

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



MILES OF INNOVATION

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Building Better Lives Through Better Transportation

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

South Dakota is often referred to as the land of infinite variety due to our wide array of scenery, distinct four seasons, and diverse economy. In South Dakota, our public transportation system connects expansive rolling prairies in the east with the dramatic scenery of the Black Hills in the west. Our transportation system serves a multitude of purposes, such as delivering agricultural crops to market, transporting visitors across our state to their vacation destinations, getting us home safe every day, and much more.

Maintaining and improving a transportation system that is efficient, effective, and most of all safe, does not happen without the dedicated work from each of our employees. The hard work was recently validated when SDDOT was recognized at the Achievement Level by the Performance Excellence Network (PEN), the regional Baldrige-based program that serves South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The honor is based on a rigorous evaluation of SDDOT performance and management systems.

To go along with hard work, statewide collaboration is key to everything the SDDOT does on a daily basis. Engagement at the federal, state, county, and township levels are key to helping the SDDOT to move projects forward. Our work is not possible without the contribution of many voices across our state.

Thanks to the support of Governor Noem and our South Dakota congressional delegation, we secured federal funding for vital projects to make our state highways safer for all users, including freight handlers, residents, and tourists. Their support enhances access to communities across our state.

Continued growth requires connecting people to the services that the SDDOT provides. Our connection with the public was strengthened over the past year with the launch of our Strategic External Communication Plan (SEC Plan), which increases both the quality and quantity of purposeful interactions with our internal and external stakeholders. The SEC Plan encourages clear and consistent messages and open two-way communication between the public and the SDDOT.

Due to the collective efforts of our legislative body, statewide partners, stakeholder groups, and our dedicated employees, the SDDOT can successfully achieve our mission to efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system in the state of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Joel Jundt, Secretary



Secretary Joel Jundt



SDDOT'S NEW BRANDING

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Within the last year, SDDOT launched its first official Strategic External Communication (SEC) Plan. The implementation of this initiative provides a trackable path to communicate more effectively with our valued external stakeholders. One of the first tactics identified in the SEC plan was the research, development, and implementation of an updated SDDOT logo and branding standards.

- **Missouri River Blue:** represents the many rivers and lakes on the eastern part of the state; as well as our commitment to the environment. *Blue signifies reliability and trustworthiness.*
- **Spearfish Formation Red:** represents the unique rock features, and overall geography, found in the western part of the state. *Red signifies energy and enthusiasm.*
- **South Dakota Sunflower Yellow:** represents agriculture as the backbone of our South Dakota economy. *Yellow signifies optimism, confidence, courage, and innovation.*

SDDOT'S STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Five strategic objectives form the heart of the plan and guide our path forward as we build better lives through better transportation. Throughout this report, icons highlight various strategic objectives and accomplishments met in 2021.

OUR MISSION

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system.

OUR VISION

Better lives through better transportation by being the best.



EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERYDAY

SDDOT aims to improve safety by decreasing highway crashes and reducing workplace accidents and employee injuries.



VALUE ALL TEAM MEMBERS

SDDOT is a service organization: engaging, training, developing, and retaining our workforce provides the greatest opportunity to be a top employer.



PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES

SDDOT recognizes the importance of listening to customer and stakeholder concerns and reacting to their needs.



CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

As a highly visible public agency with regulated funding, SDDOT processes must operate as innovatively, efficiently, and effectively as possible.



PROVIDE THE BEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

SDDOT diligently maintains and manages South Dakota's pavements and bridges, the assets with the highest financial value and greatest public impact.

Investing in Our Transportation Future Today

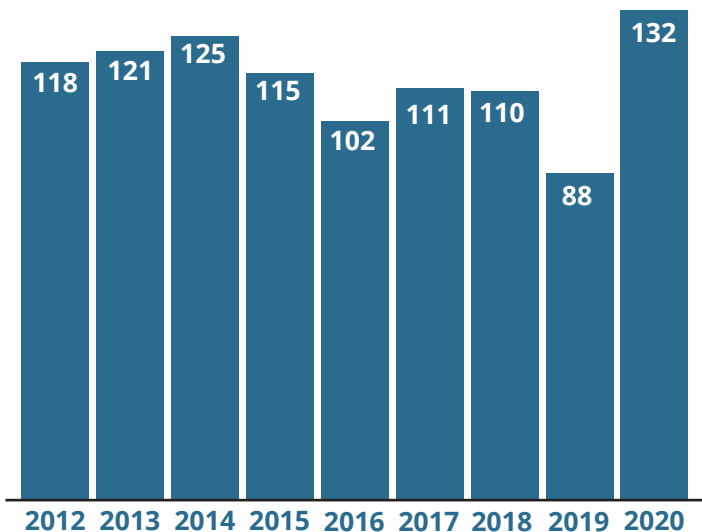
PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Over the past year, SDDOT continued efforts toward our strategic objectives and carrying out core duties. The figures and statistics on the following pages highlight this progress and identify areas for continued improvement.



EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERYDAY

Number of fatal crashes in South Dakota



In South Dakota over the past nine years there have been **1,154 deaths** as a result of **1,022 crashes**.

Nationally, there was a **7.2% increase** in fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2020 when comparing to 2019.

"One fatal crash is too many. Unfortunately we saw an increase in fatal crashes in 2020 compared to previous years with driver behavior continuing to be the most significant contributing factor. Through partnership and innovation, we're committed to our goal of getting everyone home safe everyday."

