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Find more region and state rodeo photos and videos on the Intranet at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/roadeo.aspx>.



[Watch the video from Dakota News Now](#)



[Watch the video from KELOLAND](#)



## The Secretary's Corner



We continuously seek innovative processes to better serve South Dakota travelers. We proactively implement technological advancements to improve efficiency and effectiveness. We continuously look for new ways to engage stakeholders and users of our transportation system, with the ultimate goal that everyone arrives home safely, each and every day!

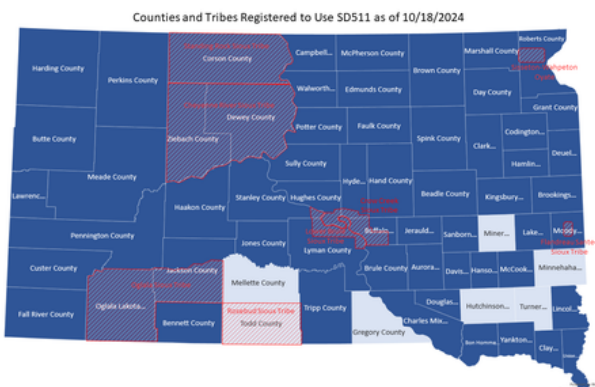
The **Winter Highway Maintenance Plan (WHMP)** provides guidance for our SDDOT operations team, as well as those with whom we collaborate. It's through partnerships with our fellow federal, state, local, and tribal partners that we are able to implement advancements within our winter planning protocols and safety practices. The WHMP was approved by the Transportation Commission at their meeting on Oct. 17, 2024. **Link to the WHMP from our homepage at <https://dot.sd.gov>.**

Each winter, we strive to be the primary resource for South Dakota travelers. Within the past couple years, SDDOT developed a **winter travel alerts and road conditions resource page** on our website homepage to enhance communication efforts for travelers, emergency personnel, and the media. This "one-stop shop" provides a central location of key resources for the traveling public each winter.

In addition to providing the latest road condition information such as Interstate closure or reopening status, the resource page also features links to SD511, along with real-time photos and videos of our snowplow operators at work. We also have a link to our most current social media posts! **We know that the more information we can provide about current and projected road conditions, the better travel decisions that can be made!**

The work we do to advance safety is critical, whether during construction season or during a multi-day blizzard. A safe and efficient public transportation system is fundamental to our state's economy and success. Working side-by-side with statewide agency partners is vital to the maintenance and enhancement of the transportation system.

**A key initiative recently developed is our expanded partnership with counties and tribes.**



This winter, tribes and counties will be able to enter their **No Travel Advisories and Road Closures** directly into SDDOT's SD511 Traveler Information System. This localized information advances communication efforts for South Dakota travelers.

I want to thank everyone involved in this complex, yet vital, implementation process. As demonstrated on the map, approximately **60 counties and 7 tribes** are ready to fully engage in this communication process with us.

## Finance Corner



### New Travel Reimbursement Rates Effective Oct. 1, 2024

As outlined in HB 1060 during the 2024 Legislative session, the mileage rate and the in-state lodging reimbursement rate will be updated to align with the rates set by the federal government.

Listed below are the new rates:

### Travel Reimbursement Rates

*Effective October 1, 2024*

#### Mileage Reimbursement

SDCL 3-9

Type	Rate	Comments
High Mileage	\$0.67/mile	Personal vehicle is used AND state motor pool vehicle is not available.
Low Mileage	\$0.302/mile	Personal vehicle is used AND state motor pool vehicle is available.
Special Needs Mileage	\$0.871/mile	Large personal vehicle is used (ex. Van, truck, SUV).
Special Needs Mileage	\$0.67/mile	Personal vehicle is used.

#### In-State Travel Reimbursement

*In-State Lodging*

SDCL 3-9-2

Primary Destination	County	Maximum Lodging Rate + Taxes and Mandatory Fees
Standard Rate	Applies for all locations without specified rate	\$110
Deadwood/Spearfish	Lawrence	October: \$140; November – April: \$110; May – September: \$140
Hot Springs	Fall River/Custer	October – May: \$110; June – September: \$161
Rapid City	Pennington	October – May: \$110; June – August: \$158; September: \$110

*In-State Meals*

ARSD 05:01:02:14

Meal	Amount	Leave Before	Arrive After
Breakfast	\$6	5:31 AM	7:59 AM
Lunch	\$14	11:31 AM	12:59 PM
Dinner	\$20	5:31 PM	7:59 PM
Daily Maximum	\$40		

#### Out-of-State Travel Reimbursement

ARSD 05:01:02:11

Lodging	\$175 + tax	Additional \$100 available with excess lodging approval. (by Secretary Jundt)
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Meal	Amount	Leave Before	Arrive After
Breakfast	\$10	5:31 AM	7:59 AM
Lunch	\$18	11:31 AM	12:59 PM
Dinner	\$28	5:31 PM	7:59 PM
Daily Maximum	\$56		



## 2024 Snowfighter Roadeo Results

### Congratulations to the 2024 Snowfighter Roadeo State Winners:

The top three drivers in the statewide competition received engraved belt buckles.



