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Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedications



Naming South Dakota bridges provides the opportunity to honor those who gave their lives in service to this nation.

Listed are dedication ceremonies scheduled in July and August. Additional ceremonies are planned through November. Photos will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

July 12 - in Pollock for PFC Fred Larson

July 18 - in Winner for SP4 Thomas Zeigler

July 26 - in Warner for S/SGT Ervin Rieck

Aug. 1 - in Fort Thompson for PFC Mark Shields

Aug. 2 - in Milbank for PFC Ronald Dexter

Aug. 9 - in Redfield for 1LT Larry Barbee

Aug. 14 - in Brookings for CPL Henry Kluess

Aug. 30 - in Plankinton for SP5 Richard Miller

This program dedicates State bridges to South Dakotans who were killed in action while serving their country or classified as missing in action.

The Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Committee meets annually in April and selects heroes to honor and the bridges to dedicate that year.

Dedication of the bridges are held May through November. South Dakota has more than 3,000 veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Although these heroes are no longer with us, their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life.

See page three for photos shared from recent ceremonies and sign installations.

The Secretary's Corner



Social Media - Policy Reminders for Employee Usage

Below is an excerpt from the **BHRA Social Media Policy**, you can read the full policy at <https://bhr.sd.gov/policies-forms/SocialMediaPolicy.pdf>.

The State recognizes that the Internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information on topics using a wide variety of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter (X), etc. However, use of social media also presents certain risks and carries with it certain responsibilities. To minimize business and legal risks, to avoid loss of productivity and distraction from employees' job performance, and to ensure that the resources and communications systems of the State are used appropriately, the State expects its employees to adhere to procedures, guidelines, and rules regarding use of social media.

Compliance with Related Policies and Agreements: The same principles and guidelines found in the State's policies and employee handbook apply to employee activities online. Ultimately, employees are responsible for what they post online. Before creating online content, employees should consider the potential risks and rewards. Any employee conduct that adversely affects that employee's job performance, the performance of fellow employees, or otherwise adversely affects vendors, people who work on behalf of the State, or legitimate business interests of the State, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Personal Use of Social Media: Employees should refrain from using social media during work hours or on State-owned equipment unless such use is work-related or authorized by the employee's supervisor and is consistent with the State's Technology Use Policy.

Be Respectful, Honest, and Accurate: Always be fair and courteous to fellow employees, vendors, or individuals who work on behalf of the State. The State expects the same level of professionalism and honesty in social media as it requires in all business communications.

Social Media "Do's"	Social Media "Don'ts"
Do use professional language	Don't post about your political views in a positive or negative way
Do be respectful and handle interactions with professionalism	Don't speak poorly of the SDDOT or other state agencies
Do disclaim that your views do not represent those of the State of South Dakota	Don't share information that you know to be inaccurate or false
Do remember your social media usage reflects upon the SDDOT	Don't discuss non-public information on either personal or professional accounts

Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedications



July 12, 2025 in Pollock

Bridge dedication ceremony and installation for **PFC Fred D. Larson**



July 18, 2025 in Winner

Bridge dedication ceremony and installation for **SP4 Thomas L. Ziegler**



July 26, 2025 in Warner

Bridge dedication ceremony and installation for **SSGT Ervin C. Rieck**



Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedications

Aug. 2, 2025 in Milbank

Bridge dedication ceremony for
PFC Ronald C. Dexter Bridge



Aug. 9, 2025 in Redfield

Bridge dedication ceremony and installation
for **1LT Larry H. Barbee**



Aug. 14, 2025 in Brookings

Bridge dedication ceremony and installation for
CPL Henry J. Kluess



SDDOT Safety News

By: Jon Johanson, Safety Manager



SDDOT SAFETY NEWS

Labor Day Safety



The Labor Day holiday weekend is approaching and the U.S. Department of Transportation's [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) is working alongside your law enforcement community to decrease impaired driving. From August 13 through September 1, police departments across the nation will be participating in the [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) enforcement period. The NHTSA wants drivers to understand the importance of planning ahead for a sober driver if alcohol is included in your Labor Day weekend plans.

Labor Day Statistics

- During the 2023 Labor Day holiday, there were 511 crash fatalities nationwide. Of those people, 185 (36%) were killed in crashes that involved at least one alcohol-impaired driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or above.
- In 2023, 30% of all traffic fatalities involved an alcohol-impaired driver. A BAC of .08 or higher is considered drunk driving in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, except in Utah where the BAC limit is .05.

