



# Connecting the DOTs

## February 2025

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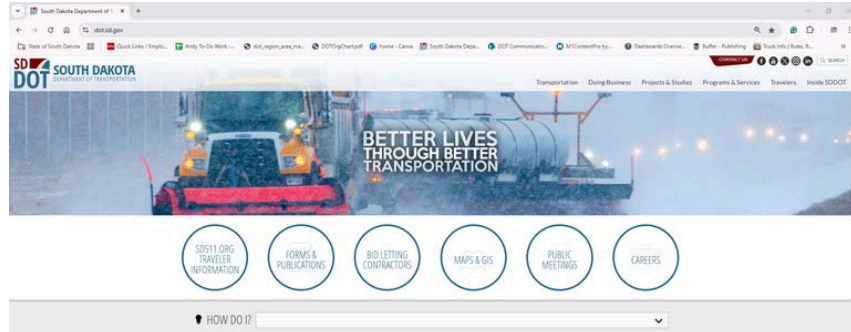
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- New Family Members
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## SDDOT Website Migration



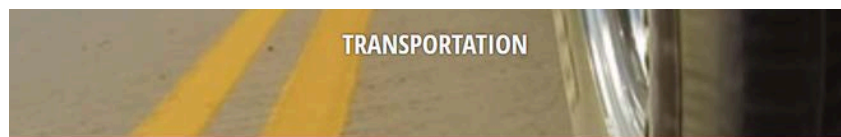
This fall (2024), our current SDDOT website provider informed us that they will no longer offer hosting or development services after this year. We've since partnered with a new vendor and are in the process of migrating our content to a new CMS and platform. We anticipate launching the updated site during the last week of February 2025.

Please note, that this is a **migration project**, not a redesign, so the look and feel of the website will remain the same as it is now. **The migration does not affect the Intranet.**

Additionally, while we've made every effort to keep the website's design and functionality consistent with the previous site, there may be slight differences due to the new CMS formatting.

While the migration wasn't a planned project, there will be some gained opportunities through the new CMS, such as search functionality and page development.

Staff will be notified once the launch is complete. If you have any questions about the website, please don't hesitate to reach out to [taylor.brusven@state.sd.us](mailto:taylor.brusven@state.sd.us) once the launch is complete.



SEARCH

TALK TO US

**AVIATION**  
About Office of Aeronautics Services  
Office of Aeronautics Services  
Airports Conference  
Aerospace Education  
Airport Information  
Links  
Aviation Systems Plan

**BRIDGES**  
Office of Bridge Design  
Design & Plans  
Historical Bridges  
Inventory & Inspection  
Posted Structures  
Reference Information  
SD Bridge Photos

**HIGHWAYS**  
About Highways  
Access Management  
Data Analysis  
Geotechnical  
Highway Classification  
Highway Safety  
Traffic Data

**PUBLIC TRANSIT**  
General Information / Notices  
Procurement  
Provider Network  
Rural Transit  
Specialized Transit  
Urban Transit Planning Program Units  
Forms, Policies, and Publications

**RAILROADS**  
About the Office of Railroads  
Railroad Grant Projects and Maps  
Current Rail System and Operators  
Forms and Applications  
State Rail Plans  
Highway Rail Safety  
Operation Lifesaver

CAREERS

## The Secretary's Corner



### 2024 Statewide Customer Satisfaction Survey:

Approximately every three years, the SDDOT research team commissions a statewide customer satisfaction survey to gather data from residents and persons who impact transportation decisions in the State of South Dakota. The statewide survey results are used by SDDOT to objectively assess how well the Department is meeting the State's transportation needs and to identify how we can improve the quality of our services. The survey results are used within our strategic planning to identify both short and long-term transportation priorities.



The SDDOT appreciates the willingness of customers to engage with us to share thoughts and opinions. We are dedicated to continual process improvement to provide a safe and efficient public transportation system, the public's evaluation is vital.

Within the coming weeks, the statewide customer satisfaction surveys will be distributed. If you receive questions about the survey process, please connect the person making the inquiry with **Margo McDowell, Transportation Research Engineer**, at [Margo.McDowell@state.sd.us](mailto:Margo.McDowell@state.sd.us) or 605-773-3871.

Customer satisfaction derives in part from great customer service! Recently, I shared in my Information Interchange about SDDOT employees providing excellent service; each in their own unique way. I hope you know that what you do, truly makes a difference. People recognize the hard work of our team!

On Feb. 8, 2025, **Jeff Protzman, Junction City Highway Maintenance Worker**, was performing routine winter maintenance in southeast South Dakota when he came upon a motorist with a flat tire. Jeff took time to stop and help Rachel, from Sioux City, IA, change her tire and get back on the road safely. Rachel sent a message to the SDDOT, **"God bless Jeff for helping us on a really blustery day; and getting us back on the road!"**



Since we posted this story on social media on Feb. 17, 2025, the post has gone "viral" throughout South Dakota and beyond! **As of Feb. 24, 2025; the post has nearly 825,000 views; 23,000 likes, 1,200 (very positive) comments; and 540 shares.** If you are a Facebook user, please read the comments. They speak highly of Jeff's strong work ethic as well as our entire SDDOT team!

We continually look for ways to engage families to develop personal responsibility for safe driving behaviors. This is one reason we hold the snowplow naming contest each year. We are grateful when companies and schools get behind our safety efforts!



**All 409 students within the Winner Elementary School** participated in the Snowplow Naming Contest meet and greet event with our SDDOT staff. **Doug Sherman and the Winner maintenance team** brought last year's named truck, "Clearapathera" as well as this year's winner "Thaw Patrol" for the kids to see.

**Winner Elementary Principal Brian Naasz** set up a pizza party for the entire school in celebration of this event and to promote safe winter driving practices, including the use of SD511.

## Historic 2025 Inaugural

By: June Hansen



**History happened on Feb. 8, 2025, when Governor Larry Rhoden was sworn in as South Dakota's 34th Governor.**

**When Governor Noem resigned to become Secretary of Homeland Security, Lt. Governor Rhoden was constitutionally advanced to the Governorship.**

**Governor Rhoden appointed Tonnis (Tony) Venhuizen to serve as his Lt. Governor.**

This isn't the first time this has happened. In 1978, Governor Richard Kneip was appointed Ambassador to Singapore, which vaulted his Lt. Governor, Harvey Wollman to Governor. He was the first Lt. Governor to succeed to the Governorship. Governor Wollman ran for Governor in 1978, but was defeated in the Democratic primary by Roger McKellips, a legislator from Alcester. McKellips would lose the race to Governor William Janklow.

Tragedy struck in 1993 when the state plane carrying Governor George Mickelson and seven others crashed near Dubuque, Iowa. Governor Miller would take the office as the first Lt. Governor to succeed to the office of Governor due to a death. Governor Miller ran for Governor in 1995, but was defeated in a primary. He lost to Governor William Janklow who won the general election to return to the Governor's office. Just a little history lesson on Lt. Governors becoming Governor in South Dakota.

