City Area:

The South Dakota Highway Patrol presented the Rapid City Area with their newly developed Partnership Award. The award exemplifies outstanding collaboration and commitment to improving overall highway safety. It recognizes the collaborative work between state agencies to help keep citizens and visitors of South Dakota safe on our roadways. The award was presented to Unit 452/451 on Monday by Captain Ketterling and Lieutenant Bader. Congrats to all for earning this honor!