— Mike Behm,
Director of Planning and Engineering



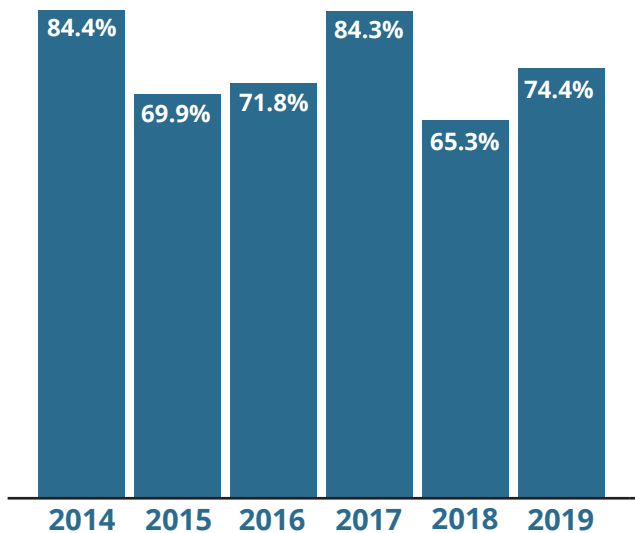
"In an organization as big as SDDOT, every employee makes a difference. We work together, align our objectives, and strive to effectively deliver programs and services for our customers."

— Kellie Beck,
Director of Finance and Management



VALUE ALL TEAM MEMBERS

Percent of new employees retained after 18 months



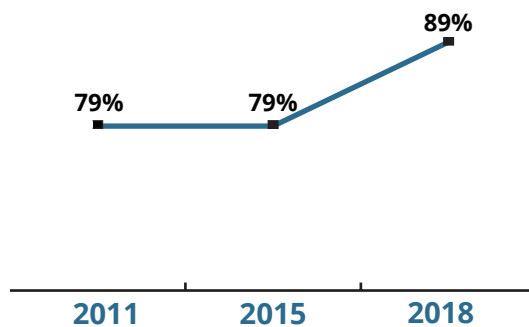
After 90 days, **80 percent** of new employees would recommend SDDOT as a good place to work!

SDDOT has a **lower employee turnover rate** in comparison to other South Dakota state agencies.



PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES

Percent of customers satisfied with SDDOT's information reporting



In 2018, **89 percent** of customers were satisfied with SDDOT's information reporting. SDDOT is currently performing a customer satisfaction survey and will report results in 2022.

Contractors are one of our major stakeholder groups and their feedback is essential.

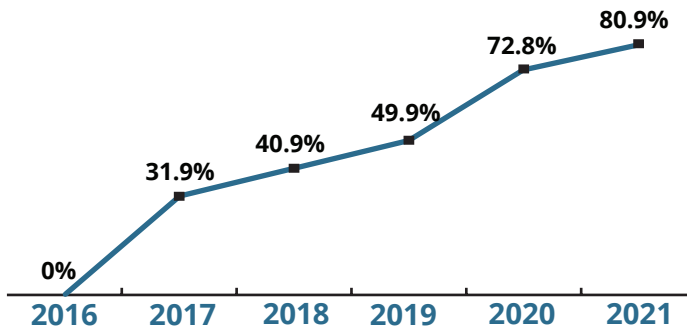
SDDOT hosted a review of the 2022-2025 **Tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** with contractors. **This meeting was held as a direct result of feedback** about how and when we engage with contractors in the project life cycle.

The goal was to **proactively take inquiries and answer questions** about future projects.



CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

Percentage of pipe culverts that have been inspected to date



To manage and maintain **30,500+ drainage culverts** across the state, a **detailed inspection and management process** was initiated. To date over 80% have been inspected and provides a means to manage the need through reliable data.

The Baldrige Performance Excellence program focuses on continual improvement.

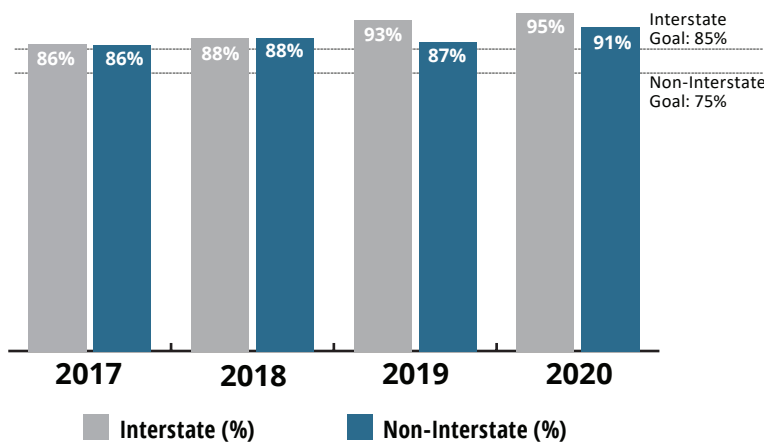
SDDOT has used the Baldrige Criteria since 2013 as a framework to drive continual improvement in our journey to excellence. This is a rigorous evaluation of our organization's management and performance system.

In 2021, the SDDOT was awarded the second highest level of achievement.



PROVIDE THE BEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Percent of pavements in good or excellent condition



Since 2016, SDDOT has met its strategic goals to maintain both Interstate and non-Interstate pavements in good or excellent condition.

2021 State-owned bridge conditions

98 percent of state-owned bridges are in fair or better condition. SDDOT continues to meet its strategic goal of 95 percent.