### State Winners:

- 1st – Joshua Gullickson, Murdo - Score 1425 | time 5:57
- 2nd - Curt Theisen - Sioux Falls - Score 1425 | time 6:49
- 3rd - Nathan Loecker - Yankton - Score 1420 | time 6:54

### Regional Winners:



### Aberdeen Region:

- 1st - Chaz Shuff - Aberdeen - Unit 151
- 2nd - Kevin Swartos - Brookings - Unit 171
- 3rd - Dallas Moorhouse - Miller - Unit 192
- 4th - Cody Ulmer - Huron - Unit 191
- 5th - Keith Palo - Hayti - Unit 171

### Mitchell Region:

- 1st - Curt Theisen - Sioux Falls - Unit 271
- 2nd - Matthew Wochnick - Madison - Unit 272
- 3rd - Chris Voelker - Madison - Unit 272
- 4th - Nathan Loecker - Yankton - Unit 292
- 5th - Thomas Polzien - Sioux Falls - Unit 271



### Rapid City Region:

- 1st - Jesse King - Faith - Unit 472
- 2nd - James Blaha - Buffalo - Unit 471
- 3rd - Carlyle Ellison - Bison - Unit 472
- 4th - Chavis Shull - Rapid City - Unit 452
- 5th - Julie Englehart - Bison - Unit 472

### Pierre Region:

- 1st – Joshua Gullickson, Murdo – Unit 391
- 2nd – Larry Andersen, Hayes – Unit 352
- 3rd – Trent Hanson, Presho – Unit 391
- 4th – Jacob Lolley, Murdo – Unit 391
- 5th – Neil Filler, Mobridge – Unit 374



# Safety Awards



**Best Region Statewide**  
Rapid City



**Best Region Maintenance**  
Pierre



**Best Unit Statewide**  
Hot Springs



**Best Area Maintenance**  
Huron Area



**Ship Shape Maintenance Shop Statewide**  
Watertown Area

## Best Maintenance Unit by Region



Aberdeen Region - Huron Unit 191



Pierre Region - Herreid Unit 371



Mitchell Region - Plankinton Unit 253



Rapid City Region - Hot Springs Unit 492

## Employee Meetings held in September and October

The format of the 2024 employee meetings featured small-group breakout sessions for more meaningful discussions around topics of interest. A quick survey is being sent after the employee meetings to gauge if staff like the 2024 employee meeting format (with the smaller breakout opportunities) better than previous years which featured only large-group discussions.



## Employee Meetings Scheduled for November and December

Below are upcoming dates, times, and locations for employee meetings. As we've done in the past, a survey link is given to all employees to provide input on topics and discussion items in advance of their employee meeting.

### Thursday, Nov. 14 Central Office Staff - at Community Bible Church in Pierre

- 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. CT (Group 1)
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CELEBRATE SUCCESS - All Central Office)
- 2 - 3:30 p.m. CT (Group 2)

**Group 1:** Secretary, Training, Legal, Project Development, Road Design, Planning Administration, Local Government, Environmental, Operations Administration, Operations Support, Internal Services, Internal Audits, and Air, Rail, and Transit.

**Group 2:** Finance, Aviation Services, ITS, Right-of-Way, Transportation Inventory Management, Research, Bridge Design, and Materials and Surfacing.

**If you are unable to attend your scheduled session, visit with your supervisor to attend the alternate time.**

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### Wednesday, Dec. 18 Region Field Engineering Staff - at the Ramkota in Pierre

- 8 - 9:30 a.m. (Pierre & Rapid City Regions)
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. (Aberdeen & Mitchell Regions)

## HOH Inductee James Loiseau Honored at Banquet

2024 Hall of Honor Inductee James Loiseau was recognized for his service and commitment to South Dakota's transportation system at a banquet held in coordination with the 2nd Annual J.R. Loiseau Memorial Pheasant Hunt.

The event was held at the Flandreau Community Center on Oct. 3, 2024. The presentation included opening remarks by Secretary Jundt, who then presented the Hall of Honor plaque to the Loiseau family.



## Congratulations to our 3rd Quarter Team Impact Award Winner!

4th Quarter nominations due by Dec. 31, 2024.

### Carbon Reduction Strategy Team

Christina Bennett, Travor Diegel, Sarah Gilkerson, Steve Gramm, June Hansen, Joanne Hight, Mark Hoines, Dave Huft, Jason Humphrey, Jordan Kitts, Mark Leiferman, Ben Orsbon, Jerry Ortbahn, Brace Prouty, Scott Rabern, Bradley Remmich, and Andy Vandel

Remember to use the SDDOT Kudos Board to recognize individuals for great achievements in the workplace! The Kudos Board can be found on the Intranet site.

Click here to submit a team-based Impact Award.



## Kari Kroll Wins 3rd (Dessert) at the BHRA Chili Cook-Off

SDDOT was well represented at the **2nd Annual BHRA Chili Cook-Off**, an event to raise funds for the Capital Area United Way. SDDOT participated in both the chili and the dessert competition.

SDDOT's **Kari Kroll** won 3rd in the dessert category with her now "award-winning" peanut butter bonbons.

Thanks to all who participated, this is a fun way to help others in our area!

## BHRA Healthy Reminder

### Get your Flu Shot! The trivalent flu vaccine is here!

State flu shot clinics are still available for interested employees. You can view the complete schedule and register for your appointment on the [BHR website](#).