The Cost of Drunk Driving

- On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, and more.
- If you're caught drinking and driving, you can face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your supervisor, friends, and family.
- Drinking and driving can cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could keep you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.

Celebrate with a Plan

Plan ahead if you will be celebrating the end of summer or over the long Labor Day holiday weekend. If you plan to drink, plan ahead for a sober driver to take you home. If it's your turn to be the designated driver, take the role seriously and don't consume alcohol, not even one drink. Always drive 100 percent sober. Even one alcoholic beverage could be one too many.

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you only had one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.



Recap 85th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally: Aug. 1 - 10, 2025

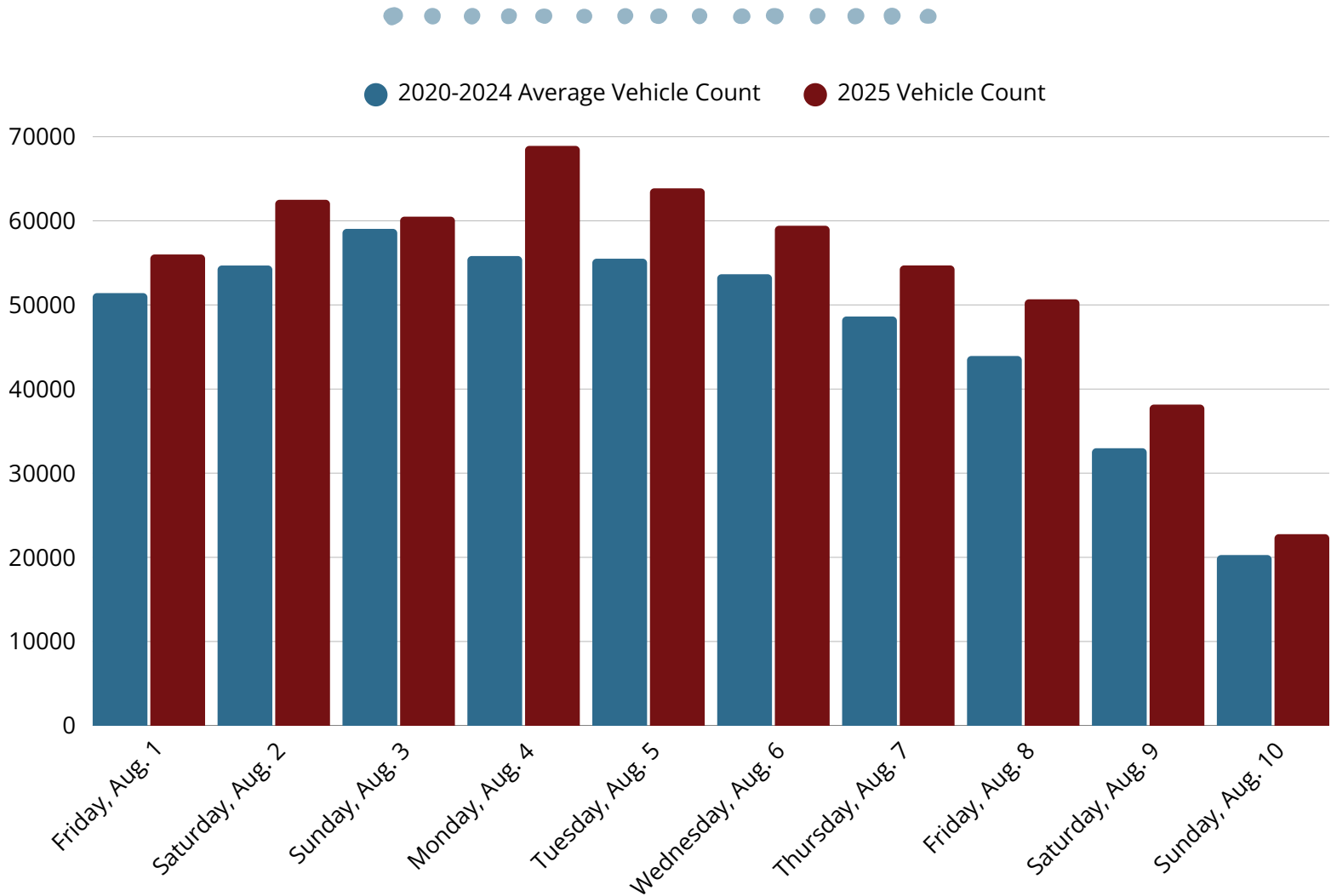


Thank you to all SDDOT employees who spent countless hours preparing, working, and dismantling the Rally (including the TOC). There are many SDDOT staff who worked “behind the scenes” to make things run smoothly!