The SDDOT is currently developing a **pavement marking management system** to improve markings especially reflectivity in wet conditions.

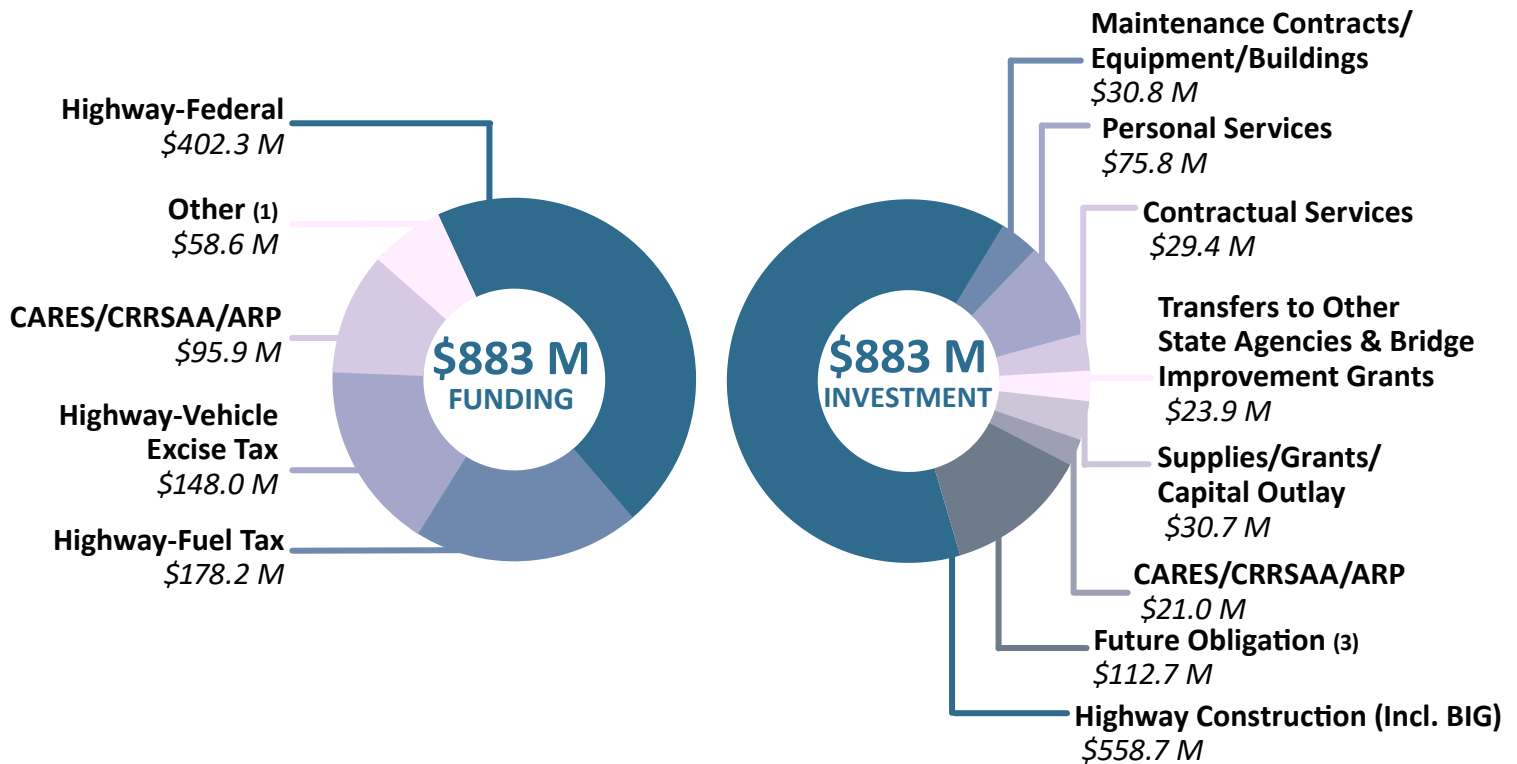
"SDDOT strives to continually advance safety, operational and service effectiveness, and cost savings. Every year we implement new ideas, products, and processes. Examples of innovation include the use of high friction surface treatments to reduce winter related crashes, blue lights on snowplows to increase visibility during winter events, adding tow plows to our winter truck fleet to improve the timeliness of snow removal operations, and the expansion of technology through our newly created Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program." — **Craig Smith, Director of Operations**