If interested, please register through Primary Health for an appointment ([Click here to view a walkthrough of the registration process](#)). Locate your clinic location QR code on the [BHR website](#) and register.



Follow **Benefits** on Social Media!

## 2025 International Aviation Art Contest

The SDDOT and South Dakota Pilots Association are seeking students to enter the 2025 International Aviation Art Contest. The theme is **Women with Wings** and we invite students ages 6-17 to submit artwork inspired by the daring women who have defied society's expectations, taking to the air, and proving that the sky is a place for everyone.

Find the brochure at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/aerospace-education>.

Encourage youth to participate in the contest. Feel free to make as many copies of the 'Certificate of Authenticity' as needed.

All artwork must be 11 ¾ x 16 ½ inches or the nearest possible equivalent in size to be considered for the contest.



The Aeronautics Office at SDDOT will judge the submissions at the state level. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st-3rd place winners in three different age categories: ages 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17. The first place winners in each age group will then be forwarded to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national competition.

**All entries must be received by Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025.** Mail all entries to:  
SDDOT / Office of Air, Rail & Transit  
700 East Broadway Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

If you have any questions, feel free to email [Nancy.Hiller@state.sd.us](mailto:Nancy.Hiller@state.sd.us) or call 605-773-4430.



### What is Project BISON?

The State of South Dakota is modernizing its financial processes by identifying, implementing, and sustaining an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. This system will transform the way the State of South Dakota state government conducts its financial business for decades to come.

### Why is Project BISON needed?

The State of South Dakota has discussed the need to modernize the State's financial operations for many years. The dated nature of key systems presents the State with limited vendor support and minimal staff who are knowledgeable about maintaining these systems. The State's core financial system and "system of record," was implemented in 1988. The lives of critical systems infrastructure have been extended numerous times through ongoing investments; however, the systems have reached the end of their useful lives and need to be replaced.

SOUTH DAKOTA  
BISON

What you should  
**KNOW**

Decisions are being made for configurations in the new BISON system. One intended change is that the State will begin to utilize a Modified Accrual basis of accounting as its primary. Cash Accrual will still be utilized, but will be considered secondary in BISON.

What you should  
**DO**

Get ready for the Leading Through Change workshop on October 16. This is required for Change Champions and highly encouraged for Agency Implementation Leads.

What you should  
**SHARE**

The BISON Team welcomed Laurie Gow the first week in October. Her office is located with BFM on second floor of the Capitol. Stop by to say hi!

Functional Design Sessions should wrap up this month! Additional information may be needed in order to help Sierra-Cedar prepare us for Conference Room Pilot 1 (CRP1). If you receive a request, please ensure the right people within your agency are tapped for their expertise. Thank you for your help!

Your team can stay up-to-date on what we're sharing with the public by signing up for updates on the Project BISON website. Click the grey "Keep me updated" button in the middle of the home page.

October 2024

What you should  
**REPORT BACK**

If you or your team have questions, please share them with the Project BISON team.

[BISON@state.sd.us](mailto:BISON@state.sd.us)





## October Mentoring Minute - Four C's to Success in Mentoring

By: Wyatt Reis & Joe Sestak

Now that the mentoring program has started, and you will be meeting up as a pair, we think the following will help you get the most out of the mentoring program.

Here are four "Cs" that may help you discover and develop your strengths, taking you to the next level.

First, be **curious**. Perhaps you think you are strong in one area, but you are unsure. This is where you need to discover which activities or projects interest you or that you might be good at. Research available resources and see what it would take to commit to developing your strengths. There are many online self-assessments available. Perhaps take a strength-finding assessment. This is an effective tool to help you learn about your talents and strengths. These types of assessments help determine your greatest talents and give you a detailed list of actions you can take to develop them. Once you identify your five top strengths, you can examine how they show up in your life. Another resource to discover your unique talents and abilities is with a mentor. Leveraging the expertise of a mentor can help you determine how to take advantage of your strengths by integrating them into ongoing discussions and goals.

Second, be **creative**. Think outside the box. Each day, find a new way to use your strengths for your benefit but do not overwhelm yourself by overanalyzing your behavior. For example, rather than trying to figure out what strengths you may have to match a particular organization, take the reverse approach, and perhaps think about what an organization most needs and then figure out how you might best contribute. This helps you focus on developing skills that are beneficial to the people around you, which is key to finding a career that is both meaningful and personally rewarding.

Third, be **confident**. Confidence is one of your greatest strengths. You are better at your job than you realize. When trying to improve yourself in any capacity, you have won half the battle if you believe you can accomplish almost anything. Self-confidence comes from knowing you have the ability to succeed. Without it, you will be less likely to try new things, seize opportunities, take risks, or go for the things you really want in life. Your struggle with your own mind is often greater than any other challenge you may face. You may have tough days when you are unsure of yourself, but you will build momentum if you get back on track quickly. The more tasks you complete, the more you convince yourself that you're capable.