Your collective efforts enhanced safety for all road users during the 2025 Sturgis Rally.

Sturgis Rally Traffic Counts:

The SDDOT provided daily traffic counts at nine locations for vehicles entering Sturgis for the Rally. The daily counts are also posted to the [Rally Traveler Information page](#). A complete 2025 Rally report is available on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/highways/traffic-data/>.



The 2025 Sturgis Rally 10-day total vehicle count was 537,459. This was an increase of 11.3% over the previous five-year average compiled from 2020-2024.

Primavera Tips/Tricks

Consultants Utilizing Primavera "My Activities"

SDDOT utilizes **Oracle Primavera Cloud (OPC)** scheduling software to oversee its projects. Within OPC, there are "My Activities" licenses that enable resources to update their tasks. We are now extending these "My Activities" licenses to consultants, allowing them to update their activities.

Currently, only one person per consulting firm will receive a license, regardless of the number of active project work orders or assigned activities in Primavera. Consultants involved in preliminary engineering work orders will now have access to "My Activities," enabling them to update the status (e.g., Actual Start, Actual Finish) of their assigned tasks.

Project Delivery has created guidelines for assigning consultants in Primavera, ensuring they can access their designated activities. These instructions are available on the Project Delivery Intranet Page (<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/projectdelivery.aspx>).

If you have questions about the Primavera Cloud software, please reach out to the Project Delivery Team.

Earl Berg (earl.berg@state.sd.us or 773-7191)

Kathryn Faubel (kathryn.faubel@state.sd.us or 773-3567)



BHRA Watercooler:

Click on the graphic below to view this month's video.

The August Watercooler video includes information about Sioux Falls One Stop, the 2025 Leadership Conference, BHRA Pierre Capitol Conference Room, New BHRA Website, Annual Dependent Audit, Health Assessment, and a Special Employee Thank You!



Additional Information:

Register for the Leadership Conference: [SDLearn Link](#)

Additional Conference Info: [Website Link](#)

LiveWellSD Health Assessment: [Website Link](#)

Sioux Falls One Stop: [Website Link](#)



Mentoring Minute

By: Tim Wicks and Scott Eisenbeisz

One of the perks of being in the mentoring program is learning about different areas associated with the SDDOT that may be unfamiliar to some positions. The July Mentoring Event is a tradition that helps to broaden the horizons of SDDOT employees who may not otherwise have that opportunity. The July Mentoring Event was held in Rapid City and in Sioux Falls.

On July 22, 2025, 19 mentoring participants attended the event in Rapid City. The group toured the Rinker Materials facility, where various concrete products are made for highway construction, including pipe culverts, manholes, and prestressed concrete girders. Next, the group visited the U.S. Highway 385 grading project between Sheridan Lake and Pactola Reservoir. The final stop was GCC Dacotah, Inc., where cement is produced.

On July 29, 2025, 37 members of the group attended the event in Sioux Falls. Eggers Steel was the first tour of the day, where much of the structural steel is fabricated for highway and building projects across the Midwest and the Rocky Mountain regions. A tour of the new state-of-the-art Ace Redimix and Asphalt Plant was next on the list, followed by a few local projects in the Sioux Falls Area.

These events have proven to be one of the favorites of mentoring program participants, and this year did not disappoint. If you are considering enrolling in the mentoring program in the future, keep the July event in mind as one incentive to sign up!

First photo is the Rapid City group at Rinker, in front of a prestressed concrete girder. The second photo is the Sioux Falls group at Eggers Steel



Upcoming Mentoring Events:

- Sept. 10, 2025 – Goal Setting & Having the Right Mindset for Success
1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. (CT) in Pierre (Commission Room) or via TEAMS
- Sept. 24, 2025 – Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club
(11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (CT) in Pierre (BHR Large Training Room II (B17)) or via TEAMS
Everyone Communicates but Few Connect by John Maxwell
Book Club will be moderated by Tel Saucerman, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City.

Make Time for Mentoring!

SDDOT's Past Research Projects Now Available Online

By: **Andy Vandel, Research Engineering Manager**

SDDOT conducts research to improve the safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of our transportation system. Over the years, these studies have covered a wide range of topics—from pavement performance and bridge materials to maintenance best practices and innovative traffic solutions.