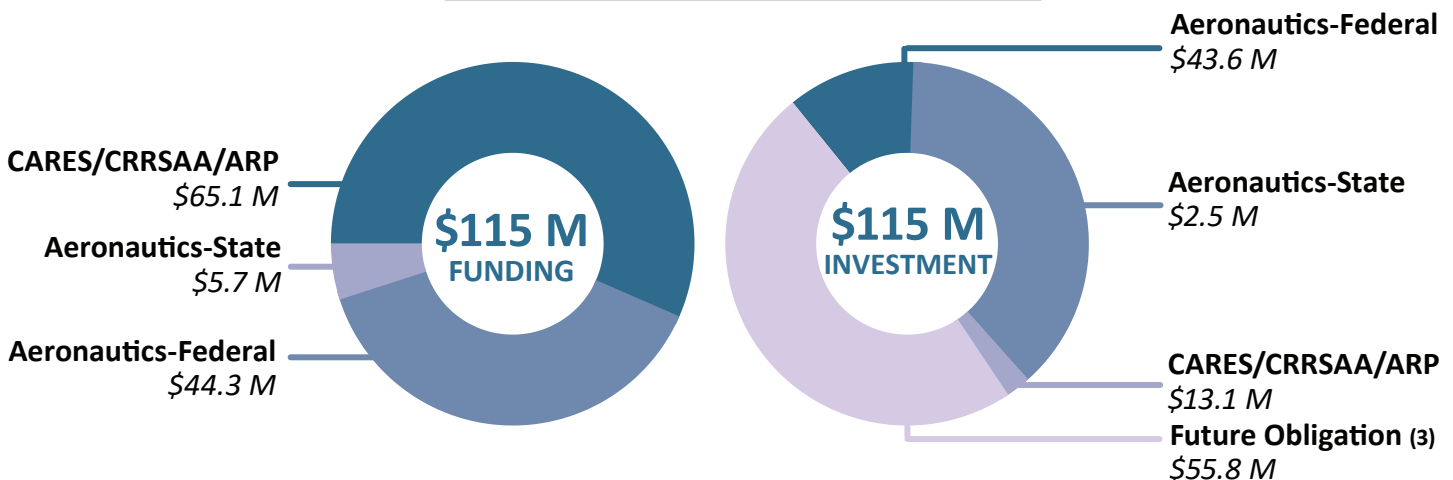
FUNDING

As a public agency, SDDOT relies on various funding sources to support its work each year. SDDOT is committed to making responsible investments which achieve the greatest benefit for all residents and visitors. The figures below show our Fiscal Year 2021 revenues and expenditures in the areas of Highway, Transit and Aeronautics. Like every other state in the nation, South Dakota was impacted by COVID, but we were extremely fortunate to have our transportation revenues continue in a positive trend.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 HIGHWAY & TRANSIT



FISCAL YEAR 2021 AERONAUTICS



1 Other funding includes licenses, permits, and fees; interest, dividends, and rent; charges for sales and services; administered program revenues; non-operating funding including transfers from other state agencies for SDDOT to administer; surplus property sales, Bridge Improvement Grants (Federal Program).

2 Transfers to Other State Agencies refers to funds that SDDOT transfers to other agencies to administer highway patrol, radio communications, and other programs that keep roads safe.

3 Future Obligation - funding to be spent on construction projects that have not been obligated to date.

2021 SDDOT Feature Stories

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM SDDOT'S 2021 ROAD TRIP TO SUCCESS

PAGE 8 RETHINKING WINTER MAINTENANCE WITH MDSS TECHNOLOGY

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Rethinking Winter Maintenance with MDSS Technology



WORKFORCE



SAFETY

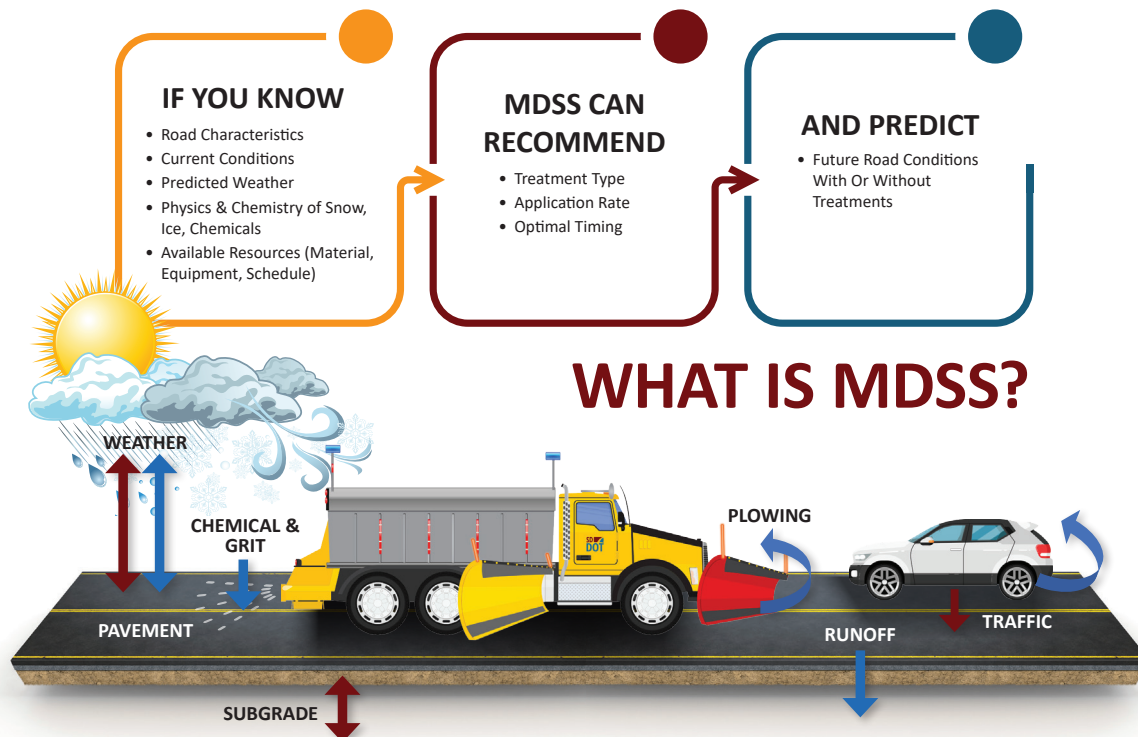
SDDOT garners national recognition with innovative winter maintenance research study.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and their Research Advisory Committee (RAC), select 16 research projects each year to be included in their “Sweet 16.” These research projects provide high value to their communities and provide innovative steps forward for the state transportation systems of the nation.