Fourth, **create** a plan that focuses on developing your biggest strengths by setting goals. People are more successful when they set goals. Write down what you would like to accomplish and by what date. Remember to be realistic and review your goals frequently to keep yourself on track. Post your goals in places where you will see them throughout the day (e.g., your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or computer monitor). This will keep you on track and motivate you to reach these goals quickly. If you have trouble creating a plan, reflect on ways to apply core strengths to help in a potentially stressful situation.

We will be doing a **DISC assessment** as part of the program. If you have not done this before, it is eye-opening. Please do not try to overthink the questions. Just answer and move to the next one. There is no correct answer, just **your** answer.

Mentees challenge your mentor during the program and vice versa. The more you put in the more you get out. **Remember it is MENTEE driven and every mentor in the program is there to help you and each other.**

Feel free to contact anyone on the mentoring committee with questions. The committee includes **June Hansen, Scott Eisenbeisz, Joe Sestak, Wyatt Reis, Tanya Liska, Jason Baker, Tim Wicks, Brad Norrid, Jason Baker, Arianna Griffey, John Villbrandt, Kellie Beck, and Matt Dorfschmidt.**

Sections of this mentoring update are reprinted from **The Training Connection Newsletter** article "Take Yourself to the Next Level by Discovering and Developing Your Strengths" by Dr. Les Wright.

### Make time for Mentoring!

#### Upcoming Events:

(The in-person events are held at Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Ft. Pierre)

Nov. 5, 2024: Mentor Boot Camp 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon (CT) Via Microsoft TEAMS

Nov. 7, 2024: Mentoring Program Kickoff (Dynamic Mentoring Session) 9a.m. – 4p.m. (CT)

# SDDOT Safety News By Jon Johanson, Safety Manager

## SD DOT SDDOT SAFETY NEWS October Safety

Unless you live in [Arizona or Hawaii](#), you will need to turn back your clock one hour and shift from Daylight Savings Time at 2am on November 3, 2024. You can earn bonus points if you take a few minutes to check and/or replace the 9V battery in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

According to the [NFPA](#), working smoke detectors in the home reduce the risk of dying in a fire by more than half. However, nearly three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms, in homes with smoke alarms that failed to operate, or the batteries installed in the smoke alarm were detached, dead or removed. According to the American Red Cross, the simple step of testing your smoke alarm will help protect your family from home fires, which tragically takes seven lives each day in the United States.

### TURN AND TEST FOR FIRE SAFETY

The threat of home fires — which are most often caused by cooking and heating equipment — increases with the holidays and cold weather. Please prepare your household by following the steps below. For more information on fire safety, visit [redcross.org/homefires](https://redcross.org/homefires) or download the free Red Cross Emergency App (search “American Red Cross” in app stores).

- **Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.** Place them inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- **Test smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed.** Test smoke alarms monthly, and change the

batteries at least once a year, if your model requires it. It’s also a great time to check carbon monoxide alarms.

- **Practice your home fire escape plan.** Include at least two ways to get out of every room. Select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor’s home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone can meet. Practice your plan until everyone can escape in two minutes or less.

While you are checking your smoke alarm, check to see when the device was installed. Smoke alarm manufacturers recommend that smoke alarms be replaced 10 years after it was installed. Refer to the manufacturer’s label on the back of the smoke alarm to see the manufacture date. Ideally, the person that installed the alarm documented the month/year when the alarm was installed. If you are not sure when the smoke alarm was installed, consider replacing it immediately.



The monthly **SDDOT Safety News** feature is also available on the Intranet homepage; as shown below!



<p>STATE EMPLOYEE AIRCRAFT RESERVATIONS</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW SCHEDULE</a></p>	<p>SDDOT KUDOS BOARD</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW AND POST</a></p>	<p>SDDOT IMPACT AWARDS</p> <p><a href="#">NOMINATE A TEAM MEMBER</a></p>
<p>SDDOT CROSSROADS</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW LOBBY TV SLIDES</a></p>	<p>INFORMATION INTERCHANGE</p> <p>WEEK OF OCT. 7, 2024 WEEK OF SEPT. 30, 2024</p>	<p>SDDOT SAFETY NEWS</p> <p>OCT. 2024 SEPT. 2024 AUG. 2024</p>
<p>SDDOT ROADEOS</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW EVENT PHOTOS</a></p>	<p>NEWS STORIES</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW LATEST SDDOT HEADLINES</a></p>	<p>RECRUITMENT INFORMATION</p> <p><a href="#">EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM</a> <a href="#">SDDOT RECRUITMENT EFFORTS</a></p>

## 2024 Flood - Appreciation for SDDOT Staff

"I would like to give my personal thanks to our dedicated SDDOT staff. Our crew members and staff worked non-stop during the prolonged flooding situation to monitor and then close roads, keep SD511 accurately updated for travelers, provide timely updates on social media for the public, flag traffic, provide repairs to reopened roads, inspect roads, inspect bridges, and more. The work of our employees onsite (and behind the scenes) is always impressive no matter the emergent situation at hand, our team is truly committed to public safety," **Craig Smith, Director of Operations.**

### **Greg Rothschadl, Yankton Area Engineer, shared gratitude for his team in levee-building efforts!**

"What really stands out to me is the team pulling together on short notice to get the levee built. On Sunday morning, the crest was predicted for early Tuesday morning, and after a couple of changes, that timeline was advanced all the way forward to Sunday at 6 p.m.; there was very little time to plan.

