



August 2023 Connecting the DOTs

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Congratulations to our 2nd Quarter Impact Award Winners

Individual Awards: Larry Cyr, Belle Fourche Area Project Engineer and Brock Antijunti, Pierre Region Operations Technician

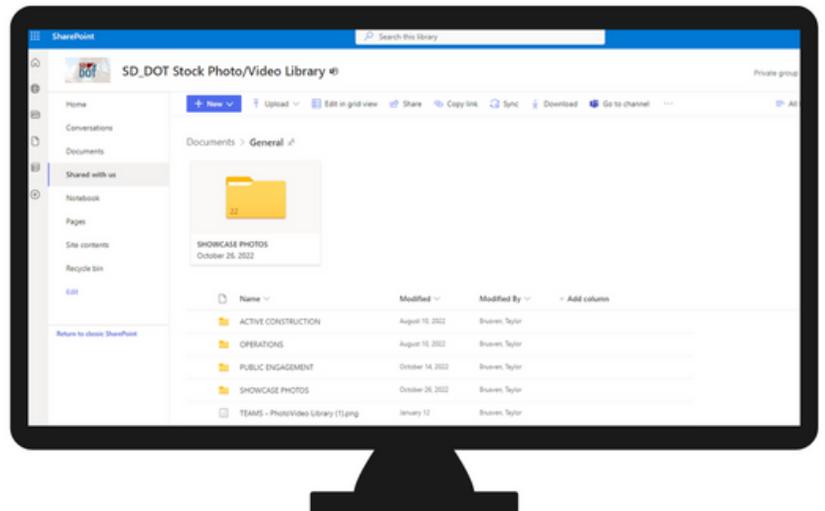
Team Award: Aberdeen Area Night Operations - Brian Versluys, Brad Reecy, Chaz Shuff, Jacobs Lunders, Daryl Johnson, Mike Johnson, Jon Anderson, and John Premus

[Click here to submit an Impact Award](#)

3rd Quarter nominations due by Friday, Sept. 29, 2023

SHAREPOINT SDDOT PHOTO AND VIDEO LIBRARY

**Click the graphic below to access*

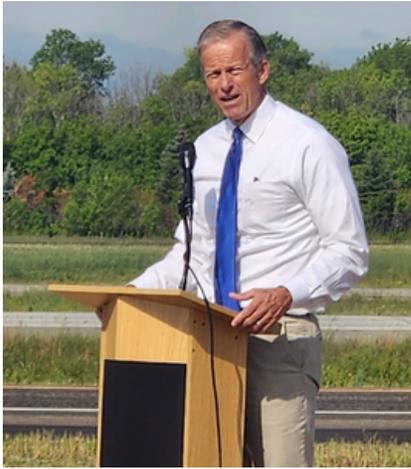


Click the graphic to access SharePoint. This photo/video library is available to all SDDOT employees, as well as others within the State needing photos such as the Governor's Office. The site includes high quality photos that can be used for publications, presentations, and more.

Email DOT.Communications@state.sd.us if you have photos/videos to add to the library. Also, if you are searching for a "particular" look or photo, and aren't finding it; please let us know!



The Secretary's Corner



Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson joined state, county and city officials at the Interstate 29/20th Street Interchange Ribbon Cutting in Brookings.

Through a continued partnership with the City of Brookings, the state has invested not only time and expertise, but also a significant amount of monetary capital to ensure that our interconnected 80,000 miles of roadway in our state function as seamlessly as possible.

Our first work on the 20th Street Interchange on I-29 in Brookings started in the late 1990's with a planning study. That preliminary review started what we see today. In 2011 the state funded and managed a **Brookings Area Master Transportation Plan** that identified transportation improvements needed in the City of Brookings on city streets and state highways. After the study was complete, the state funded the **Brookings County Master Transportation Plan** in 2013 to review county needs and ensure the interconnectedness of city, county, and state infrastructure. That work rolled into the "Infrastructure Investment and Reinvestment" in Brookings. Projects on 6th Street/U.S. Highway 14 were planned, designed, and constructed from the west end of town through the interchange and ended east of Daktronics/Swiftel Center. All of the planning work gave the Brookings community a significant advantage in securing the **2019 BUILD Grant**.

DOT staff in coordination with the City of Brookings dedicated countless hours to design, gain federal clearances, and manage the construction project. As we look to the future, the state will own and maintain this critical piece of infrastructure. We will continue to deliver a strong interconnected transportation system to our customers as we strive to make better lives through better transportation.

