

THE CONNECTOR

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2016



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Contractors finish paving work on Governor Richardson Road in Clarendon County on July 12. Additional money from the General Assembly will start projects that have been on hold due to lack of funding.

SCDOT receives new funding

By Pete Poore

Near the end of the 2016 session of the General Assembly, lawmakers passed Senate bill 1258 that provides new revenue through the transfer of other state funds from fees and existing taxes to SCDOT.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said two years spent by the legislators crafting the measure is a good first step. "SCDOT can now move forward with the planning and

development of several projects and needed repairs that have been deferred due to a lack of funding," said Hall.

The Secretary added that S. 1258 is not a long-term or complete solution for addressing the infrastructure needs of South Carolina. "The state is at a critical point where additional and rapid growth is putting extreme demands on a transportation system that's far from being in good condition," Hall added. SCDOT estimates the new revenue will provide about 15 percent of the additional funding needed to bring

the highway system up to good over a 10-year period.

The bill is primarily known for its funding components, but it also addresses several administrative and operational items. The agency looks forward to working with the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) to successfully develop a collaborative approach to prioritizing and financing the state's

See FUNDING page 20

Summary of New Funding Legislation

- Commonly referenced as providing \$215M in funding
- Comprised of \$149M in new, recurring funding to SCDOT and redirects \$65M in existing SCDOT funding to the new program
- Requires SCDOT to request \$65M in replacement funding annually as part of the budget in order to keep the Non Federal Aid paving program whole
- The funding resides with SCDOT and is to allocated to agency identified priorities. SCDOT expects to leverage some of the funding through the State Infrastructure Bank for some of the mega interstate projects.
- Transfers to SCDOT the fees and fines collected by DMV. (Estimated at \$84 million annually)
- Transfers most of the revenue from the auto sales tax to the State Highway Fund
- First \$50 million of auto sales tax to be used for bridge replacement and rehab and expansion and improvement of existing state roads, funds in excess of that to be used for expansion and improvement of existing interstates
- Current Commissioners will serve out the remainder of their terms
- Governor will appoint future Commissioners pursuant to new procedure
- Governor's appointees shall submitted for approval by Congressional district legislative delegations, which will then refer an approved appointee to the Joint Transportation Review Committee for screening, which will then submit approved appointees to the Senate for advice and consent
- Governor may remove Commissioners with prior approval of Congressional district legislative delegation
- Commission shall select the Secretary, with advice and consent of the Senate
- The Secretary serving on June 30, 2016, will not have to go through confirmation again
- Various administrative duties transferred from Commission to Secretary such as signal approval, curb cuts, contract approval, etc.
- Internal Audit function transferred to the State Auditor
- SIB projects must be considered by the Commission
- SIB project minimum set at \$25 million
- SIB projects must be prioritized under Act 114 criteria

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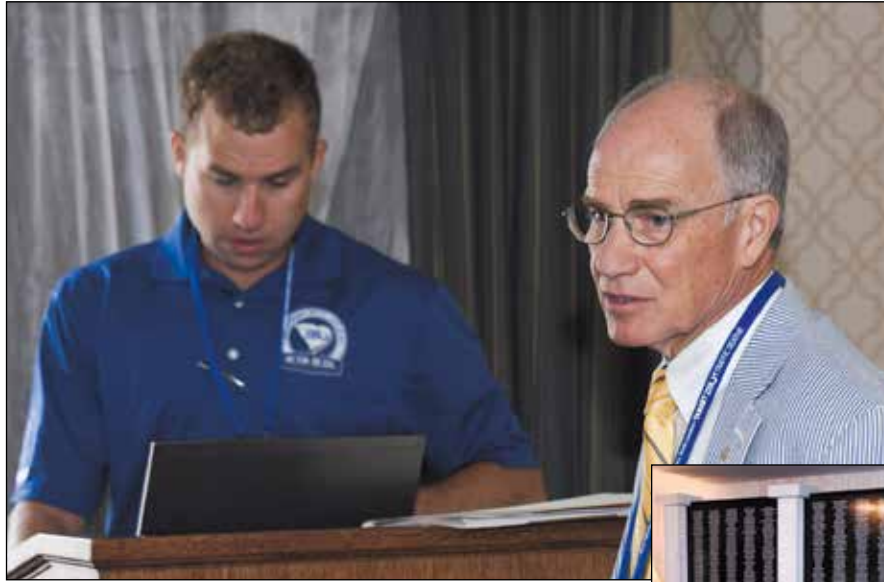
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Target Zero: One Team, One Goal

2016 Highway Safety Conference focuses on teamwork

The 2016 Highway Safety Conference theme was “Target Zero: One Team, One Goal” that aims for zero traffic deaths in South Carolina. The campaign combines efforts from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), local law enforcement officers and other interested transportation partners.



Berry Mattox, left, and Dick Jenkins of SCDOT’s Traffic Engineering lead a “Mythbusters” breakout session for the Pee Dee region to focus on actual facts and figures to expose myths on where the traffic problems are.



Workshops and lecture topics included: texting and driving, trees, new types of interchanges, self-driving vehicles and how each person can do their part to lower traffic fatalities.



Captain Gill Owens of the South Carolina Highway Patrol was one of many law enforcement officers participating in the conference.



A memory wall lists all the South Carolina traffic deaths in 2015.

South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission



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THE CONNECTOR

Winner of awards from S.C. Division, Public Relations Society of America; Carolinas Association of Business Communicators; S.C. Press Association and AASHTO.

Editor: Stan Shealy

Photography / Layout Editor: Rob Thompson

Editorial Board: Pete Poore, Bob Kudelka, Bonnie Cramer, Tasha Crumpton, Cody Crouch, Zoe Cook, Kim Corley and Drew Stewart.

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Christy Hall is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



South Carolina Press Association Associate Member

Wayne Sams Named Director of Internal Audit for SCDOT

By Bob Kudelka

Wayne Sams, formerly the Director of Internal Audit at the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority, has been named Director of Internal Audit for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT).

Recent legislation passed by the General Assembly created a Director of Internal Audit for SCDOT.

Sams, a Certified Public Accountant, reports to the State Auditor, George Kennedy. His office is located at SCDOT where he will work with Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** and her leadership team. Sams' first day in his new position was Sept. 6.

Sams received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Florida State University and had been with the State Housing Finance and Development Authority since 2009. He was responsible for conducting assurance and consulting engagements to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes at the Authority.

Previously, Sams was employed 19 years with the South Carolina State Auditor's Office. He is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association of S.C. and the S.C. State Internal Auditors Association.



Wayne Sams

Easy ways to report fraud, abuse

By Bob Kudelka

Allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct or wrongdoing involving South Carolina State agencies and their employees can be reported to the State Inspector General's Office in a few simple ways:

- By calling the SIG office hotline **1-855-723-7283**.

- Accessing the SIG internet site to file an online complaint at <http://oig.sc.gov/Pages/Complaint1.aspx>

- Through the U.S. mail to the address: **State Inspector General's Office, 111 Executive Center Drive, Enoree Building, Suite 204, Columbia, SC 29210.**

"You can provide information to the SIG where your confidentiality is guaranteed by me personally, as well as by statute," said State Inspector General Patrick Maley. "Additionally, the experience of the investigative staff will prevent using this information in any manner that could compromise confidentiality."

Maley said he has witnessed the "pride, effort, and sacrifices state employees put forth every day in State government's wide array of missions carried out by 60,000 employees in 100 agencies, commissions, boards, and universities involving \$26 billion."

"Unfortunately, it only takes a few employees committing fraud, corruption, gross mismanagement (waste), or misconduct to undermine the public's confidence and appreciation in what each of you do every day," Maley said.

South Carolina Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall said SCDOT has "zero tolerance" for illegal and unethical behavior. She stressed that any employee who reports allegations to the State Inspector General is guaranteed not to be the victim of retaliation.

"As state employees, we have the privilege of serving our great state," Hall said. "Along with that privilege is the responsibility to do our jobs ethically and lawfully. Let's work together to make our agency better."

South Carolina, Georgia work together on I-20 collaboration

By Kim Corley

South Carolina and Georgia officials announced a state partnership for an estimated \$75 million dollar project to replace the existing bridges on Interstate 20 over the Savannah River and Augusta Canal.

"We have identified this section of I-20 on South Carolina's project priority list for interstate widenings. This collaborative approach between Georgia and South Carolina will enable us to expedite the delivery of this much needed project for the citizens of the region," SCDOT Secretary **Christy Hall** said.

Hall and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Commissioner Russell R. McMurry joined their board members and legislators for the ceremonial signing of a joint resolution funding the project to enhance safety and operations on both sides of the Savannah River.

"Today is a very exciting day, historic in nature," McMurry said.

Over 50 years ago, Georgia and

South Carolina made a similar agreement when it was time to construct the twin 28-foot-wide, two-lane bridges to connect Interstate 20 at the Georgia/South Carolina border.

Over the course of half a century, design standards have changed and the traffic count has exceeded 60,000 vehicles per day, making the bridges obsolete. The decision to replace the existing bridges was determined to be the most beneficial long term solution after evaluating hydraulic concerns and future maintenance costs.

"Just seeing the need for the project and recognizing that things don't get cheaper over time, it costs more the longer you delay," Hall said.

The proposed replacement bridges will each provide three travel lanes with shoulders on the inside and outside from River Watch Parkway (Exit 200) in Georgia to West Martintown Road (Exit 1) in South Carolina, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles.

As a Abbeville County native, Hall has close ties to the Central



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Secretary Christy Hall and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Commissioner Russell R. McMurry joined their board members and legislators on July 13 for the ceremonial signing of a joint resolution funding the project to enhance safety and operations on both sides of the Savannah River.

Savannah River Area (CSRA) and sees the value of investing in this region. These bridges link the two states physically and financially.

"Due to economic growth on both sides of the river, it is imperative that the bridge infrastructure

meet modern demands, and so we are eager to work with South Carolina to move this project forward," McMurry said.

SCDOT and GDOT will pay a proportional share of preliminary engineering and construction costs. Georgia DOT will procure

the project through a design-build contract to expedite delivery. In design-build, the Department solicits qualified teams to present innovative solutions that meet the required scope of services and goals. The project is slated to be put out to contract in fall 2018.

SCDOT prepares for hurricane season with reversal drills

By Pete Poore

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) participated in actual roadside drills in a state lane-reversal hurricane evacuation exercise on June 8. This drill is held annually at the start of the hurricane season, beginning June 1 and ending on Nov. 30.

SCDOT is one of the agencies serving as part of “Team South Carolina” to coordinate and deploy assets that create four major evacuation routes where lanes are reversed. The lane reversals allow coastal residents and visitors to use all possible lanes to travel west away from the coast.

Those four routes are:

- U.S. 501 from Horry County to Marion County.
- I-26 from Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Calhoun and Lexington counties to the Columbia area.
- U.S. 21 from Beaufort County to U.S. 17 at Gardens Corner.
- U.S. 278 from Hilton Head.

During this exercise, SCDOT Maintenance workers travel to their pre-designated locations along these routes to deploy barrels and cones creating lane reversals. Workers deploy the barrels on roadsides and shoulders for the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews put barricades, barrels and cones in place as a drill to reverse interstate lanes along I-26 in Charleston on June 8. Crews across the state simulated lane reversals simultaneously with help from other state agencies.

drill so as to not interrupt traffic. However, during an actual evacuation, barrels would be deployed on the travel lanes, intersections and exits. Other SCDOT staff members are involved in monitoring the flow of traffic from the Traffic Management Centers and deploying traffic control devices such as message boards along the routes that would be reversed.

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** stressed

the importance of the annual exercise. “South Carolina conducts this drill to test our readiness prior to each hurricane season. With well over one million residents and visitors on the coast, our ability to move that many people and vehicles out of harm’s way is absolutely crucial.” He added, “Our SCDOT workers prepare and train prior to this statewide event and take their roles very seriously. They know that lives are

at stake,” he said.

Colvin went on to thank the other agencies involved in the coordination of the drill, including the S.C. Department of Public Safety and the Highway Patrol,

the National Guard, S.C. Department of Natural Resources and other state and local law enforcement agencies that provide traffic control along the lane reversal routes.



Minimizing traffic delays

Emergency work finished early in Districts 2, 4

By Bob Kudelka

Two emergency road closures presented challenges for District 4 and District 2 this summer. One had a 35-mile detour; the other forced a lane to close on a busy interstate highway.

In both cases, the emergency repairs were completed ahead of schedule.

On July 18, SCDOT closed the S.C. 9/S.C. 49 bridge over the Broad River in the Town of Lockhart to repair significant deterioration of structural steel beneath the deck. A 35-mile detour was put in place during the repair work to extend the life of the current structure and allow the bridge to remain in service until a new bridge can be constructed.

In what quickly became another challenge, engineers noticed the additional truck traffic on the detour route was causing areas of distress in the concrete bridge deck on S.C. 105 over the Pacolet River. A truck detour had to be installed to route trucks around this location.

To help traffic flow, District 4 District Engineering Administrator **John McCarter** and staff installed an additional detour to the south as another option for motorists.

On July 28, the S.C. 9 bridge over the Broad River was reopened after only 11 days of emergency repairs by United Infrastructure Group, Inc. The Department originally allotted 28 days for repairs. This timeframe was to ensure the bridge was reopened prior to school starting.

“United has been based out of Chester County for 90 years and understood the impact that this closure had on the community,” McCarter said.

“We are very happy to announce the reopening of the S.C. 9 bridge more than 2 weeks ahead of schedule and thank the community for its patience during these necessary repairs,” said SCDOT Commissioner **David E. “Gene” Branham Sr.**, representing the 5th Congressio-

nal District.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said it is vital to maintain the continuity of primary routes through rural communities in South Carolina – a key component of the state’s highway system.

“I would also like to thank our partner in this project, United Infrastructure Group, for their expedient work and partnership with our employees to restore this vital link to this community,” Hall said.

About 30 miles south of Lockhart, a new problem was occurring that would challenge District 2 District Engineering Administrator **Kevin McLaughlin** and his staff. A routine inspection by SCDOT bridge engineers showed cracking caused by deterioration of aging infrastructure on an Interstate 26 eastbound bridge deck.

SCDOT made the decision to close one eastbound lane of I-26 on a 2.5-mile portion in Newberry County to allow repairs around the clock. The repairs began on Sunday, July 31, and were expected to be finished by Aug. 5.

This part of I-26 has an average daily traffic count of 41,800 vehicles per day. Knowing it’s a key route for vacationers heading to S.C. beaches, it was crucial to have the lane back open by Aug. 6, a Saturday and heavy travel day.

McLaughlin and staff made sure plenty of message boards were in place letting motorists know of the closure. Engineers expected heavy congestion but fortunately there were various alternate routes if motorists exited the interstate before the closure.

On Thursday, Aug. 4, Charlotte-based Crowder Construction Co., finished the repairs ahead of schedule and I-26 once again had two lanes carrying eastbound traffic.

It was another example of SCDOT working in close partnership with its contractor to finish a job under challenging circumstances.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DISTRICT 4

Crews removed and replaced deteriorated structural steel under the S.C. 9 bridge over the Broad River in Lockhart.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Contractors make expedited repairs on an eastbound bridge on I-26 in Newberry County on Aug. 2. All lanes of traffic were reopened after paving was completed on Aug. 4.



Five SCDOT employees complete CPM program



Jason Allison
District 3



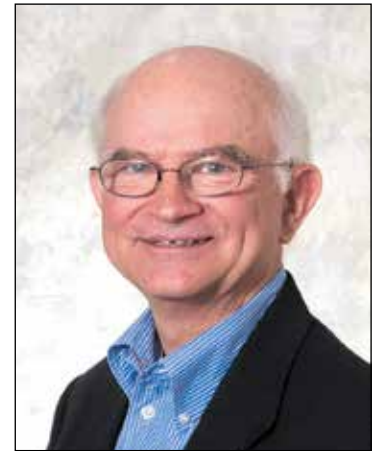
Wanda Day
District 2



Patti Gambill
Director of Construction Office



Ashleigh Sandel
District 1



Gary Schneider
Contracting

Five SCDOT employees graduated from the Certified Public Manager (CPM) program on May 19. The program is a nationally recognized professional development program for su-

perisors and managers in government. It is a training system that develops and measures competencies in the field of public management.

The five SCDOT employees finished at

least 300 hours of structured learning activities to complete the program conducted by the South Carolina Department of Administration.

Congratulations to SCDOT's **Jason**

Allison, Wanda Day, Patti Gambill, Ashleigh Sandel and Gary Schneider.

If you would like more information about professional development programs, visit www.admin.sc.gov.

Summer intern Moses Washington has big plans for future

By Kim Corley

Many interns come to work with SCDOT each summer, but few share **Moses Washington's** passion for public service. This Denmark native has lofty dreams. He wants to be your next president, although he won't be eligible to campaign until 2032.

For Washington, those aspirations start right here at SCDOT because he knows the tremendous value of summer internships and quickly realized SCDOT had the opportunity he was looking for.

Washington is working in the Affirmative Action Office of the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs. He has spent his summer attending meetings, career fairs and data mining to help improve SCDOT's underutilization percentage. He has also been assisting with SCDOT's 2016-2017 Affirmative Action Plan (AAP) for submission to the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of the AAP is the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action at SCDOT.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Moses Washington prepares a list of addresses where SCDOT job listings will be sent to improve the agency's hiring of under-utilized minorities.

Washington will soon return to Morehouse College in Atlanta to begin his sophomore year and serve as one of three student

trustees on the college's Board of Trustees. The political science major mapped out his future over a decade ago. When he was in

elementary school he visited the campus with his family and took a picture in front of the King Statue and "since that very moment,

the college has always felt like the place for me," he said. More importantly, he wants to join the ranks of exceptional alumni such as Martin Luther King Jr., Spike Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, and even South Carolina's very own former Representative Bakari Sellers.

Like Sellers, Washington also plans to attend law school. After that, he plans to return to his native Denmark to campaign for a seat in South Carolina's 90th state house district. "I want more love and cooperation than hate, and more wealth amongst people. If I can get this accomplished I truly believe that the world will improve," he said.

His long-term goal is to be elected President of the United States. He knows this will not be an easy task. However, he is willing to give everything he has in order to make his dream a reality.

Washington says, "I see my future as a chance to make the city I am from, the United States of America and the world a better place."

To learn more about internship opportunities with SCDOT, please contact Human Resources at (803) 737-1321.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Sgt. Chris Duke went beyond the call of duty when he rescued a motorist trapped in flood waters on Oct. 4, 2015. For his outstanding act, he was awarded the 2015 Deputy of the Year in Richland County by Sheriff Leon Lott.

Richland County Sheriff's Deputy saves a life during the October floods

By Kim Corley

During his 1981 Inaugural Address, President Ronald Reagan said, "Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look."

That quote was never more relevant than during the October flood. Men and women in law enforcement, emergency responders, National Guard and SCDOT worked together to save lives and prevent tragedy.

Seventeen people lost their lives during the flood. That number could have been 18, if not for the selfless act of Sgt. Chris Duke with the Richland County Sher-

iff's Department.

On the morning of Oct. 4, Archie Lee was on his way to Sunday morning services at Brookland Baptist Church. He underestimated the depth of the water on Killian Road and his car stalled. Lee called his fiancé, who called the Columbia Fire Department. Emergency responders were stretched thin and there was no guarantee they could reach him in time.

By sheer serendipity, Sgt. Duke found Lee while on patrol looking for flooded roads. "The rain was steady. We knew it was going to be bad," he said.

Police officers are not typically trained for water rescues, so Duke tried to wait until the fire

department arrived.

As the water continued to rise, Duke knew he was Lee's only hope for rescue. "It wasn't something you could turn away from or just sit and watch," he said. He parked his patrol car to block the road and grabbed his flashlight.

He carefully waded into the rushing flood waters. "I held my radio above my head in case I was swept away," he said. His radio could have been his only lifeline if he lost his footing in the chest deep water with debris all around.

He noticed a blue mustang near Lee's car. Fortunately, the car was unoccupied. "I decided to use it as a breakwater. The force of the water was steady but not enough to pin me. I had to duck

walk, basically," described Duke. "I walked with the current. It brought me down in front of Mr. Lee's car," he continued.

There he was able to grab Lee and guide him to safety on the other side where Lee's fiancé and another deputy were waiting. The whole ordeal lasted nearly an hour.

Duke was surprised when Lee contacted the Richland County Sheriff's Office after the rescue. "I wasn't going to toot my own horn, it's my job," he explained.

"I was really glad I took the chance," said Duke.

Sheriff Leon Lott awarded Duke the 2015 Deputy of the Year Award for his act of heroism.

Amazingly, this isn't the only

time Duke has saved a life. In 2008 he received the Life Saving Award for preventing a man from committing suicide. Again last July, he and a fellow deputy prevented a man from jumping off the Broad River Road overpass.

Duke will soon be heading to the University of Louisville to complete the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officer's Course. His goal is to advance into higher leadership positions within the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Duke joined the Richland County Sheriff's Office 13 years ago after graduating from North Georgia College, which is now the University of North Georgia.

SHEP turns 20

State Emergency Highway Program

By Bob Kudelka

It began in April 1996 with three trucks helping stranded motorists along interstates in Columbia.

Twenty years later, the State Highway Emergency Program – better known as SHEP – has helped more than 771,000 motorists across the state and is still going strong.

The motorists in our state know that when they see the blue trucks coming, help is on the way,” said Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**, during a 20th anniversary commemoration at the Traffic Management Center in Columbia in April. “Their impacts to the state’s economy, the public and the flow of traffic is countless and without measure.”

Even if you’ve been lucky enough not to have broken down on the highways, it’s safe to say you have been helped by SHEP.

Vehicles broken down on the side of the interstate can quickly cause traffic to back up for miles; the sooner they’re helped and on their way, the sooner traffic gets back to normal. SHEP responders are able to quickly change tires, perform basic repairs and carry small amounts of gasoline for those who’ve run out.

SHEP responders are also trained in clearing wrecked vehicles from travel lanes.

“Our drivers show a lot of compassion in what they do,” Hall said. “They are very dedicated and committed, and they are very well trained.”

ITS Coordinator **Dan Campbell**, who has overseen the statewide SHEP program since 2001, said: “It takes a special person to be a SHEP responder. Most of the times when you roll up on some-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT, the Department of Public Safety and State Highway Patrol invited the media to a news conference on April 25 to celebrate the progress and successes of the state’s emergency highway assistance program.

body it’s not a good situation.”

SHEP Incident Responder **Robbie Moore** has been with the program for 19 months.

“The main reason I got into the program was to help people out,” Moore said. “It’s an excellent program, and the public is glad to see us.”

It’s not easy getting into SHEP. Moore, a 25-year former firefighter with the City of Columbia, said it took him four years.

“The employees who get here are here for a career,” Moore said.

In his short career, Moore already has had some dramatic moments: helping with traffic control when a tanker fire scorched part of I-26, and setting up emergency cones to stop traffic on Bluff Road when floodwaters washed away bridges in the October flood.

“No two calls are ever the same,” Moore said.

Statewide Traffic Incident Management Coordinator **Mike Bowman** thanked the responders as well other agencies such as the State Highway Patrol, fire departments, EMS and local law enforcement. By working together, each helped make SHEP a success, Bowman said.

Campbell recalls the early days of SHEP, when there were six employees and three trucks.

“From the very first program, all we’ve done is grow,” Campbell said, adding there are 42 trucks now in the SHEP fleet.

The SHEP program is federally funded with an 80 percent/20 percent match. FHWA South Carolina Division Administrator Emily Lawton was on hand to help commemorate the anniversary. Also giving remarks were SCDPS Director Leroy Smith and Col. Mike Oliver of the Highway Pa-

trol, who gave an account of how he was once helped by SHEP.

Many of the early SHEP expansions came as built-in parts of new highway construction contracts. Along with traffic cameras and the 511 Travelers Information System, the SHEP program has enabled SCDOT to manage traffic day-to-day and during crises such as hurricane evacuations.

SHEP now serves motorists traveling in the Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, and Upstate (Cherokee, Spartanburg, Greenville and Anderson) areas.

Looking ahead to the future, Campbell sees continued expansion based on needs. While it is not cost-effective to have the program in low travel areas, as population centers expand, it’s a safe bet you’ll see more blue trucks helping our citizens.

THE SCDOT SHEP TEAM

Headquarters - Columbia

BRIAN O’CAIN
JAMES ZARPENTINE
JEFFREY GREGORY
DEAN GLOVER
CARTER BROWN
WILLIAM MOORE
STEPHEN McCALLUM
STANLEY FULLWOOD
JOHN CALLAHAN
MATTHEW PERRY

District 3 - Upstate

DON HUGHES
DAVID SAGE
RONDEL IRBY
BILL PRUITT
ROB HOLECK
JONATHAN HALL
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ROBERT TEMPLETON
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MIKE HAWES
CRAIG RUTHRUFF
ROBBY BLACK

District 4 - Rock Hill

SCOTT SHEHAN
THOMAS VOSS
LAUREN CLARKSON
ERNEST RODRIQUEZ
HAROLD CAUSEY
RICHARD ALLGOOD
SCOTT TOTTERROW
RAND STRATTON
SAMUEL BENTON
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JIMMY NORRIS
MATT ANDERSON
KEVIN KRETZ
MICHAEL TSAO
SABIAN SUGGS
DENNIS KINSLER
STEPHON GRAVES
BILLY GRIDER
MICHAEL BRYANT

District 5 - Florence

PRESTON ROGERS
OTIS DAVIS
ARTHUR ARD
PAUL ALLEN
JUSTIN TYLER

District 6 - Charleston

DANILO SANTOS
ERIC TIPTON
DANNY ATCHLEY
DON JOHNSTON
ANTHONY DEESE
JAMES GRANT
JASON POWELL
JAMES CARMICHAEL
TIM WALDEN
TED WURTHMAN

Latent flood damage found on bridges in Richland County

By Bob Kudelka

A section of S.C. 48 (Bluff Road) in Richland County is an example of the latent flood damage anticipated by Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall**.

As the agency worked to repair hundreds of roads and bridges damaged by the historic October 2015 flood, Hall expected less obvious damage would be discovered in coming months.

That's what happened along Bluff Road, where SCDOT bridge inspectors found flood damage at the foundations of three bridges, just as crews were to start a scheduled paving project, said District 1 Construction Engineer **Robbie Isgett**.

"These bridges had been opened to traffic," Isgett said. "These were not scheduled for closure."

Once the evidence of scour was found at each of the three bridges, an emergency contract was let and the bridges were closed in mid-April and a request for proposals went out on May 13. The design-build contract was awarded on May 26.

Because the damages were believed to be related to the October floods, the agency was able to pursue federal funds to assist in the cost of replacements.

The three bridges closed on Bluff Road were:

- 100 ft. structure at mile point 14.3 over Back Swamp.
- 151 ft. structure at mile point 17.1 over Cedar Creek.
- 76 ft. structure at mile point 18.7 over Dry Branch.

The replacement of the bridges was a design-build contract awarded to Crowder Construction of Charlotte with engineering by KCI of Rock Hill, Isgett said.

"The project's going very well so far," Isgett said in August. "The plans have gone through. The project has gone very well through the engineering phase and we're just starting construction."

The detour route is Old Bluff Road, but engineers found it to be in such poor condition that it required an emergency rehabilitation to improve conditions.

SCDOT is appreciative of the patience of the community, which has temporarily lost a route into Columbia.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Contractors remove a 76-foot bridge over Dry Branch in Richland County. Inspectors closed this bridge and two others on Bluff Road after finding additional problems related to the October 2015 floods.

"The challenge has been trying to expeditiously get the roadway back open for the community," Isgett said.

The estimate date for opening the bridge-

es to traffic is Dec. 31, 2016, with the final surface course being scheduled for March 2017 when temperatures are warm enough and seasonal paving restrictions end.

Wet weather can't dampen spirits at Toms Creek Road ribbon cutting

By Bob Kudelka

A heavy downpour coincided with the ribbon-cutting of the bridge over Toms Creek on Bluff Road in Richland County on April 21.

Yet for those in attendance, the rain stood little chance of ruining the occasion.

After all, this was a community that had dealt with the 1,000-year flood of October 2015 that washed out the bridge over Toms Creek in the first place.

Eastover Mayor Geraldene Robinson that during the five months without the bridge, people in the community had to travel 10 miles out of the way to visit family, friends and churches.

"As of today, we no longer have to do that," Robinson said. "Bridges do bring people together...We consider this a wonderful, wonderful occasion for us and those of us who live in the lower part of Richland County. Thank you to all of those who have taken a part in building this bridge. We truly see it

as a wonderful blessing."

The former structure over Bluff Road at Toms Creek was a concrete culvert damaged beyond repair in the October flood. The culvert was replaced with a 100-foot, flat slab bridge structure. The total cost for this project was just over \$1.5 million.

"This is a process of healing here in Lower Richland," said Representative Joseph H. Neal, District 70. "October 3 was a traumatic day. It's good to see healing take place. I thank those responsible for getting this bridge up and open."

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** thanked the state legislators representing the area, FHWA, DOT staff and contractors, for their "hard work, dedication and commitment."

"Thank you to the community for your patience," Hall said. "We're here to help and to serve the community."

Representative Jimmy C. Bales, District 80, said: "Secretary Hall, we're greatly appreciative of what you've done.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Transportation Secretary Christy Hall, Commissioner John Hardee, Commissioner Samuel Glover and local elected officials participate in a ribbon cutting for the new Bluff Road Bridge over Toms Creek in lower Richland County on April 22.

We want to say thank you to the DOT for this wonderful occasion and to the federal government for helping us fund it."

Senator Darrell Jackson,

District 21, FHWA South Carolina Division Administrator Emily Lawton and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott also spoke at the event.

"I am so proud of this moment, and I'm even prouder of the Lower Richland Community, because throughout this storm we grew even closer together," Lott said.

Workers' Memorial Day

SCDOT honors fallen employees

By Bob Kudelka

In a somber ceremony in front of Headquarters April 28, SCDOT honored its employees who have lost their lives on the job.

Empty black chairs, draped with reflective safety vests and hard hats on the seats, represented each worker lost.

"Sadly, we are gathered here today to remember 34 members of the SCDOT family that have made the ultimate sacrifice," Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said, standing in front of a large banner with each fallen employee's name.

"Each one did their jobs only inches from death on the highways day in and day out.

"Each one made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Each one will be missed.

"Each one left an emptiness that cannot be filled."

A concurrent resolution passed by South Carolina General Assembly declared April 28, 2016, as "Workers' Memorial Day" in tribute to the working men and women who have lost their lives because of workplace injuries and illnesses.

While SCDOT honored all agency employees who have lost their lives on the job, it highlighted three employees during the ceremony:

- **Timothy Gibson** heroically lost his life while working the 1,000-year flood in October 2015. Gibson worked for SCDOT's Richland Maintenance and was working in the Gill's Greek area of Garners Ferry Road when his SCDOT truck was swept away by rushing waters.

- **Henry Clay "Ray" Norris Jr.**, a high-

way maintenance worker at SCDOT Darlington Maintenance, died on the job on Oct. 20, 2015. He was struck by a truck while working in Darlington County.

- **Paul Fee**, a highway maintenance worker and a member of SCDOT Richland Maintenance, Blythewood Section Crew, was killed in February 2015. Fee and his crew were engaged in pothole patching operations in a temporary work zone on Farrow Road in Columbia when a pick-up truck drove into the work zone, striking him.

Family and crew members of Gibson, Norris and Fee attended the ceremony, along with several SCDOT employees and media members.

Each of the 34 names was read aloud by Director of Communications **Pete Poore**.

"Our prayer is no more names will be added to our banner," said Commission Chairman Mike Wooten after a moment of silence.

Wooten urged the public to concentrate on driving. Leaving for Columbia that morning from Murrells Inlet, Wooten decided to count the numbers of drivers he noticed who were talking on cell phones and texting.

"It was easier to count those not on phones and not texting," Wooten said. "We've got to be ever vigilant every minute of the day when we're around traffic."

Director of Occupational Safety & Health **Kenny Eargle** said during the previous week, which was National Work Zone Awareness Week, an Alabama DOT worker was killed and another injured picking up traffic cones.



"Please look out for that worker," Eargle said.

Other speakers included FHWA S.C. Administrator Emily Lawton and SCDOT Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart**, who gave a brief history of Workers Memorial day, which began in 1970.

"The legacy for our fallen colleagues is for us to keep going. Keep doing the job the best we can. Keep providing the best service to the state of South Carolina every day...we owe it to them."

Christy Hall
South Carolina
Secretary of Transportation

"Everyone deserves to come home at the end of the day," Leaphart said. "Workers' Memorial Day reminds us of our 34 fellow employees who didn't, and encourages us to take the steps to make our workplace safer."

Hall said she plans to have a ceremony next year with the goal of no additional deaths.

"The legacy for our fallen colleagues is for us to keep going," Hall said. "Keep doing the job the best we can. Keep providing the best service to the state of South Carolina every day...we owe it to them."



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE: The names of all 34 SCDOT employees who were killed on the job were read out loud during a ceremony at SCDOT headquarters on April 28. **LEFT:** Empty chairs with hard hats and vests were present to represent each of the fallen employees.

Workers' Memorial Day

We will never forget!

NAME	Date	District
RALPH EDWARD MOORE	12/21/1979	4
EARL W. CHARLES	12/4/1986	4
JAMES EVANS	7/25/1989	4
CHARLES OBIE VAUGHN	4 /27/1990	3
D. A. STEVENS JR.	8/30/1990	6
JOHNNY RANDOLPH JR.	8/11/1992	7
ROBERT N. RICE	3/25/1993	HQ
WILLIAM E. MURRAY	8/30/1993	4
SPENCER ROGERS	1/3/1994	1
MITCHELL DAVID SMITH	4/4/1994	6
CHARLES W. RICHARDS	8/27/1994	6
LARRY TYLER	4/16/1997	1
LARRY E. STEVENS	8/5/1997	2
EDWARD LEE BROOKS	9/2/1999	4
ROBERT (BOBBY) SHULER	2/10/1999	6
JIMMY TYRONE HARRISON	5/9/2000	1
AUTHUR LEE HAY	2/1/2001	7
TED C. YANDLE JR.	8/16/2001	1
BOBBY KING	4/11/2002	5
DAVID A. STAPLETON	8/11/2003	4
JAMES RUSSELL HINSON	10/13/2003	4
ALAN SNIDER	1/20/2005	7
MICHAEL A. WILSON	2/16/2006	1
ADRIAN DANIEL SMITH	4/17/2006	5
STANDRA JONES	12/6/2007	1
NOAH C. LARK	4/6/2011	3
NATHANIEL PRESTON	1/12/2012	7
NICHOLAS Z. JOHNSON	12/3/2012	1
PETER TARPLEY	10/1/2013	HQ
LANNY COPE	1/27/2014	1
DORA R. MARCHANT	8/7/2014	6
PAUL L. FEE	2/28/2015	1
TIMOTHY W. GIBSON	10/4/2015	1
HENRY C. (RAY) NORRIS JR.	10/20/2015	5



SCDOT was 'dream job' for Timothy Gibson

By Bob Kudelka

Since he was a kid, **Timothy Gibson** loved tractors and other heavy machinery.

Working at SCDOT's Richland Maintenance unit was his dream job, said his wife, Allison.

"He was extremely proud to be working for DOT," she said. "He never hesitated to go out and do his job. This is what we came to Columbia for; so he could work for Richland County (Maintenance), specifically. If he had to hit the road at 8 a.m., he'd get there at 7 to get office work out of the way."

During the 1,000-year flood in October 2015, Gibson was driving to assist another DOT crew with a tree that had fallen in a roadway when his truck was flipped by rushing waters and swept away.

Gibson, 45, had been with DOT since 2013. In addition to his wife, he was de-

voted to his three children including a teen-ager with cerebral palsy. "He was an outstanding father," Allison told The State newspaper after his death.

Allison and her children attended the April 28 memorial service for fallen SCDOT workers. Her husband was among those highlighted during the ceremony.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** said: "Mr. Gibson valiantly was working to keep the public safe during the October floods. He had been with us 3 years and had already made an impact within his unit."

Allison said her family was honored to be a part of the ceremony.

"We are very proud of Timothy," she said. "It doesn't really help ease the pain, but it does do something. I'm not going let anybody forget him, and the other workers shouldn't be forgotten, either. This is a sacrifice. They have large families and co-workers, and they are severely missed."



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Transportation Secretary Christy Hall and SCDOT Commissioners speak to the Gibson family during the April 28 ceremony honoring workers killed on the job.

Mentor-Protégé Program

Two-year program to develop DBE services

The SCDOT Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs has initiated a Mentor-Protégé Program for federal-aid and state-funded highway projects.

The primary objective of the program is to develop and grow the number of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) successfully participating on SCDOT projects and contracts, while increasing the capacity of services of DBE firms.

Mead & Hunt is an experienced engineering and architecture firm that has completed numerous SCDOT projects. The company is more than 100 years old.

DESA, Inc. is a Columbia-based DBE professional services firm that has been in business for 29 years.

Mead & Hunt is joining with DESA Inc. in a 24-month mentor-protégé partnership.

Mead & Hunt will be mentoring DESA with four major tasks.

- Design experience of utility coordination for SCDOT projects.
- Training in MicroStation and PowerGEOPAK software programs.
- Developing knowledge of SCDOT's design standards and criteria.
- Training on providing quality control designs.

SCDOT Business Development Manager Anthony Cromartie will be leading the program.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

From left: Sophia Vicker of DESA, Inc., Berry Still with Mead & Hunt, Diane Sumpter with DESA, Inc. and SCDOT Business Development Manager Anthony Cromartie meet to discuss the program's goals and objectives during the Aug. 11 kick-off meeting in Columbia.

National Walk at Lunch Day



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees, from left, Anne Futch, Doug Harper, Susan Johnson, Janet Tucker and Valeria Jamison-Yon participate in the 2016 National Walk At Lunch Day event at the South Carolina Statehouse grounds on April 28 during their lunch break.

SCDOT Blood Drive



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Building Services employee John Cornish gets his blood drawn by Collection Specialist Bernice Smith during the American Red Cross Blood Drive at SCDOT Headquarters on July 25.

Leland Colvin named Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Leland Colvin has agreed to serve as the Deputy Secretary for Engineering for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT).

Colvin has been with SCDOT for more than 21 years, most recently serving the past eight months as the Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering. He has served in various headquarters and field positions throughout SCDOT, including Program Manager for the Charleston area, Statewide Design/Build

Engineer, Director of Construction, Chief Engineer for Operations, and Chief Engineer for Project Delivery. In addition, he served as the Project Director for the demolition of the Grace and Pearman bridges after the Ravenel Bridge was constructed and provided oversight to both of our recent FEMA projects.

Despite being a faithful Clemson fan, Colvin earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina and is a Registered Professional



Leland Colvin

Engineer in South Carolina.

He is married to the former Kelly Jenkins and is the proud father of two teenage daughters.

Randall Young named Chief Engineer for Project Delivery

Randall Young has been appointed Chief Engineer for Project Delivery.

Young began his career with SCDOT in 1994 as a summer intern and accepted a permanent position in 1996 upon graduation. He has served in various areas throughout the agency including both field and headquarters' positions. In 2007, he was promoted to the Midlands Regional Production Engineer within the Preconstruction Division, where he oversaw the design and project management within 14 counties.

Young earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University in 1996 and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business in 2002.

He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina.



Randall Young

Julie Barker to lead Upstate's RPG-4

Julie Barker, P.E. has accepted the position of Regional Production Engineer for the Upstate Region (RPG4) within the Preconstruction Division. Barker began her career with SCDOT in 1999 as a part-time employee assisting with projects within the Program Development East section of Preconstruction.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 2000, she took a permanent position with SCDOT

as a roadway designer.

She has spent the majority of her career serving in program management within the Preconstruction Division where she managed multiple programs including MPO, COG, Bridge, SIB, CMAQ, CTC, FTA and locally funded projects including Charleston and Dorchester County Sales Tax Programs. She has been serving as a Program Manager in the Midlands RPG since December 2006.

Barker is a registered Professional Engineer in the



Julie Barker

state of South Carolina.

Quattlebaum to lead Pee Dee's RPG-2

Leah Quattlebaum has accepted the position of Regional Production Engineer for the Pee Dee Region (RPG2) within the Preconstruction Division.

She began her career with SCDOT in 1998 as a summer intern and accepted a permanent position in 2001 after graduating from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. She has served in various roles within the agency including laboratory testing and

assistance with the development of Site Manager at the Office of Materials and Research and road design and project management within the Preconstruction Division.

She was promoted to Program Manager for RPG2 in January 2010 where she managed multiple programs including MPO, COG, SIB, LPA, Enhancement and locally funded projects including Horry County's 2007 Sales Tax Program.

Quattlebaum is a registered Professional Engi-



Leah Quattlebaum

neer in the state of South Carolina.

John Boylston to lead Midland's RPG-3

John Boylston has agreed to serve in the position of Regional Production Engineer for the Midlands Region (RPG3).

He is a 1990 graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Boylston worked in the private sector for 15 years with Florence & Hutcheson and LPA before accepting a position with SCDOT in 2006 as a Program Manager in the Lowcountry Region.

He served as Program Manager for both the Beaufort/Hilton Head and Charleston areas before being named Regional Production Engineer for the Lowcountry in 2014.

Boylston and his wife, Jackie, live in Forest Acres and have three daughters in college.

Boylston is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina and North Carolina.



John Boylston

Brent Rewis to lead Low Country's RPG-1

Brent Rewis has accepted the position of Regional Production Engineer for the Low Country Region (RPG1) within the Preconstruction Division.

He is a 1997 graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

After working for two years in industrial sales, Rewis began his career with SCDOT in 1999 as a Bridge Construction Engineer in the Charleston area.



Brent Rewis

He has served in various areas throughout the

agency including field and headquarters positions. He was promoted to Program Manager for RPG1 in 2010 where he managed multiple programs including Interstate, Bridge, MPO, COG, SIB, LPA, Enhancement and locally funded projects including Charleston, Dorchester, Beaufort and Berkeley County Sales Tax Programs.

Rewis is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina.

PROMOTIONS

Ronald Adams, promoted to trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on July 2.

Victor Ajide, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Charleston Construction on April 2.

Ann Altman, promoted to program manager I in Environmental on July 2.

Nikki Amaker, promoted to program coordinator I in Outdoor Advertising on June 17.

Cleveland Anderson, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on April 2.

William Anderson, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Georgetown Maintenance on July 17.

Charles Bates, promoted to trades specialist III at D4 – Pavement Repair and Preservation on July 2.

Philip Bethea, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Darlington Construction on July 2.

Michael Biege, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at District 3 Office on July 17.

William Black, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Office on July 17.

Buddie Blackwell, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on April 2.

Ralph Bodiford, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Aiken Construction on May 17.

Scott Bohner, promoted to trades specialist IV at Oconee Maintenance on April 17.

Dustin Bolding, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on July 2.

Raymond Bond, promoted to mechanic III at Oconee Maintenance on July 17.

Shawn Buchanan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Lexington Construction on May 17.

Richard Burns, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Sumter Maintenance on July 2.

Quentin Butt, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on May 2.

Kevin Bykalo, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I in RPG 1 – Lowcountry on May 17.

Jason Byrd, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Rich-

land Construction on May 17.

Sheron Chandler, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on July 17.

Bryan Childers, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on May 17.

Georgane Coggins, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in Pavement Management on April 17.

Bryan Colon, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on May 17.

Leland Colvin, promoted to Deputy Secretary for Engineering on June 17.

Norma Corley, promoted to administrative assistant at Saluda Construction on May 2.

Eddy Cox, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 2.

Thaire Daley, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on April 17.

John David, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on July 2.

Brady Davis, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on April 2.

Justin Davis, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on May 2.

William Deas, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on April 2.

Karen Dent, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Abbeville Construction on May 17.

William Edwards, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on July 17.

Terry Epps, promoted to trades specialist III at Union Maintenance on April 2.

Brian Evans, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on April 17.

David Figus, promoted to chief geodetic technician at District 3 Office on July 17.

Charles Fralix, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at D6 – Bridge Inspection on May 2.

Mary Fulton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Office of Materials and Research on April 17.

Sarah Gaffney, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Charleston Construction on July 17.

Michael Garrett, promoted to

engineer/associate engineer II at Spartanburg Construction on May 17.

James Godbolt, promoted to trades specialist V at Darlington Maintenance on April 2.

Harold Gordon, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on April 17.

Terry Greene, promoted to trades specialist V at Union Maintenance on April 2.

Caleb Gunter, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Office of Materials and Research on July 2.

Joe Ham, promoted to trades specialist IV at Florence Maintenance on May 2.

Christopher Hammond, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on May 17.

Charles Harbaugh, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Cherokee Construction on May 2.

Larry Harvey, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on May 2.

Justin Harvey, promoted to chief geodetic technician at D4 – Special Projects on May 17.

Jason Hathcock, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on May 2.

Ronneal Haynes, promoted to trades specialist IV at Colleton Maintenance on April 17.

Russell Hinson, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on July 2.

Danzell Hubbard, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on July 2.

Brandon Hunter, promoted to mechanic II at Charleston Maintenance on May 2.

Crystal Hyatt, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Office of Materials and Research on May 17.

Jeremy Jackson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Marion Construction on April 17.

Willie Jamison, promoted to trades specialist IV at Orangeburg Maintenance on July 17.

Ruben Johnson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Edgefield Maintenance on April 17.

Yelena Kalashnikova, promoted to program manager II in Road Data Services on June 17.

Jeffrey Kelley, promoted to trades specialist V at D3 – Main-

tenance Operations on July 2.

Jason King, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on July 2.

Jack Locklair, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in Rights of Way on July 17.

Chad Long, promoted to program manager II in Environmental on June 2.

John Matheny, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Office of Materials and Research on April 2.

Ryan McAlister, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on July 17.

Joseph McBreairty, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on July 2.

Willie McConnell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Traffic Engineering on July 17.

Michael McKenzie, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Anderson Construction on May 17.

Jacob Meetze, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 – PeeDee on April 17.

Justin Melton, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on July 2.

Dustin Meritt, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 2.

Randall Miller, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Oconee Maintenance on July 2.

Renee Miller-Cotton, promoted to program manager I in Intermodal Planning on July 2.

Marvin Mills, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on May 2.

Brandon Mills, promoted to trades specialist III at D6 - Bridge Inspection on May 2.

Brandon Minich, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 2.

Timothy Murphy, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on July 17.

Gary Nicholson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at District 3 Office on July 17.

James Norton, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on May 17.

Randy O'Connor, promoted to trades specialist III at D3 – Maintenance Operations on July 17.

Lane Perry, promoted to

trades specialist IV at Lexington Maintenance on May 2.

David Prescott, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on May 17.

Joshua Puckett, promoted to trades specialist III at Calhoun Maintenance on July 2.

Robert Pulaski, promoted to supply specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on July 2.

Jeremy Redding, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on July 2.

Timothy Reid, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on April 2.

Clayton Richter, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Office of the Director of Construction on April 2.

Franklyn Robertson, promoted to trades specialist III at Hampton Maintenance on July 2.

Martin Rogers, promoted to mechanic III at Greenville Maintenance on July 2.

David Rothrock, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 2.

Alfred Rouse, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on May 17.

Jack Schappell, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on July 17.

Larry Shumpert, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on July 2.

John Sims, promoted to trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on May 17.

John Singletary, promoted to associate geodetic technician at York Construction on May 2.

James Smith, promoted to trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance on July 2.

Angela Solomon, promoted to trades specialist IV at Hampton Maintenance on May 17.

Cody Sones, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on May 17.

William Spann, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on April 2.

Charlie Spann, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on April 2.

Dewey Stokes, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Office of Materials and Research on July 17.

PROMOTIONS (CONTINUED)

Ricky Stone, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on May 2.

Jesse Tanner, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on April 2.

Frederick Thompson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 3 Office on May 17.

Michael Thompson, promoted to trades specialist V at D3 – Maintenance Operations on May 2.

Kevin Tisdale, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on July 2.

Latricia Trapp, promoted to supply manager II at Supply Depot on May 17.

Leon Tria, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Charleston Construction on May 17.

Joshua Upchurch, promoted to trades specialist IV at Cherokee Maintenance on July 2.

James Walden, promoted to engineer/

associate engineer III in RPG 4 – Upstate on May 17.

Corey Watkins, promoted to trades specialist IV at Lexington Maintenance on June 17.

Marla Watson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 – Low-country on April 2.

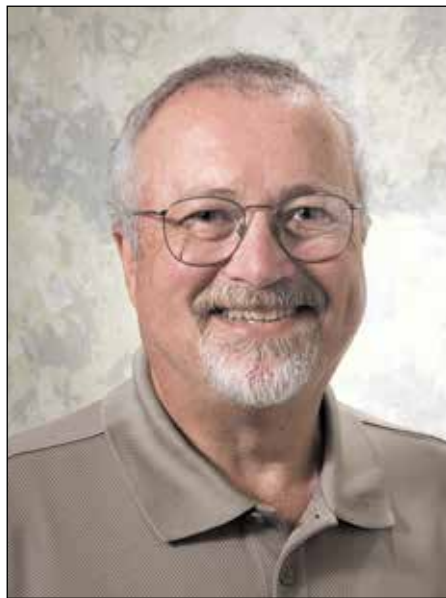
Michael Wilbanks, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on May 17.

Marvin Zeigler, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on April 17.

RETIREMENTS



Jack Craft
46 Years of Service



Perry Huckabee
35 Years of Service

Willie Anderson, retired from Laurens Maintenance on June 30.

Joseph Berry, retired from Dorchester Maintenance on July 22.

Harold Boulware, retired from Chester Maintenance on July 5.

Johnny Bradley, retired from Pickens Maintenance on May 1.

Franklin Brickle, retired from Office of Materials and Research on May 31.

Gary Brock, retired from Chesterfield Maintenance on May 6.

Beacham Brooker, retired from Legal Services on June 30.

Jan Chapman, retired from Saluda Construction on June 30.

Patrick Connor, retired from Calhoun Maintenance on June 30.

Jack Craft, retired from Lexington Maintenance on March 31.

Sharon Dantzler, retired from Office of Materials and Research on April 30.

David Debose, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on July 31.

Jerald Drafts, retired from Lexington Maintenance on May 20.

Kevin Edwards, retired from Bamberg Construction on April 29.

Wilson Elgin, retired from RPG 4 - Upstate on April 30.

Dorothy Erwin, retired from Outdoor Advertising on June 16.

Earl Evans, retired from Road Data Services on July 29.

Ken Felder, retired from SHEP - Columbia on July 31.

Lynn Fulmer, retired from Supply Depot on June 16.

Frederick Gamage, retired from Lancaster Maintenance on May 1.

Delores Gilmore, retired from Human Resources on April 1.

Hubert Griffin, retired from Laurens Maintenance on July 12.

Clifford Haltiwanger, retired from Lexington Maintenance on April 29.

Wanda Harrelson, retired from Mari-on Maintenance on May 16.

Tommy Hayes, retired from Dillon Maintenance on June 30.

James Herron, retired from Bamberg Maintenance on July 24.

Alfred Heyward, retired from Jasper Maintenance on July 14.

Timothy Houck, retired from Equipment Service Depot on April 18.

Merritt. P. "Perry" Huckabee Jr., retired from Supply Depot on March 19.

James Jackson, retired from Chester Maintenance on April 11.

Johnnie Koon, retired from D1 – Bridge Maintenance on June 6.

Edwin Lindsey, retired from Dorchester Surveys on July 31.

Freddie McAlister, retired from Oconee Maintenance on July 31.

John McCurdy, retired from Charleston Maintenance on April 29.

John McGee, retired from Greenwood Maintenance on July 8.

Sammie Moseley, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on July 11.

William Nowlen, retired from Kershaw Maintenance on July 15.

Steve Nowlin, retired from Newberry Maintenance on June 28.

Johnny Plair, retired from Edgefield Maintenance on June 30.

James Price, retired from Anderson Construction on June 1.

Tyrone Rich, retired from Florence Maintenance on July 31.

Debbie Robinson, retired from Road Data Services on July 6.

Vickie Stephens, retired from Procurement on May 10.

David Wannamaker, retired from Calhoun Maintenance on May 31.

Vernon Wentzky, retired from Anderson Maintenance on June 10.

Sateria West, retired from Procurement on May 31.

Terri Whitener-Barr, retired from Accounting on April 1.

Jerome Wigfall, retired from Calhoun Maintenance on June 30.

Buford Wilburn, retired from Right of Way - Central District on June 30.

Charles Wilson, retired from Cherokee Maintenance on July 1.

DEATHS



Lorraine K. Button

Lorraine K. Button, former administrative coordinator in Procurement, died Aug. 5.



Fred Calloway, trades specialist III with Spartanburg Maintenance, died April 7.



Eric Fernandez, engineer/associate engineer I with Greenville Surveys, died July 5.



Ken Jumper Sr., former SCDOT motor pool supervisor, died Aug. 25.



Page Lever, former SCDOT traffic engineer, died June 14.



Anthony Owen, trades specialist V with Greenville Maintenance, died July 30.



Mark Taylor, trades specialist II with Lexington Maintenance, died May 27.



Noel Kyle Yobs, former SCDOT engineer, died April 30.

2016 EQUIPMENT ROADEO CONTESTANTS

Russell Alston.....	Kershaw Maintenance
Leroy Anderson	Saluda Maintenance
Trenton Benton	Colleton Maintenance
William Blackwell.....	Kershaw Maintenance
Dock Bowick	McCormick Maintenance
James Bradley	Dorchester Maintenance
John Branham	York Maintenance
Melvin Brown	District 4 Pavement
James Buckner	Laurens Maintenance
Donald Bunch	Berekeley Maintenance
Scott Burgess	Lexington Maintenance
Craig Calhoun.....	Charleston Maintenance
Scott Canup	Spartanburg Maintenance
John Carmichael.....	Dillon Maintenance
James Catoe	Kershaw Maintenance
Wilshawn Commander	Darlington Maintenance
Eric Corley.....	Saluda Maintenance
Robbie Craig.....	Greenville Maintenance
Jerome Cunningham.....	Richland Maintenance
John Davis	Saluda Maintenance
William Dingle	Clarendon Maintenance
Josh Durham.....	Oconee Maintenance
Steven Ellison.....	Spartanburg Maintenance
Terry Epps, Jr.....	Union Maintenance
Patrick Fowler.....	Spartanburg Maintenance
Chase Galbreath	Pickens Maintenance
Robert Galbreath	Pickens Maintenance
Elijah Gary.....	Kershaw Maintenance
Jeffery Gasque.....	Horry Maintenance
Richard Green.....	McCormick Maintenance
Matthews Henderson	Orangeburg Maintenance
Allen Heyward.....	Lexington Maintenance
Jeff Kelley.....	District 3 Office
Vernon Lingerfeldt.....	District 4 Crew
Charles Long.....	Saluda Maintenance
Beverly Lowery	Lee Maintenance
Bernard Lucus	Florence Maintenance
Cody McAbee.....	York Maintenance
Tim McAlister	Oconee Maintenance
Samuel McDaniel.....	Kershaw Maintenance
Chad McMillian	Colleton Maintenance
Samuel Miller	Charleston Maintenance
Rhett Millhouse.....	Orangeburg Maintenance
Brandon Minich	Spartanburg Maintenance
Terry Morris.....	Newberry Maintenance
Joe Padgett	Greenwood Maintenance
Robert Perkins.....	Marlboro Maintenance
John Quick.....	Marlboro Maintenance
William Rabon.....	Horry Maintenance
Chuck Reynolds	Spartanburg Maintenance
Derek Roberts.....	Colleton Maintenance
Franklyn Robertson.....	Hampton Maintenance
Dean Robinson	York Maintenance
Michael Rowen.....	Marlboro Maintenance
Matthew Sanford.....	Charleston Maintenance
Raymond Schmuck	Anderson Maintenance
Jeremy Shrewsberry	York Maintenance
Jermaine Smalls	Colleton Maintenance
Angela Solomon	Hampton Maintenance
Joe Still.....	Barnwell Maintenance
Richard Stroble.....	Charleston Maintenance
Gene Taylor	Kershaw Maintenance
Christopher Taylor.....	Calhoun Maintenance
Shayne VanHorn	Charleston Maintenance
Randy Ware.....	Newberry Maintenance
Corey Watkins.....	Lexington Maintenance
John Watson, Jr.....	Cherokee Maintenance
Cliff Weaver.....	Spartanburg Maintenance
John Williams	Bamberg Maintenance
Jamie Williams.....	Orangeburg Maintenance
Johua Williams	Calhoun Maintenance
Ben Yost	Chester Maintenance
Steve Zaretska	Darlington Maintenance

ROADEO from page 16

6th Congressional District; Commissioner Ben Davis Jr., 3rd Congressional District; and David "Gene" Branham Sr., 5th Congressional District.

In addition to Hall, speakers at the ceremony included Colvin and **Andy Leaphart**, who thanked the District Engineering Administrators and Resident Maintenance Engineers for their support and leadership in the field.

The competition took place over two days during sweltering heat in Columbia. The team competition ended by the closest of margins: only 3 points separated first and third places, Leaphart said.

District 4 took first place; District 2, second place; and District 3, third.

Individual first and second place winners gain a spot on the statewide team that will try to defend SCDOT's championship in the Southeastern Regional event in September. Georgia DOT is the host.

"Tennessee is one of the toughest competitors, and

I'm sure after getting beat last year, they're going to go back and sharpen their tools," Riddle said.

"They'll probably be out to get us," joked **Charles Long**, of District 2, winner of the statewide backhoe event.

Long is looking forward to trying to keep the champions trophy in the Palmetto State, but realizes the competition only gets tougher. Last year, Long placed first in the Southeast by beating a competitor from Louisiana by one second.

"It's a team effort; it's not about one person," Long said. "It means a lot to represent, to go on to Savannah and compete."

Riddle thanked this year's Committee members including **Robert Dickinson, Alan Kozusko, Steve Coleman, Tony Thompson, Todd Cook, Treasure Scarborough, Michael Black, Kirk Richards, Efreem Dantzler, Tina Kennedy and Aaron Williams.**

Riddle also thanked the SCDOT Commissioners and Senior staff, Director of Maintenance staff, Supply and Equipment Division staff, Agency Events staff, Occupational Safety and Health staff, Richland Maintenance, **John Kennedy, Mark Staton**, and the Roadeo judges.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the county, district and state winners of the 2016 SCDOT Equipment Operators' Roadeo and Safety Training.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON AND CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR



Judges clock time, watch for hit cones, measure distances from objects and note safety violations as employees complete complex tasks during the competition.





Roadeo Judge Ken Cogley watches a dump truck maneuver through a course of serpentine barrels as part of the skills competition.

Judges for the event included: Efrem Dantzler, Walt Holladay, Rusty Snider, Robby Bean, Joey King, Tony Thompson, Ken Collins, Brett Montgomery, Sheila James, Chris Muir, Scarborough Treasure, Paul Driggers, James Bowick, Ken Caldwell, Lorena Pate, Thomas Breland, Jeff Brown, Carl Meetze, Todd Cook, Ryan McAlister, Steven Shock, Roger Smith, David Brandyburg, Aaron Williams, Debra Jerideau, John Priestler, George Lewis, Jennifer Gruber, Kirk Richards, Michael Black, Tommie Parker, Jerry Gosnell, Ken Cogley, Steve Coleman, Josh Readett, Lee Oliver, Susan Connell, Alan Kozusko, Justin Starling, Chantago Gilcrest, John Backstrom and Art Singley.



ABOVE: Assistant Director of Supply and Equipment and Roadeo Coordinator Sam Riddle lays out all the competition ground rules at the beginning of the competition.

LEFT: Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin thanks all the participants in the training exercise for the hard work they do everyday for the citizens of South Carolina.

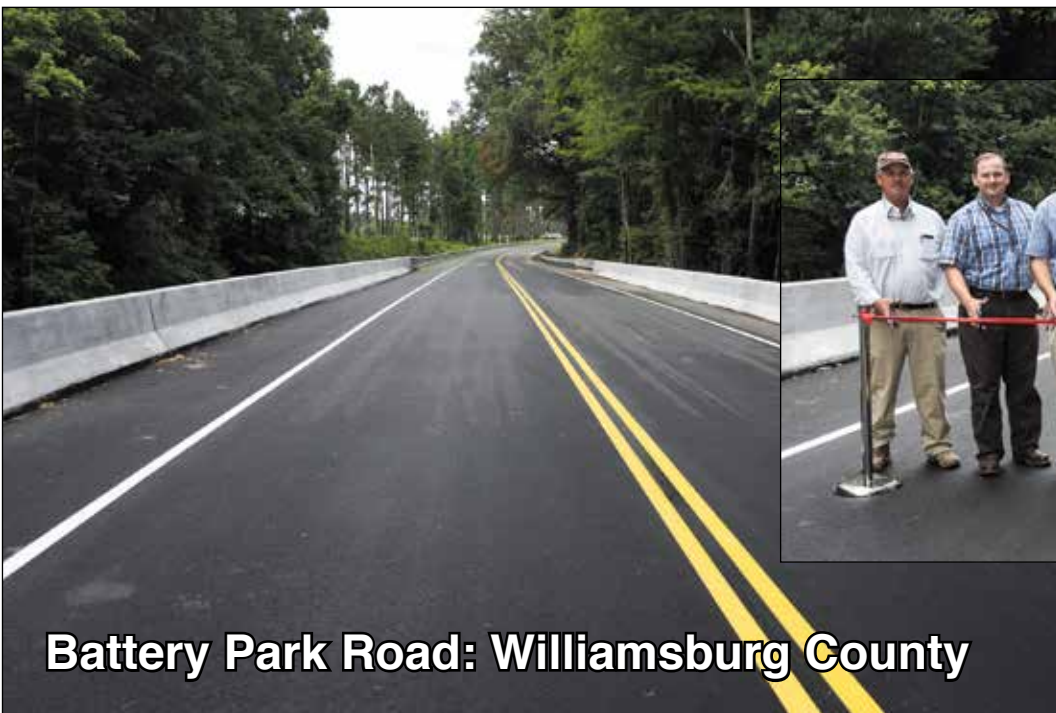
RIGHT: How would you like to parallel park a tractor with a lowboy trailer? SCDOT maintenance crews have to maneuver equipment like this every day.



Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin, Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall and SCDOT Chairman Mike Wooten presented plaques to the top three winners in the Tractor Truck with Lowboy, Tractor with Mower, Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Backhoe and Motor Grader categories.



Repairs completed, ribbons cut, roads opened



Battery Park Road: Williamsburg County



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT engineers, local legislators, a contractor and local resident cut the ribbon on the new 164-foot bridge on Battery Park Road in Williamsburg County on July 1. From left are: Local resident Herbie Brown; Tim McGee and A.J. Bostic of SCDOT's District 5 Bridge Construction Office; Rep. Cezar McKnight; Williamsburg County Supervisor Stanley Pasley; Senator Ronnie Sabb; SCDOT Chief Engineer for Operations Andy Leaphart; Jason Thompson of District 5 Bridge Construction Office; SCDOT Legislative Liaison Allen Hutto; and Bill Hedgpath of United Infrastructure Group.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The Belfast Road Bridge replacement project over Garrison Creek in Newberry County was completed and opened to traffic on July 8. From left are: Chris Boyd and Seth Bennett with Crowder Construction Company; SCDOT Laurens Resident Construction Engineer Jeremy Hodges; S.C. Representative Walt McLeod; SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin; SCDOT District 2 Engineering Administrator Kevin McLaughlin; SCDOT District 2 Construction Engineer Lee Neighbors; SCDOT Legislative Liaison Allen Hutto.



Belfast Road Bridge: Newberry County

FUNDING from page 1

pendence of an effective internal audit group.

The new legislation also returns many of the day-to-day administrative duties back to the Secretary of Transportation, which allows the SCDOT Commission to focus on important policy issues. The governance provision for SCDOT is very complex and continues to be reviewed to clearly sort out accountability is-

sues for the agency.

Secretary Hall said the team at SCDOT has already rolled up its sleeves and is ready to move forward. "While we wait for the new funding to accumulate over the next year or so, we have already started the process of outlining a plan to deliver the complex interstate and bridge projects over the next decade. We will also diligently imple-

ment the administrative reforms and use this as an opportunity to increase our transparency to the public through revised reporting to the SCDOT Commission," Hall said.

The Secretary anticipates that the call for reform and funding of transportation infrastructure will continue. "S. 1258 is just the beginning. I am looking forward to the 2017 legislative

session where we will continue the dialogue over the search for sustainable sources of revenue.

The goal will be to bring us much closer to providing a highway system in good condition that will be able to adapt as South Carolina continues to grow and to ensure our citizens that the funds are spent wisely on statewide priorities" Hall said.

infrastructure needs.

SCDOT also welcomes the opportunity to partner with the State Auditor to ensure the inde-



Drawdebil Road: Lexington County

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees and contractor L-J, Inc., cut the ribbon after the completion of major road and culvert repairs to Drawdebil Road in Lexington County on June 14.



Jacobs Mill Pond Road: Richland County

SCDOT and Sloan Construction cut the ribbon and opened Jacobs Mill Pond Road on June 22.



Governor Richardson Road: Clarendon County

SCDOT, Infrastructure Consulting and local residents cut the ribbon for the new bridge on Governor Richardson Road in Clarendon County on July 15.



Rockbridge Road: Richland County

Dignitaries and contractors cut the ribbon for the new bridge on Rockbridge Road in Richland County on June 7.



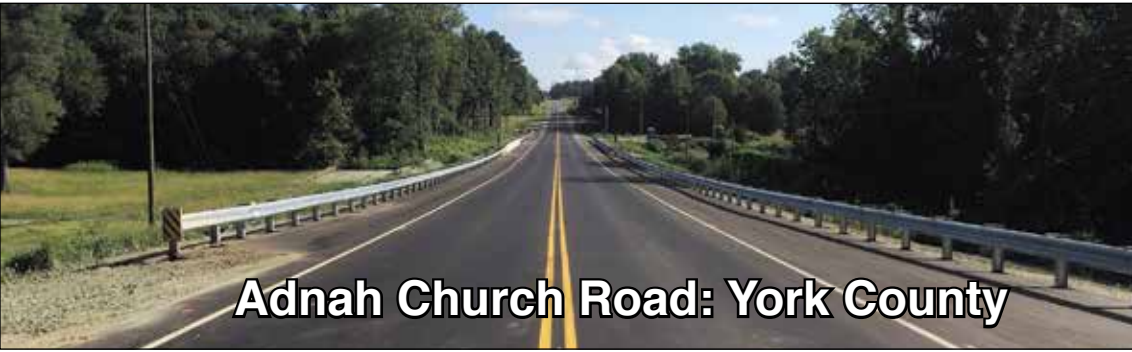
St. Paul Road: Clarendon County

SCDOT, Senator Kevin Johnson, Representative Robert Ridgeway, Taylor Brothers Construction and local residents open the newly repaired causeway over Cantey Bay on U.S. 15 (St. Paul Road) on July 22.



Plowden Mill Road: Clarendon County

SCDOT, contractors and Representative Robert Ridgeway cut the ribbon to open the new bridge on Plowden Mill Road in Clarendon County near Alcolu on July 15.



Adnah Church Road: York County

PHOTO BY DISTRICT 4

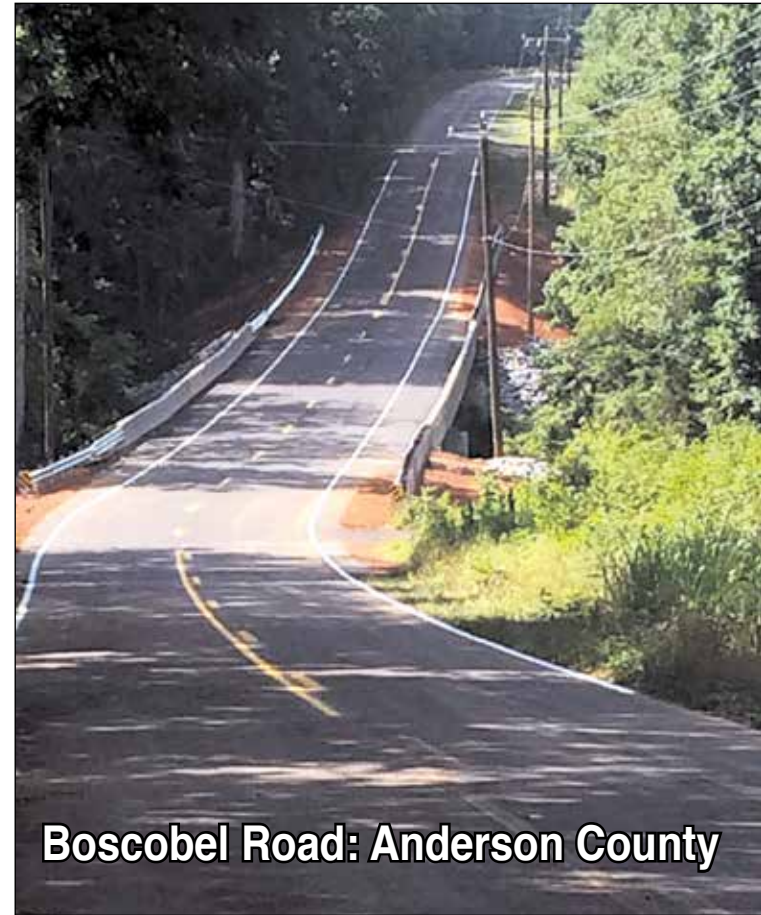
The Adnah Church Road (S-46-81) bridge near Rock Hill opened on Aug. 12 ahead of schedule and before school started back the next Monday.



Ridgeview Lake Road: Edgefield County

PHOTO BY ZACH HERRON/DISTRICT 2

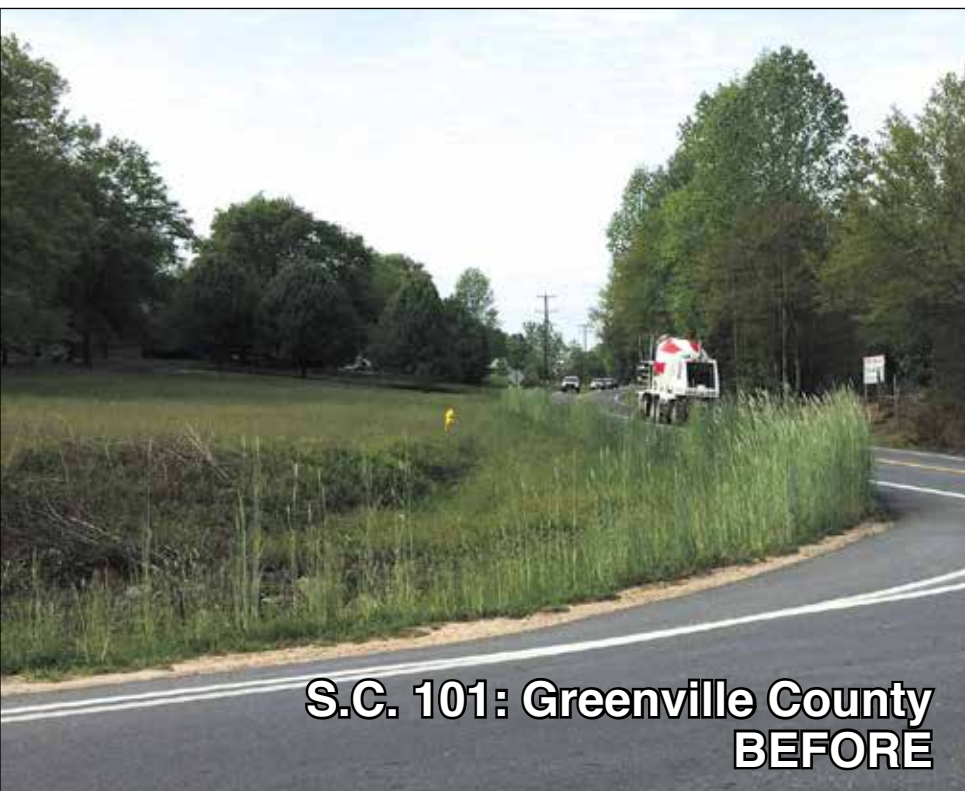
Ridgeview Lake Road (S-19-311) in Edgefield County, near Johnston, opened to traffic on March 16. SCDOT replaced a weight-restricted, 15-foot flat slab on timber bridge through the ACT 98 Bridge Program with a new bridge using H-piles and cored slab concrete. The new bridge is near many peach farms and will benefit the community.



Boscobel Road: Anderson County

PHOTO BY MICHAEL L. MCKENZIE/DISTRICT 2

The Boscobel Road bridge in Anderson county reopened on June 20.



S.C. 101: Greenville County BEFORE



S.C. 101: Greenville County AFTER

PHOTO BY DISTRICT 3

Greenville Maintenance shows how mowing operations improved visibility on S.C. 101.

2016 Disadvantage Business Development Forum

Office of Minority and Small Business Affairs shares information, opportunities

By Colette Swann
and Ann Solan
Minority and
Small Business Affairs

The Business Development Center (BDC) of the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs (MSBA), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, hosted the DBE Business Development Forum for certified Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) firms.

The forum was held at Saluda Shoals Park, River Center on Feb. 24-25. More than 280 people were in attendance. The theme for the Forum was DBEs Matters: Building Sustainable Partnerships.

The purpose of the forum was to provide DBEs with information and opportunities to grow their businesses within the transportation industry. At the forum, small businesses came together with prime contractors, consultants, SCDOT engineers, as well as with accomplished business professionals. Several panel discussions and workshop sessions were held over the two-day period.

Moderated by Carolyn Sawyer, former anchor of WIS-TV, the Forum held panel discussions on "Economic Development," "Alternative Funding Sources" and "Knowledge is Power – Ask the Experts." DBE Forum workshop topics included, "Successful Project Management," "Signing and Negotiation Contracts," "Bonding Education," and "Conflict and Dispute Resolution."

The purpose of these sessions was to give DBEs hands-on experience. Attendees participated in workshops on negotiating and signing contracts, how to successfully use project management skills to prepare estimates for contracts and the process and procedures of design build. The Partner Building session was equally exciting. This is where contractors, subcontractors, consultants and SCDOT staff came together to build long term partnerships.

Columbia Mayor Stephen



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Participants at the 2016 DBE Business Development Forum listen to speakers and panels and get hands-on experience in contract negotiations and preparing contract estimates.

Benjamin was the speaker at the Mayor's Business Enhancement Session and welcomed participants to the city. Other speakers included John Funny, President and CEO of Grice Consulting Group and Jane Jenkins Herlong, former Miss South Carolina and current author and motivational speaker.

"Great Forum! Great Networking! Feeling hopeful for better ways to market my business and obtain contracting opportunities," DBE Lasenta Lewis-Ellis said.

According to Training Manager for the Business Development Center and coordinator of the DBE Forum Colette Murray Swann, "The 2016 DBE Business Development

Forum was one of the most successful events that the Division of Minority and Small Business

Affairs hosted. Many of the topics covered issues that were important to DBEs and the Partner Building Session allowed small businesses to interact with larger



Greg Davis, center, and Todd Steagall, right, speak with Adrienne Lynn Sienkowski of Enviro AgScience.

firms that could potentially help in the growth of their businesses." She believes that this particular forum has raised the bar for future DBE Forums.

Contractors and sub-contractors needing information on how to find Lettings can visit the website http://www.scdot.org/doing/contractor_Prequalified.aspx



Panelist Parodio Maith of the U.S. Department of Energy meets with attendees after giving a talk about work at the Savannah River Site.



Columbia Mayor Stephen Benjamin was one of the speakers at the forum.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

*Acting District Engineer: Robert Dickinson (803) 737-6660
FAX: (803) 737-6401*

Lane Reversal: District 1 drills for hurricane traffic

**By Alan Kozusko,
Assistant District 1
Maintenance Engineer**

SCDOT is tasked to be at-the-ready for all the vicissitudes and inclemencies of the seasons. Storms happen all year long, but from June to November, it's hurricanes.

If there is anything good about a hurricane, it gives some warning as to if and when it will arrive—we have some time to mentally and physically prepare our minds, families and work schedule for what lies ahead. For District 1 and Lexington Maintenance in particular, we practice shutting down I-26 in preparation for receipt of full inbound traffic from the coast...the I-26 Lane Reversal Plan (LRP).

The I-26 LRP is “a systematic inter-agency endeavor to close and redirect all I-26 interchanges from I-77 to Charleston using multiple traffic control devices in order to safely facilitate the maxi-

mum available traffic moving in one inbound direction away from a coastal region calamity.”

The interchange switch-overs start at I-77 and move toward Charleston in order to allow S.C. Highway Patrol (SCHP), using cars and airplanes, to flush the eastbound lanes of traffic before westbound travelers are released to come this way.

The LRP starts in Lexington County. Crews from the main office, West Columbia, Batesburg, and Pelion place channeling devices to close I-26 East and direct that traffic up I-77 or off at U.S. 321, then close I-77 south onto I-26 east. SCHP then flushes traffic on I-26 east and clears the way. Time delays here are magnified in Charleston. Lexington Maintenance is exemplary in accomplishing the requirements for SCHP's flush in a record time of 13 minutes. The rest of the closures in the District are handled by Lexington and Sumter Maintenance and take another 40 minutes happening simultaneously with the eastbound flush.

Every piece of the plan is time-sensitive and communicated in real-time between the District Office, Headquarters, SCHP, Lexington and Sumter Maintenance offices and each crew in the field.

We have not had to do the real thing for years, but we will be ready if the order is given.

LEFT: Crews across the state took part in the drill on June 8.



A panoramic view of the crossover point of I-26 at I-77. This is where traffic coming in the eastbound lanes from Charleston will cross back into normal westbound lanes of traffic. It is also the central point of communication for crews in the field during the exercise.

Got news?

Contact Alan Kozusko at: 803-737-6420 or email him at KozuskoAR@scdot.org



Alan Kozusko

Heat Index:

Is it real and what does it mean?

Yes, the heat index is real! It is not something made up by weather people to help justify their poor forecasting records. Any cooling the body feels is a result of sweat evaporating off the skin.

When sweat evaporates, it goes into the air around the body. If that air is already “filled

up” with humidity, then less sweat can evaporate and we cool less...so we feel hotter. Check out the graph: it is interesting to see that with very low humidity there is actually a negative heat index...similar, but not the same, as the wind chill in winter.

**NOAA's National Weather Service
Heat Index
Temperature (°F)**

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	86	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity
 Caution
 Extreme Caution
 Danger
 Extreme Danger

COURTESY OF NOAA.GOV

LEFT: Sumter Maintenance's hurricane crew includes, from left: Toni Epps, Melinda Johnson, William Lowery, Janie Green, George Russ, Robert Maple, Ricardo Martino and Chris Geter. Not pictured: Heyward Wilson.

District 2 News

Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties

District Engineer:

Kevin McLaughlin

(864) 227-6971

FAX :

(864) 227-6567

Got news?

Contact Steve Coleman at 864-889-8024 or email him at ColemanWS@scdot.org.



Steve Coleman

District 2 has highway history on display

By Steve Coleman

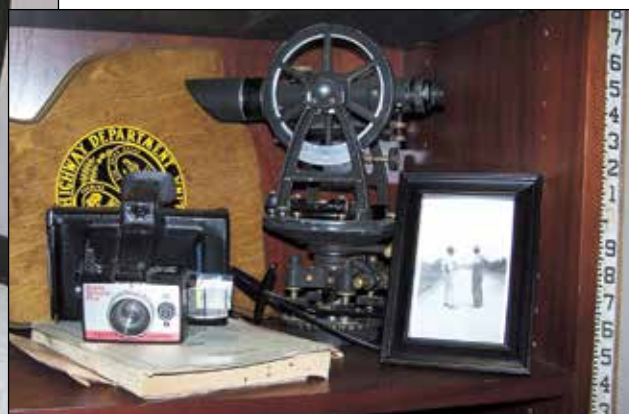
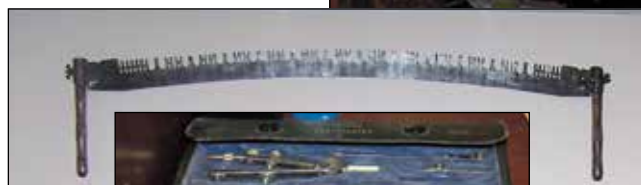
When you first enter the main entrance to the Engineering District 2 Office, you will notice a completely restored antique gasoline dispenser. If this item does not peak your interest, surely the items in our reception area will.

There you will find “tools of the trade” from long past. Objects such as a transit, grade rod, compass, and a two-man handsaw for cutting timber piles are to be

found.

Other curios are a brick from uptown Greenwood Main Street (once the widest Main Street in the world), a bench mark, various old engineering manuals, old pictures of maintenance workers on the job and miscellaneous office supplies no longer used in this age of technology.

For those looking for an official tour, please stop by during normal business hours and someone will be glad to assist.



SUMMER INTERNS VISIT SITE

Joe McCurry of Abbeville Construction gave District 2 summer interns a tour of the drill shaft foundation operation on the U.S. 378 bridge project over Little River in McCormick County. Above, left to right: Shaley Rice, a Clemson University student working at Greenwood Construction; Robert Coleman, a USC student working at Saluda Construction; and Wilson Sykes, a Clemson student working at Abbeville Construction. McCurry is in the background.



District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

*District Engineer: Stephanie Jackson-Amell (864) 241-1010
FAX (864) 241-1115*

District 3 assists with interstate crash

One lane of U.S. 25 was closed after a fiery crash involving three tractor trailers in Travelers Rest.

Travelers Rest police Chief Lance Crowe said one truck rear-ended another, which went crashing into the back of a third tractor trailer at the intersection of Highway 25 and State Park Road. The truck in the rear caught on fire. The flames destroyed much of the front of the vehicle.

The Travelers Rest Fire Department used an oil-absorbing product on liquid that spilled on the roadway and utilized our SCDOT Greenville Maintenance crew to lay down sand on top of the impacted areas.

Fortunately no injuries were reported.



LEFT: One truck in a three-vehicle accident on U.S. 25 was heavily damaged by fire.
BELOW: SCDOT's Greenville Maintenance puts down oil-absorbing product and sand to clean up a spill after the accident.



Two additional bridge projects completed with Act 98 funding



Perkins Creek: Oconee County



Jones Mill Road: Greenville County

Greenville Resident Construction Engineer **Ben Olson** reports that the Perkins Creek Bridge and Jones Mill Road bridges have reopened.

The Perkins Creek Bridge project in Oconee County consisted of replacing the existing bridge with a larger 80-foot span bridge over Perkins Creek. The Jones Mill Road bridge project in Greenville County consisted of replacing the bridge with a larger 30 by 70-foot span bridge over Howard Branch.

Both bridges were able to be completed under the Act 98 Bridge Package.

Got news?

Please contact
Karuiam Booker
at 864-241-1010
or by emailing him at
BookerKV@scdot.org

**Karuiam
Booker**



Meet Melissa Espinoza



Melissa Espinoza

Melissa Espinoza is a recent civil engineering graduate who has become part of the District 3 team.

At Clemson, she was very involved in STEM and developing a quality student atmosphere. As a Clemson University student ambassador for the Glenn Department of Civil Engineering, she welcomed prospective high school students and gave them guidance and insight of the things that civil engineering encompasses. She was involved in a research and implementation team called Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries that has adopted a village in Cange, Haiti. Their goal is to provide clean water and sustainable solutions to a country whose natural resources are under used.

At SCDOT, she serves as an engineering cross trainee as she develops her knowledge in the areas of Traffic, Construction, and Maintenance.

District 4 News

*Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster,
Union and York counties*

*District Engineer John McCarter (803) 377-4155
FAX: (803) 581-2088*

District 4 staff undergo work zone safety training

District 4 Maintenance staff participated in Work Zone Safety Level 1 training provided by Clemson University.

During this two day course participants were taught the fundamentals of work zone management. Essential to this training was the incorporation of the Work Zone Traffic Control Procedures and Guidelines for SCDOT Maintenance Activities (May 2016). Topics discussed in this course were the proper use of temporary traffic control devices, flagging, worker and equipment safety and minimizing litigation.

In addition to classroom instruction, participants were given tabletop work zone exercises. Employees were instructed to select the correct traffic control measure for each exercise and identify problems that they may encounter in various situations. The course was concluded with a 25 question exam.



ABOVE:
From left to right: Steve Moseley, Ryan Sally, Mark Green and Charles Cook

RIGHT: Travis Rousseau, left, and Chris Evans



Got news?

Contact Edward Moore with your ideas at 803-377-4155 or by emailing him at MooreEO@scdot.org



Edward Moore

RETIREMENTS

Chester Resident Maintenance Engineer Freddie Jackson retired on Feb. 28 after 34 years of service. A retirement luncheon was held the District 4 Office Conference Room with family and coworkers present. Jackson plans on spending his retirement hunting and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Freddie Jackson

Meet Donice Minor

Name: Donice Minor
Title: District 4 Office
Job: Information Resource Coordinator

Started at SCDOT: February 2016

Donice Minor is from Rock Hill and graduated from Northwestern High School in 2006. She earned a bachelor's degree in Management Support Systems from Clemson University. She previously worked for the Rock Hill School District as Information Technology Coordinator. She enjoys shopping, spending time with family and attending sporting events.



Donice Minor



Charles Wilson, left, and Resident Maintenance Engineer Stephen Ellis

Surrounded by family, friends and coworkers Charles Wilson of Cherokee Maintenance retired on June 30 after 33 years of service. Wilson was a Trades Specialist IV and Forman over the Cherokee Maintenance sign crew. He plans on spending time with family and grandchildren.

District 5 News

Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties

District Engineer *Kyle Berry* (843) 661-4710
FAX: (843) 661-4704

Got news?

Contact Michael Miller at
 843-661-4710 or by emailing
 him at MillerMW@scdot.org

**Michael
 Miller**



District 5 equipment operators compete

The District 5 competition was held May 3-5, and even rain showers could not dampen the performance of the operators.

Participation was up quite a bit from previous years, and there was no lack of skill on all the different types of equipment.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LORENA PATE

A driver cuts through the obstacles with precision during the Lowboy Competition.



A contestant maneuvers through the Tractor with Mower course.



Robert Perkins, winner of the Motor Grader competition, sets the blade to his liking before beginning his run.



Steve Zaretska, 2nd place backhoe winner, takes sight on his first target as he competes in the Backhoe competition.

District 6 News

Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper counties

District Engineer:

Robert Clark

(843) 740-1665

FAX:

(843) 740-1663

Got
news?

Contact Debra
Jerideau :
843-834-9034 or
by emailing her at
JerideauDJ@scdot.
org



Debra Jerideau

Busy, busy, busy

By Debra J. Jerideau

It's been a busy time in District 6 with Employee Appreciation activities, the equipment roadeo and a tropical storm. "Employee Appreciation" in May was a chance to say "thank you" to all SCDOT employees for all they do.

District 6 held their annual Equipment Operator's Training Conference and Roadeo. It was a day to showcase the purpose of the Roadeo: safety awareness and skill. District 6 added a new competition (Pickup Truck) for Supervisors and Judges, with a trophy for the winner. This category took drivers, non-CDL holders, through the same course as the CDL truck events with smaller margins showcasing the drivers' skill level with safety at the forefront. The winner of the event was **Eric Jones** from Specialized Bridge Division.

Bonnie, the second named storm of the year, made landfall just east of Charleston around 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 29 near the Isle of Palms, according to the National Hurricane Center. Winds caused by the storm reached 40 mph Saturday night dropping below 35 mph by Sunday morning, as reported by the U.S. Air Force. However, the rain that accompanied Bonnie caused some serious localized issues.

Tropical Storm Bonnie may not have been a strong tropical cyclone, but its heavy rains led to significant flooding in Jasper County, prompting the South Carolina Highway Patrol to close at least seven roads in Jasper County, including the southbound lanes of I-95 in the area of mile marker 22 near the towns of Ridgeland and Yemassee.

In Jasper County Tropical Storm Bonnie dumped over 10 inches of rain around I-95, one of the East coast's busiest highways. Across Jasper County, four buildings sustained major damage and ten others experienced minor damage, primarily within the town of Ridgeland. Water inundated both the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, prompting the relocation of one-third of its inmates. Ridgeland's wastewater treatment plant overflowed, spilling 75,000 to 100,000 gallons of discharge into the nearby Captain Bill Creek. Bonnie is estimated to have caused over \$640,000 in structural damage in Jasper County alone. SCDOT forces from Jasper County and other counties within District 6 mobilized during the holiday weekend to ensure the disruption to the traveling public was as minimal as possible.



Flooding along U.S. 17 in Jasper County



Flooding along I-95 in Jasper County



Eric Jones won the Pickup Truck competition added to the District 6 roadeo.



Tropical storm Bonnie caused flooding in Jasper County.



Joel Smith

Meet Joel Smith

Joel Smith was born and raised in West Virginia. He went to The Citadel, where he ran Track and Cross Country, and studied Civil and Environmental Engineering.

After graduation, he worked for five years in the private industry, in Charleston, as a Geotechnical and Environmental Project Manager. A

little over three years ago, he joined the SCDOT as an Engineer I in the Charleston Permit Office. In less than two years he was promoted to ARME at Charleston Maintenance, the title which he holds now, managing roadway maintenance crews and activities. He is married, with two daughters, and enjoys hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

District 7 News

Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties

District Engineer: Bryan Jones (803) 531-6850
FAX: (803) 531-6854

Quality **M**anagement **T**eam

finds excellence in District 7

Three District 7 maintenance units received an excellent score during the most recent round of four QMT inspections in the district.

Achieving an excellent rating is an outstanding accomplishment.

The Allendale County maintenance facility achieved a final score of 93.05.

Loraine Williams is the Resident Maintenance Engineer in Allendale County, and **Gene Smith** is the Resident Maintenance Foreman.

The Calhoun County maintenance facility achieved a score of 96.88. **Lyle Davis** is the Resident Maintenance Engineer in Calhoun County, and **Rich-**

ard Gregory is the Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer.

The Hampton County facility completed their inspection with a score of 93.02. **Jack Priester** is the Resident Maintenance Engineer and **Jerry Gosnell** is the Resident Maintenance Foreman.

The employees at these maintenance facilities should be commended for their hard work, dedication and commitment to maintenance excellence.

Congratulations to Calhoun, Allendale and Hampton for their achievements.

Got news?

Contact Danny Simmons at:
 803-395-7165 or
 by emailing him at
 SimmonsD@scdot.org

**Danny
 Simmons**



**ALLENDALE MAINTENANCE
 QMT SCORE: 93.05**



**CALHOUN MAINTENANCE
 QMT SCORE: 96.88**



**HAMPTON MAINTENANCE
 QMT SCORE: 93.02**

BRIEFLY

by Pete Poore

Ramp closed, repaired on the I-85/I-385 Gateway Project

SCDOT took extra precaution on Saturday, June 18 by closing the I-385 Northbound ramp heading into Greenville from I-85 Northbound. The ramp that crosses over I-85 was temporarily closed when SCDOT engineers discovered damage to a support column.

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** and Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** met Sunday morning, June 19, with senior bridge engineers and District 3 staff on the site.

The evaluation resulted in a traffic shift that allowed the ramp to have a restricted opening for passenger cars only by 6:30 Sunday evening. Permanent repairs to the column began during the week and the ramp was opened to all traffic on Tuesday, June 28.

Traffic Congestion on I-526 at Port Entrance

The SCDOT Team stepped up on June 24 through the following weekend to assist in reducing traffic back-ups on I-526 at the Port of Charleston's Wando Welch Terminal in Mount Pleasant. SCDOT coordinated these efforts with the Governor's Office, Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page, the Mount Pleas-

ant Police, the State Ports Authority and the S.C. Department of Public Safety.

SCDOT Traffic Engineers temporarily reconfigured the Long Point Road exit on I-526 to allow trucks better entry into the Wando Terminal and local traffic to get to residential subdivisions and commercial areas near that exit.

SCDOT staff worked with Mount Pleasant Police on traffic control by placing port gate instructions on message boards on I-526 and I-26. This action allowed truckers and other motorists some time to prepare as they approached that area. SHEP Responders also stepped up their patrols in the vicinity of the terminal to assist with traffic control.

SCDOT Minority and Small Business Affairs Office Launches New Publication

"The Business Curve" is a revamped version of the DBE Newsletter. This publication is geared toward informing current and potential DBE firms of all the opportunities and services the Minority and Small Business Affairs Office has to offer.

The Spring 2016 edition highlights a wide range of topics including mentoring programs, procurement opportunities, DBE reporting requirements and a calendar of upcoming training programs to mention only a few.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Work continues on the I-95/U.S. 301 interchange and S.C. 6 connector project. The project includes a full interchange at U.S. 301 and I-95 (above), a bridge over CSX railroad (below) and continues U.S. 301 to S.C. 6. The project will open up more than 1,000 acres to companies and industries interested in locating in South Carolina.



SCDOT clay shoot raises money to help flood victims

By Kim Corley

After the October flood, **Dondi Rogers** worked with FWHA to assess the damages to roads as part of their Emergency Relief program. He and FWHA representatives visited damaged areas throughout the Midlands. He described watching an elderly couple struggle to remove damaged furniture and debris from their home. Seeing the devastation the flood brought to so many inspired him to turn his hobby into a charity event to support S.C. Cares.

Rogers became involved in competitive shooting when his son joined King Academy's Sporting Clays team. Since then, he and his son have participated in father/son competitions and Rogers even hosts an annual competition for friends at his home.

He teamed up with the National Wild Turkey Federation



Dondi Rogers

(NWTF) to hold the event at their newly built Palmetto Sportsman's Complex in Edgefield, where he is also a member. "The NWTF hosts charity shoots a lot and they



PHOTO BY SARAH MCKINNEY/DISTRICT 2

Steve Coleman of District 2 was the overall winner with a score of 82 out of 100.

were very accommodating," said Rogers. In addition to the competition, there was also a silent



Nick Waites of Construction came in second place with a score of 81 out of 100.

auction. All items were donated by the NWTF. Participants enjoyed a catered meal provided by

Shealy's Barbeque. "Everyone had a great time," said Rogers.

There were a total of 45 shooters. **Steve Coleman** from District 2 was the overall winner with 82 out of 100. **Nick Waites** from Headquarters won second place with 81 out of 100.

The April event raised \$1,213. It was such a success, Rogers and S.C. Cares decided to partner for another clay shoot. The second annual benefit shoot is scheduled for May 10, 2017.

There will be individual and team events and the competition is open to everyone.

For more information about next year's event, please contact Dondi Rogers at the Headquarters Construction Office.

If you would like to learn more about S.C. Cares or make a donation, please contact Charlie Brown in Human Resources at (803) 737-3178.

THE CONNECTOR

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2016

SCDOT

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
South Carolina Secretary
of Transportation

As we approach the one year anniversary of the 1000-year flood, I can't help but reflect back and feel proud of on how our team came together as OneDot.

It's good to see that same can-do attitude continues with us on the final storm recovery projects and I can see evidence of it in our daily activities.

Our team is simply the best and we have caught the attention of those outside of the agency as an

example of how to get things done.

Now, it's time to turn our attention and same can-do attitude to ramping up and delivering the projects associated with the new funding. This is the first new funding that has been dedicated to SCDOT in over a decade and we are very thankful for this first step in addressing the tremendous backlog in deferred maintenance and road widening projects. I believe that our ability to effectively manage and deploy this new funding will have a direct impact on future funding dialogue for SCDOT.

In other words, we must be good stewards and put these dol-

lars to work as soon as possible. This will require a ramp-up of our internal activities as well as the growth of our industry partners, with the ultimate goal of getting these much needed road and bridge projects completed.

Many of you will be called on to assist in this ramp-up and I ask that you embrace this opportunity to make a difference in our Great State.

We must also be good stewards of all of our resources. That means zero tolerance for illegal and unethical behavior and rooting out fraud, waste and abuse. This is a shared responsibility of

all of team members. If you see something, say something. The Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline is 1-855-723-7283.

The hotline is housed by the State Inspector General with a guarantee of confidentiality. I also guarantee that SCDOT will not tolerate any type of retaliation towards anyone who has the courage to report possible cases to the hotline.

SCDOT now has new resources and new challenges. We as team have the opportunity to move the agency and South Carolina forward to make our state even greater.

Employee Appreciation Week - May 1 - 7, 2016



LEFT: Members of SCDOT Traffic Engineering (left) join other SCDOT employees (below) to grab lunch from food trucks at SCDOT Headquarters on May 5.



Bill Apperson of Equipment Depot receives his ONE SCDOT shirt from Director of Maintenance Jim Feda on May 3 during Public Servant Recognition Week.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR



ABOVE: Governor's proclamation recognizing public employees. **LEFT:** Lindsay Bolton of Equipment Depot receives his ONE SCDOT shirt from Director of Maintenance Jim Feda, left, and Director of Supply and Equipment John White, center, on May 3.

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