I am simply grateful for our dedicated SDDOT team members for their overall teamwork in building the levee in the short amount of time we had, it was truly unbelievable. It was a true team effort based on the number of guys we had with no previous flooding experience, yet everything went very smoothly. It was great collaborative work in a very unexpected emergent situation."

### **Brad Steeneck, Highway Maintenance Supervisor thankful for co-workers and leadership in reopening of Interstate!**

"The team working together for the I-29 flood cleanup at exit 4 was outstanding. The hard work it took to have both northbound and southbound lanes reopened by 3 p.m. that day was an amazing accomplishment. A huge shout out to **Greg Rothschadl (Yankton Area Engineer)** for personally buying 90-plus burgers from McDonalds, Gatorade, and candy bars for all of the guys helping to get I-29 reopened. This gesture was greatly appreciated by all the team members who were working hard to quickly reopen the Interstate for the traveling public."

### **Brad Steeneck, Highway Maintenance Supervisor - Paying Forward Kindness**

"I worked throughout the night on June 21, 2024, updating roads on SD511 and driving the detour to make sure everything was operating smoothly. Around midnight along the detour, I noticed a group of cars sitting at Norway Center (near the town of Hudson). I pulled in to see if everything was good. In one vehicle was an elderly couple. They were running short on gas and could not make it to any area town without running out of gas. I drove 10 miles back to the Beresford SDDOT shop to find an empty gas can. I went to Jet Travel Plaza and filled the gas can. I returned to the elderly couple and filled their van's tank. Then, I followed them back to Beresford so they could find a room for the night. **They offered me cash for personally purchasing the gas for them. I declined the kind offer and asked them to just pay it forward down the road for someone else who may have a need.**"

### **Personal Sacrifice by our own SDDOT team members:**

**Christian Anderson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Junction City Shop** (who lives on the east side of Jefferson) had pretty severe flood damage at his house. His basement had flood water and he had quite a few vehicles at his residence that ended up under water. Even though the flood effects were happening to him personally, he was at exit 4 helping build the levee. He never once complained or even asked to leave and go home to take care of his own personal belongings.

## 2024 Flood - SDDOT Stories Continued

### S.D. Highway 48 Flood Repair Project

Below are photos of the damage left behind from the flood as well as photos of **Austin Martensen, Junction City Highway Maintenance Worker (left)**, cleaning up debris and shaping the inslopes, and **Brad Steeneck, Junction City Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (right)**, cleaning debris from the ditches.



### Primavera Tips and Tricks

#### P6 Professional to Oracle Primavera Cloud Migration

By Earl Berg & Kathryn Johnson

SDDOT has used Primavera Scheduling software for several decades. The SDDOT has discussed the need to transition from P6 Professional to cloud-based scheduling software for the past several years. Many factors were considered regarding this change. The industry trend is to replace on-premises systems with cloud-based Software. Oracle Primavera Cloud is intended to be a collaborative environment, whereas P6 Professional was designed for professional schedulers. The SDDOT Project Delivery Team, SD BIT Support, and Monk's Project Solutions have been working since the Summer of 2023 to migrate to the cloud-based system which went live on September 30.

#### Changes?

One thing you will notice is the name changes for P6 Professional and Primavera Team Member. P6 Professional will now be Oracle Primavera Cloud (OPC) and Primavera Team member will now be Primavera My Activities (PMA).

The functionality has stayed the same but with a new modernized interface. You will notice a more robust search function, user-friendly views, and filters. In addition, you will access OPC or PMA using Single-Sign-On, where you don't have to re-enter a username and password to login.

#### Training?

OPC and PMA training videos are available on SDLearn (<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/video/e29c177f-8dd8-467f-b338-803a32790a18>), along with the OPC training manual. The PMA training manual will be released at a later date. Additional training materials (i.e. Resource Allocation and Reports) will be available at a later date.

# 2024 Walk and Roll to School Day

SDDOT team members were at schools across the state on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, for National Walk and Roll to School Day! Employees chatted with students and promoted alternative transportation to school such as walking, biking, roller blading, and more!