The SDDOT’s research project on the Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) Operation Plan was included in the “Sweet 16” and recognized nationally for its innovation on how states handle winter maintenance operations. The MDSS provides treatment recommendations to winter maintenance personnel based upon road and weather conditions. The goal of the research project was to develop an implementation strategy for future use of MDSS within the SDDOT.

The research team conducted a literature review, interviews with SDDOT maintenance staff, investigations of other state DOTs using MDSS, and discussions with MDSS vendors. They proposed adding new route segments into MDSS, equipping more plow trucks with mobile data collectors, and using environmental sensor station data for weather and road conditions.

Implementing the findings from the study are expected to result in a more effective and efficient use of resources.



BIG Program Making a Huge Difference



The Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Program; rebuilding South Dakota, one bridge at a time.

In 2015, the South Dakota Legislature created the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) fund that provides \$7 million for local government bridges derived from an increase in license plate fees. In addition, the South Dakota Department of Transportation adds \$8 million in state funds, for a total of \$15 million annually available in the bridge grant program. Every year, counties and cities from across the state apply for preservation and replacement grants to enhance and ensure farm to market connectivity.

\$15 million
is annually available in
the bridge grant program.

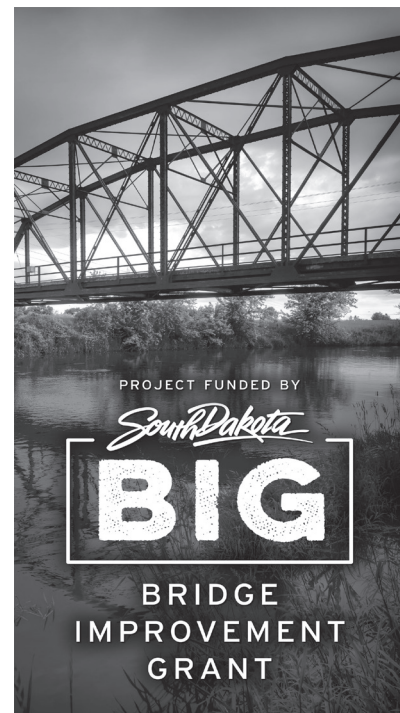
This year, the 124-foot three-span double-tee bridge on 122nd Street near Sisseton, over the Little Minnesota River, was in need of replacement. The structure was at the end of its service life and replacement was the only viable option.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation, Roberts County, Clark Engineering, and Swingen Construction Company partnered to construct the new 130-foot three-span continuous concrete bridge.

With an exceptionally mild winter, work progressed throughout many of the traditional “off” months for construction in South Dakota. Over the winter months the entire substructure was completed and the concrete deck was poured in the spring of 2021. The bridge was opened to traffic well ahead of the scheduled project completion date.



A three-span double-tee continuous concrete bridge near Sisseton was constructed over the Little Minnesota River.



This sign is placed on all BIG program projects after completion.

Stainless Steel In SD Structures



Stainless steel increases the lifespan of bridges and saves South Dakota money in the long run.

In an effort to increase the service life of reinforced concrete bridge decks, the Office of Bridge Design has transitioned from epoxy coated reinforcing steel to stainless steel reinforcing in all new concrete bridge decks on the state highway system.

Ordinary reinforcing steel corrodes when it is exposed to deicing salts. As the resteel corrodes, it expands, fracturing the concrete surrounding the reinforcing.

To protect bridge deck reinforcing from the harmful effects of deicing chemicals, the South Dakota DOT began using epoxy coated reinforcing in concrete bridge decks in the late 1970's.

However, recent bridge deck inspections revealed corrosion in epoxy coated reinforcing leading to deterioration of bridge deck concrete. Stainless steel corrodes much slower than other steel reinforcing when exposed to deicing salts.

Using stainless steel reinforcing instead of epoxy coated reinforcing in bridge decks will increase initial structure costs approximately 8%. However, a life-cycle cost analysis of stainless steel deck reinforcing showed a life cycle cost savings of approximately 29% compared to epoxy-coated reinforcement.

As part of the life cycle cost savings, the use of stainless steel is expected to reduce repair and rehabilitation work (chip seals, deck overlays, and deck replacements) required on South Dakota's structures. Less construction will also reduce inconvenience to the traveling public and increase safety.

Stainless steel reinforcing shows a life cycle cost savings of

29%
per structure.



The photo above shows an example of a stainless steel deck.

A Monumental Project for South Dakota



The North Corridor of Veterans Parkway marks the completion of the largest road construction project in South Dakota history.

The vision to build Veterans Parkway was introduced nearly three decades ago in a 1993 East side Corridor Study. Veterans Parkway is the culmination of a long-awaited connection between the east side of Sioux Falls with the Interstate 90 east-west thoroughfare. This project created a much-needed arterial for one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

On Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, the SDDOT opened the north portion of Veterans Parkway and the Exit 402 Interchange Project to the public. Following the opening of North Veterans Parkway, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in February 2021 to commemorate the project. The ribbon cutting was attended by Governor Kristi Noem, the congressional delegation from South Dakota, and other stakeholders involved in the project.



SDDOT staff standing near the North Veterans Parkway Big Sioux River Bridge.