Now, you can easily access the results of these projects online. The final reports for completed SDDOT research projects are available on the SDDOT website at:

<https://dot.sd.gov/programs-services/programs/research/>.

Simply click **Project Reports** and you'll find a list of completed projects. Each link will download a PDF version of the final report.

The reports are organized into four categories:

1. **Materials & Pavements** – research on materials performance, pavement design, construction methods, and preservation strategies.
2. **Structures, Foundations & Drainage** – studies on bridge design, foundation systems, drainage solutions, and structural performance.
3. **Operations & Safety** – projects addressing traffic flow, safety improvements, roadway operations, and maintenance techniques.
4. **Planning & Administration** – research on project planning, funding strategies, environmental processes, and contract administration.

Whether you are working in design, construction, operations, or administration, these reports can help you make informed, data-driven decisions.

Example topics from recent reports include:

- Evaluating new pavement preservation treatments
- Optimizing winter road maintenance strategies
- Assessing bridge deck deterioration and repair methods
- Guidelines for the mitigation of wildlife vehicle collisions
- Evaluating the feasibility of a traffic operations center for South Dakota

Because these are final reports, they contain comprehensive summaries of the research process, data analysis, conclusions, and recommendations. You can quickly review the executive summary for an overview or dive deep into the technical details when needed.

SDDOT's research program is an investment in our state's transportation future. By making the results accessible to all staff, we ensure that the knowledge gained from past projects continues to inform and improve the work we do today.

Take a few minutes to explore the **Project Reports** page and see what's available. The solution to your next challenge—or the inspiration for your next innovation—might already be waiting in our research library.

Visit: <https://dot.sd.gov/programs-services/programs/research/> → **Project Reports**

Community Engagement:

No matter the geographic location or SDDOT position, each of us plays a key role in communicating with our stakeholders! Throughout the year, our team members participate in many community events to engage with customers (of all ages). Participating at a community event is truly a great opportunity to share information, answer questions, and genuinely listen to thoughts (and concerns) from those we serve! Thanks to all who give their time (days, nights, and weekends) to represent SDDOT at these wide-ranging community events.

National Night Out:

This annual event is held across the nation in early August to enhance relationships between neighbors and public servants while fostering a sense of community. Pictured are photos from the National Night Out event held in Ipswich. Our Ipswich maintenance team noted that they enjoy attending this community-building event to answer questions about SDDOT operations. The kids love to explore our SDDOT trucks as well.



Dakotafest in Mitchell (Aug. 19 - 21, 2025):

This three-day event in Mitchell attracts a wide array of visitors from the ag production and ag technology sectors. The work we do plays a pivotal role in the movement of products in South Dakota's ag-centered economy. This event it is a great opportunity to talk with our ag partners. Members of the Yankton and Mitchell offices attended Dakotafest in Mitchell.



Tyler Small, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker and Josh Timmerman, Highway Maintenance Worker from Yankton Area



Yankton Area Highway Maintenance staff . . . Stacy Rasmussen, Travis Dominisse, and Bo Groethe.



Caleb Horstman, Mitchell Region Materials Engineer and Charlie Goldammer, Mitchell Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor

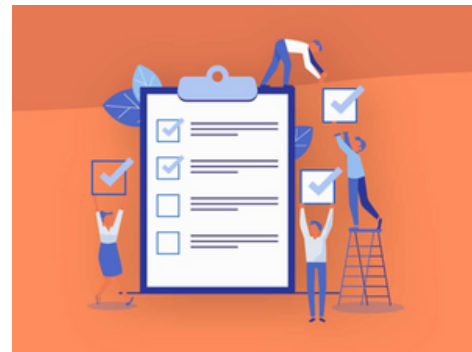
Finance Corner

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: VOUCHER DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS

DELETIONS:

- **When requesting a voucher to be deleted**, please email **Brandy Hansen** (1st point of contact) or **Tracy Boom** (2nd point of contact) the following information:
 - Vendor Number
 - Invoice Number (not the voucher number)
 - Dollar Amount of Voucher
 - Explanation of why the voucher needs to be deleted

This information will ensure the correct voucher is deleted.