**Austin Berry - Lyman Elementary - Presho**

**Jacob Rosecky and Ethan Huls - Rosa Parks Elementary - Sioux Falls**



**Curt Theisen and Josh Bethke - St. Mary's Catholic School - Sioux Falls**

**Buchanan School - Pierre**



**Stanley County School - Fort Pierre**

**Aaron Climer, Cody Earll, Marty Moody, Charles Goldammer and Kevin Tietz at Longfellow Elementary - Mitchell**



**Leah DeMers (FHWA), Lana Lambert, Sheila Jandt, Joanne Hight, and Connie Johnson - Kennedy Elementary - Pierre**

**White Lake Elementary - White Lake**

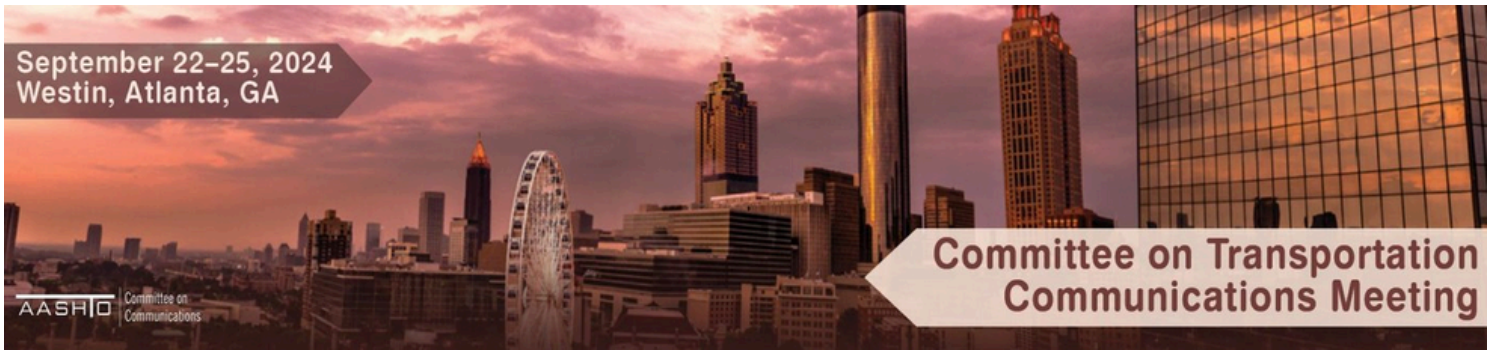


**Stickney-Corsica Elementary - Corsica**

**Plankinton Elementary - Plankinton**

## TransComm Opportunity

By Taylor Brusven and Bret Mattice - Communications Specialists



The **AASHTO Committee on Transportation Communications — TransComm** — is made up of public affairs professionals from the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. It promotes excellence in communications through the exchange of ideas and educational programming, presents annual skills awards, and advises other committees on communications issues.

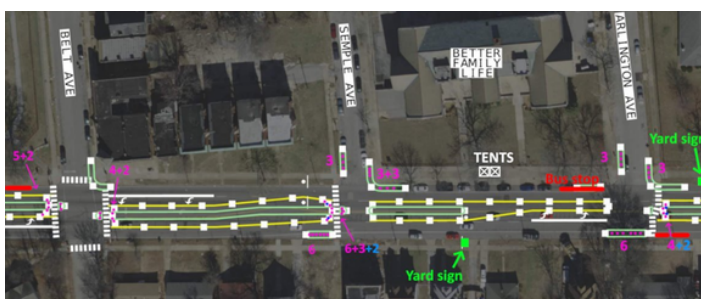
The TransComm Conference was held in Atlanta, GA, on Sept. 22-25, 2024. SDDOT Communications team members Bret Mattice and Taylor Brusven attended the conference this year. Overall 44 states were represented at the Conference, which allowed for an outstanding networking opportunity for our state. The Conference was structured with multiple engaging large group topics, followed by several small group breakout sessions.

### A few key takeaways from the Conference:

1.) The SDDOT Communications team is small but mighty! We cover most topic areas and engagement efforts that large states do, but sometimes on a smaller scale.

2.) ADA digital accessibility is going to become a priority over the next year or two from a Federal lens. Similar to how public buildings and sidewalks include ramps and entrance points for wheelchair accessibility, this will become commonplace for our digital assets and resources as well. Our website, social media, digital publications, etc. will need to include alt text and proper publication settings to accommodate accessibility standards.

3.) There were many ideas shared on how to host engaging public meetings when projects are first met with uncertainty or dislike. One example: Missouri DOT was met with pushback when proposing modifying a four-lane road into a three-lane road. Their brainstorming led them to host a public meeting on the sidewalk where the future changes were proposed. They also coned the roadway to match the future changes. This proved to be an excellent way to engage the traveling public, media outlets, and provided a time to answer critical project questions. They felt it was a success!



(MoDOT public meeting event images and road design plan)



### TRAINING UPDATE -

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve  
October 2024 (Upcoming Trainings)

#### Baldrige: Want Accountability? Start with Empathy

Nov. 20 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Webinar



Performance • Excellence • Network  
A Catalyst for Success Since 1987

#### Working in Indian Country

Nov. 12 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Pierre  
Nov. 14 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City  
Nov. 15 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City

#### DOT New Employee Orientation

Nov. 19 - 20 | 1 p.m. - 12 p.m. | Pierre

#### The Legal Side of Access Management

Dec. 17 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre

#### Computer Skills Basics

Upon request



#### NHI 134077 Contract Administration Core Curriculum

Feb. 19 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City



Lead HMW 2 HCP

#### CDL EDLT Class A & B Theory

Dec. 9-11 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

#### CDL EDLT Train the Trainer

Dec. 12 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

#### CDL Learners Permit

Dec. 12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

#### AGC Hazardous Materials Endorsement

Dec. 13 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls



**AGC SOUTH DAKOTA**  
HIGHWAY-HEAVY-UTILITIES CHAPTER  
"THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION"

#### Pavement Striping

Oct. 29 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

#### We Don't Work Here for the Money

Dec. 18 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

#### The Communicative Engineer

Jan. 14 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom



Pierre Players Community Theatre is doing a play, "You Can't Take It With You" by Moss Hart & George Kaufman.  
Find full details at <https://www.pierreplayers.com/shows/youcanttakeitwithyou/>

**SDDOT employees in the show include Robert Hudecek (Transportation Inventory Management), Blake Messegee (Bridge Design), Michele Beeler (Training), and Brenda Sharkey (Transit).**

Brenda is also the Box Office Manager. Auditions were held in September.

They practice five nights a week (Sunday – Thursday) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Grand Opera House in Pierre.

# BHRA Fall Training Schedule 2024

Join us for these exciting classes!  
**FALL 2024**



## Hogan 101

Reveal the "you" that others know! Hogan 101 offers a distinctive chance to understand how your personality is perceived by others through Hogan Assessments. This 6-hour event offers fundamental insights to guide your leadership path and prepare you for success!

**REGISTER HERE**

- Pierre: Nov. 21
- Sioux Falls: Dec. 3
- Rapid City/Box Elder: Dec. 10

**\*Classes may have a fee.**



## Conflict Strategies

Challenge your perspective on conflict and discover how different strategies can lead to more effective resolutions and help you create a more collaborative work environment. As part of class, you will take the Conflict Strategies Inventory to help you identify the five strategies that people most often use in conflict situations.

**REGISTER HERE**

- Pierre: Nov. 22

**NEW!**

- Pierre: Nov. 20
- Rapid City: Dec. 3

**EDIT, REWRITE, AND AI\*...OH MY!**

A followup class to Effective Writing



Questions about this class?  
Contact [meredith.cashweber@state.sd.us](mailto:meredith.cashweber@state.sd.us)

## Crucial Conversations are back!

Check out other in-person classes and development opportunities here!



### Crucial Conversations. FOR MASTERING DIALOGUE

This multi-day training experience is designed to help individuals navigate high-stakes conversations with confidence and skill. It equips participants with tools to foster open dialogue, even when opinions differ, emotions run strong, and outcomes are critical. This course empowers individuals to speak persuasively, listen effectively, and achieve positive outcomes in challenging interactions. Both in-person and instructor-led virtual options are now available!

**REGISTER HERE**

- Teams: Dec. 5 - 19



### Crucial Conversations. FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

This sequel course focuses on enabling individuals to hold others accountable for their actions while maintaining respect and collaboration. The training teaches participants how to address broken commitments and unmet expectations in a way that strengthens relationships and drives desired results. This course helps create a culture of accountability by encouraging constructive, solution-oriented conversations.

*Prerequisite: Crucial Conversations for Mastering Dialogue*

**REGISTER HERE**

- Pierre: Nov. 13

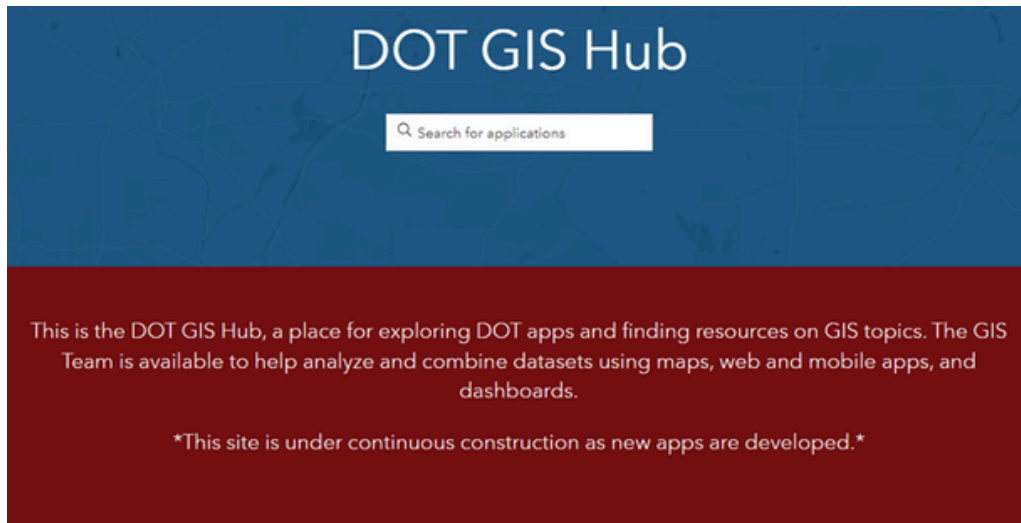


## DOT GIS Portal and DOT Data Hub

By Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson, DOT GIS Team

The GIS Team has some exciting news! We have officially launched the **DOT GIS Portal**, and along with that, we have a new [DOT Data Hub website](#). The new portal gives us more control over who can see and edit DOT data online, which makes the DOT Data Hub even better because you no longer have to request access to the site. Only DOT staff can be members of the DOT Portal and see the Data Hub which has links to internal and external web apps, dashboards, LMS videos, instructional documents, and other GIS information. No special software is needed!

If you want to see your data in a GIS map, or have ideas for a web app, let us know!



### Interactive Mapping and Data Collector Applications

Interactive mapping applications feature GIS data and interactive tools to help you view and analyze data easily. Data collector applications are for field collection on mobile devices. If a map or information you need is not featured on this page, please contact the GIS Team.