The next phase began in early 2021 with the design of South Veterans Parkway. The first segment is planned for construction in 2023. Three additional segments for South Veterans Parkway will be constructed over the following years to complete the corridor.

Once complete, the corridor will parallel I-229, beginning at the Tea, SD interchange on I-29 (exit 73) on the south side of Sioux Falls and extend east and north to its newly reconstructed interchange on I-90 (exit 402), located west of Brandon.

The Veterans Parkway project prepares Sioux Falls for key public and private infrastructure investments and advancements. Along with improving travel times for local passenger and freight traffic, the corridor will serve as a backbone of the region's transportation system, spurring residential and commercial growth throughout the metropolitan area encompassing, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, and McCook counties.

Flying, Hauling, and Driving South Dakota



The Office of Air, Rail, and Transit continues their pivotal role in South Dakota's transportation system.

The Office of Air, Rail, and Transit continues to be a driving force behind the planes, trains, and public transit vehicles in South Dakota.

Air Weather observing systems at South Dakota airports are required to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). With the new installation of an AWOS-III weather observing system, the Gettysburg Municipal Airport now meets that certification for local pilots. The AWOS-III provides required surface weather data observations such as wind speed, temperature, dew point, cloud height, and much more. This system will be valuable for all general aviation pilots, especially commercial operators and medevac aircraft.



AWOS-III weather observing system.

SDDOT
estimates by 2045
25.2 million tons
of freight will be moved
by rail in South Dakota
each year.

Rail Agriculture is the largest industry in our state. Railroad tracks run alongside fields of corn, soybeans, wheat, and sunflowers that stretch for miles. According to the state rail plan, 25.2 million tons of freight will be moved by rail in South Dakota by 2045, in comparison 19 million tons of freight were moved by rail in 2019. With increased freight volumes occurring each year, the maintenance of the rail system is paramount to the success of agriculture as well as other industries in South Dakota. \$53.4 million have been invested in railroad improvements since 2014 and several lines have been sold to private companies in the last year, which provides greater economic opportunity and benefit to farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and shippers.

Public Transit Public Transportation has long been an invaluable service to residents from all corners of the state. The COVID pandemic presented many challenges for public transportation providers, the biggest of which was keeping riders safe. An increase in grant funding, assisted providers in purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant solutions. This in turn gave citizens an added level of comfort and trust in using public transportation.



Kids using the SD public transportation system.

Grant Funds Spark Transportation System Improvements



Office of Air, Rail, and Transit double the amount of grants processed in the midst of the COVID pandemic.

The SDDOT Office of Air, Rail, and Transit helps stakeholders across the state process and administer grants for transportation improvements. In a typical year, the Aeronautics Office processes \$30-\$35 million in airport improvement grants and the Transit Office processes \$15 million in transit grants. With the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the investment was significantly increased and employees were tasked with implementation.

During the COVID pandemic, SDDOT was able to manage over \$90 million in grant funds. With grant funds more than doubling the amount of years past, employees worked diligently to inform and listen to South Dakota grant sub-recipients and Federal counterparts in the process.

These increases in grant funds were invested in airports across the state. Public transportation in South Dakota will also benefit from the increase in grant funds, through improvements to systems in population centers across the state.

The pandemic was a difficult time for many of the citizens of South Dakota. The increase in grant monies was a great opportunity to work closely with our stakeholders to improve lives and the transportation system in our state.

Air, Rail, and Transit employees processed and managed **2X** the average amount of grant funds in 2021.



Photos demonstrate the stages of progress of the Watertown Airport apron expansion.

Investing in Intelligent Transportation Systems



New program dedicated to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improves lives through innovation.

Rapid advances in electronics, information technology, and communication are transforming the world of transportation. While new technology presents challenges, it also opens doors to safer, more reliable, and more efficient transportation. From familiar applications like traveler information services to the emerging realm of autonomous vehicles, the Department of Transportation must anticipate new technology and prepare to use it to the benefit of travelers and citizens of South Dakota.

The SDDOT recently created a new Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program to strengthen its ability to plan, develop, deploy, and operate systems involving advanced communication and information technologies.

Some of South Dakota's current and planned intelligent transportation system activities include:

- The SD511 travel information website, phone service, and mobile app
- A network of 120 roadside highway cameras with weather sensors
- Sections of Interstate highway that will electronically adjust speed limits during winter storms
- Electronic screening of commercial vehicles, including automated detection of flat tires and inoperable brakes
- A network of 30 dynamic message signs, which will be upgraded to full color and expanded to more locations
- Preparing for automation of personal and commercial vehicles
- Preparing for alternate fuel vehicles
- Designing information and communication systems that are reliable and secure

The goal of the ITS Program is to ensure that these systems are properly conceived, well designed, and robustly built to serve the current and future needs of travelers.



In-pavement sensors detect a trucks underinflated tires at 75 mph.

ITS integrates **advanced communication and information technologies** into **vehicles and the transportation infrastructure** to improve transportation users' safety, mobility, and quality of life.

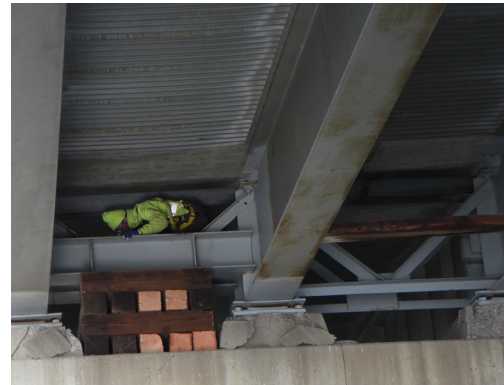
Encore for the Singing Bridge



The SDDOT and local communities work together to find, fix, and resolve an issue on a bridge that spans the mighty Missouri River.

On Saturday evening, Feb. 20, 2021, damage was identified on the S.D. Highway 1806 Singing Bridge near Mobridge, resulting in the bridge closure. This 4,002-ft. bridge, with average daily traffic of 806 vehicles, is a vital link between Mobridge and the communities of Wakpala and Kenel on the Standing Rock Reservation.

Our SDDOT team's quick response and amazing teamwork across regions and divisions allowed the temporary repairs to be completed quickly and the bridge to reopen within days. After temporary repairs were made to the Singing Bridge in February, permanent repairs were scheduled for July.



A SDDOT crew member resolves a bridge issue.

The time that the bridge would be closed was of great concern to the traveling public – especially those living and working in the Wakpala, Kenel, and Ft. Yates, N.D. areas. Without the bridge, the traveling public was faced with an 89-mile detour.

The bridge was closed to traffic, and work began on Monday, July 12, with all work taking place from a snooper truck. Once the concrete reached design strength, the bearing components were installed, and the superstructure was reset into place. The project was completed efficiently, and traffic was restored on July 29.



SDDOT crew members inspect the Singing Bridge for damage and work to repair and reopen it for the public.

Employees Steer Innovation for the SDDOT



Employees make innovative dreams a reality at the SDDOT.

Employees make innovative dreams a reality at the SDDOT. Innovation drives all aspects of work at the SDDOT forward. Innovation makes roads, bridges, airports, railroads, and public transportation safer and more efficient, which in turn improves our transportation system for citizens and visitors of South Dakota. However, none of the innovative measures put in place by the department are possible without the forward-thinking and hardworking employees who strive every day to provide the best transportation system possible. The following projects are two of the many employee-driven innovations undertaken by the Department in the past year.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)



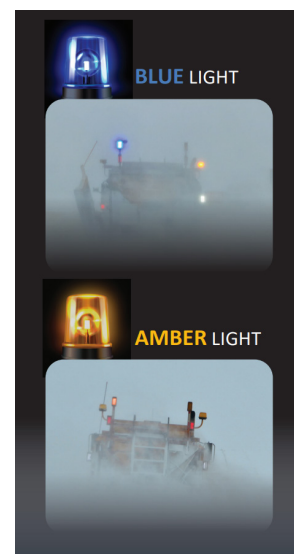
UAS field test

The SDDOT UAS program is officially off the ground! We've purchased five drones, four of which are dedicated to bridge inspection, and one for survey opportunities. Over the course of the last few years, the UAS committee has worked to develop policies, guidelines, FAA Part 107 certifications, insurance, and much more. A huge part of the development has been based on other programs in the state and nation.

Blue Lights Initiative

The Blue Lights Initiative was born out of a need to protect members of the public and snowplow operators during winter weather events. With studies showing people have become desensitized to flashing amber lights, there was a need to think of a way to improve safety. Blue lights have a shorter wavelength of light, which makes them more visible to approaching drivers, making them a great solution to this problem.

A pilot program in 2020 equipped 25 trucks with flashing blue lights across the state. The program was so successful, the SDDOT will now have blue lights on 300 snowplows for 2021-2022.



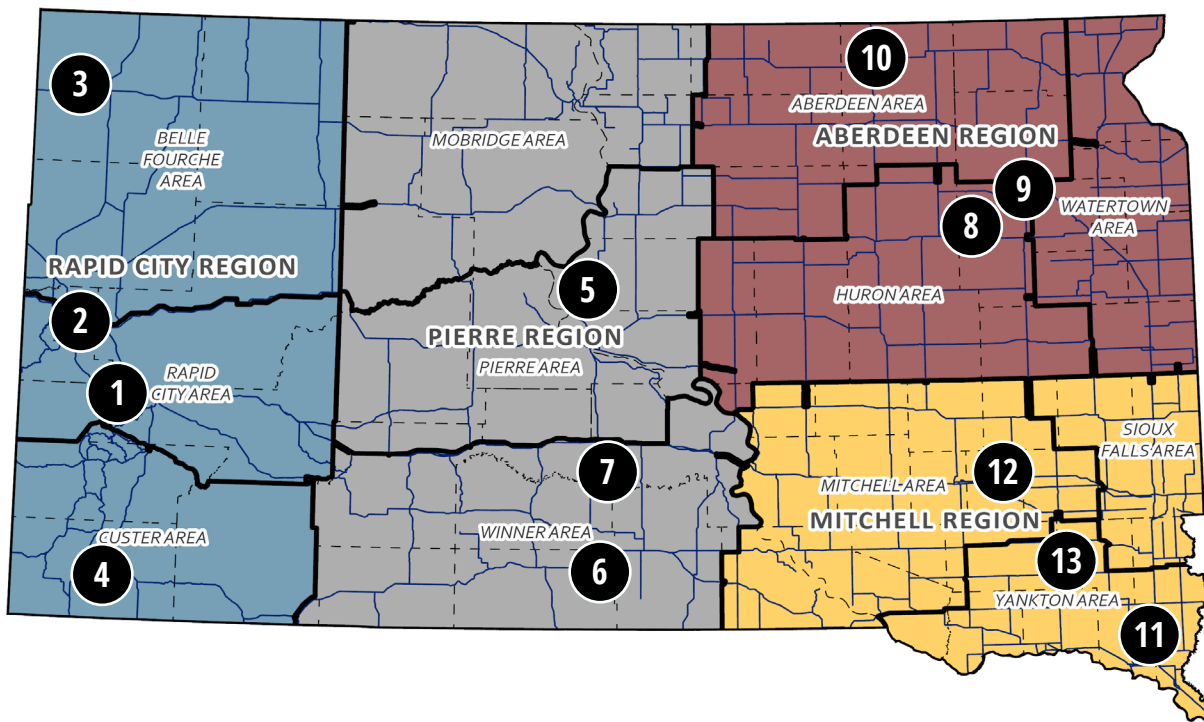
Progress Across the State

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONS

Moving SDDOT's mission forward wouldn't be possible without the Pierre, Aberdeen, Mitchell, and Rapid City Region and 12 Area Offices' concerted efforts to provide high-quality services to all South Dakotans. Whether you're traveling through South Dakota's Black Hills and Badlands, low hills and prairies, or towns and cities, you can rest assured that SDDOT's regional workforce is ready to face any challenge confronting our state's transportation system.

MAP OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS BY REGION

Numbers indicate projects that are described in the upcoming pages.



Rapid City Region



1

1. All New Omaha A portion of Omaha Street that connects east and west Rapid City has new life after a reconstruction project. Omaha Street now provides a safer travel corridor with better access to local business and parks.

2. A Job Well Done in Boulder Canyon A large portion of U.S. Highway 14A between the towns of Sturgis and Deadwood through the famous Boulder Canyon was micromilled and resurfaced this year. This project prompted a hand-written citizen note to the Governor on the professionalism of the SDDOT.



2

3. Big Bridge Over the Little Missouri In an often unreached corner of South Dakota sits the town of Camp Crook near the Little Missouri River. A new bridge over the Little Missouri River creates easier access to the communities of northwest South Dakota.

4. Safety Improvements on Heartland Expressway In March 2021, the SDDOT began reconstruction of 10 miles of U.S. Highway 18/U.S. Highway 385. With three total reconstruction areas on the project, the work done helped to improve safety on this stretch of the Heartland Expressway north of Oelrichs.



3



4

Pierre Region



5. Bridging the Gap On March 29, 2021, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Bridge over the Missouri River connecting Pierre and Fort Pierre. This is will be a multi-year project.

6. Reshaping Winner U.S. Highway 18 runs through the heart of the city of Winner. This main artery was reconstructed in 2021 with new storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalk, roadway lighting, new traffic signal at Main Street, and Portland cement concrete pavement.

7. U.S. Highway 83 Reconstruction U.S. Highway 83 has been drastically improved due to complete reconstruction from Murdo to White River. The road is more enjoyable to drive and most importantly, safer.

Aberdeen Region



8. Interstate-29 Reconstruction Complete

The last stretch of I-29 in the Aberdeen Region, (north of Sisseton) was revitalized this year. An improved ride and added safety features are now found throughout the region on I-29. The original section was built in the early 1980's.

9. Face Lift for U.S. Highway 12 The reconstruction project for U.S. Highway 12 through Aberdeen extends the life of the pavement and addresses ADA issues throughout the corridor to provide for better access to non-vehicular traffic. The project is also instrumental in the future installation of an adaptive signal system.

10. S.D. Highway 15 This stretch of S.D. Highway 15 was former U.S. Highway 77 built in 1941. The road was completely rebuilt and wide shoulders were added for safety. By flattening hills and filling in low areas, the number of No Passing Zones decreased by 75%. This is the first of five reconstruction projects planned between Milbank and Estelline.



Mitchell Region



11

11. SD Highway 46 from Irene to Centerville
S.D. Highway 46 between Irene and Centerville was reconstructed this summer. The project consisted of shoulder widening, structures, pipe work, spot grading, mill, and asphalt surfacing.



12

12. Rebuilding America on Interstate-90
SDDOT received \$61.5 million of Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funds to aid the reconstruction of 28 miles of I-90 in McCook and Minnehaha Counties. I-90 is the most traveled roadway in South Dakota. The project includes innovative components such as fiber optic deployment and a new e-Construction process that will streamline project delivery.

13. Transportation Commission Tours Yankton Area
The transportation commissioners held their annual project tour this year in Yankton. While on the tour the commissioners visited several projects in the area to view the in-depth work that the SDDOT does daily.



13



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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“I want to tell you how fantastic our DOT Department is . . . I called distraught over things happening during road construction on Highway 14A in Boulder Canyon where I live. ***They were so kind and understanding.*** They took immediate action and fixed everything! In today’s world, you just can’t expect this kind of ***personal character and integrity,*** but obviously our DOT Department is loaded with it.” - *Pamela D., Sturgis*

“While out fishing today, your impressive crew caught our attention as we passed under the 'Singing Bridge'. Please know that along with thousands of people in Mobridge, as well as on the Standing Rock Reservation, ***I am so appreciative of the prompt attention*** you and your department have given this project so vital to our local economy.” - *Ben Stoick, Mobridge*

“I just was so impressed today. My grandpa had a funeral in Faulkton, S.D. and there was construction on U.S. Highway 212. Those men all put their hats over their hearts as we drove by on the way to the cemetery. ***It seriously brought a tear to my eye. Class act!***” - *Sara T., Faulkton Area*