A little more history for those that may not know, two of the seven others killed when the state plane crashed in 1993 were SDDOT pilots, **Ron Becker and Dave Hansen**. To honor their ultimate sacrifice, the Central Office Building in Pierre was named the "**Becker-Hansen**" Building. There are plaques in the lobby to honor both men. Please read about them when you are in the building. They gave their lives in service to the SDDOT and State of South Dakota and deserve to be remembered today and always.

Normally the Inaugural Committee has six months to prepare for Inauguration Day. In this case, the group had approximately three weeks to put everything together. Chris Ott and June Hansen are members of the Inaugural Committee handling transportation. The Committee consists of state government employees, City of Pierre employees and community leaders. The event itself was scaled back due to the limited time and fact that only the Governor and Lt. Governor were being sworn into office.

Once again, the **Transportation Committee** for the Inaugural was needed though not at the same size and scope as a normal Inaugural. There was still a need to solicit donated vehicles from the local car dealers for the dignitaries to ride in for the events. Our group was responsible for parking the vehicles and maintaining traffic control around the secure entrance to the Capitol as well as parking the dignitary vehicles at the Ramkota for the after-ball reception. There was a motorcade through Pierre and Ft. Pierre that we helped facilitate with local law enforcement and Highway Patrol. We also worked with River Cities Transit to provide a free shuttle service between the Capitol and Ramkota.

Usually, we have about 40 people working at a normal Inaugural event. This year, we had approximately 13 who helped on Friday to move vehicles and then on Saturday with the actual event. Everyone who assisted did an outstanding job and represented the SDDOT with exceptional customer service and strong work ethic.

**Inauguration continued . . .**

**Kari Kroll** also had an important job of assisting with the Swearing In Ceremony and the Grand March at the Capitol Ball. She was responsible for getting all the Inaugural participants such as the Governor, Lt. Governor, and their children the right order and right place for the Grand March. During the Swearing In Ceremony, she assisted the Governor, Lt. Governor and Constitutional Officers to their reserved seats in the Rotunda.

**Think it's easy to say that SDDOT was well represented throughout the Inaugural events.**

Special thanks to the SDDOT team who went above and beyond to make the 2025 Inaugural a huge success. It's not the typical way to spend a Saturday before Super Bowl Sunday in Pierre, but it is a memorable one.



Back Row (Left to Right): **Kari Kroll, Danny Varilek, June Hansen, and Darren Hall**  
 Front Row (Left to Right): **Larry Dean, Chris Ott, Brenda Sharkey, Rip Ray, and Brian Kenzy**



**“Home of Governor” Signs Intalled on S.D. Highway 34 at Union Center**



“Home of Governor Larry Rhoden” signs were installed in late January on S.D. Highway 34 at Union Center.

Thank you to the following SDDOT staff members who completed the installation.

- **Ryon Schimke**
- **Colin Karley**
- **Josh Thayer**
- **Nick Wuebben**



## Technology Upgrade Roadmap

### Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist

SDDOT has five major IT areas:

- **Field Engineering Operation's** work in construction management represented by **CM&P, MS&T, Labor Compliance**, and other associated programs
- **Maintenance Operations** also has numerous software programs to maintain equipment and supply inventories
- **Planning and Engineering** centered on C2C and the 30+ programs that feed into C2C
- **TKS** is more than just a timesheet, much of our billing and inventory is tied to what is entered
- **Finance** with Great Plains software and mainframe-based software in billing and payments for all the above

Of these five areas, four are now, in early 2025, undergoing radical changes as they are being replaced.

- With operations, a contract for an "eConstruction" package to replace **MS&T and CM&P** has been signed. The goal is to do the first pilot projects in the 2026 construction season.
- The first of four phases of the **Maintenance and Equipment Management System (MEMS)** will go live in April. This phase will handle our equipment management and supplies inventory.
- Last year BHR launched **Project Evergreen** to update all their systems, including TKS. Work on the TKS update is expected to start in the next few months.
- Finally, BFM launched the **Bison Project** to create a statewide accounting system to replace our existing system. It is expected to go live on July 1, 2026.

This leaves **C2C** as the only system not being upgraded. However, there are no plans to replace it at this time. One reason is that with the other four systems changing, money and BIT staff to assist the vendors are tied up. But, even more importantly, C2C continues to work well for us.

Apart from those mentioned above, SDDOT still has 100 different software packages and systems that we use. A common question is if offices have permission to upgrade the software?

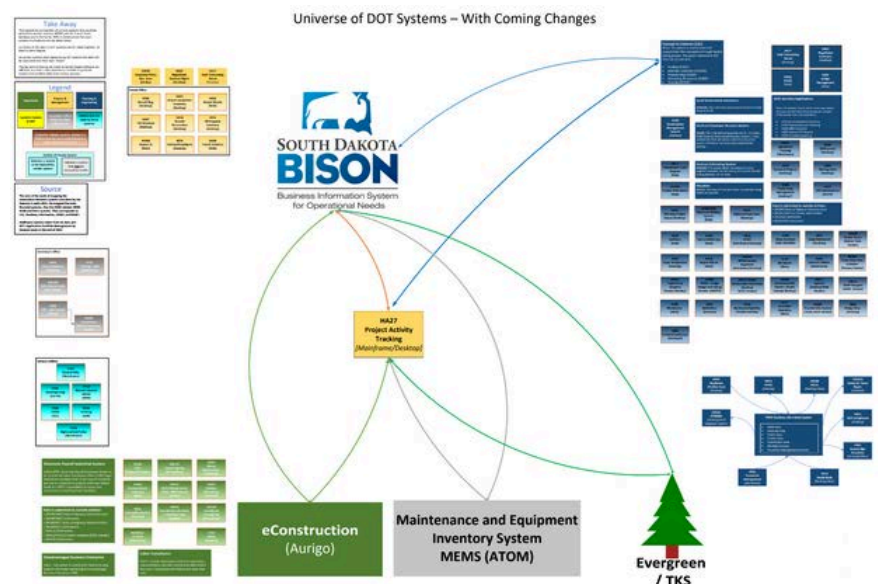
The short answer is **YES!** Next month's article will give details. But, if you have software that needs to be replaced or updated, contact **Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist**, to begin the conversation.

#### [DOT IT Systems As Is- January 2023.pdf:](#)

Find a detailed chart of the 130-plus systems that make up the SDDOT IT environment.

#### [DOT IT Systems Nov 2024 Simple.pdf:](#)

Find a simplified view showing how many systems are being replaced, also pictured on the graphic to the right.



## **SDDOT Explores Alternative Contracting Methods for Highway Projects**

**By: Craig Smith, Director of Operations**

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is committed to delivering high-quality construction projects that make better lives through better transportation. While the majority of highway construction projects are traditionally procured through the design-bid-build method, state law (SDCL 31-5-10) also allows for Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity and Emergency Procurement methods. Now, SDDOT is actively exploring additional Alternative Contracting Methods (ACMs) to enhance efficiency, encourage innovation, and optimize resources.