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### October New Hires:

Logan Tunnissen, Highway Construction Project Engineer - Winner  
 Robert Eisenbraun, Highway Maintenance Worker - Kadoka  
 Tate Mikkelson, Journey Transportation Technician - Aberdeen  
 James Ball, Highway Maintenance Worker - Edgemont  
 Richard Stevens, Highway Maintenance Worker - Bison  
 Korey Hathman, Highway Maintenance Worker - Custer  
 Anthony Boggs, Highway Maintenance Worker - Custer  
 Casey Duvall, Highway Maintenance Worker - Ipswich  
 Michael Thomas, Highway Maintenance Worker - Brookings  
 Hunter Graham, Highway Maintenance Worker - Ipswich  
 Jason Hoffman, Highway Maintenance Worker - Woonsocket

### October Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

Baylee Hoff, Wildlife/Wetland Specialist - Pierre  
 Daniel Evans, Highway Maintenance Worker - Salem

# SDDOT Employee News and Updates

## Retirements:

Congratulations to **Jeremie Mackie, Rapid City Region Lead Highway Maintenance Worker for the Striping Crew**. Jeremie retired after 22 years of service with the SDDOT!



Congratulations to **Lon Waltman (middle left), Hot Springs Highway Maintenance Worker**. Lon retired after 19 years of service with the SDDOT!

Congratulations to **Gene Plant (middle right), Edgemont Highway Maintenance Worker**. Gene retired after 22 years of service with the SDDOT.

Both gentlemen retired on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024.



Congratulations to **Greg Boness, Custer Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor**. Greg retired on Oct. 8, 2024, with 18 years of service with the SDDOT!



Congratulations to **Mike Nold**, who retired on Oct. 8, 2024, with 16 years of service with the SDDOT. **Mike was the Lead Highway Maintenance Worker for the Striping Crew.**



Congratulations to **John Less, Rapid City Traffic Design Engineer**, who retired on Aug. 15, 2024, with nearly 11 years of service with the SDDOT.

## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### October Longevity:

- Ron Lauritsen, Project Technician – 20 years (Custer Area)
- Scott Gilbert, Project Technician – 25 years (Huron Area)
- Dan Riedl, Journey Transportation Technician – 25 years (Winner Area)
- Rodney Schweitzer, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 30 years (Huron Area - Redfield)
- Paul Nelson, Region Bridge Engineer – 40 years (Pierre Region)



**Rodney Schweitzer, Redfield Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, received his 30-year pin from **Secretary Joel Jundt**.



**Brace Prouty, Scoping and Safety Squad Engineering Manager (Pierre)**, received his 25-year pin from **Mark Leiferman, Project Development Program Manager**.



**Dan Riedl, Winner Journey Transportation Technician**, received his 25-year pin from **Brad Norrid, Winner Engineer Manager**.



**Ron Lauritsen, Custer Project Technician**, received his 20-year pin from **Tim Wicks, Custer Engineering Supervisor**.



# SDDOT Employee News and Updates

**Randy Boyd, Philip Highway Maintenance Worker**, received his 15-year pin from **Jared Fosheim, Philip Highway Maintenance Supervisor**.



**Stacy DeBoer, Clear Lake Highway Maintenance Worker**, earned his 10-year longevity pin in September 2024.



**Karen Mentele, Accountant for the Division of Finance & Management in Pierre**, received her 10-year pin from **Patricia Devitt, Accounting Manager**.



**Matt Brey, Watertown Area Engineer**, recently attended the Career Fair at North Dakota State University.



## Welcome Gabriel Wayne Pierce!

Gabriel was born Sept. 10, 2024, weighing 9 lbs. 15 oz. and 22 inches long.

Parents are Jordan and Alyssa Pierce. Grandparents are Kelly and Michelle Hudecek. Both Jordan and Kelly work in the Materials and Surfacing Program.



## Welcome Beckham Llana Koch!

Beckham was born on Sept. 27, 2024, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and 19.5 inches long. He joins big sister, Linden.

He is the first grandson of Abby Mueller, Region Operations Technician (Mitchell).

He is also the great-nephew of Ken Payne, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (Mitchell Area).



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### Welcome Reagan Wren!

Reagan was born Sept. 30, 2024, weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of **Hannah Zastrow, Custer Journey Transportation Technician.**



### Welcome Kasey Jacob Sherman!

Kasey was born Oct. 11, 2024, weighing 8 lbs. 11 oz. and 22 3/4 inches long.

He is the son of **Todd and Meghan Sherman** and is the **13th grandchild for Doug, Winner Area Engineer, and Val Sherman.**



## In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Patrick Bruggeman, Transportation Engineer, Intelligent Transportation Systems,** on the passing of his mother.



Connie Brueggeman, of Highmore, passed away on Sept. 20, 2024. Funeral mass was held Sept. 25, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Highmore with burial in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to **Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer,** on the passing of his mother. Karen Humphrey, passed away in Pierre on Sept. 23, 2024.



Karen's funeral service was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre on Sept. 28, 2024. Her burial was held on Sept. 30, 2024, in the Black Hills National Cemetery at Sturgis.



Sympathy is extended to family, friends and co-workers of **Laura Blotske** who passed away on Sept. 25, 2024. Laura worked for the SDDOT for seven years as a **Highway Funding Specialist** in Pierre.



Funeral Services were held Sept. 30, 2024, at Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre with burial at Riverside Cemetery in Pierre.