Bowes Construction, the primary contractor, provided this project video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2NqDlxS0J8>



ArcGIS Pro is Here!

By Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson

Earlier this month, the GIS Team sent an email to all DOT staff with ArcGIS installed on their computers. Around that time, BIT installed ArcGIS Pro on those same computers. ArcMap wasn't uninstalled, and it isn't retiring until 2026, so you can use both programs until you become familiar with the new format.

Some key differences transitioning from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro:

- No more MXD extensions; work is organized into "Projects" — consisting of maps, scenes, layouts, data, tables, tools, and connections to other resources — which, by default, are stored in a system folder within the project.
- A "ribbon feel" like Microsoft Office (i.e., menu items at the top of the page, and tools appear and "activate" depending on what kind of item is selected).
- No more starting and stopping the Editor; it's turned on by default.
- Schema changes to the data are possible, such as renaming a field or adjusting a domain, without going through ArcCatalog.

Noticeable benefits:

- Creating multiple definition queries for one layer and toggling them on/off.
- More efficient for creating a series of maps. You can create multiple layouts within one session.
- Existing MXD files can be imported into ArcGIS Pro.

A few disadvantages:

- Map extent of data view does not carry over to layout view. This takes a little bit of time to get used to.
- Navigating and analysis is jerky, with a lag time of several seconds.
- DataHound is still functional but works a bit differently.

One common question is the login on the splash screen. No login is needed for ArcGIS Pro. Tutorial videos for getting started are available through the LMS, just search for GIS. If you have suggestions for other videos, or want information on other common tasks, let us know.

The GIS Team is still learning Pro, but we're ready to answer your questions!



THE INVITATIONAL

A Team Step Challenge

Join in on a fun, team-based step challenge offered by our employee well-being program.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

8/23 - 9/12: Registration time!

You can sign up as a team of 5 with 4 eligible co-workers OR as an individual and you'll be added to a team that needs more teammates.

9/6 - 9/12: Warm-up/ practice time

After you get registered, make sure your device is synced or that you know where to enter your steps each day. During this week, you can practice logging your steps and ask for help if you need it BEFORE the challenge starts.

9/13 - 10/17: Get steppin'! Get your team steppin' too!

Each week, your team will be matched up with another team for a friendly competition to see who can track the most steps. EVERYDAY, track your steps either manually or let a device do it for you. At the end of 7 days, the team who tracks the most steps wins that week/round.

The next week, you'll be matched up to face off with a new team. Same story, the team with the most steps at the end of that 7 days, wins the week! There are 5 weeks (rounds) of competition.

Win or Lose—You can earn 100 well-being points!

To earn the 100 well-being points/\$100 contribution, you must track your steps at least 5 out of 7 days for all 5 weeks (rounds) of the challenge. Win or lose, the points are earned by the individual's participation in the team challenge.

Speaking of Well-being Activities

Have you checked out the [LiveWellSD](#) portal this year? You should!

You'll find some familiar activities as well as new opportunities for 2023 – 2024.

New this year, you can earn well-being points for tracking minutes of physical activity each month or tracking your sleep each quarter. Both are very important to your health! Again this year, you can talk to a health coach and do Daily Habit Plans are for more personalized growth options .

Check it out today to see everything that is offered! There really is something for everyone to motivate their well-being journey.

Eligible employees can earn up to 400 points again this year. That means there the possibility for up to \$400 to be contributed to their HRA/ HSA accounts. Funds will be added to accounts in July 2024.

Speaking of Well-being Rewards

Around July 10th, all earnings from 2022-2023 were added to HSA/HRA account. Just like this year, you had the opportunity to earn \$500 by completing the online Health Assessment and the biometric screening as well as up to \$400 by completing different well-being activities like Livongo, *Five to Thrive* Challenge, volunteering, Daily Habit Plans, etc.





2023 Hall of Honor Inductee Banquets

As announced earlier this summer, **Greg Fuller (former SDDOT team member) of Fort Pierre** and **Greg Klein (former LATC instructor) of Watertown** were chosen as the 2023 inductees to the South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor.

The purpose of the Transportation Hall of Honor is to recognize individuals who have made a lasting, valuable, or unique contribution to South Dakota's air, highway, public transit, or rail transportation system. Many thanks to our SDDOT staff across the state who participate in this nomination process. Each year, the committee receives many amazing applications for review and consideration.

Dates and locations were recently solidified for the 2023 Hall of Honor inductee banquets. Please see full press release by clicking on either graphic. Please join us to recognize the outstanding contributions by each of these gentlemen.

RSVP and payment are due to Kari Kroll at kari.kroll@state.sd.us in advance of each event.

celebration banquet

TRANSPORTATION HALL OF HONOR
INDUCTION OF

GREG FULLER

OCTOBER 24TH STARTING AT 5:30PM
AT THE EVENT CENTER AT DRIFTERS BAR & GRILL
325 HUSTAN AVENUE | FORT PIERRE, SD

\$40 / PERSON - PURCHASE TICKET BY OCTOBER 19, 2023
605.773.5105 OR [KARI.KROLL@STATE.SD.US](mailto:kari.kroll@state.sd.us)

5:30PM SOCIAL HOUR | 6:15PM DINNER | 7PM PROGRAM

Please Join Us

FOR A BANQUET TO CELEBRATE THE INDUCTION OF

GREGORY KLEIN

INTO THE
TRANSPORTATION HALL OF HONOR

11.08.23 Social Hour: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:15 p.m. Induction Program: 7:00 p.m.	JOY RANCH 16633 448th Avenue Florence, South Dakota	RSVP BY 10.24.23 \$40 / PERSON advance purchase Kari Kroll (605) 773-5105 kari.kroll@state.sd.us
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August Transit Highlight:

Standing Rock Public Transit

By Jenny Boehm



Standing Rock Public Transit is a unique entity. They are the only agency in the area that is operated by a college (Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, ND) and does daily transportation between North and South Dakota. Standing Rock does regular trips between Fort Yates and McLaughlin, Mobridge, Timber Lake, Bullhead, Little Eagle, and Bear Soldier in South Dakota. They also offer services between Bismarck and Mobridge daily. If people need to travel farther than Standing Rock can offer, they can be delivered to other transportation agencies in Bismarck and Mobridge and then travel anywhere in the U.S.

In charge of this agency, is **Standing Rock's director, Pam Ternes**. Sitting Bull College began their public transit program in 1989 and Pam came in as the Special Projects Coordinator for the College in 1991. Her position was responsible for various economic and community development programs which included transit. After managing the program for a few months, Pam noticed there was a critical need for public transit in the surrounding communities. She requested approval from her supervisor to write a Job Access and Reverse Commute Program application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA awarded the grant, and several others over time, which expanded Standing Rock from one part-time route in 1989 to providing direct services to 15 communities in North and South Dakota along 12 routes today.

Pam's duties have now grown immensely. One of her most challenging tasks is figuring out ways to pay for the local match requirement for transit grants. While federal funds are essential, the hardest part is raising the local funds to match. What's an agency to do? Pam has worked hard and received several unique sources to cover her local match on projects. Standing Rock Public Transit has a contract with Sitting Bull College to transport college and GED students to classes and gives them a general fund cash donation on top of that. Standing Rock also started a snack vending machine non-profit business and offers automotive maintenance services for non-profit businesses. **In FY2022, Standing Rock drove 200,450 miles, gave 16,532 rides which averaged out to 12 rides per mile.**

TRAINING UPDATE



LEADERSHIP COURSES

Leadership Conference (BHR)

Sept. 7 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

TECHNOLOGY

Microstation CONNECT Training

Sept. 6 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

Sept. 7 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

Bentley Online Training

This microsite serves as a “one stop shop” where you can find links to resources for your Bentley products and services curated together in a single place.

SKILLS COURSES

Working in Indian Country

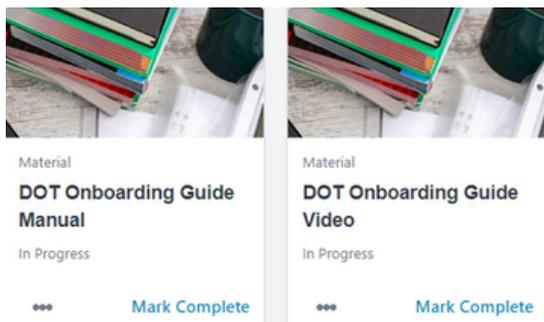
Oct. 24 | 8 – 4:30 p.m. | Chamberlain

Oct. 26 | 8 – 4:30 p.m. | Aberdeen

New Employee Orientation

Nov. 7 (1p.m. - 5 p.m.) and Nov. 8 (8 a.m. - Noon) | Pierre

Onboarding Guide Resources



SDLEARN UPDATE

All SDDOT courses are loaded into the new system, we are working on adding the last 5 years of training to your transcripts and hope to be done by the **end of July**.

You can now access [SDLearn](#) with the LMS icon on your desktop, do not enter a username or password. Simply click the “**Employee Login**” button.

August Mentoring Minute By Brad Norrid & John Villbrandt



The following article is from a blog post on the “The Training Connection” website.

There has been much written and researched about the Pareto Principle; a theory about productivity and efficiency and pea pods, discovered over 100 years ago by Italian economist, Vilfredo Pareto. His work focused on the distribution of wealth in society, where he observed that 80% of the wealth and income was produced and possessed by 20% of the population. What was most fascinating about Pareto’s work was that this 80/20 distribution turns up everywhere. Pareto even saw this rule occurring in his garden - 20% of his pea pods contained 80% of the peas. He came up with a guiding principle for, well, everything:

80% of the outputs are the results of 20% of the inputs.

So, it seems it’s been scientifically proven that effort, reward and output do not directly correlate with each other. A certain minority of activities result in the majority of the outcomes. For example, who hasn’t been involved in a group project where 2-3 of the people do 80 percent of the work? Interestingly, this principle also says that individuals and organizations are spending 80% of their efforts to accomplish 20% of their results.

How can this simple principle be exploited to the very best advantage? The key is to put the maximum effort in areas that will gain the most return. Stop and think about the areas of your life that could benefit from the Pareto Principle. Ask yourself:

- Do you own at least five amazing suits, but 80% of the time or more you grab the same one or two?
- Do you have 10-15 rooms in your home, but spend 80% of your time in just your bedroom, family room, and kitchen?
- Do you have 50 different mobile apps on your smart phone, but 80% of the time you are only using about 10?

The fact is, there are opportunities for efficiency in every area of your life. And the best part is, because it’s something you have control over, it’s something you can improve.

Continued . . .

August Mentoring Minute . . .

How can you apply Pareto's principle to increase your return on your time/energy/money investment? Many professionals are constantly faced with the challenge of limited resources. Instead of trying to do the impossible, a Pareto approach is to truly understand which projects are most important. What are the most important goals of your organization, or boss, and which specific tasks do you need to focus on to align with those goals? What tasks can you delegate or let go? This can also be applied to your personal life. **Concentrate on those areas that provide you with a happy and healthy lifestyle and meaningful relationships.**



Photo from Sioux Falls Mentor Touring Event in July .

Upcoming Mentoring Events:

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023 - Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

"Life in Five Senses" by Gretchen Rubin/Discussion Leader - Tim Wicks
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Commission Room - Becker-Hansen Building (Pierre)

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 - September Mentoring Event

Innovation Opportunities Workshop 10a.m. - 3 p.m.
Commission Room & Various Conference Rooms - Becker-Hansen Building (Pierre)

Make Time for Mentoring!



Branding Resources - For You!

Click here to visit the page!



Visit the SDDOT Branding and Identity Guidelines webpage for useful branded resources! Find Logos, conference materials, power point templates, and more!

Teams Backgrounds: <M:\DOT\Common\DOTPictures&Logos\Teams Backgrounds>



Teams Background



Stickers



Kid's Packet



Business Cards

Leadership Development Program (LDP) Graduation!

Sixteen employees graduated in August from SDDOT's LDP. This is the third group of employees to complete the program; which provides training to broaden leadership understanding and develop associated skills. Congratulations to these individuals for challenging themselves and taking an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. The next program begins in April 2024. **Please be watching for an application announcement in January 2024.**

Luke Neville - LDP grad and Philip Lead Highway Maintenance Worker provided this note of appreciation upon graduation: "I wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to be in the LDP class this year! I believe that the opportunities for personal development have provided some amazing results. Personally, it has been a great adventure as I continue to grow and search for ways to improve what I can personally offer to others."



2023 Inaugural SDDOT Golf Tournament!

Thank you to Dustin Witt, Levi Briggs, and Mark Leiferman (all from Project Development) for organizing our 2023 SDDOT Golf Tournament.

The SDDOT Golf Tournament was held on Friday, Aug. 25, 2023, at Dunes Golf Course in Fort Pierre. This tournament was open to all current DOT employees, as well as spouses, significant others and immediate family members. All former DOT employees were also invited to the tournament! **Required Golf Experience . . . Absolutely none!** Regardless of skill level or hand-eye coordination, all were welcome to play!

More information about golf scores and winners to come!





SDDOT Employee News and Updates

August 2023 Longevity:

Loren Abernathy, Surfacing Plans Project Engineer – 25 years

(Central Office – Materials & Surfacing)

Kirby Kirsch, Civil Engineering Technician – 25 years

(Sioux Falls Area Engineering)

Mark King, Maintenance & Inventory Management Specialist – 40 years

(Central Office – Operations Support)



Mark King, Maintenance and Inventory Management Specialist recently received his longevity pin from **Christina Bennett, State Construction and Maintenance Engineer, Craig Smith, Director of Operations, and Secretary Joel Jundt.**

Thanks, Mark for your service to the SDDOT for 40 years (and counting)!



Public Engagement - Dakotafest and Brown County Fair!

Thanks to everyone who gave their time and expertise by assisting at our SDDOT booths at Dakotafest (Mitchell) and the Brown County Fair (Aberdeen) in August!



SDDOT Employee News and Updates



August New Hires:

- Jack Sparks, Transportation Analyst, Pierre
- Chad Clelland, Highway Maintenance Worker, Brookings
- Cameron Lorden, Highway Maintenance Worker, Brookings
- Nadine Menning, Journey Transportation Technician, Aberdeen
- Michael Pereboom, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mitchell
- Jason Minter, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mitchell
- Lanae Lane, Journey Transportation Technician, Yankton
- Ian Junkermann, Journey Transportation Technician, Yankton
- Alexander Hertz, Structural Engineer, Pierre
- Alysa Patterson, Highway Construction Project Engineer, Yankton
- Jay Rakowski, Transportation Utilities Coordinator, Rapid City
- Asa Christensen, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls



August Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

- Matthew Glines, Highway Construction Project Engineer, Sioux Falls
- Scott Witlock, Region Operations Coordinator, Aberdeen
- Nicole Brooks, Senior Secretary, Pierre
- David Fuhrer, Project Technician, Yankton
- William Metzger, Lead Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Plankinton
- Bradley Steeneck, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Junction City



Thanks to all the SDDOT staff who represented our organization at parades and community events this summer! Pictured below is one big DOT Fan!



Gannon Storm, son of Recruitment Program Specialist, Courtney Storm, found the SDDOT truck at the parade in Chester in July!



Transportation Specialists, Andrew Mentele and Brenda Sharkey recently attended the grand opening of the new RCPT location in Martin.

Andrew noted, "It was great to hear the positive feedback within the community and receive community insight on business and employment opportunities."

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Mark Fox (left), Watertown Survey Crew Chief, celebrated 31 years of service with the SDDOT recently.

Mark is pictured receiving his longevity plaque and pin from **Engineering Supervisor, Jeff Brink.**



Matt Grohs, Structural CAD Technician, receiving his 15-year longevity pin from Steve Johnson, Chief Bridge Engineer.

Todd Thompson, Bridge Maintenance Engineer Manager, is pictured giving Kimberly Robinson, Structural CAD Technician, her 10-year pin. She has been in Bridge for all 10 years.



Brian Simpson, Winner Area Highway Maintenance Worker, recently received his 10-year longevity pin from Gregg Ulmer, Winner Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor, and Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer.

Lana Lambert, Environment Analyst, was honored in the YMCA news as July employee of the month. As noted, "Lana is one of our amazing lifeguards and swim instructors in the Oahe Family YMCA."



In Sympathy . . .



Sympathy is extended to co-workers, family, and friends of **Mike Lauritsen** who worked for the SDDOT in the Watertown Area.

Michael Lauritsen died Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

Visitation was held at Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.



Sympathy is extended to **Mary Hoyt, Accountant II (Pierre)** and family on the recent passing of Mary's mother. Julia "Judy" Ann (Harris) Hattum, of rural Harrold, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023.

A funeral service was held on Friday, Aug, 25, 2023, at Isburg Funeral Chapel; with Interment at Scotty Philip Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to **Tim Wicks, Custer Area Engineering Manager**, and family on the recent passing of his mother. Carol Wicks, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, in Northfield, MN.

A private service of remembrance will be held at a future date.



Thank you for sharing information about the passing of loved ones. It is vital that we are able to comfort and support one another during a time of loss.

Staff are also encouraged to share information about the passing of former SDDOT employees. Often times these employees worked with many throughout the SDDOT, therefore we want to make all aware in case someone would like to send condolences to the family.

Please email obituary notices/links to the Communications Team at dot.communications@state.sd.us.