CORRECTIONS:

- **When requesting changes to be made on a voucher that has already been entered**, please email **Brandy Hansen** (1st point of contact) or **Tracy Boom** (2nd point of contact) the following information:
 - Vendor Number
 - Invoice Number (not the voucher number)
 - Dollar Amount of Voucher
 - Detail of requested change(s)
 - Company, Account or Center changes
 - DOT project coding changes:
 - contract numbers, inventory ticket numbers, item codes, equipment number, etc
 - Item description changes
- **We cannot make changes to the following:**
 - Invoice Number
 - Invoice Date
 - Total Amount of Invoice

The voucher will need to be deleted & re-entered with an “X” behind the invoice number.

This information can also be found in the DOT Accounting Procedures Manual at:

<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/AccountingProceduresManual.pdf>



**For more BISON updates,
please visit the BISON
website at**

<https://www.sd.gov/bison>

Project BISON is happy to share this month's update. The BISON team will continue to keep you informed about the project.

[August 2025 KDSR](#)



TRAINING UPDATE -

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
Upcoming Training



Click on the SDLearn graphic or use this link to sign in: [SDLearn](#)
Search by the **complete course name** listed.

LEADERSHIP

[The Key 14: Using the Supervisor Effectiveness Insight \(SEI\)](#)

Online in SDLearn

[It Pays to Train | Stewardship & Employee Engagement](#)

Sept 8 | 11 – 11:45 a.m. | Teams

PLANNING & DESIGN

[McTrans Highway Capacity Analysis](#)

Sept. 16 -17 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.;
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Rapid City

[NHI 130130 Inspection of Unlined Rock Tunnels](#)

*includes Peer Review Session with FHWA

Oct. 21-22 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City

COMMUNICATION

[Working in Indian Country](#)

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 | 1p.m. – 12 noon | Pierre

NEW EMPLOYEES

[SDDOT 101 \(AKA New Employee Orientation\)](#)

Oct. 28-29 | 1p.m. – 5 p.m.
8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Pierre

Optional Lab Tour

Oct. 29 | 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Pierre

MAINTENANCE

[Maintenance Manual Overview](#)

Online in SDLearn

[National Traffic Incident Management \(TIMS\) Responder Training](#)

Sept. 2 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

Auditor's Anonymous

Audits Procedure Manual

The Audits Procedure Manual was updated recently. We want to highlight a major change, but please view the document on the SDDOT website and check out the rest of the updates!

We are going to start creating a “new” work order for **Construction Miscellaneous** but under the same work order number of the project.

This is located under **VIII. Closing Processes for Contracts and Work Orders** in our manual located at <https://dot.sd.gov/programs-services/programs/audits/>.

Please see the **Consultant Services Manual** for the processes included in **Construction Miscellaneous** and when it applies.

To avoid confusion, when **Construction Miscellaneous** is used, it will be added as a new work order in **Negotiated Contracts** under the same work order number. This creates two work orders with the same number in **Negotiated Contracts**, but one will be labeled **Construction Miscellaneous**. This will stop occurrences of closures needing to be reopened.

Construction Miscellaneous can be added at a maximum of 20 hours or \$5,000 per project in the work order. For example, if you have four projects, each project can have up to the maximum amount allowed.

A retainer contract is not closed by Audits until all work order close out forms for final payments and/or indirect cost rate adjustment invoices for the true-ups have been received.

If you have any question please feel free to reach out to any of us and we will be happy to help!

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Intern Appreciation Day

Isaac McManigal received a little appreciation gift for national intern appreciation day in late July.

Isaac and teammates are pictured on a project in Kadoka.

Pictured left to right: Misty Berg, Mike Hausmann, Isaac McManigal (intern), Scott McCue (consultant from ISG), and Logan Tunnissen (project engineer)



Congratulations McCoy Rippentrop (son of **Matt Rippentrop, Custer Area Highway Construction Project Engineer**) for being the first ever South Dakota American Legion player to be selected to the **ALB All-Academic Team!**

After McCoy received South Dakota's only **American Legion Scholarship** at the State Tourney, he then advanced into the national scholarship selection process. He was recently notified that he earned **one of only nine national scholarship awards** given to players from all 50 states.

Read the full article at <https://www.legion.org/information-enter/news/baseball/2025/august/2025-alb-all-academic-team-announced>.



Providing Excellent Service:

I am writing to commend three of your employees — **Tanya Liska, John Huber, and Steve Nowak** — for their outstanding assistance and professionalism.