### **Why Consider Alternative Contracting Methods?**

While design-bid-build remains the primary approach, SDDOT is evaluating other methods to provide flexibility when unique project needs arise. The Department has formed an internal team to explore these options, working closely with the contracting and consulting engineering industries to assess impacts and potential benefits. These alternative methods aim to enhance cost-effectiveness, streamline project timelines, and foster collaboration.

### **Alternative Contracting Methods Under Consideration**

Currently, three ACMs are being evaluated:

#### **Design-Build (DB)**

A single contract is awarded for both design and construction, with a fixed lump sum determined at the time of award. Benefits include:

- Encouraging creative solutions
- Expediting schedules by allowing concurrent activities
- Providing price certainty at the award stage

#### **Progressive Design-Build (PDB)**

This multi-phase contract involves collaboration between the design-build team, the owner, and an independent cost estimator to develop the design and budget. Many state DOTs are adopting this approach due to its benefits:

- Lower procurement costs
- Early contractor involvement
- Enhanced collaboration between stakeholders
- Greater owner control over design decisions
- Transparent budgeting and pricing
- Improved risk allocation and management
- Potential for early work packages

#### **Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC)**

Two contracts are issued: one for design and another for construction management. Key benefits include:

- Lower procurement costs and selection of the most qualified team
- Early contractor engagement
- Owner control over design decisions
- Opportunities for innovative construction methods
- Accelerated project delivery
- Improved risk management
- Potential for early work packages

**Alternative Contracting Methods for Highway Projects continued . . .**

**Implementation Plan:**

To ensure a thorough and inclusive evaluation, SDDOT has identified four key implementation phases:

**1. Discovery (1-2 years)**

- Gather information and engage stakeholders
- Review different contracting methods
- Identify potential ACMs and consider legislative changes

**2. Legislative Process (2-3 years)**

- Develop draft legislation
- Engage stakeholders and educate legislators
- Identify legislative sponsors and work toward passing new laws

**3. Administrative Development (3-4 years)**

- Revise administrative rules, policies, and manuals
- Develop procurement processes and screening methods
- Create standardized ACM documentation

**4. Project Delivery (4-5 years)**

- Identify pilot projects
- Provide education and training for DOT staff, contractors, and consultants
- Administer pilot projects and conduct post-construction reviews
- Update ACM processes based on lessons learned

**Stay Informed:**

SDDOT has launched a dedicated website to provide updates on ACM exploration and implementation: [Alternative Contracting Methods Information](#). The four-to-five-year timeline ensures ample time to involve stakeholders, address concerns, and develop a successful approach to integrating ACMs into South Dakota's highway construction projects.



**2025 SD Transportation  
Construction Industry Summit**



**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Hosted By AGC & SDDOT**  
**February 26 & 27**  
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center  
at Cedar Shores - Oacoma, SD  
Oacoma/Hale Room



The **AGC/SDDOT 2025 SD Transportation Construction Industry Summit** is the premier event for South Dakota's transportation and construction industry!

The topic of **Alternative Contracting Methods for Highway Projects** will be discussed at the 2025 Summit.

This two-day summit brings together SDDOT personnel and industry professionals for informative presentations, panel discussions, group meals, and valuable networking opportunities.

# SDSU National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) Camp

## NATIONAL SUMMER TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Jerome J. Lohr  
College of Engineering



Camp Dates:

Option 1: June 1 – 7, 2025

Option 2: June 8 – 14, 2025

All selected students will receive scholarships to attend the NSTI! The scholarship will cover the cost of on-campus housing, food, and workshops, so the camp is free! During this one-week-long summer camp, you will be introduced to different aspects of transportation engineering, such as planning, materials, and transportation modes, among other topics. You'll also have an opportunity to participate in hands-on lab activities in workshops and learn from experts about the transportation sector and the problems transportation engineers solve.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Entering grades 8–12 (as of 2024-2025 school year)
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (out of 4.0)
- Completed algebra (or will be qualified to enroll in coming school term)
- Interested in engineering, science, or technology



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND  
REGISTRATION LINK:  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/M7BPTNMP](https://tinyurl.com/m7bptnmp)**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 10, 2025**

Registration Form:

<https://www.sdstate.edu/civil-environmental-engineering/national-summer-transportation-institute-registration-form>



## 2025 Aviation Art Contest "Women with Wings"

Every year, the **South Dakota Pilots Association** and the **Office of Air, Rail & Transit** sponsor a contest in an effort to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science. **Over 100 applicants were received this year.** Below are the winners, as well as a link to all artwork including honorable mentions in each age group.

### Group 1 - Ages 6-9



**1st Place:** Julia Tahir,  
age 6 | St. Francis



**2nd Place:** Sophia Tahir,  
age 7 | St. Francis



**3rd Place -** Thea Brooks,  
age 8 | Ft. Pierre



**Honorable Mention:**  
Addison Rageth,  
age 9 | Ft. Pierre

### Group 2 - Ages 10-13



**1st Place:** Anastelle Borresen,  
age 13 | New Underwood



**2nd Place:** Yanis Nietes,  
age 12 | St. Francis



**3rd Place -** Hayden Goodrich,  
age 11 | Spearfish

### Group 3 - Ages 14-17



**1st Place -** Jesse Schoon,  
age 14 | Murdo



**2nd Place -** Tommy,  
age 14 | New Underwood



**3rd Place -** Lily,  
age 14 | New Underwood

To view art winners, including honorable mentions, in all age groups visit:

[https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/aerospace-education#listItemLink\\_1974](https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/aerospace-education#listItemLink_1974)

## Snowplow Contest Winners Meet Named Plows

Visit <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/of-interest/sddot-snowplow-naming-contest> for additional pictures and information from Name the Snowplow Contest meet and greet events!



### Capital Drift - Pierre Area

Amber Stout's 3rd Grade Class at Jefferson Elem with Todd Madden, Pierre Highway Maintenance Worker.



### Plowabunga - Huron Area

Highway Maintenance workers Mike Nicholson, Lance DeHaai, Dallas Moorhouse, and Taylor Droz, (Lead) at Amber Gab family and Miller Elementary class!



### Plowy - Custer Area

Teacher Becky Treloar and Custer Elementary 1st Graders.



### Albert Icestein - Rapid City Area

Karen Simon pictured with Mike Carlson, Rapid City Area Engineer, and Colin Karley, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker.



### Thaw Enforcement - Aberdeen Area

Chris from Aberdeen pictured with Bryan Owens, Aberdeen Highway Maintenance Worker.



### Clear-A-Patha - Mitchell Area

Alex, a 7th grader from Mitchell, pictured with Brad Huffman, Mitchell Lead Highway Maintenance Worker.

## Snowplow Contest Winners Meet Named Plows (Continued)



### Hans Snowlo - Watertown Area

Cruz, and his family from Watertown, pictured with Highway Maintenance Workers Brian Burke, Craig Christeson (Lead), Larry Schanbeck, and Justin Toering.



### Frost and Flurrious - Sioux Falls Area

Alex Hertz, Sioux Falls Structural Design Engineer, pictured with Highway Maintenance Workers Chris Peters (Lead), Ethan Huls, and Curt Theisen (Lead).

## February Career Fairs



**Kate Sieverding, Rapid City Region Bridge Engineer** and **Heidi Olson, BHRA Human Resource Manager** attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Career Fair.

**Kimberly Smith, BHRA Human Resource Generalist**, and **Matt Brey, Watertown Area Engineer**, attended the South Dakota State University Career Fair.

Matt also attended the North Dakota State University Career Fair.



**Jim Dorfschmidt, Belle Fourche Project Manager**, and **Jonah Schmagel, Belle Fourche Project Engineer**, attended Career Day at Sturgis Brown High School.



**Josh McBurnett, Belle Fourche Project Technician**, and **Tige Thorman, Belle Fourche Survey Crew Chief**, attended the Belle Fourche High School Career Fair.



## SDDOT Recruitment Lures

The recruitment team has SDDOT fishing lures for their collegiate career fair booths. Pictured is **Kirby Hurlbert, a full-time Assistant Traffic Engineer**, who will begin employment this coming May in the Pierre Area.

We're glad the SDDOT "lured" Kirby to work with us!



## Community Events in February

SDDOT team members from across the state participated in community events throughout February. SDDOT had booths at the **Black Hills Stock Show, Watertown Farm Show, and the Sioux Empire Home Show**. Staff enjoyed discussions about the state's transportation system with everyone who stopped by the booths! The SDDOT promoted SD511 usage for year-round informed travel.



Pictured is **Steve Palmer, Rapid City Area Engineering Supervisor**, showing SD511 app features during the Stock Show.



Pictured are **John Gerlach, Rapid City Area Engineering Supervisor** and **Emerick Schmitz, Traffic CAD Technician** (right) at the Stock Show.



**Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Engineer Manager, and Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer**, took the first shift at the Farm Show. Many thanks to the The Watertown Area team **Craig Christeson, Justin Toering, and Larry Schanbeck**, delivered SDDOT materials coming from the Stock Show! They received cupcakes as thanks for the quick delivery!



**Terry Hoffman, Co-Executive Director** for the **Community Transit for Watertown and Sisseton Inc.** staffed a Farm Show booth with team members. They also had a bus providing a shuttle service for Farm Show attendees.



Pictured is **Jeff Brink, Watertown Area Engineering Manager**, at the Farm Show.

**Harry Johnston, Sioux Falls Area Engineer**, pictured at the SDDOT booth for the Sioux Empire Home Show!



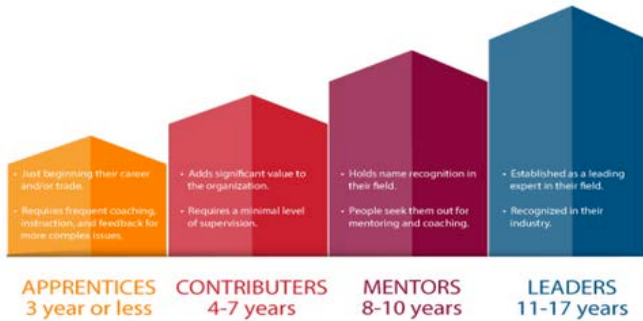


## Mentoring Minute

As written by: Kathy Wentworth Drahosz and Alison Sfreddo

Becoming an expert in any given field takes commitment, determination and more importantly – time. Research shows that it will take the average person between ten and seventeen years of dedication, practice and experience to become considered an expert in one's field. Very few professional accomplishments happen overnight. A person cannot simply step into a profession and immediately be considered an expert.

Career management expert Caela Farren (author of *Who's Running Your Career?*) describes the steps toward mastery and what employees should be capable of accomplishing at each level and what is needed to help them master the expertise of their profession:



**Apprentice** – An apprentice is someone who is just starting his or her career or learning a trade. The apprentice requires a great deal of time and dedication to building his or her knowledge base and will benefit from frequent coaching and feedback on complex tasks and projects. The supervisor can provide guidance until enough experience and knowledge has been passed along thus allowing the apprentice to advance to the next skill level.

**Contributor** – Contributors are capable of tackling sophisticated issues within their field and can offer the appropriate solutions to complex problems and should be determining what skills or competencies are necessary to progress in their organization. They should also be taking on stretch assignments outside their comfort zone such as participating in higher-level projects that will give them an opportunity to showcase a skill or ability.

**Mentor** – Mentors are relied upon to set the example and guide contributors and apprentices within the organization. They are sought after by all within the organization to solve complex problems beyond the limited capability of the contributors or apprentices. They also can provide new insight and knowledge for the less experienced professional.

**Leader** – Leaders are completely self-sufficient and are the driving force of innovation and the development of the next generation of leaders. They are known organizationally and industry-wide for their expertise, character, and competence. They are strategic thinkers and have a clear vision and specific plans for carrying out the organization's mission.

Understanding the degrees of development for each step toward mastery (set forth above) is critical to building the next generation of leaders. While experience and time are vital, how you use that time and impart that experience will make the difference and maybe even accelerate the process!

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### Upcoming Mentoring Events:

March 27, 2025 - **Mentoring Event (from January) Part II**

**Concept to Construction Final Presentation**

8:30 – 9 a.m. in Pierre (Room B-17)

March 27, 2025 - **March Mentoring Event**

Commission Meeting: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Pierre (Room B-17)

Executive Team Meeting: 1- 3 p.m. in Pierre (Commission Room)

**Make Time for Mentoring!**

 **TRAINING UPDATE -**

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve  
February 2025 (Upcoming Trainings)

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**DESIGN****ADA 101**

March 5 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls  
March 6 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre

**NHI 380129 Performance-Based Flexibility in Geometric Design**

April 29 - May 1 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Webinar

**Accommodating Pedestrians in the Work Zone**

March 5 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Sioux Falls  
March 6 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Pierre

**Bentley OpenRoads SignCAD Fundamentals**

Online Courses in SDLearn

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**COMMUNICATION and TECHNOLOGY****It Pays to Train (IPT)**

The Training Department would like to provide an opportunity for employees to have more engagement with our staff. We will now have a quick informational Teams meeting twice a month – on the 1st and the 15th – **payday!** We will have a topic of discussion and time for questions and answers. In February, Michele will kick us off by talking about our strategic value of High Standard Ethics and Transcripts.

So, if today is the day you get paid, check out the training session on SDLearn at 11 a.m.

**Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting****It Pays to Train (IPT)**

Feb. 28 | 11 - 11:45 a.m. | Teams

**The Problem-Solving Process**

March 6 | 1 - 2 p.m. | Zoom

**Computer Skills Basics**

Upon request

**TLN: Virtues & Competencies of Engineering with Connections to the Professional Codes of Ethics**

March 10 | 1 - 3 p.m. | Zoom

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**SAFETY****First Aid/CPR/AED**

April 1 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Pierre

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**CONSTRUCTION and MATERIALS****NHI 130087 Inspection of Ancillary Highway Structures**

Feb. 25 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

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**LEADERSHIP****The Principles of Excellence: Baldrige 101**

Feb. 25 & March 4 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Webinar

**TLN: The Quality Improvement Process**

Jan. 28 | 1 – 2 p.m. | Zoom

**Baldrige PEN-on-Demand Videos**

Online Videos

**TRAINING UPDATE - CONTINUED**

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

February 2025 (Upcoming Trainings)

**MAINTENANCE****TLN: The Ins & Outs of Concrete Production, Delivery, & Installation**

Feb. 26 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

**TLN: Concrete Finishing for the Engineer & Inspector**

March 20 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

**Welding Basics**

March 10-13 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Western Dakota

March 11-14 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Mitchell Tech

March 18-20 | 6 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Lake Area Tech

**TLN: Tractor Mower Operator Safety Training**

Feb. 27 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Zoom

**TLN: ATSSA Traffic Control Technician**

March 11 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Zoom

**TLN: ATSSA Traffic Control Supervisor**

March 12-13 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Zoom

Lead HMW 2 HCP

**CDL EDLT Class A & B Theory**

March 3-5 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Sioux Falls

March 17-19 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Pierre

April 7-9 | 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Rapid City

**CDL EDLT Train the Trainer**

March 6 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

March 20 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Pierre

April 10 | 12:30 – 5 p.m. | Rapid City

Lead HMW 2 HCP

**CDL Learners Permit**

March 6 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Sioux Falls

March 20 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Pierre

April 10 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Rapid City

**AGC Hazardous Materials Endorsement**

March 7 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

March 21 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

April 11 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City

**GIS Updates****By: Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson, SDDOT GIS Team**

ArcGIS Pro is getting an upgrade! The upgraded version (ArcGIS Pro 3.3.2) will look almost identical to what DOT staff use now, but with one big difference. DataHound will not be available in the new version. Don't worry, the GIS Team is working with BIT to make sure the new data portal is up and running before the software rollout, which will happen the first week of March.

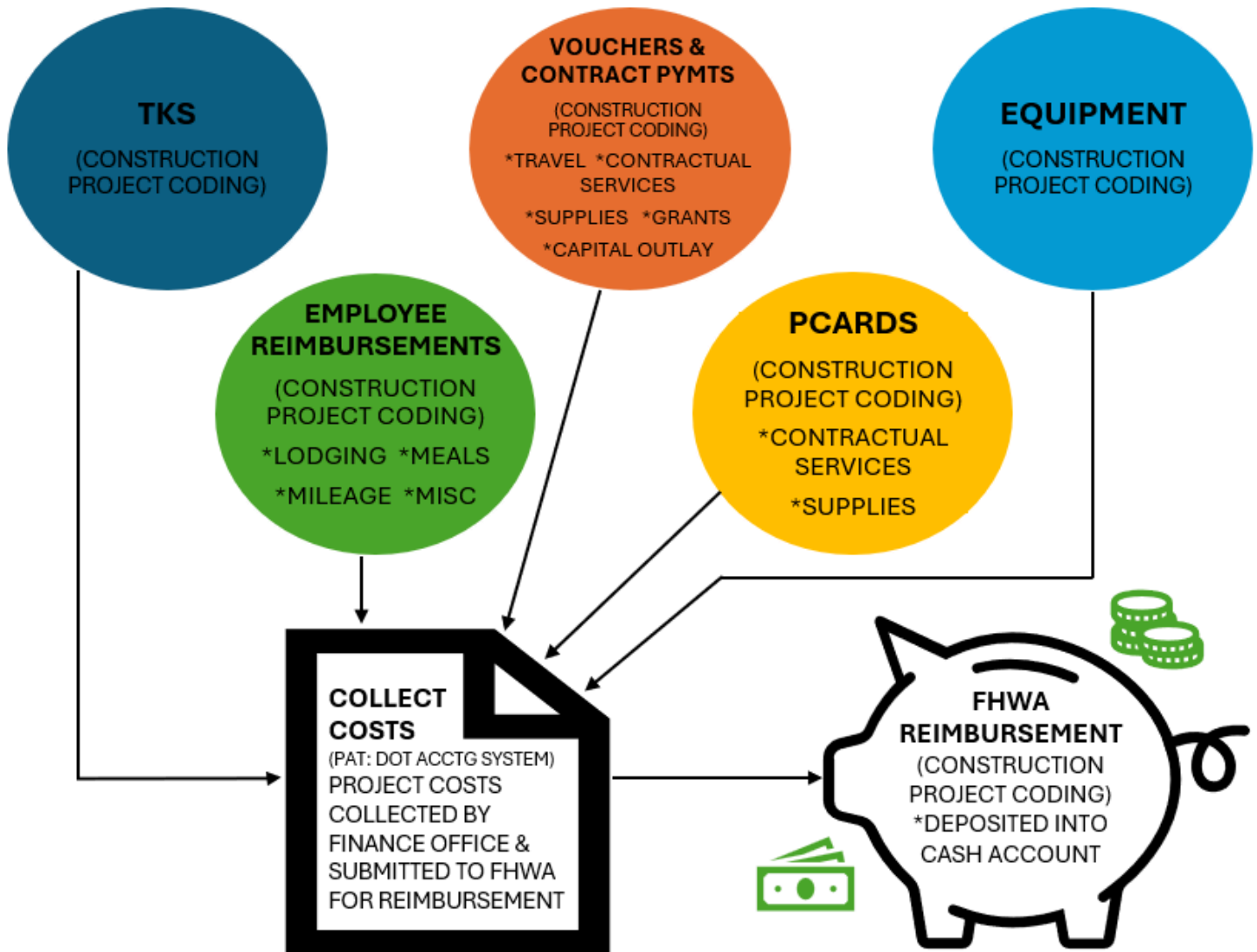
Look for more information on the upgrade and the new data portal in your email inbox and watch for new ArcGIS Pro tutorial videos on LMS. You can also find links to the videos and other resources on the [DOT GIS Hub](#).

The DOT GIS Team is working hard to make the upgrade and transition successful. Please reach out to us with your questions!

## Finance Corner

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

#### TRANSACTIONS, DATA COLLECTIONS & REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS



#### NOTES:

- Anyone can charge to a construction project.
- Transactions related to **Employee Time, Travel, Equipment Usage, etc.** are charged to and paid out of the employee's budgeted center/prgm.
  - Some **Contractual Services, Supplies, Grants, and Capital Outlay** are also paid out of each budgeted center/prgm.
  - **Non-Construction centers/prgm** = 111011 thru 1113652
- Transactions related to contractual services such as **Legal Document Fees, Engineering & Architectural Consultant Fees, Acquisition of ROW, and Construction Contract Payments** are coded to the construction center/prgm.
  - **Road Construction** (center/prgm 112001)
  - **Airport Construction** (center/prgm 112003)
  - **Railroad Construction** (center/prgm 112004)



## SDDOT Safety News

By: Jon Johanson, Safety Manager



# SDDOT SAFETY NEWS

Winter Footwear and Traction Devices



Each winter, workers suffer from injuries as the result of slips, trips and falls. Most of these incidents can be eliminated or avoided with the proper use of appropriate footwear or ice cleats. For example, wearing slick cowboy boots on snow, ice or while picking litter is not the best choice.

Ice cleats provide traction through spikes, studs, and/or a chain to dig into the ice, providing better footing traction to the user. Several styles are available depending on the intended use. Here is an article that offers some ratings on [the best traction cleats](#) available.



If ice cleats are not your thing, there are alternatives to the traditional ice cleats. Some footwear manufacturers make shoes with soles composed of materials that provide better traction on icy surfaces or even deployable studs sections.

- Gripforce – [Retractable stud footwear](#)
- Kickspike – [Boots with spikes that extend and retract](#)

- Merrell – [Arctic Grip series footwear](#)
- Muck Boots – [Arctic Ice series](#)
- Pajar – Ice Gripper series for [men](#) and [women](#)
- REI – [Arctic Grip footwear](#)
- Icebug – [Winter boots with/without studs](#)

If you decide to utilize the traction devices that slip over your shoes, there are a few things to remember to ensure they are effective and do not create a hazardous condition. Below are some best practices while wearing traction devices:

- *Don't* wear your cleats indoors, especially on tile, concrete, or other hard surfaces where cleats will create a slipping hazard.
- *Do* take or carry your ice cleats with you when you go into buildings or your homes. Outdoor conditions can change quickly.
- *Do* treat your ice cleats with care. Cleats are not cheap and the better you treat them, the less often they will need replaced.
- *Do* take the time to ensure that your traction devices are correctly sized and positioned correctly on your shoe.
- *Don't* wear your cleats while driving. The cleats can cause your foot to become stuck or caught on the pedals, resulting in a dangerous condition.
  - Consider the [K1 Midsole ice cleats](#) which can be worn while driving.
- *Don't* wear your cleats on expanded steel stairs, the cleats can become caught in the open areas causing a tripping hazard.



The monthly **SDDOT Safety News** current feature and past issues are also available on the Intranet homepage; as shown below!



## 2025 SD Airports Conference

April 2-3, 2025

The Lodge, Deadwood



This conference is for airport managers, finance officers, mayors, and other city/county personnel to learn more about how to better run their local airport. Many consultants and aviation vendors were also in attendance as this conference is a great networking opportunity for everyone.

Find registration information at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/airport-conference>.



### BHRA Watercooler

The BHRA Watercooler gives you all the latest benefits, administration, training, and HR developments. Links to additional information can be found below!

[Click to view this month's video.](#)



#### **Additional Information:**

Office of the State Engineer: [Website Link](#)

Governor's Awards of Excellence: [Website Link](#)

Administrative Professionals' Day: [SDLearn](#) | [Website Link](#)

WEX Benefits Portal Login: [Website Link](#)

Working Advantage: [Website Link](#)

Livongo Diabetes Management: [Website Link](#)

The deadline is fast approaching for you to complete the States LiveWell well-being requirements, which includes the online Health Assessment. **The deadline to complete the Health Assessment is April 1, 2025.**

This, along with the Annual Wellness Exam (with blood work) is required to earn the well-being reward. The assessment takes less than 15 minutes to complete and can be done on [the LiveWellSD Portal](#). Here is a link to the reward payout grid: [RewardGrid.pdf](#)

The **Bureau Buzz** is back with an episode on Training & Development! Join hosts Jesse and Leah as they dive into virtual and in-person classes, SDLearn, Ignite Leadership Development, and more with special guest and Lead Trainer, Ken McFarland. [Click here](#) to listen on SDLearn, or [here for YouTube](#). Need to get caught up? See the archive of episodes [here](#).



Project Bison is almost completed with **Conference Room Pilot 1** sessions. Thanks to everyone who was a part of this process. In this month's KDSR you will see some great new information. The BISON team will continue to keep you in the epicenter of information as it becomes available.

**For more BISON updates, please visit the BISON website at <https://www.sd.gov/bison>.**

Find more information in the [February KDSR](#).

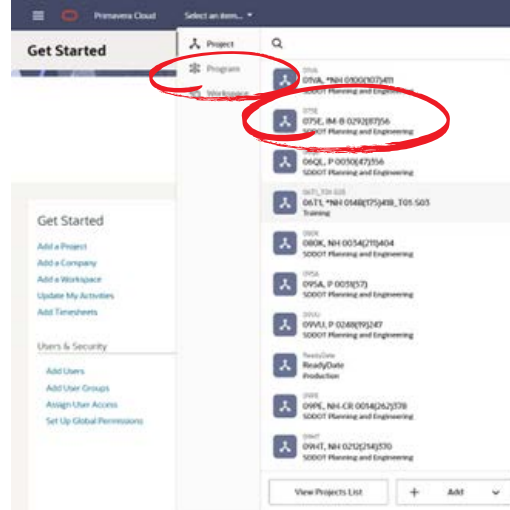
# Primavera Tips & Tricks

## Change Views

SDDOT utilizes Primavera Cloud, which is a cloud-based scheduling software for the design phase of a project. Additionally, Primavera Cloud is utilized for various aspects of project management to help with managing resource workloads (current & future) and to assist in the delivery of projects in a timely matter.

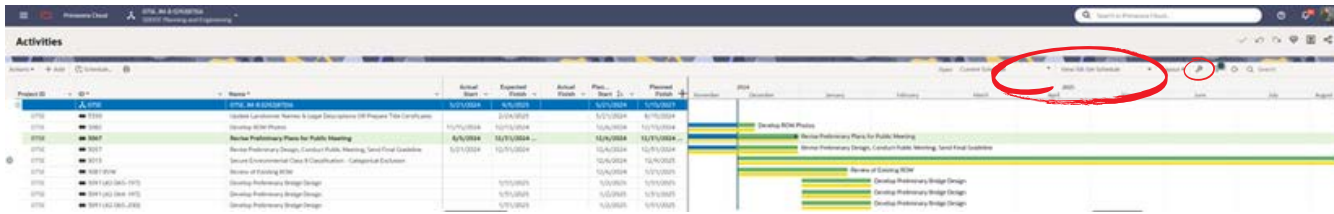
This tip demonstrates how to Change Views for the **Activities** and **Projects** pages in Primavera Cloud.

1. On the **Main Page**, "Select an item" and Select a **Project**.

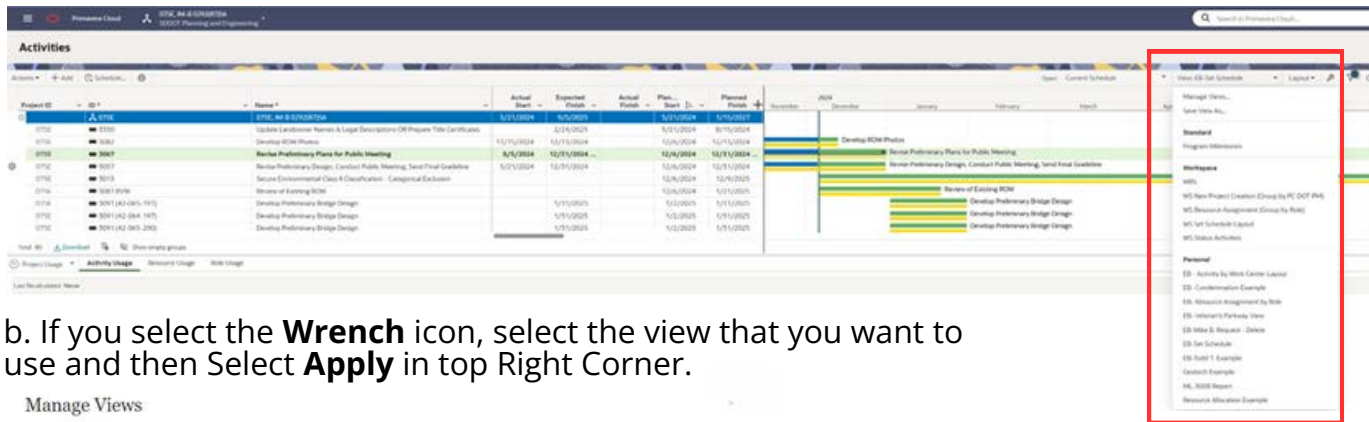


The **Activities Page** will open to show all the activities for the project.

2. On the **Activities Page**, select **View** or the **Wrench** icon.

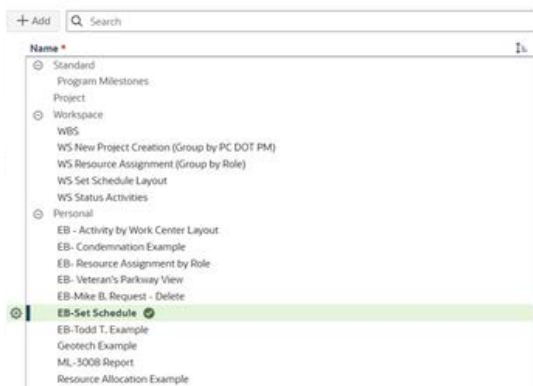


a. If you select **View** dropdown, select the view that you want to use.



b. If you select the **Wrench** icon, select the view that you want to use and then Select **Apply** in top Right Corner.

### Manage Views



The procedure to change the **View** is the same for the **Projects Page**.

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

Earl Berg ([earl.berg@state.sd.us](mailto:earl.berg@state.sd.us) or 773-7191)  
 Kathryn Johnson ([kathryn.johnson@state.sd.us](mailto:kathryn.johnson@state.sd.us) or 773-3567)

## Value Engineering (VE)

By: Mike Hauptman-Magee, Keith Winter, and Hannah Covey

### Greetings from the VE Crew,

As some of you may know, the **Value Engineering (VE) Program** is an important process related to project development and a federal requirement. For those who may not know, a VE analysis combines creative and analytical skills to improve the value of our projects by examining their function. **Value** is described as the ratio of these functions to the cost. So, value can therefore be increased by either improving the function or reducing the cost. By evaluating the function instead of the purpose of a project, it has the tendency of adding alternatives. Although this process can lead to cost savings, the goal of the VE analysis is not to solely reduce cost, but **to increase project Value.**

**When do we perform a VE analysis?** Currently, per Title 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) part 627, projects on the National Highway System (NHS) receiving Federal assistance with an estimated total cost of \$50,000,000 or more; and Bridge projects on the NHS receiving Federal assistance with an estimated total cost of \$40,000,000, per are required to have a VE analysis.

**Workload:** With the rise in cost over the last few years, the number of required VE's has increased. To put this in perspective, in years past there was maybe one VE a year. From 2022 to the end of 2024, we have completed 9 studies, and we are currently tracking a potential for **11 more VE's by the end of 2026.** With this growth in the number of VE's, we will be on the lookout for creative and analytical team members in the near future. With that said, as we begin to compile our next VE study teams, we will be reaching out to ask for volunteers from various offices.

**Study Team:** A VE Team is made up of several multi-disciplinary members not directly involved in the design of the studied project. We typically strive to have at least 6 Team members for each study, this helps ensure a variety of creative input. Team members will be asked to commit to a 4-day workshop and a final presentation to upper management. Team members will need to communicate with their supervisor prior to participating on a VE Team. Studies are scheduled at least a month in advance to ensure there are no conflicts.

**If you are an open-minded individual interested in volunteering, feel free to reach out and let us know. The ideal candidate would be someone willing to learn a new process and be a part of a team of problem solvers. If you are new to Value Engineering, you do not need to worry. We spend the first day going over, step-by-step, what VE is and what the study will entail.**

### Contact:

[Mike.HauptmanMagee@state.sd.us](mailto:Mike.HauptmanMagee@state.sd.us)

[Keith.Winter@state.sd.us](mailto:Keith.Winter@state.sd.us)

[Hannah.Covey@state.sd.us](mailto:Hannah.Covey@state.sd.us)

## **Auditor's Anonymous**

### **What the Audits Team Looks for in a Work Order Agreement**

#### **The definition of a work order:**

A project-specific instrument between the SDDOT and a consultant that establishes payment, scope, and time frames for work to be conducted in accordance with the corresponding master retainer agreement.

1. The first thing that we look for in the Audits department is to make sure ALL paperwork is included in the packet. This should include the following:
  - 121 form (Please watch out for the following:)
    - Purpose codes
    - And Purpose Coding
  - 917 form (this is the legal binding form, please make sure all information is correct)
  - NTP (also called the Notice to Proceed)
    - Must be either letter or email
    - If it was a verbal NTP please make sure to include that in the letter or email
  - Scope
  - Estimate (For both Prime and Sub)
    - The PM (Project Manager) is responsible for making sure there is a contract between both the Prime and the Sub and the contract holds the Sub to all the same rules as the Prime
    - The sub must submit all the same documentation as the Prime.

#### **Overtime Approval** (this is only needed if there is going to be OT)

- If overtime is to be used it MUST be approved PRIOR to the work being done – either approved in the estimate or a written letter by the PM approving OT for the work order
2. Then we will check the dates on all forms, including:
    - Start Date
    - End Date
    - Expiration Date of Insurances
  3. We review the scope
    - We will look at all the dates in the scope compared to 121 and 917
    - Social Media aspects
    - Website Hosting
    - Any other items that are outside a standard scope
  4. We will finally review the estimate and compare it with the 121 and 917. This is where we look at the following:
    - Overhead rates
    - FCCM/Cost of Money rates
    - Confirm the estimate is calculated correctly
    - Vendors (Please make sure to include their estimates as well!)
    - Subconsultant estimates
    - Employee Payrates
    - Any other line-item claims

If you ever have any questions about any of this, please feel free to come see us! Even if it's before you send the work order for signatures, we are open to reviewing and answering questions! You can also refer to the consultant services manual.

## Annual SDDOT Bowling Tournament

It's that time of year again for the Annual SDDOT Bowling Tournament! This year, we would like to honor **Laura Blotske** for all her contributions in helping run past tournaments. Laura's favorite color was pink, and during this year's championship matches, we encourage everyone to wear pink in her memory. **Let's come together to honor our friend and colleague!**

This tournament has been happening since 1964, only missing in 1984 when the bowling alley had a fire, and 2020/2021 due to COVID. Last year we had 108 participants, and the same number this year!

## Memorial Lutheran Thanks SDDOT Sioux Falls Area staff



In January, Memorial Lutheran Church and school sent over a basket of goodies to the SDDOT Sioux Falls maintenance crews for all the work they do to keep the roads safe for travel.

**Pictured: Sioux Falls Maintenance Crew**

## Ipswich Maintenance Crew Visits Ipswich Life Skills Class

The Ipswich Maintenance crew had the pleasure of showing off one of their plow trucks to the students in Ipswich on Jan. 30, 2025.

"The kids are part of the Ipswich Life Skills class, they absolutely loved the truck. They asked a lot of questions about it to the guys," said **Jerry 'Bubba' Graham, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**.



The SDDOT employees pictured are **Casey Duvall, Highway Maintenance Worker**, (left) and **Hunter Graham, Highway Maintenance Worker**, (right).

## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Former Governor Kristi Noem proclaimed Jan. 21, 2025, as **Staff Sergeant Kevin A. Bergman Day** for his loyalty and leadership not only during his service in Afghanistan within the Armed Forces, but also as a bridge crew member with the SDDOT.



In his proclamation, Staff Sergeant Bergman was commended for over 21 years of dedicated service to the State of South Dakota and the country. **Kevin is a Journey Transportation Technician in the Rapid City Area.**



Pictured is **Ron Bren, Pierre Region Assistant Bridge Engineer**, (middle) who played a critical role in a recent ice recovery on Lake Oahe. Pictured with Ron are (left to right) **Jim Hyde, Pierre Region Operations Engineer; Craig Smith, Director of Operations; Secretary Joel Jundt, and Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer.**

Ron Bren, Pierre Region Assistant Bridge Engineer played a critical role in a recent ice recovery on Lake Oahe. Walworth County First Responders were notified of a vehicle with two individuals breaking through the ice near the Swan Creek Recreation Area, west of Akaska, on the evening of Jan. 15, 2025. It was determined due to many factors, that this was not a rescue operation, but a victim recovery.

A recovery plan was put in place and executed by the Pierre Fire Department Rescue and Dive Team, of which Ron is a volunteer. The rescue and dive teams and were met with numerous challenges. Due to the team's hard work and abilities, the victims of this tragic incident were able to be returned to their families on Jan. 23, 2025.

"Ron and other members of the Pierre Volunteer Fire Department are prime examples of what dedication to a task and being unwilling to accept defeat looks like. Thank you to all involved in the recovery effort for sharing their expertise and knowledge to ease the pain of family and friends during this tragic incident," said **Jeff Jensen, Walworth County Emergency Management.**

Congratulations and thank you to **Matt Wochnick, Madison Highway Maintenance Worker, on his recent military retirement.** Matt served with the S.D. National Guard served 21 years which included two deployments.

**Steve Schneider, Highway Maintenance Supervisor** noted, "Matt has been with the SDDOT for 12 years and is a valued member within the Department. We are grateful for his service to our country and look forward to working with him for many more years!"

### 2025 TOP 4 UNDER 40 FINALISTS

Congratulations to **Jeff Brink, Watertown Engineer Manager**, on being nominated as one of the finalists for the soon to be announced **Watertown Top 4 Under 40 award.**



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### February New Hires:

Christopher Fancher, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Custer  
 Faith Covey, Survey Crew Chief/Chief Driller - Pierre  
 Anthony Wika, Highway Maintenance Worker - Ipswich  
 Kasey Gastonguay, Senior Secretary - Winner  
 Kelsey Goodridge, Training Specialist - Timber Lake

### February Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Matthew Vobr, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Winner  
 Drew Miller, Standards Engineer - Pierre  
 Tyler Landwher, Project Technician - Belle Fourche  
 Lane Goldsmith, Aberdeen Area Engineer Manager - Aberdeen  
 Dwight Kelly, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell  
 Brent Morford, Region Bridge Engineer Supervisor - Pierre  
 Alysa Patterson, Assistant Pavement Engineer - Pierre/Winner  
 Jason Potrament, Highway Maintenance Worker - Woonsocket  
 Donel Lemler, Transportation Project Manager - Aberdeen  
 Elizabeth Johnson, Transportation Planning Engineer - Rapid City

### February Longevity:

June Hansen, Civil Rights Compliance Specialist – 40 years (Central Office)  
 Matt Stone, Region Materials Engineer – 40 years (Rapid City Region)



**June Hansen, Central Office Civil Rights Compliance Specialist,** received her **40-year** pin from **Craig Smith, Director of Operations.**

**Matt Stone, Rapid City Region Materials Engineer,** received his **40-year** pin from **Tom Horan, Rapid City Region Operations Engineer.**



**Scott Olson, Custer Survey Crew Chief,** (right) received his **30-year** pin from **Tim Wicks, Project Engineer Supervisor.**



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

**Jay Noem, Custer Transportation Project Engineer,** (right) received his **25-year** pin from **Tim Wicks, Project Engineer Supervisor.**



**Quincy Berger, Aberdeen Region Bridge Crew Lead Highway Maintenance Worker,** received his **15-year** pin from **Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operations Engineer Manager.**

**Stacy DuChene, Mitchell Senior Region Design Manager,** received her **10-year** pin from **Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer.**



**Danny Varilek, Winter Maintenance Specialist,** (middle) received his **10-year** pin from **Steve Kamarainen, Operations Maintenance Engineer,** and **Christina Bennett, Engineer Manager.**

### February Retirement:



**Wayne Hein, Aberdeen Region Traffic Technician,** (right) recently retired from SDDOT. Wayne is pictured receiving his **31-year** pin from **Matt Dorfschmidt, Aberdeen Region Traffic Engineer.**

### New Family Members:

**Tom Druyvestein, Engineering Supervisor in Road Design,** and his wife Chintal recently welcomed Thomas Dilan Druyvestein to their family.

He was born on Feb. 10, 2025, weighing 5 lbs. and 8 oz. and was 19 inches long.



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates

### In Sympathy:



Sympathy is extended to **Jim Costello, Asphalt Mix Design Engineer, (Central Lab- Pierre)** on the recent passing of his mother-in-law.

Joyce Welch passed away on Feb. 13, 2025, in Bassett, Nebraska.

A Memorial Service was held on Feb. 19, 2025, in the Ainsworth United Methodist Church. A private family inurnment preceded the service in the Ainsworth Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to **John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer**, on the recent passing of his mother. Alice Villbrandt passed away on Feb. 13, 2025, in Wessington Springs.

A funeral service was held on Feb. 18, 2025, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs. Burial followed at Prospect Hill Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to friends and family on the recent passing of **Orville (Gary) Doering**.

Gary, a former member of the **South Dakota State Railroad Board**, passed away on Jan. 27, 2025, in Woonsocket.

A funeral service was held on Feb. 1, 2025, at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron.