Just prior to leaving for rally duty, I discovered that my magazine holster was missing a screw. I reached out to the Yankton DOT for help, and Tanya immediately went above and beyond by connecting me with John Huber. John then took me to the shop where Steve Nowak personally assisted me in finding a replacement screw. Together, they not only helped me locate the correct screw but also ensured it was properly installed. They even went a step further by finding paint so the screw would match the holster.

This may seem like a small request, but their willingness to assist with such an unusual need speaks volumes about their dedication, teamwork, and positive attitude. The Yankton DOT staff are always willing to help, even with unexpected situations, and they do so in a friendly and professional manner that reflects highly on your office.

I deeply appreciate their support and wanted to ensure their efforts did not go unrecognized.

Trooper Deanna Johnson
PSD Central Squad/South Dakota Highway Patrol

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

August New Hires:

Bridget Lozenski, Business Manager - Pierre

Carsten McNeil, Asst Region Bridge Engineer - Aberdeen

Michael Smith, Highway Maintenance Worker - Deadwood

Matthew Wranek, Highway Maintenance Worker - Chamberlain

Anna Mefferd, Region Operations Tech (Beautification/Billboard Tech) - Pierre

Alfred Rapozo, Highway Maintenance Worker - Millbank

August Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Jared Lahr, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls

Michael Johnson Sr., Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Aberdeen

Matt Wochnick, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Madison

Robert Sonen, Highway Maintenance Worker - Madison

August Longevity:

Patrick Wellner, Bridge Design Engineer – 20 years (Central/ Bridge)

Noël Clocksin, Programming & Funding Engineer – 35 years (Central Office/ LGA)

Tom Grannes, Material Engineer Manager – 35 years (Central Office/ M&S)

Brad Huffman, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 35 years (Mitchell Area)

Greg Brosz, Region Traffic Technician – 35 years (Mitchell Region)

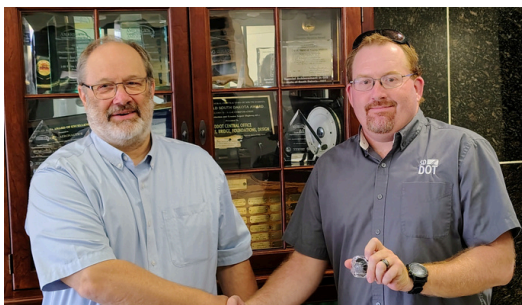
Rick Walton, Highway Maintenance Supervisor – 40 years (Belle Fourche Area)



Mark Bates, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Mobridge Area), received his 25-year pin from **John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer.**



Brian Engelmann, Sr. ROW Specialist (Sioux Falls), received his 10-year pin from **Ken Brilz, ROW Appraisal Manager (Pierre).**



Patrick Wellner, Bridge Design Engineer (Pierre), received his 20 year service pin from **Steve Johnson, Chief Bridge Engineer (Pierre).**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates (Retirements)

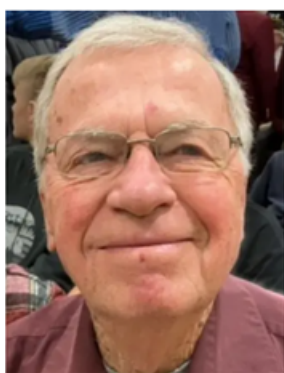
August Retirement Celebration:



Keith Voegeli, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Sioux Falls & Lennox has retired after 38 years of service to the SDDOT. He also drove over 1,000,000 miles in his career at the SDDOT!



SDDOT Employee News and Updates (In Sympathy)



Sympathy is extended to **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel & Special Assistant Attorney General** on the passing of her father-in-law.

Harris Darling, of Worthington, MN, passed away on July 31, 2025. Funeral services were held in Worthington on Aug. 5, 2025, with burial in the Worthington Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended Jared and Darcie (Ries) Tolzin on the passing of their daughter. **Jared is a Highway Maintenance Worker in De Smet.**

Hallie M. (Tolzin) Stallman, of Browns Valley, MN, and formerly of De Smet, passed away on July 30, 2025, at Coteau Des Prairies Hospital in Sisseton.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 5, 2025, at American Lutheran Church in Milbank, with private burial at De Smet Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to former SDDOT co-workers and friends of Marc Bitz. Marc formerly worked in the Aberdeen Area office for 15 years and then moved on to BNSF about 10 years ago.

Marc passed away in Ipswich on Aug. 12, 2025. Marc's celebration of life was held on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Aldersgate Church in Aberdeen, SD. Burial followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens.