

The 1,000-year flood: SCDOT crews repair roads, bridges

By Pete Poore

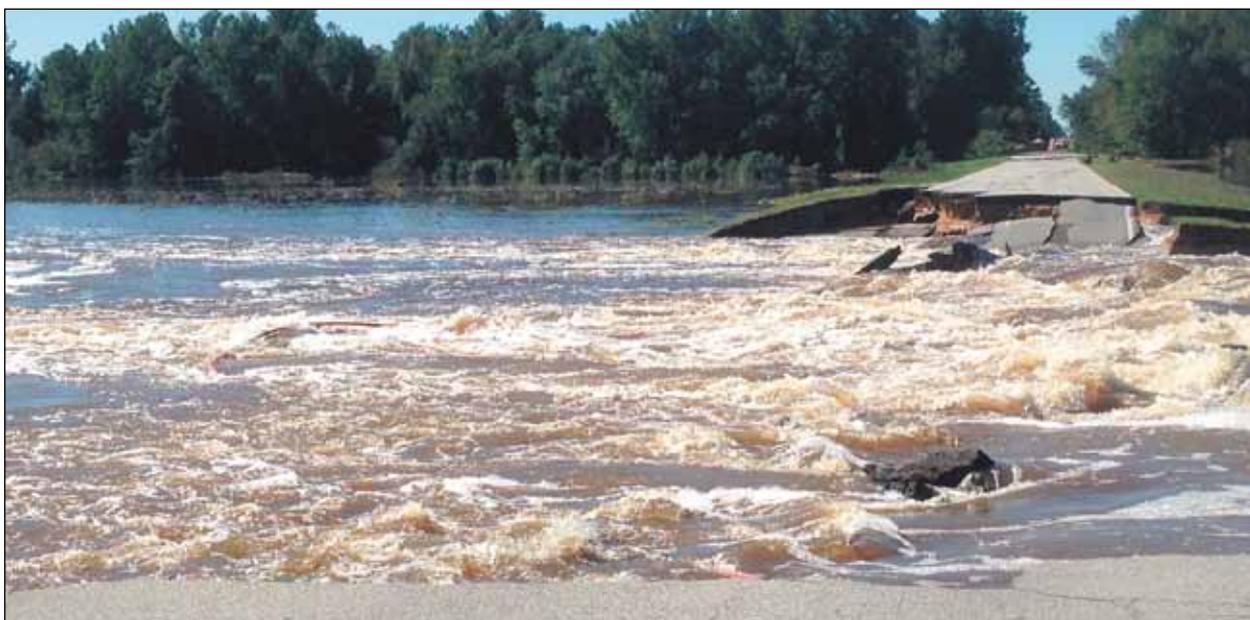
On Sept. 28, 2015, Tropical Storm Joaquin formed in the Atlantic. On Sept. 30, Joaquin became a hurricane. The storm was declared a category three, “major hurricane” by the National Hurricane Center at that time. Joaquin blasted its way through the Bahamas, Bermuda and other islands in the Atlantic. Despite the 155 mph winds, forecasters began to relax a little, convinced that Joaquin would move up into open seas and avoid the eastern seaboard. The prediction proved to be correct.

However, no one at SCDOT relaxed. In fact the agency stepped up prepara-

tions as if a hurricane was bearing down on the state. Why? A large cold front was moving across the Southeastern US just on the heels of the departing Joaquin. Forecasters said the cold front would “draw moisture” from the tail end of the hurricane. That prediction became one of the top understatements of 2015.

But meteorologists were also predicting incredible amounts of rainfall for South Carolina in the range of 20 inches or more over a two or three day period. Those predictions were comparable to three months of rainfall – in three days.

See FLOOD page 3



SCOTT MCELVEEN/CLARENDON CONSTRUCTION

A large section of U.S. Highway 301 between Manning and Turbeville was washed out by the October flooding. It is just one example of hundreds of flood-damaged roads and bridges that SCDOT crews and contractors have been repairing across the state.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Governor Haley appoints Christy Hall to lead SCDOT

By Pete Poore

Governor Nikki Haley announced the appointment of **Christy A. Hall** as Secretary of Transportation on Oct. 21, 2015. She will serve as the Interim Secretary pending confirmation of the appointment by the South Carolina Senate. Hall had been serving as the Acting Secretary

of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) since July 2, 2015.

Secretary Hall had previously served the agency as Deputy Secretary for Engineering since May of 2014. In that position, she was responsible for managing all engineering operations in support of SCDOT's approximately \$1.5 billion program.

LEFT: Interim Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall does a site visit to the Caughman Road repair project in Columbia.

See HALL page 21

Note to readers of The Connector

The news in this issue is dominated by the 1,000-year flood that struck our state in October; one of the biggest challenges our agency has ever faced. The following pages contain stories and photographs of SCDOT's response. It would be impossible to name or photograph every employee who helped our state in so many different ways through this crisis. Rather, our news coverage should be seen as a representation of each of us; snapshots of our tireless and courageous SCDOT family.

Leland Colvin named Acting Secretary for Engineering



Leland Colvin
Acting Secretary for Engineering

Leland Colvin has been named the Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT).

Colvin has more than 20 years of dedicated service with SCDOT. He has served in several leadership roles for the agency, most recently as Chief Engineer for Project Delivery where he oversaw the Construction, Pre-Construction, Rights-of-Way and Environmental divisions.

Prior to that position Colvin served in other key management positions, including Chief Engineer for Operations, Director of Construction and State-wide Design/Build Engineer. He played a key role as Project Director for the demolition of the Grace and Pearman bridges after the Ravenel Bridge was constructed in Charleston. Additionally, Colvin has successfully led both of our FEMA projects in recent years.

Colvin earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina and a native of Lugoff.

Colvin and his wife, Kelly, have two teenaged daughters. In his spare time he enjoys spending time on the lake and fishing. He's also a lifelong Clemson football ticket holder.

THE CONNECTOR

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Christy Hall is the Interim South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



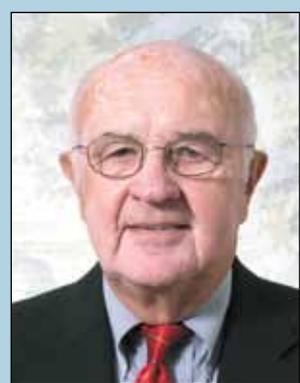
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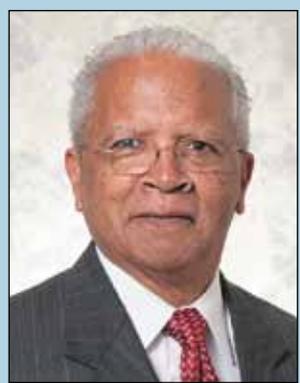
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SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

PREPARATIONS

By Pete Poore

By Thursday, Oct. 1, the situation was clear to Interim Secretary **Christy A. Hall** and the senior staff. The decision was made for SCDOT to begin preparing for a full-scale storm. A three-prong plan was put into effect:

- SCDOT's Maintenance forces would serve as the "first responders" for emergency response and recovery operations.

- Contracts would be pre-positioned for faster response and higher reimbursements. This technique was used to allow contractors to begin working immediately after the storm passed. This move proved valuable, particularly in debris collection and removal.

- The plan called for repairing highway facilities and replacing only those that were beyond repair.

Interim Secretary Hall said SCDOT was preparing for the worst. "SCDOT was now in

an all hands on deck status. Everyone at the agency had to be prepared to pitch in, and all were ready by the time the rain started falling," said Hall.

District staff and Maintenance forces had prepared equipment, vehicles and supplies.

Crews also inspected flood-prone areas to make sure drains and drainage ditches were clear of debris as much as possible.

On Friday, Oct. 2, all Maintenance forces were split into two, 12-hour shifts. Headquarters staff representing all Divisions and many offices were on 24-hour duty to support whatever the Districts needed.

SCDOT staffed ESF 1 and ESF 16 at the Emergency Management Division's State Emergency Operations Center. These employees coordinated information concerning road conditions, closings, etc. with other state agencies. SCDOT was ready to deal with whatever was to happen around the clock.



A crew from Lexington Maintenance repairs a washed-out shoulder along old Chapin Road in Lexington on Oct. 5.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Michael Buck of Richland Construction monitors the water levels on the I-126 bridge over the Broad River on Oct. 5. The bridge was closed until the waters subsided to a safe level.



The District 1 Bridge inspection crew examines and monitors the washout of sidewalk around a bridge on U.S. 1 in Lexington on Oct. 5. SCDOT crews monitored bridges statewide during the flooding.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

By Pete Poore

The rain came on Saturday, Oct. 3. The initial damage was spotty. However, some coastal areas such as Charleston had already spent September dealing with floods from high tides and a tornado that ripped through Johns Island.

As the weekend began, a mapping team had already been assembled to match historical high water levels at locations that would surely flood. This was vital information for use all around the state, and in particular the town of Clemson. National attention was cast upon Clemson as the University was hosting Notre Dame in a nationwide telecast. University officials, the Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies relied upon the data supplied by the mapping team in determining safe routes in and out of Clemson.

Very early in the morning on Sunday, Oct. 4, the worst began to reveal itself. Flash flood warnings were issued. Residents were advised to stay where they were and stay off the roads. At this point, washouts began taking a toll on roads and bridges. The Midlands, Pee Dee and Coastal Counties experienced rushing flood water. The National Guard and rapid water teams were rescuing resi-

dents from their homes and motorists who were on the roofs of their vehicles as water quickly rose around them.

Nineteen South Carolinians lost their lives in the floodwaters, including one of SCDOT's own. Richland Maintenance worker **Timothy Gibson** responded to the Gills Creek area of Garner's Ferry Road in east Columbia. His SCDOT truck was flipped by rapid water which carried it away. Eventually, rescuers searching for the vehicle spotted it, but it was too late. Gibson had drowned.



PHOTO PROVIDED

SCDOT Richland Maintenance employee Timothy Gibson died while he was doing his job during the flood on Oct. 4.



Director of Maintenance Jim Feda manages maintenance operations across the state from Columbia. The office worked around the clock during the storm and recovery.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Traffic Engineering employees take a call on Oct. 9 from Williamsburg County regarding road closures to determine the best alternate routes for detours. The team did this on a county-by-county basis as flood waters moved through the state. From left are: Alexander Barr, Eddie Hinson, Nick Boozer, Brent Dillon, Tony Fallaw and Lori Campbell.

As soon as possible, even as rain was still falling, maintenance crews all over the state set out on the roads to look for damage. It was everywhere. As the reports came back to Headquarters, so did the requests for barricades, signs, barrels, cones, anything that could be used to block washed out roads. The counties and Districts were running out. (See *Sign Shop* story on page 10.)

So many roads and bridges had to be closed that the sign shop was working at capacity. Barricades were borrowed from NCDOT and Georgia DOT. Some Districts built their own barricades from scratch.

The reports of closures that came back to Headquarters were vital information. Those reports had to be available to the public. Social media has become the norm for getting information out to the media and the public in part be-

cause of its popularity with the public and because it's the most rapid way of providing information. The Director of Maintenance Office updated closings on the web. The Communications Office provided closure information through Twitter and the SCDOT Facebook page around the clock. Web updates and social media posts and tweets continued for weeks as road and bridge closures began turning into openings.

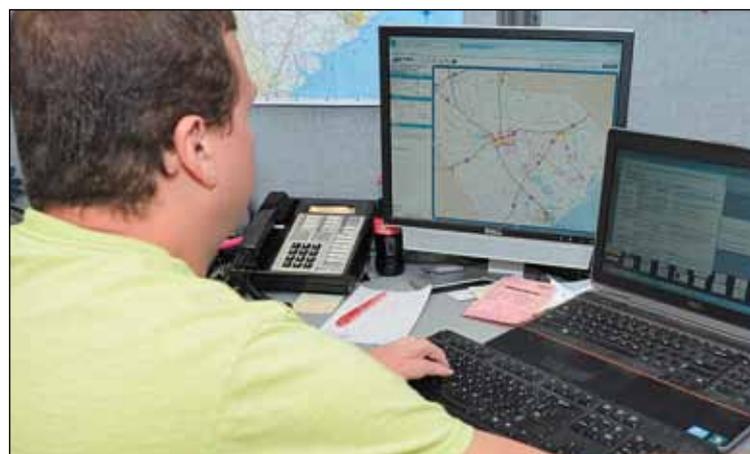
The Customer Service Center (CSC) filled the demand of those who had questions about highway information and desired to speak to a customer service agent. The demand became overwhelming for the existing CSC staff. Reinforcements from all sectors of SCDOT volunteered to help. (See *story on page 9.*)

Then another problem popped up. Motorists were driving around the barricades. Counties placed

sand berms across roadways and bridge approaches to physically prevent drivers from putting themselves in harm's way. State and local law enforcement agencies did what they could to keep motorists safe.

One of the biggest and most immediate challenges was I-95 in the central part of the state. A large portion of this interstate had to be closed creating a 140-mile detour. **Leland Colvin** and **Andy Lephart** were instrumental in getting contractors to complete repairs to I-95 within 72 hours after the contract was let.

Other interstates were closed too. Secretary Hall said SCDOT erred on the sign of caution. "We made the decision to close some interstate bridges in the Columbia area where the flood waters had risen to the height of the bridge deck. Bridge inspectors were unable to determine if there was any damage and to what extent on the I-126 bridge in Columbia and a bridge on I-20 in Lexington County," said Hall. Governor Haley backed that decision and continued to urge the public to stay off the highways.



LEFT: Chris McCurry in the Director of Maintenance Office updates road and bridge closures during the storm. SCDOT posted timely updates online during the flooding.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

RECOVERY

By Pete Poore

A few days after the flood waters subsided, the Maintenance forces focused their work on washed out roads and bridges. The goal was to return the highway system back to the condition it was in prior to the flood. The mission was, “repair as much as possible and replace only the facilities that could not be repaired to expedite reopening.”

The mission was huge. The peak day for closures was Oct. 5. Reports revealed that 541 roads and bridges had sustained enough damage to require closures. Some roads had multiple closures. There were no more county or District lines for Maintenance. As the plan dictated, every Maintenance employee became a member of one unified Maintenance Team that was part of Team SCDOT.

Very few areas of the state escaped flooding or some damage. However, District 1 and Clarendon County in District 7 were among the hardest hit areas. The closures in District 1 skyrocketed to 300 immediately following the rain. Roads in Richland County and parts of Lexington County looked like a war zone.

This situation portrayed how the strategy to erase District and county lines paid off. As crews in lesser hit counties completed their work, they were deployed to District 1 and primarily Richland County. (See story on page 11.)

Teams of engineers were formed from Construction, Preconstruction and Traffic Engineering as well as from the SC Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These teams went into the field to assess damage and bring back information for the best methods of putting those facilities back into service. SCDOT’s bridge inspection teams also had a big job to do.

Additionally, FHWA SC Administrator Emily Lawton and her staff provided tremendous assistance in the field and at Headquarters in the way of steering SCDOT staff through the federal guidelines for both eligibility and maximum reimbursements.

The Procurement Office cleared the way for emergency contracts to provide the ability to purchase materials and services quickly.

Construction had already contacted contractors in advance about emergency contracts. All but two of them were South Carolina-based companies. The Construction Office was now moving as

fast as possible once the jobs came into focus. Preconstruction began assembling bridge package contracts for quick lettings. Maintenance had debris collection contracts in place before the floodwaters began surging through the state. When the debris collection operations came to a close in early December, SCDOT’s contractor had removed 2,307 truckloads of debris equaling 111,534 cubic yards (more than 27 million pounds).

Timetables and goals were set for reopening closed highways and bridges. By the middle of the week following the weekend flooding, thousands of SCDOT staff and partners had been consolidated into Team SCDOT and went to work. The Team worked in shifts, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. This teamwork resulted in smashing the goals and moving through the timetables with lightning speed.



SCDOT District 1 engineers Paul Miller and Chris Kelly, District 1 Engineering Administrator Bryan Jones and Richland Maintenance Engineer Tony Magwood inspect damaged areas to decide the best course of action for repairs. On Oct. 8, they inspected the devastation of a washed-out bridge over Cedar Creek on Congaree Road.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Scott McElveen, Michael Godwin and Wendell Jones of Clarendon Construction monitor concrete pouring underneath bridges along I-95 in Clarendon County on Sunday, Oct. 11. Six concrete pump trucks from United Contractors and SCDOT crews worked around the clock, seven days a week to shore up bridge pilings affected by flooding along the heavily traveled interstate.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

TEAM SOUTH CAROLINA

By Pete Poore

Team SCDOT was also a part of Team South Carolina. In addition to the SCDOT staff working at EMD in the two ESF sections, Secretary Hall and the senior staff spent many hours at EMD's Headquarters coordinating recovery activities with other state agencies and advising Governor Haley of the most current road conditions and where the disaster situations were located.

SCDOT's role in Team South Carolina included SCDOT reaching out to counties and municipalities to help them as-

sess their highway infrastructure damage. Secretary Hall led the coordination efforts to have the National Guard assist counties and municipalities with locally owned roads and bridges.

Acting Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** and Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** also arranged for contractors to assist in some Richland County areas where roads, homes and other property were threatened by potential dam failures. SCDOT also assisted the City of Columbia in its operations to make major repairs to its water pumping station on the Columbia Canal.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Hugh Hadsock, Jason Stillwell and Randall Young work with updates from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to plan maintenance and repair actions across the state.



ANDY LEAPHART/SCDOT

On Oct. 6, SCDOT put 32 additional engineering teams into place for damage assessment.



DISTRICT 6 PHOTO

The National Guard assists with repairs on locally owned roads and bridges in District 6.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT closed the Jarvis Klapman Blvd. bridge over the Saluda River for work crews to dump large boulders into the Columbia Canal during the repair of the City of Columbia's water system.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

THE COST

By Pete Poore

On Dec. 3, 2015, at the monthly meeting of the SCDOT Commission, Secretary Hall reported the damage costs to South Carolina's Highway System as a result of the 1,000 year flood. That number stood at \$137 million. The three-pronged plan that had been formulated by Secretary Hall and the senior staff had paid off. That figure was only one-tenth of some public speculation prior to the costs being totaled.

The federal share amounted to \$88 million. FEMA funds only amount to \$25 million of the federal funds. The state share of the costs total \$49 million. Approximately \$20 million of

the state share will be used for latent flood damage that could occur in the next 12-18 months.

Secretary Hall also reviewed a summary of SCDOT work operations through Dec. 3.

- Peak closures reached 541 on one day (Oct. 5).

- Current closures as of Dec. 14 total only 52 in just over two months after the flood event.

- Of the 53 remaining closures, 32 active projects are in place to reopen those facilities.

- 26 of the remaining closures involve dams which SCDOT does not own.

Secretary Hall also recounted SCDOT's "work list" during the recovery:

- Work was performed on 900 sites on the state highway system.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Aaron Gable, of SCDOT's Abbeville Maintenance unit, works on the headwall and pavement repair of the Fort Jackson Blvd. bridge over Gills Creek in Columbia on Oct. 15.

- 221 of those sites involved bridges.

- 105 of those bridges have been repaired and placed back

in service following two inspections for safety.

- Three of the bridges being replaced were scheduled for re-

placement prior to the flood.

- An additional 18 bridges are beyond repair and will be replaced.



LEFT: Travis Floyd of Aiken Maintenance cuts sheets of pilings to size and cuts anchor holes into them as part of repairs to a washed-out bridge headwall on Fairfield Road in Richland County on Oct. 19.

ABOVE: Billy Frankum from SCDOT's Anderson Maintenance unit builds up the slope under I-20 as part of the Brickyard Road repairs on Oct. 22.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

SC CARES

By Pete Poore

One more team was borne out of the disaster that struck South Carolina in October. That was "SC Cares." This team was formed by SCDOT employees who, in addition to their normal duties, volunteered to help our own SCDOT employees who were dealt a hard blow by the flood. Some employees lost power, vehicles, homes and possessions were ruined, or they simply lost everything they owned.

The word went out agency-wide that catastrophe had hit "home" and help was needed. Volunteers at Headquarters and the Districts went to work identifying who was in need and what kind of assistance could be provided. Others began the gathering process of material goods from cleaning supplies, clothing, furniture and cash and gift card contributions. Still others organized the distribution process so that needs could be met.

Some of the assistance came in the form of helping employees who were flood victims making insurance claims, filing FEMA

applications and other paperwork processes to ensure that these SCDOT people could get all of the help they could.

Many employees have been helped dramatically. But as this edition of The Connector went to press, SC Cares was still in full operation with work still left to do.

While there is still some work to do in the recovery phase of the October flood, Secretary Hall spoke of the men and women of SCDOT on many occasions. She said, "The daily reports that were made each morning as the state recovered from the disaster were astounding. The number of reopened roads and bridges was simply awesome. I never lost sight of the hundreds of SCDOT workers and their tireless efforts that were making all of this happen. I cannot thank them enough."

RIGHT: Several truckloads of items were distributed to affected employees.

BELOW:

From Nov. 3-17, SCDOT employees and their families across the state donated goods and services for employees affected by the flood.



PHOTOS BY CODY CROUCH/SCDOT

Several rooms full of household goods and furniture were donated..



SC Cares committee forms long-term charity

By Kim Corley

SCDOT workers were not immune to the devastation caused by October's record flood. Across the state, 55 employees suffered flood damage, two of whom lost their homes completely. Despite experiencing personal tragedy, these men and women never stopped working.

Under the direction of Interim Secretary Hall, SCDOT staff reached out to assist employees. The outcome was the creation of SC Cares. Its members include:

Charlie Brown-President

Rob Manning-Secretary

Kace Smith-Treasurer

Susan Johnson-Member at Large

They reached out to local human resources coordinators to find out who needed help. When they met with the employees, they found even more in need. "It exceeded our expectations... it just kept growing," said Rob Manning.

They began by organizing donation drives at Headquarters and each of the Districts. A total of 16 donation days were held across the state.

The outpouring of generosity was astounding. Approximately \$7,000 in money and gift cards was collected. Individual donations from employees ranged from \$5-\$1,000. In addition, there were 80 large

bags of clothes and over 20 truckloads of items. It didn't stop there. Fifty large furniture items were donated including refrigerators, beds, cabinets and kitchen tables.

Cleaning items, toiletries, household items, bedding and lawnmowers were also collected.

One particular employee offered his services for HVAC work and others offered their time to help them rebuild. Several anonymous employees stepped up to offset rent and pay for other transitional expenses.

Employees also received help and support from their respective counties and districts.

The response from employees who received assistance was overwhelming to say the least. Manning commented that recipients, both men and women, were moved to tears by the generosity of coworkers beyond their districts. A recipient said "It feels good to be a part of an agency that cares about you."

Certainly the after-effect of this endeavor was the creation of a sense of unity among SCDOT employees. Many generously gave because they thought, "that could have been me." Whether you work out in a rural district or headquarters, anyone can experience hardship. SC Cares recognized the need for an agency-wide support system.

The future of SC Cares is to create a long-term, sustainable charity for employees needing a helping hand. The goal, according to Manning, is to "be prepared to respond to a future disaster and provide assistance to SCDOT employees and their families." In order to do this, board members are working to create a non-profit organization that they hope will become a part of United Way. That could lead to employees having the option to set up a reoccurring deduction or a one-time donation through SCEIS.

All involved in the effort are strictly volunteers. This means 100% of donations will go directly to those who meet the guidelines for assistance.



ROB THOMPSON/SCDOT

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

SCDOT Call Center activates volunteers during flood

By Bob Kudelka

When people from as far away as California wanted to know South Carolina road conditions during the 1,000-year flood, they got to hear to the friendly voices of SCDOT employees.

During October, the SCDOT Customer Service Center and additional employee volunteers helped more than 20,000 callers to the toll free line.

That's 10 times what the 8-person call center receives in a typical month, said **Ryan Cole**, customer service manager.

The call center was already in operation on Saturday, Oct. 3, when the rains started getting heavy as predicted. By noon that day, it was apparent more help would be needed.

IT Services set up phone stations in the overflow centers that opened in two basement rooms at Headquarters. Approximately 120 employees assisted in the overflow call centers.

Not only did the call center work extended hours from Oct. 3

to Oct. 31, it was also staffed 24 hours a day from Oct. 7 to Oct. 18.

The pace was frenetic, said **Cameron Albert**, a call center agent who joined SCDOT six months ago.

"As soon as you hang up, you'd get your next call," Albert said. "You had enough time to take a breath."

The job of helping the public through the flood was a rewarding one, Albert said.

"People were really excited that we were there and they could actually talk to somebody," Albert said.

Most of the callers asked whether certain roads were open or closed, or the best way to get from place to place. Several were on vacation. Some were stranded on backroads and needed to know how to get home.

Michele Paoleschi, then director of Customer Relations, gave a special thanks to Management, IT Services and all the employee volunteers.

"It was a total team effort," Paoleschi said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/SCDOT

India Mobley, above, was one of the SCDOT Customer Service Center employees handling calls regarding closed highways, bridges and road conditions. Two IT training rooms were converted into additional call center stations and 120 SCDOT employees and volunteers handled the thousands of phone calls received during the flooding.



SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

Sign shops respond to demand for flood signage

By Bob Kudelka

Before the heavy rains came, SCDOT's State Sign Shop already was in high gear.

Inside the 23,500-square-foot facility off Alpine Road in Northeast Richland County, the employees had begun an unprecedented, 13-day stretch making some of the most in-demand and critical signs - perhaps in the agency's history.

"Road Closed," "Water on Road" and other signs would be needed to let motorists know the potential dangers from hundreds of roads and bridges washed away by the 1,000-year flood of October 2015.

In less than two weeks, the seven-member staff made more than 2,000 flood-related signs.

Debbie Vandermolen, supervisor of the State Sign Shop, put it in simple terms.

"The public had to know," she said, "that a road was closed."

Vandermolen credits smart planning with Headquarters leadership, dedication of her employees, and strong partnership with vendors for the results: 1,000 signs made that first weekend and a total of 2,136 signs in less than two weeks.

"I can't thank my employees more for pulling together; everybody was wonderful and didn't hesitate to work together," she said. "When someone's task was done, they would do whatever was needed. One of our employees lost the bottom story of her house, but stayed right here and helped us."

State Sign Shop employees in addition to Vandermolen are **Jessie Burton, Mike Norris, Patricia Jones, Mike Mendoza, Charleston Grantham, James Osborne and J. Enrique Uribe**, who has been on military leave since September.

Assistant State Maintenance Engineer **Jim Johannemann**, Vandermolen's supervisor at

Headquarters, said: "I'm proud of the way the sign shop responded. I think they did a great job in meeting the needs of the field crews."

An important part of the sign shop's success began when the rain was forecast. Vandermolen met with Johannemann and State Maintenance Engineer **David Cook** to plan for a worst case scenario. They sent spread sheets to each engineering district to find out and prioritize what the needs would be.

On Friday, Oct. 2, two days before the flooding began, shop employees started making screen images for "Road Closed" and "Water on Road" signs. The first signs were finished that weekend.

SCDOT vendors shipped extra aluminum, sheeting and other materials by overnight air freight, with some firms even picking up the freight costs themselves. "They said that was the least they could do to help us out in this situation," Vandermolen said.

Prison Industries was notified of the emergency and a 50-member staff at the Broad River Correctional Institution started on the first of 2,121 signs.

"We knew it was going to be a lot of rain and we anticipated a lot of damage to our roads," Johannemann said.

In her 13 years with SCDOT, Vandermolen said it was the first time the sign shop employees had been needed to work a storm event. "Everybody was very willing and in good moods," she said, despite the long shifts.

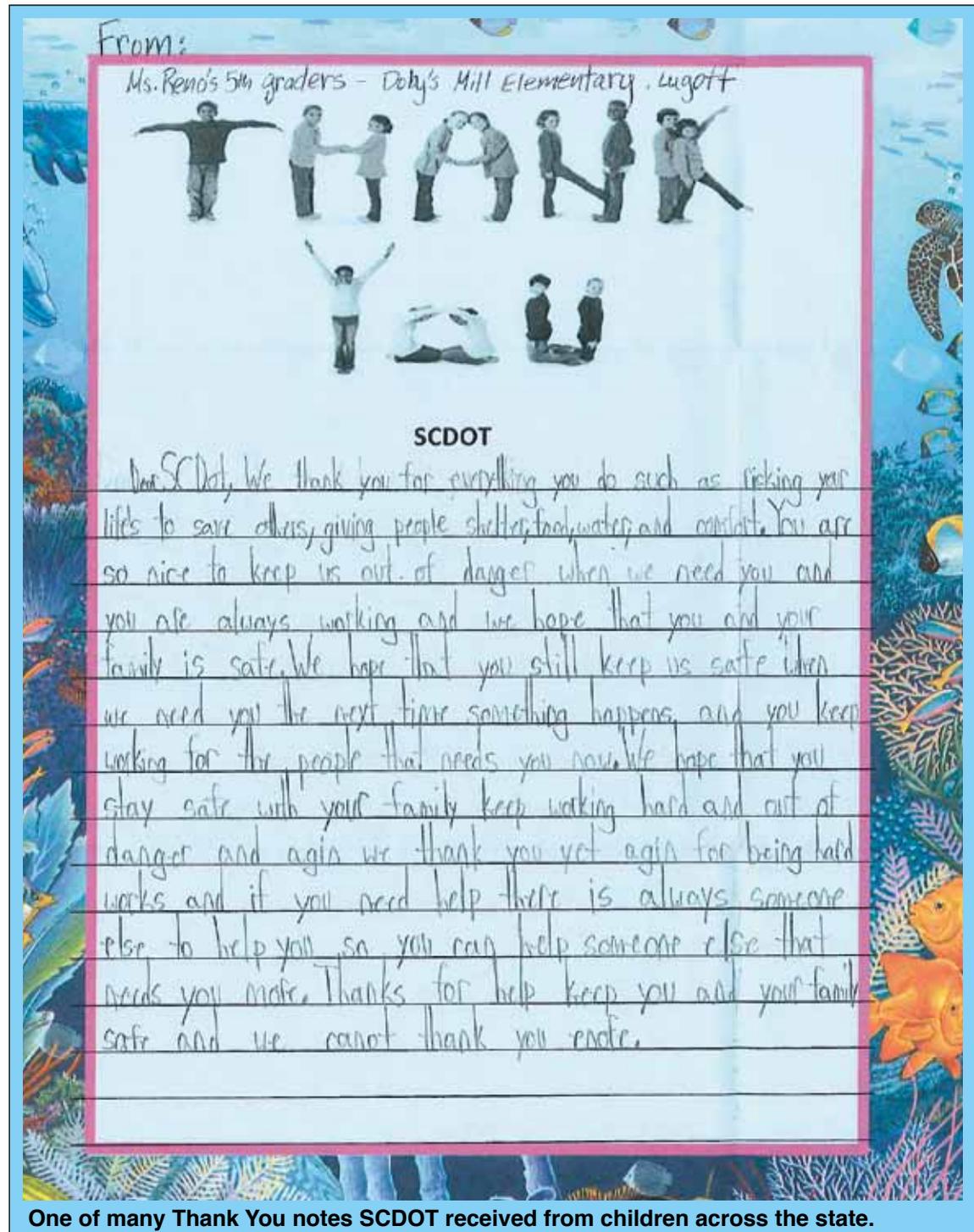
Yet Vandermolen acknowledged having mixed feelings about her shop's accomplishments considering what others were going through.

"I don't think we played that big of a role," Vandermolen said. "We were safe and dry; we didn't risk our lives. We were doing our jobs and doing what we are supposed to do. Other people lost their lives."



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The October flooding caused a record number of road and bridge closures in South Carolina. The SCDOT Sign Shop responded by making 1,000 'Road Closed' and 'Water on Road' signs over the weekend ahead of the flooding. By the end of two weeks, the shop had made more than 2,100 signs.



One of many Thank You notes SCDOT received from children across the state.

SCDOT FLOOD REPORT

No county borders Maintenance crews ignore county lines, travel to make repairs

By Kim Corley

Crews are often called upon to assist in other areas of the state during inclement weather. However, October's flooding required a record number of crews to be deployed to the hardest-hit areas.

At the height of the flood recovery efforts there were 296 crews actively working. Of those, 78 crews were deployed from their home county. District 7 sent a total of 11 crews.

Many of the crew members were temporarily relocated to impacted areas so they could work 12 hour shifts, returning to their families on the weekends.

Aiken Resident Construction Engineer **Bobby Usry** was deployed to Richland County to assist with repairing Monticello Road and U.S. 321. He said he has seen damage like this before when family members were victims of Hurricane Katrina, but he "didn't realize what we were getting into." One side of the bridge on Monticello Road was washed away and both sides on the structure on U.S. 321.



John Taylor of Aiken Maintenance guides a sheet piling into place with the help of his team doing work on the washed-out bridge headwall on Fairfield Road in Richland County. The work is part of SCDOT's ongoing flooding repairs across the state.

In addition to the extensive road damage, they experienced utility conflicts, making the work even more perilous and difficult.

Aiken Resident Maintenance Foreman **Wayne Anderson** went with Usry to assess the damage before crews from Aiken

arrived. He had never seen such damage. "I don't even know how to put it into words, some spots you wonder how that could even happen," he said. He stayed in Columbia working for nearly 2½ weeks on Monticello Road and U.S. 321.

Another Resident Maintenance Foreman, **Tyrone Jones**, describes his experience working during the flood recovery as very emotional. He watched people struggling to carry their children and groceries because roads were impassable by cars and public transit. "We stayed focused to do what we needed to do because the work was so important," he said.

Although Aiken County sent crews to work in Columbia, the eastern part of the county experienced flood damage. Aiken Resident Maintenance Engineer **Joe Winfield** stayed behind to oversee local repair projects. He said there were 4 or 5 areas that crews were able to repair by Oct. 9. Their swift work freed up numerous crews to send to severely impacted areas. "I'm very proud of the guys we sent up there," he said.

Local residents were also very proud. SCDOT received a handwritten note from the McKillop family of Columbia thanking them for their service and sacrifice during repairs on Monticello Road. In addition, the Aiken County Office received many thank you notes and cards.



Allen Oxendine of SCDOT's Aiken Construction unit supervises the milling operation on U.S. 521 in Clarendon County on Nov. 20. The road was being prepared for paving to complete the repairs of a washed-out section of the road damaged by the October flooding.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT & Twitter:

The Floods of October 2015

SCDOT Office of Communications



GoogleCrisisResponse @GoogleCR Oct 2
 Ahead of expected flooding in South Carolina, evacuation routes from @SCDOTPress and the latest @waze traffic data @ <http://goo.gl/NEirVC>

James Smith @JamesSmithSC Oct 2 South Carolina, USA
 Check out SCDOT's page for the latest on rd conditions as we prepare for the storm. Stay informed & safe! @SCDOTPress <http://www.scdot.org/getting/StormResources.aspx> ...

Lisa Grant @chynadoll843 Oct 13
 @SCDOTPress Thank you!! We appreciate all 2061 and every second.

Ashley Frasca @AshleyFrascaWSB Oct 13
 Ashley Frasca Retweeted SCDOT

Senator Ross Turner @SenRossTurner Oct 2
 The SCDOT has set up a special webpage to keep people aware of travel conditions around the state during the... <http://fb.me/2OGMsalEs>

Judi Gatson @JudiGatson Oct 3
 "@SCDOTPress: South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) produced this map showing road closures. pic.twitter.com/1XZUXrEvvG"

Kevin Enlow @kbo29006 Oct 9
 @SCDOTPress Thank you for all that you do for our great state.

Kim Yencho
 @SCDOTPress thank you so much for continuing to update we are trying to get back to PA tomorrow and 95 is the way we go.

Brenda Green @mgb03
 What a difference a week makes! Before/after pics of road damage at my parents' home! Thanks #SCDOT! @LevinsReports pic.twitter.com/IJNbP3wKzx

Garry Smith @GarryRSmith Oct 2
 New special website by SC DOT for travel advisories for the Storm this weekend <http://ow.ly/3ygFLs>

Katrina Shealy @KatrinaShealy Oct 2
 The SCDOT staff has set up a webpage with info about travel conditions this weekend <http://www.scdot.org/getting/StormResources.aspx> ...

Robert Branch @bitterrootbob Oct 11
 @SCDOTPress THANK YOU from a trucker! I appreciate the information. God bless SC!

Skip Wilson @MayorSkipWilson 8h8 hours ago
 Thankful to SCDOT for repairing Murray Lindler Rd. The parents and children are much safer now.



From flooding a week ago...wow! <https://twitter.com/SCDOTPress/status/653914772765843456> ...

SCDOT @SCDOTPress

Just in: SCDOT Reopens I-95 Northbound Lanes All of I-95 is open in both directions

Pat R. @sunfunpr Oct 13
 @SCDOTPress WooHoo! Thank you for the safe detour while repairs were ongoing.

Robert Branch @bitterrootbob Oct 12

Rep. Gary Clary @garyclarysc Oct 2
 Special webpage from SCDOT to keep you aware of travel conditions. <http://www.scdot.org/getting/StormResources.aspx> ...

Kaitlin McClamrock @Mcclambchops Oct 13 South Carolina, USA
 @CSRA_prsn They've done a good job on construction & getting roads cleared. Seems like 20,26,95, 77 all good! Follow @SCDOTPress for updates

Nathan Ballentine @Nathan-Ballentin - Oct 2
 @SCDOTPress has special webpage to keep people apprised of travel conditions throughout the state this weekend. <http://www.scdot.org/getting/StormResources.aspx> ...

Dalton Blankenship @momisnowtweetin 20h20 hours ago Honea Path, SC
 Dalton Blankenship Retweeted Brenda Green

All those folks are due a HUGE vacation!! TY #SCDOT

Rep Beth Bernstein @beth4house Oct 2
 SCDOT has setup a special web page to keep people aware of travel conditions around the state this weekend.... <http://fb.me/4vYKXyKyO>

Rhonda Mellon @MellonRhonda Oct 13
 Exciting times. Looks like #SCDOT is hard at work on the bridge on Monticello. #scflood #postflood...

Unblock Report

Wildcat Wrestling @LexWrestling Oct 11
 Saw the @SCDOTPress getting an early start this morning. Thank you for all of your hard work keeping our roads safe here in #LTown

@SCDOTPress Thank you. Heading to N Charleston from Louisville, KY this morning.

Derham Cole @DerhamCole Oct 2
 SCDOT has set up a special webpage to keep people apprised of travel conditions throughout the state this weekend. <http://www.scdot.org/getting/StormResources.aspx> ...

Larry Grooms @larrygrooms Oct 13
 I-95 is now clear all the way through the state and open in both directions. SCDOT Tuesday Morning Update: 211... <http://fb.me/KaH1b41C>

Robert Branch @bitterrootbob Oct 11
 @SCDOTPress THANK YOU from a trucker! I appreciate the information. God bless SC!

Kevin Bryant @kevinbryantsc - Oct 2
 scdot storm resources <http://www.kevinbryant.com/2015/10/02/scdot-storm-resources/> ...



Sampling of Comments on Twitter during the October 2015 flood



Georgia DOT @GADeptofTrans Oct 6

Our thoughts & prayers are with the Gibson family and the SCDOT family.

Efren Afante @EfrenWLTX Oct 6

We at @WLTX are with more heavy hearts. @SCDOTPress / SCDOT has lost a member of their DOT family & our SC family.

Amelia B. McKie @AmeliaBMckie Oct 6

Praying for the family of @SCDOT worker Timothy Gibson who gave his live trying to keep others safe. Lord have mercy....

MamaJeanahlog @SabrinaColvin Oct 6

Thank you @nikkihaley @SCDOTPress @SCEMD #firefighters #linemen @UofSC #EMTs for doing such a great job during this horrific flooding.



Jo Anna Eason @joaceason Oct 6

Jo Anna Eason Retweeted SCDOT

Seriously, if you have a question about roads, call them! <https://twitter.com/SCDOTPress/status/651450604561256448> ...

Acting Transportation Secretary Christy Hall: visit <http://www.scdot.org> for SC transportation information.



Rose Howe @RoseHowe1 Oct 10

@SCDOTPress @tbrowntallie good luck to all those working hard on getting our roads up and running.

SCDOT @SCDOTPress Oct 5

SCDOT Acting Secretary Christy A. Hall: The agency's primary mission is focused on public safety & restoring mobility.

"There are still life-threatening situations in some areas of the state. We ask all South Carolinians to stay safe and allow our employees the space needed to do their jobs."

SCDOT Acting Secretary Christy A. Hall

SC Social Services @scsocialservice Oct 10

SC Social Services Retweeted SCDOT

Thanks guys & gals of @SCDOTPress for all your hard work to keep our families connected and safe. <https://twitter.com/SCDOTPress/status/653022129131233280> ...

SCDOT @SCDOTPress

A snapshot of workers on SC's highways. #SCStrong #SCFlood SC Highway 41 in Berkeley County on Saturday. pic.twitter.com/jXz2pBFr66

sbcarolina @sbcarolina Oct 10

sbcarolina Retweeted SCDOT

Strong work! RT <https://twitter.com/>

Before and After: A look at some of the flood repairs



BEFORE

Cains Mill Road - Sumter



AFTER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DISTRICT 1



BEFORE

Hotel Street, Section 2 - Alcolu



AFTER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



BEFORE

Polo Road - Columbia



AFTER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Before and after photographs: *SCDOT crews repair flood damaged roads, bridges*

Photographs by Rob Thompson/The Connector



BEFORE



AFTER

June Burn Road - Manning



BEFORE



AFTER

Monticello Road - Columbia



BEFORE



AFTER

Leesburg Road - Columbia



BEFORE



AFTER

Old Eastover Road - Eastover



BEFORE



AFTER

Fairfield Road (U.S. 321) - Columbia



BEFORE



AFTER

Old Tamah Road - Irmo

Before and After: A look at some of the flood repairs



BEFORE

Vanboken Road - Eastover



AFTER



BEFORE

Hotel Street - Alcolu



AFTER



BEFORE

Fontaine Road - Columbia



AFTER

South Carolina hosts, wins Regional Equipment Roadeo

By Bob Kudelka

It was South Carolina's turn to be host of the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators' Roadeo and Safety Training Conference this year, and SCDOT maintenance employees showed there's no place like home.

SCDOT won the overall competition, which was a component of the 13th annual conference that drew more than 600 attendees from DOTs in the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

South Carolina came in first with 195 team points. Mississippi was second with 165 points and Tennessee placed third with 155.

It was the first time SCDOT won the competition; our next highest finish was third in 2005, which was the last time South Carolina was host.

The goal of the conference was to train and develop advanced skills and safety practices for equipment operators and give operators a chance to demonstrate their operating skills and expertise while learning about working safely with and around heavy equipment and trucks.

There were 6 different equipment events: Backhoe, Motor Grader, Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer, Tandem Axle Truck, Single Axle Truck and Tractor with Mower.

Top individual competitors included **Scott Burgess**, Lexington County, who placed first in the Motor Grader event and **James Catoe**, Kershaw County, placed second; **Charles Long**, Saluda



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Commissioner Mike Wooten, left, and Interim Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall pose with SCDOT's winning team at the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators' Roadeo and Safety Training Conference. The contestants are, from left, back row: Jacob Cockrell, James Catoe, Melvin Brown, Robert Galbreath, Jeremy Shrewsberry, William Rabon and Richard Stroble. Front row: Troy Seigler, Dock Bowick, Charles Long, Scott Burgess and Tommy Johnson.

County, placed first in the Backhoe event and **Tommy Johnson**, Spartanburg County, placed third; and **Robert Galbreath**, Pickens County, placed second in the Lowboy Trailer event.

"The program as a whole serves as a morale booster for the agency," **Sam Riddle** Assistant Director, Supply and Equipment Depot, said. "It allows equipment operators to showcase their talents and improve upon their skills. It's also a great opportunity to provide ad-

ditional safety training for the employees while giving them much deserved recognition for the hard work and dedication they provide to the state each day."

SCDOT organizers of the conference received nothing but positive feedback.

"Comments received from those who attended the training conference were very complimentary with some stating it was the best ever," said Riddle. "They were well pleased with how the

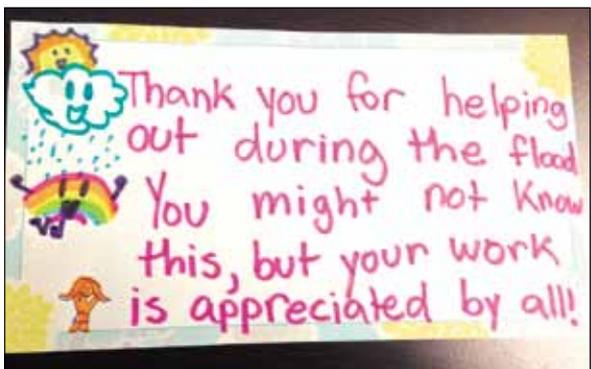
entire event was organized."

Co-chairmen of the roadeo and conference were **Andy Leaphart** and **Leland Colvin**. Other committee members included **Jim Fedra, David Cook, Tina Kennedy, Kenny Eargle, Robert Dickinson, Steve Coleman, Jason Allison, Todd Cook, Treasure Scarborough, Michael Black, Efrem Dantzer, Aaron Williams** and **Riddle**.

Riddle also thanked the Supply and Equipment Division; the

Equipment Depot Staff; Radio Repair Shop staff; Supply Depot staff; Supply and Equipment Office staff; **John Kennedy** and **Mark Staton**, IT Services; Events Planning staff; Building Services staff; from Horry Maintenance, District 5: **William Bell, Jay David, Jeff Gasque, Jody Hamilton, Justin Hyman, Steven Lovette, Zach Marion, Danny Poston, Cody Reynolds, Ronald Richardson, William Sessions** and **Doug Smith**.

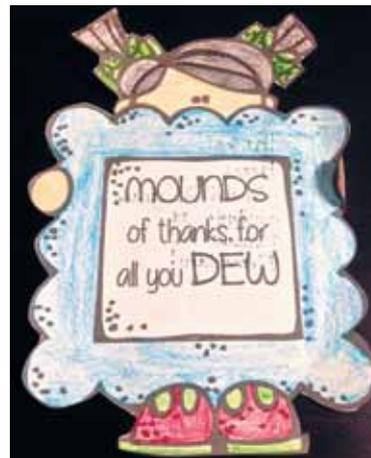
'MOUNDS of thanks for all you DEW'



JAE MATTOX/SCDOT

Children thank SCDOT for flood recovery work

For SCDOT's efforts during the flood and the flood recovery, the children at Pleasant Hill Elementary School in Lexington 1 generously dropped off a thank you package full of Mountain Dew, Mounds chocolate candy and thank you notes that were enjoyed by all employees.



PROMOTIONS

Christopher Graham, promoted to trades specialist IV at Abbeville Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Oscar Aldrete, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Richard Crosby, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Thaddeus Douse, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Harold Leno, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Rolando Pe'rez, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Helena Siegel, promoted to supply specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Terry Staley, promoted to trades specialist V at Aiken Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Sugar Sugar, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Eugene White, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Marion Williams, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Joseph Winfield, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Aiken Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Karl Zimmerman, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Tony Mayes, promoted to trades specialist III at Allendale Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Zachary Herron, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Anderson Construction on Sept. 17.

James Morris, promoted to trades specialist II at Anderson Maintenance on July 2.

Gail Bogan, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Bamberg Construction on July 2.

Larry Lawton, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Oct. 17.

William Sease, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Kenneth Williams, promoted to trades specialist III at Barnwell Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Joseph Baggett, promoted to mechanic III at Beaufort Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Michael Healy, promoted to trades specialist IV at Beaufort

Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Solomon Singleton, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Donald Bunch, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Dominique Gilliard, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Alexander Crawford, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Charleston Construction A on July 2.

Steven Canaday, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Charleston Construction B on July 17.

Robert Dean, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Charleston Construction B on Oct. 17.

Akeem Elmore, promoted to engineering/geodetic technician III at Charleston Construction B on Aug. 17.

John Daniels, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Charleston Maintenance on July 2.

Ronrico Holmes, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Nov. 17.

James Gilfillan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Cherokee Construction on Oct. 17.

Justin Harvey, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Cherokee Construction on Sept. 2.

Timothy Brown, promoted to trades specialist IV at Cherokee Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Bobby Collins, promoted to trades specialist III at Cherokee Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Gary Medley, promoted to trades specialist III at Cherokee Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Timothy Moss, promoted to trades specialist III at Cherokee Maintenance on Sept. 17.

William Shehan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Cherokee Maintenance on July 17.

Scott Gaston, promoted to trades specialist III at Chester Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Ricky Michau, promoted to trades specialist III at Chester Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Randolph Sandifer, promoted to trades specialist III at Chester Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Douglas Wynn, promoted to trades specialist IV at Chester Maintenance on Oct. 2.

David Miles, promoted to mechanic III at Chesterfield Maintenance on Oct. 2.

nance on Oct. 2.

Richard Sellers, promoted to trades specialist V at Chesterfield Maintenance on July 17.

Jimmy Sikes, promoted to trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Bill Prescott, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Clarendon Construction on Aug. 17.

Cedric Dorsey, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Colleton Bridge Construction on Aug. 17.

Willie Gaskin, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Alexander Jones, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Sept. 17.

James Kirkland, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Lance Langdale, promoted to trades specialist IV at Colleton Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Timothy Rowell, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Jermaine Smalls, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Larry Shumpert, promoted to trades specialist III at D1 Bridge Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Kennedy Parnell, promoted to senior geodetic technician at D1 Office on Nov. 2.

James Strickland, promoted to communications manager at D1 Traffic Signals on Nov. 17.

Robert Morgan, promoted to senior geodetic technician at D3 Materials and Research on Aug. 17.

David Hebert, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at D3 Office on Sept. 2.

Brian Linder, promoted to senior geodetic technician at D3 Office on Oct. 17.

Tony Thompson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at D3 Office on Sept. 2.

Justin Coe, promoted to trades specialist IV at D3 Traffic Signals on Oct. 17.

Tommy Bagley, promoted to trades specialist III at D4 Bridge Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Amanda Molina, promoted to trades specialist IV at D4 Bridge Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Redfearn Watson, promoted to trades specialist III at D4 Bridge Maintenance on Nov. 17.

David Gamble, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at D4 Office on Sept. 2.

Daniel Hopkins, promoted to senior geodetic technician at D4 Office on Sept. 2.

Cody McCollum, promoted to trades specialist IV at D4 Traffic Signals on Sept. 2.

Brian Ward, promoted to senior geodetic technician at D5 Materials and Research on Aug. 17.

Chavious Walker, promoted to trades specialist III at D6 Bridge Inspection on Aug. 2.

Robert Grooms, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at D6 Office on Sept. 2.

James Bowers, promoted to trades specialist V at D6 Traffic Signals on July 2.

John Fulton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Darlington Construction on Sept. 17.

Wilshawn Commander, promoted to trades specialist III at Darlington Maintenance on Oct. 17.

James McDowell, promoted to trades specialist III at Darlington Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Christina Johnson, promoted to program coordinator II in DBE on Nov. 17.

Brooks Bickley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Design/Build Office on Sept. 2.

Larry Gibson, promoted to Director of Pre-Construction on Sept. 2.

Ray Diaz, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Dorchester Construction on Nov. 17.

William Brown, promoted to trades specialist IV at Dorchester Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Albert Johnson, promoted to trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Levi Mizell, promoted to trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Michael Montgomery, promoted to trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Aimee Spires, promoted to engineering/geodetic technician III at Dorchester Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Christopher Chrisley, promoted to trades specialist IV at Edgefield Maintenance on Sept. 17.

John Davis, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on July 17.

Marcus Robertson, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Thomas Bostic, promoted to

engineer/associate engineer II at Florence Bridge Construction on Oct. 17.

James Johnson, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Florence Construction on Oct. 2.

Danny Bostick, promoted to trades specialist V at Florence Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Joey Sims, promoted to trades specialist III at Florence Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Justin Goins, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Florence Surveys on Aug. 17.

Marcus Jones, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Aug. 2.

Ron Aleshire, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Jason Cisson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Greenville Maintenance on July 2.

Micah Schlagenhauf, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Kevin Buchanan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Surveys on Aug. 17.

Joseph Burns, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Greenwood Construction on Nov. 2.

Daniel Balentine, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Greenwood Maintenance on July 2.

William Munneryn, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Greenwood Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Jimmy Ginn, promoted to trades specialist III at Hampton Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Lakendrae Jenkins, promoted to trades specialist IV at Holly Hill Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Ryan Keitt, promoted to trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Scott Sisco, promoted to trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Roy Cox, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Teneshala Cunningham, promoted to administrative assistant at Jasper Maintenance on July 2.

Jeremy Nichols, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Jasper Maintenance on July 17.

Andrew Pinckney, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Curtis Benjamin, promoted to trades specialist III at Kershaw Maintenance on Aug. 2.

PROMOTIONS - continued

Joshua Carmichael, promoted to mechanic II at Kershaw Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Timothy Bowers, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Lancaster Construction on Oct. 17.

Juddson Davis, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Lancaster Construction on July 17.

David Kindle, promoted to trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Jeffery Moree, promoted to trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Bryant Burden, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Laurens Construction on Oct. 17.

Maxcy Crews, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on Oct. 19.

Ruben Johnson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Laurens Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Jerry Harris, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Milton Hill, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Bradley Cannon, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Marion Construction on Sept. 2.

Jeff Bullard, promoted to trades specialist III at Marion Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Michael Armfield, promoted to trades specialist III at Marlboro Maintenance on July 2.

Franklin Amick, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Materials and Research on Aug. 2.

Christopher Carroll, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Materials and Research on Nov. 2.

Brandon Clark, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Materials and Research on July 2.

Louis Maxwell, promoted to associate geodetic technician in Materials and Research on Oct. 2.

Ashton Williams, promoted to associate geodetic technician in Materials and Research on Oct. 2.

Jason Wolfman, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Materials and Research on Sept. 17.

Cassidy Capps, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Matthew Simpson, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Kevin Creel, promoted to communications manager at Orangeburg Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Wanda Lambright, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Orangeburg Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Gary North, promoted to trades specialist III at Orangeburg Maintenance on Sept.

17. **George Orr**, promoted to trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Steven Shock, promoted to trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on July 17.

Janet Wilbanks, promoted to trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Glen Bramlitt, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support on Aug. 17.

Curtis Shaffer, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in Pre-Construction Support on July 2.

Richard McCarter, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Richland Construction on Aug. 17.

Ron Pressley, promoted to trades specialist IV at Richland Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Jason Stone, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on July 2.

James West, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Debra Thompson, promoted to right of way agent II in Rights of Way on Nov. 2.

Vanessa Williams, promoted to program coordinator II in Rights of Way on Oct. 2.

Brian Whiting, promoted to right of way agent III at Rights of Way Central on Aug. 2.

Carl McDaniel, promoted to program coordinator I in Road Data Services on Nov. 2.

John Watson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Road Data Services on Aug. 17.

Branford Breland, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 Low-country on Sept. 2.

Brian Davison, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Oct. 2.

Jessica Johns, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 Pee Dee on July 17.

Kenneth Martin, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Nov. 2.

Gregory Rikard, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Aug. 2.

Anjana Sidhu, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Nov. 2.

Stephen Nanney, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 Midlands on Oct. 2.

John Paradice, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 Midlands on Oct. 2.

Roberto Ruiz, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 Midlands on Aug. 17.

Richard Gadsden, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 4 Upstate on July 17.

Casey Lucas, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 4 Upstate on Oct. 2.

Scott Warren, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 4 Upstate on Sept. 17.

Joe Graham, promoted to communications manager at SHEP Myrtle Beach on Sept. 2.

Joe Laws, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Spartanburg Construction on Oct. 17.

Todd Carroll, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Spartanburg Construction C on Oct. 17.

Michael Amos, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Scott Canup, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Patrick Fowler, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 17.

Sunny Schweinsberg, promoted to trades specialist V at Spartanburg Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Marvin Tucker, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Nicholas Wilson, promoted to mechanic III at Spartanburg Maintenance on July 2.

Richard Downs, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Curtis Hammett, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Troy Harvin, promoted to trades specialist IV at Sumter Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Adam McFadden, promoted to mechanic II at Sumter Maintenance on July 17.

John Egan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Traffic Engineering on July 2.

Emily Toler, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Traffic Engineering on Aug. 2.

Lance Player, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on July 17.

Clint Beaver, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at York Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Jason Childers, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at York Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Antoine Davis, promoted to trades specialist V at York Maintenance on Nov. 2.

John Ehrie, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Jeremy Eppers, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Gary Hayes, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Devin Hayes, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Justin Reynolds, promoted to mechanic III at York Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Brandon Varnadore, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Justin Woody, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Aug. 17.

HALL from page 1



Christy Hall
Interim South Carolina
Secretary of Transportation

Before serving a brief term as SCDOT's Acting Secretary from February to May 2014, the South Carolina native held the position of Deputy Secretary of Finance and Procurement from 2011-2014.

Hall has over two decades of service at SCDOT. She began her career in Road Design and held numerous management positions including Program Manager, District Construction Engineer in an Upstate District (District 3) and District Engineering Administrator for another Upstate District (District 2).

Hall said she is honored to serve SCDOT and the State of South Carolina in this position. "I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Secretary for SCDOT and thank Governor Haley for her leadership of the State of South Carolina. I am honored to lead the men and women of SCDOT whose dedication and commitment to service to this Great State is inspiring to me. I look forward to continuing to advance and improve upon our shared goals of efficiently and effectively delivering our services for the benefit of our citizens," said Hall.

Secretary Hall is a Clemson University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina.

RETIREMENTS

Gary Pittman, retired from RPG 2 Pee Dee on Nov. 10.

Michael Psillos, retired from RPG 3 Midlands on July 28.

Dennis Wimberly, retired from Rights of Way on Aug. 14.

Timothy Adams, retired from RPG 4 Upstate on Sept. 8.

Larry Davis, retired from Sumter Construction on July 1.

Katharine Wagers, retired from Dorchester Maintenance on July 13.

Randy Lomax, retired from Traffic Engineering on Aug. 31.

Ezekiel Powell, retired from Florence Surveys on Sept. 17.

Shirley Smith, retired from Human Resources on .

Anthony Davis, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Nov. 27.

David Bunker, retired from Sumter Maintenance on July 31.

William Washington, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance on July 31.

Larry Smith, retired from Fairfield Maintenance on Aug. 31.

Steve Keisler, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Sept. 4.

Kenneth Williams, retired from Road Data Services on Sept. 3.

Vickie Willis, retired from Aiken Maintenance on Aug. 14.

Elton Bellamy, retired from Horry Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Gretta Kohut, retired from Dorchester Maintenance on Aug. 3.

Marion Williams, retired from Edgefield Maintenance on Sept. 11.

Roger Roscoe, retired from Chesterfield Maintenance on Sept. 25.

Richard Miceli, retired from Anderson Maintenance on .

James McNair, retired from Richland Maintenance on Nov. 3.

Daniel Dickerson, retired from D4 Bridge Maintenance on July 16.

Isaac Mathis, retired from Kershaw Maintenance on July 31.

Bobby Dow, retired from

Sumter Maintenance on July 31.

Richard Bowman, retired from Clarendon Maintenance on July 31.

James Hardin, retired from York Maintenance on July 31.

Leroy Morgan, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on Oct. 30.

Frank Heyward, retired from Charleston Maintenance on July 31.

Nathaniel Peterson, retired from Sumter Maintenance on Aug. 14.

Walter Fuller, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance on Aug. 31.

Richard Gore, retired from York Maintenance on Sept. 16.

Howard Harden, retired from Greenville Maintenance on Oct. 31.

Bobby Small, retired from Florence Maintenance on July 1.

Billy Williams, retired from Chesterfield Maintenance on July 16.

Michael Morris, retired from Greenwood Maintenance on July 31.

SCDOT Blood Drive



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees participated in the American Red Cross blood drive held at Headquarters on Oct. 21. Employees donated 27 units of blood exceeding the goal of 25 units. Here, Collection Specialist Tomeka Zeigler assists SCDOT RPG-1 employee Beverly Hollowell.

DEATHS

Vincent Edwards, trades specialist II with Charleston Maintenance, died Aug. 10.



Michael Hardeman

Michael Hardeman, trades specialist IV with Lexington Maintenance, died Sept. 16.



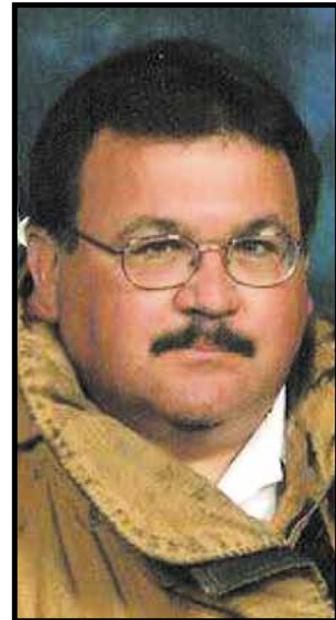
David Hensley

David Hensley, program coordinator I with IT Services, died Nov. 19.



Timothy Gibson

Timothy Gibson, trades specialist IV with Richland Maintenance, died Oct. 4.



Henry "Ray" Norris

Henry Norris, trades specialist II with Darlington Maintenance, died Oct. 20.

Terry Scott, trades specialist III with Anderson Maintenance, died Nov. 1.

Joel Smith, trades specialist IV with Hampton Maintenance, died Oct. 1.

Engineering News

Edwards wins a Golden Acorn Award

Landscape architect wins award for urban forestry outreach

At the 2015 Trees SC Annual Conference, SCDOT Landscape Architect **Timothy Edwards** won a Golden Acorn award for distinguished volunteer services for urban forestry.

This year's annual conference was held on October 29-30 at Folly Beach. Trees SC is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for the stewardship of our state's urban and community forests. Through their programs, Trees SC works to benefit the environmental, social and economic well-being of all communities in South Carolina. Funding is provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program, administered through the South Carolina Forestry Commission and funded by the USDA Forest Service.

The Golden Acorn is awarded to individuals, programs, municipalities, universities, or community groups that deserve to be recognized for their volunteer or professional contributions to urban and/

or community forestry.

Edwards was SCDOT's representative for the Trees SC executive board meetings during 2005-2012. Having served three elective terms on the board, he volunteered in 2012 to manage Trees SC's newly created Facebook page. The posted stories are a combination of scientific tree news, tree industry news and the occasional wacky tree story that hopefully, is of interest to readers. Facebook is often an individual's first exposure to the organization, and his continued use of personal time managing its pages today provides positive interest from members and the general public into the group's mission and activities.

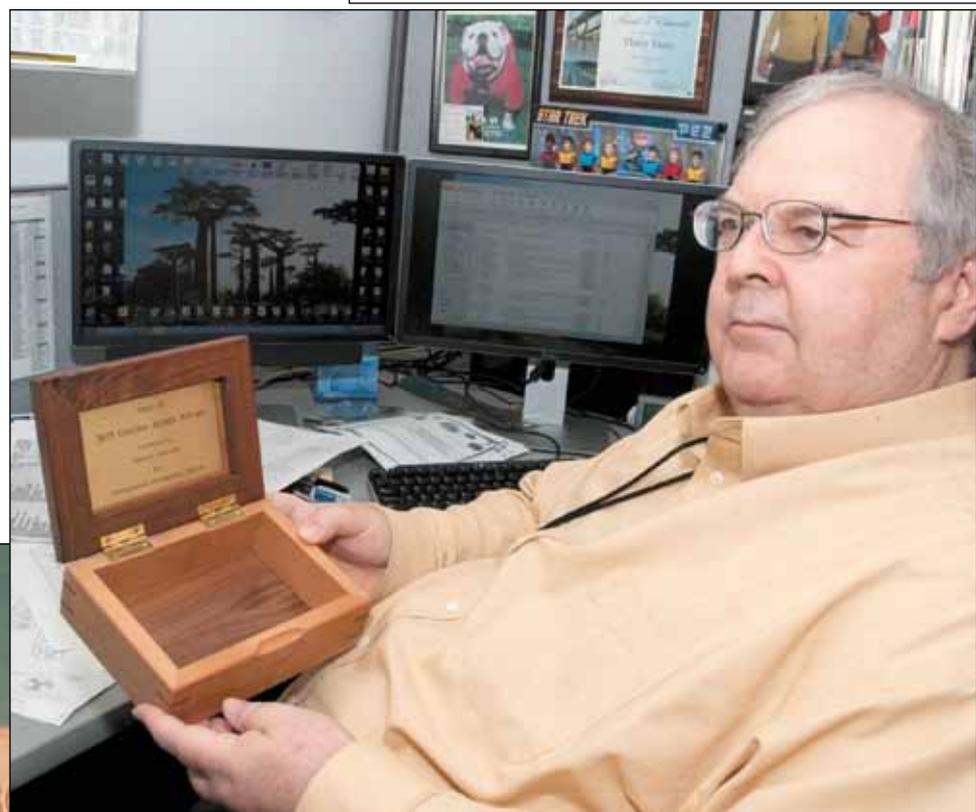
Edwards holds a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design in Athens. A year after graduation, he began his career with SCDOT in 1978 as a Landscape Architect in the Director of Maintenance office, and

Got news?

Contact
Dede Elmore at
803-737-7900
or email her at
ElmoreDD@scdot.
org.



Dede Elmore



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Landscape Architect Timothy Edwards opens the Golden Acorn Award which is actually a wooden box. But, he explains, no trees were harmed making them. They were made from wood recovered from large trees downed during a storm.

has continued his career at SCDOT, now in Preconstruction Support. He is a Registered Professional Landscape Architect in South Carolina. Edwards helped in the creation of various wide-ranging beautification programs including Interchange beautification, the gateway landscaping program, the Redbud Tree Planting program with the Garden Club of South Carolina and the wildflower program. While managing and reviewing landscaping plans along the state's rights of way, he has worked with landscape professionals, engineers and the general public for 37 years.

Photos of some of these projects

can be seen at the following Intranet site: <http://iwww.dot.state.sc.us/PreConstruction/DesignDocs/Landscape.aspx>

Edwards, a Charleston native, is an avid reader, especially of science-fiction, and enjoys South Carolina Gamecock football, photography and classic car shows. He is married to Kay Edwards, a vice-president in Regulatory Compliance at South State Bank. They are members of Shandon Baptist Church and have no children. Longtime dog lovers, they have a Chiweenie (miniature Dachshund/Chihuahua mix) named Treks.



Trees SC President Drew Smith, left, presents Timothy Edwards with a Golden Acorn Award for his volunteer work helping urban forestry.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

District Engineer: Bryan Jones (803) 737-6660
FAX: (803) 737-6401

Employee pride fuels amazing work statewide

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

We all agree the destruction caused by the floods of 2015 was, in a word, devastating. It was such a long event — and widespread. We will continue to feel the after-effects for months to come. But our response to the destruction will, hopefully and undoubtedly, be remembered for years.

There was an unprecedented mobilization of forces to combat the devastation. SCDOT employees came together in a manner unheard of in recent memory.

People were doing things they never thought of in places they never thought of — dissolving job titles and District borders. Employees from Spartanburg, Chesterfield, Newberry or Charleston

would find themselves in Richland or Sumter County leading a crew from behind the window of a trackhoe. Headquarters employees would be out looking at a hundred-foot-wide hole in Kershaw County where a bridge used to be.

I had the honor of visiting several worksites throughout the District; witnessing firsthand the capability of our Maintenance Forces, hearing the stories of our triumphs, our sacrifices; seeing the magnitude of the challenge, and watching our workers surpass it.

The grueling repair schedule made me curious of the source for the overwhelmingly positive attitude of all those I met. It did not take long to find the answer: **Pride.**

Pride in the work being accomplished. Pride in the waves

of people passing by. Pride in the thank you notes being left on their trucks, the signs put up calling us “heroes.” Pride in the final understanding that we really are a part of something larger and what we do matters. It is not just a pothole; not just cutting the grass—now we are rebuilding roads, reuniting people and communities. We are not just restoring convenience, but enabling the accomplishment of necessity.

Some aspects of doing full-scale repair work “in-house” are difficult to measure—we know the cost savings is there, but an exact figure would take time to generate. What is not difficult to measure is the capability of our Maintenance Force, the pride in our work, the dedication to see it through, and the assurance we will be there when needed to do it again if we must.

Little Buddy

Columbia boy watches, appreciates SCDOT workers, repairs

**By Andrew A. Rowe Jr.,
Richland Maintenance**

SCDOT crews met a fan while working a job on Converse St. off of Tremholm Rd.

When we went to assess the job we saw the little guy come out and was very interested to see us and what we were doing. We talked about it and informed our crews of his possible presence.

The first day of the job we moved our equipment in and he was right there watching every move. The family’s house was right next to the work site. We talked and decided to give him



a vest and hard hat so not only would we notice him better but all persons involved in the project would see him.

His mom was very appreciative and said he slept with the hat and vest the first night.

Every day of the project when

we arrived he was there already. He had his mom go and get him boots and tools of his size so he could emulate our actions.

It was cool having the little guy there and seeing the appreciation of the people in the community when the job was finished.

Got news?

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

**Alan
Kozusko**



Dedication, appreciation

Employees work despite damage at home

Most of us appreciate the fact we can come to work without the worry or distraction of a heavy burden at home.

Lexington Maintenance crew leader **Shane Williamson** did not have that luxury. During the October storms, the roof of his home was damaged. Water flooded his home and destroyed his daughter’s bedroom.

Knowing this had happened he still continued to work and dedicate his time to helping others by performing his duties. His 13-year-old daughter,

Brandi Metts, wrote a letter of appreciation for the donations received from Williamson’s fellow SCDOT employees (See below).

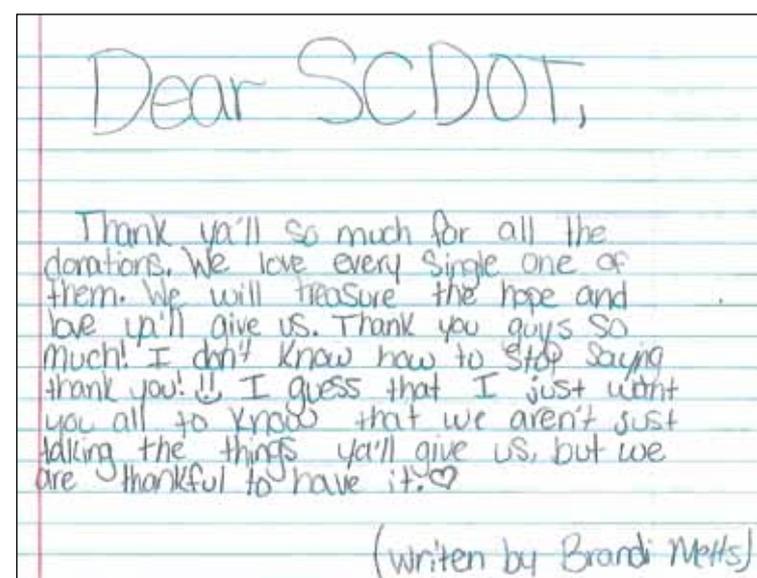
Williamson was not alone in his working despite damage at home. There were many employees in our SCDOT family that sustained flood damage yet still dedicated themselves to their job duties.

Please keep them in your prayers and contact your local HR Coordinator to find out how to donate time, skills or items.

A burden shared is a burden lessened.



**Shane
Williamson**



Shane Williamson’s daughter penned a letter thanking SCDOT items donated after their home was damaged by flooding.

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 crews assists with flood repairs

By Steve Coleman

During the recent epic flood event, District 2 assisted District 1 with various roadway repairs. The repairs included rebuilding drainage systems, minor bridge repairs and patching. The repairs varied from complete roadway rebuilds to minor shoulder repairs.

Crews also assisted in hauling materials (riprap, crush and run) to various job sites throughout District 1. District 2 provided assistance with 13 crews totaling approximately 175 employees during the month of October. A special thank you goes out to these employees for their hard work and dedication throughout this recovery process.



Greenwood



Abbeville



Laurens



Anderson



McCormick



Edgefield



Saluda

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

October floods damage roads, utilities

Rainy fall weather this October has brought on a multitude of issues for the residents of South Carolina.

No one could have guessed just how much damage the roads have sustained across the state from the large amounts of rain we have received over the last two months.

According to Spartanburg Resident Construction Engineer **Joe Laws** and Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer **Jamie Gambrell**, in Spartanburg, the Hayne St. Culvert failed due to an

intense rain storm on Oct. 1, 2015.

The failure of this culvert resulted in the entire road that crosses over the stream to washout and collapse causing damage to multiple utility services for residents. The damage items in addition to the road included: a 12-inch ductile iron pipe for the sanitary sewer, a 6-inch water main and an AT&T duct bank communication line from Charlotte to Atlanta.

As of Nov. 30, Laws said all utilities have been cleaned up, with the exception being a fiber optic cable line.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE LAWS AND JAMIE GAMBRELL/SCDOT

The culvert under Hayne Street in Spartanburg failed due to the October flooding.

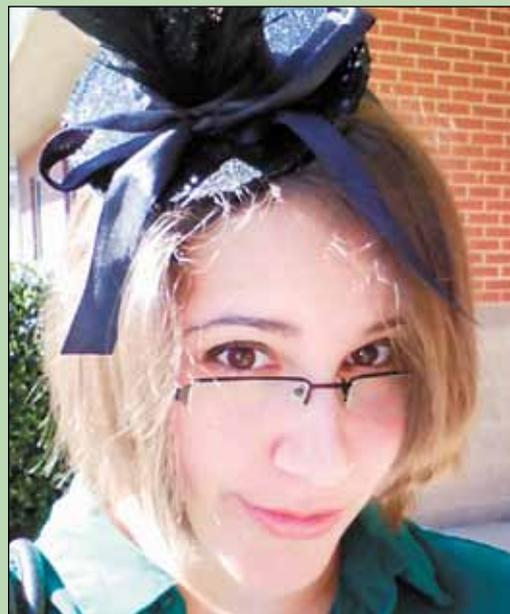
Got news?

Please contact
 Brian Harris
 at 864-241-1010
 or by emailing him at
 HarrisBW@scdot.org

**Brian
 Harris**



Meet Catherine Delgado



Catherine Delgado

Name: Catherine Delgado
Title: Administrative Assistant
Office: Spartanburg Maintenance

Have you met Catherine Delgado?

Delgado joined District 3 six months ago as an administrative assistant at Spartanburg Maintenance.

She enjoys hiking, Cosplaying for Cons, a well written book, movies and, when the mood strikes her, baking.

Her favorite quote is by Joanne Harris: "Some books you read. Some books you enjoy. But some books just swallow you up, heart and soul."

Please welcome Delgado to SCDOT and we wish her much success in her position.

District 4 News

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

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

Got news?

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



Edward Moore

District 4 crews lend a hand in flood affected areas



Foreman Buddy Bell, left, of Chester Maintenance directs repairs on U.S. 21 (North Main Street) in Columbia.



LEFT: Richard Teigue of Chester Maintenance directs dump truck on McCords Ferry Road in Richland County.



LEFT: York Maintenance employees repair damages to the drainage along Percival Road in Columbia.

RIGHT: Workers from Fairfield and York Maintenance repair damaged bridge approach on Estes Lane in Fairfield County.



SC Cares

Meet Steve Moseley



Steve Moseley

Name: Steve Moseley
Title: D4 Safety Officer
Started at SCDOT: April 2015

Steve Moseley is from Lancaster and graduated from Lancaster High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of South Carolina in 1997.

Moseley comes to SCDOT from SCD-HEC where he worked for 17 years as the regional office emergency response coordinator, air, land and waste manager.

He is married to Dr. Lori Moseley and they have two children, Elizabeth and Will.

He is an active member at his church, leads his son's Cub Scout pack and operates a Christmas tree Farm in Lancaster.



OSHA Officer Edward Moore stands with items donated by D4 employees for SC Cares. Donated items included gift cards, clothing, cleaning supplies and other household items. Donated items totaled over \$4,500.

District 5 News

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

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

District 5 responds to area flooding

Several counties in District 5 were hit hard by the heavy rains and subsequent flooding.

Communities were completely cut off by the rising waters and many roads were submerged or washed completely away.

A special thanks goes out to all the DOT employees whose efforts helped reopen these roadways.



SCDOT employees inspect a washed-out section of S.C. 527 in Williamsburg County.



A crew uses a backhoe to fill a washed-out section of Lexington Avenue in Williamsburg County.

Got news?

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

Michael Miller



Damage personal for some employees



Horry Maintenance employee Archie Simmons' house was flooded during the storm event, with several feet of water eventually entering the house. Even with the damage to his home and having to move his family into a motel for the duration of the storm, Archie worked 12-hour days and did not miss a single day for several weeks. SCDOT thanks Simmons, and all the other SCDOT employees who helped the state recover from this event.



Archie Simmons

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

When it rains, it pours

By Debra J. Jerideau

District 6 has weathered storms before, but the past few months have tested the will of our fellow South Carolinians and our SCDOT Family.

The “triad of storms” that occurred on Sept. 25, Sept. 28 and Oct. 2 started nationwide coverage and assistance to South Carolina residents.

On Sept. 25, 2015, an EF2 tornado hit Johns Island with estimated winds of 130 mph. The tornado traveled about 7 miles NW and its destruction lasted approximately 17 minutes. Within those 17 minutes, 10 homes suffered heavy damage and thousands of trees were shattered and uprooted.

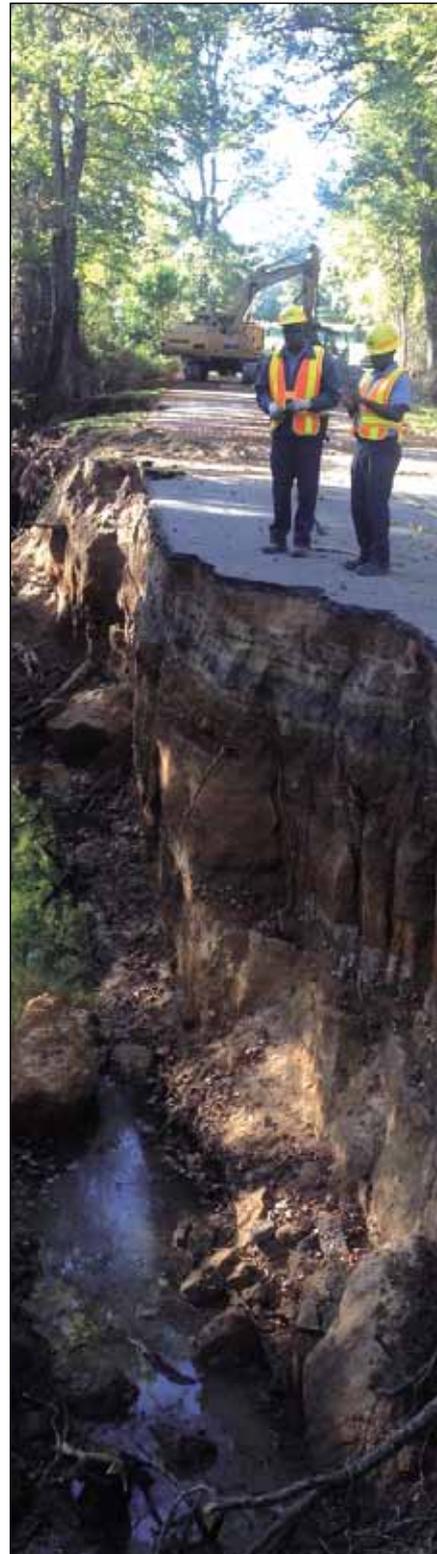
Hurricane Joaquin formed on Sept. 28, and a non-tropical low occurred over the southeast which tapped into the hurricane’s moisture. Also on Sept. 28, a coastal flood advisory simultaneously went into effect after the Super Blood Moon impacted tides. Some areas received in excess of six inches of rain.

Hurricane Joaquin’s effects were felt in South Carolina on Oct. 2. This produced 1000-year historic flood event that caused catastrophic flooding throughout South Carolina. Flood water levels reached as high as 24 inches in some areas. Areas around Charleston and Columbia were hit the hardest. Numerous rivers topped their banks, washing away roads, bridges, vehicles and homes.

President Barack Obama declared parts of South Carolina a disaster area making federal aid available in at least 24 counties. Governor Nikki Haley did not waste any time directing South Carolina roads reopened. This was achieved with the help of local municipalities, law enforcement, National Guard, contractors and our hard working SCDOT workers. Several SCDOT workers suffered personal losses due to the flood and performed their job duties without regard to their own situations.

We would like to pay homage and respect to those who lost their lives during this historic flood event. Particularly to two of SCDOT’s own, Timothy Gibson and Ray Norris.

Kudos to SCDOT workers who worked tirelessly to get roads repaired and reopened with minimal disruption to the traveling public and the residents of South Carolina!



Durick Green and James Moultrie examine a washed-out roadway in Columbia.



A tornado hit Johns Island on Sept. 25 and damaged 10 homes in the area. SCDOT crews assisted in the cleanup afterwards.



The Charleston Specialized Bridge crew repairs the headwall on a bridge along S.C. 41 in Berkeley County.

Meet Sonia Elaine Gadsden



Sonia Elaine Gadsden

Name: Sonia Elaine Gadsden
Title: Human Resource Assistant
Started at SCDOT: March 2015

Sonia Elaine Gadsden, a graduate of Springfield College (Bachelor of Science) and Walden University (MBA), began her career at SCDOT March 2, 2015, as a Human Resource Assistant. Prior to coming to SCDOT, Gadsden was employed at Robert Bosch, LLC as a HRIS Specialist.

She has one son, Daniel James Seabrook, who is a 10th grader at Goose Creek High School.

Her hobbies include reading and shopping.

District 7 News

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

District Engineer Jo Ann Woodrum
FAX:

(803) 531-6850
(803) 531-6854

All hands on deck!

All District 7 maintenance crews performed extremely well during the historic flood event. We are very proud of their professionalism and ongoing commitment to safety. Pictured below are several crews that went out of county and/or out of the District to assist other crews.



Bamberg crews were sent to Holly Hill. The two crews pictured are 70511 with foreman Isaac James and 70512.



Allendale Maintenance crews were sent to help District 1 in Sumter. Allendale crews assisted on different weeks while others continued to work in Allendale. Pictured are Resident Maintenance Engineer Loraine Williams and members from crews 0305, 0311, 0312, 0314 and 0315.

Got news?

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

**Danny
 Simmons**



Aiken Maintenance sent crews to work in Columbia. The crews were: 0220, 0230, 0235, 0260 and 0275. They worked in Columbia assisting with bridges and road repair. These crews were accompanied by Resident Maintenance Foremen Wayne Anderson and Tyrone Jones as well as Resident Construction Engineer Bobby Usry.



Orangeburg Maintenance crews were sent to Manning. The Orangeburg crews included: 3013, 3814, 3817, 3818, 3819 and some members of 3812 and 3840. These crews worked in Manning and as well as Holly Hill and Calhoun Counties.

PROMOTIONS - continued

Randall Young named Acting Chief Engineer for Project Delivery



Randall Young has been selected to serve as Acting Chief Engineer for Project Delivery effective immediately.

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 Bachelors of Science Degree 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.

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

Syrees Oliver promoted to Affirmative Action Officer

Syrees Oliver has been promoted to an Affirmative Action Officer in the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs at SCDOT.

Oliver was previously a DBE Certification Senior Analyst in the Office of Business Development and Special Programs.

Her new responsibilities include coordinating and implementing the agency's efforts to develop, meet and exceed affirmative action goals.

Oliver is originally from Eutawville and graduated from Holly Hill Roberts High School in 1992. She earned her Bachelor's in Business from Benedict College in 2009 and her MBA from Webster University in 2011.

Oliver and her husband, Eugene Oliver, have three children and are members of Bethlehem Baptist Church.



In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family.

Ladd Gibson is Preconstruction Director

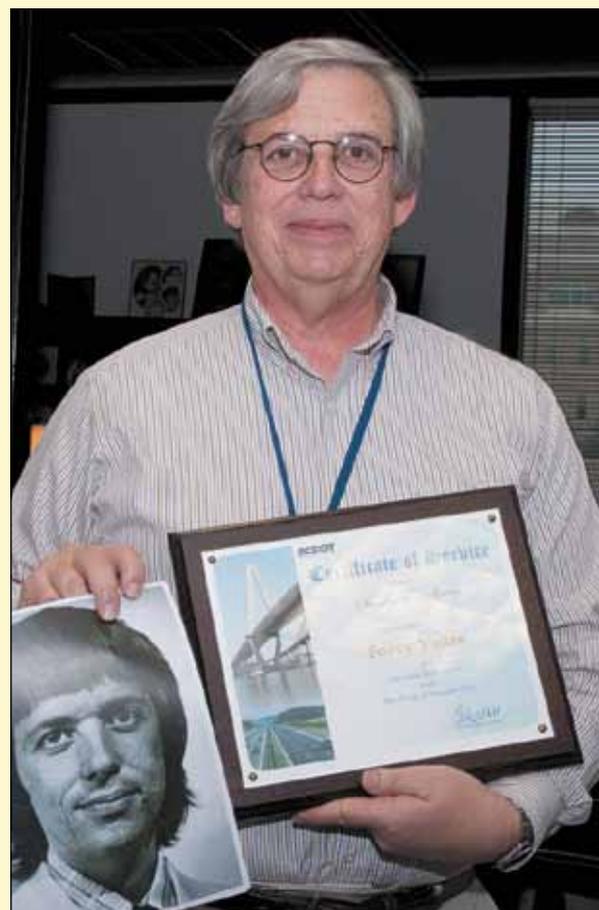
Ladd Gibson has been selected as the Director of Preconstruction.

Gibson has been tasked with leading the Preconstruction Division with a focus on Project Delivery. His appointment will be effective immediately.

Gibson has 23 years of experience including 9 years with SCDOT. He has served as Design/Build Engineer and Program Manager during his tenure at SCDOT.

Gibson is a 1991 graduate of Clemson University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

He is a Registered Professional Engineer in both South Carolina and North Carolina.



Stan Shealy: 40 years of service

On Nov. 19, 2015, Stan Shealy hit his 40-year anniversary at SCDOT. He was recognized for his years of service by the Communications staff on Dec. 17, where he posed with a photo of himself from his first year at SCDOT.

THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT

VOLUME XXV NO. III

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FALL 2015

VIEWPOINTS

**By Christy Hall
Interim Secretary
of Transportation**

As we close out 2015, I think we all can affirm that it was a year for the record books.

Whether it was fires on the interstates, emergency bridge repairs, inclement weather or record flooding, our team handled the

situation quickly and professionally. I am so very proud of the men and women of SCDOT who devote themselves to doing whatever it takes to get the job done and are willing to make personal sacrifices in emergency situations in order to keep our roads and bridges operational.

This edition of The Connector is dedicated to the heroic efforts of our team in response to the his-

toric October flood. Chronicled in this publication is page after page of us working as One DOT, each unit supporting the other with no District or County lines visible.

I sincerely appreciate the response of our entire team when I put the call out for "All Hands on Deck" and I am confident that our fast recovery, at a fraction of the expected cost, should be credited to the hard work and dedication of

our One DOT Team.

I must also give a nod to our industry partners who we engaged to help in some areas in order to accelerate some repairs or completely rebuild a major drainage structure or bridge. By working together, we have been able to exceed all expectations on our response and recovery operations. Congratulations on a job well done!

A LETTER WE LIKED

Dec. 3, 2015

Attention: SCDOT Customer Service

The purpose of this letter is to commend an employee of the DOT for unsolicited assistance to four senior Ohioans stranded on I-26, east of Columbia on Oct. 20, 2015. We were bound for the Florida Keys, pulling a 20 foot boat on a tandem trailer, when a rear tire on the trailer blew out. We pulled over, planning to install the spare tire and be on our way very quickly, as dark was approaching. However, the lug nuts holding the disabled wheel would not be loosened, no matter how hard the men tried. So, we called AAA, who gave us the total run-around and never did come.

While we were waiting, SCDOT employee, **Mathew Perry**, happened to be going by. Seeing our predicament, he stopped and asked if he could be of assistance. He helped to loosen the frozen nuts so that our spare tire could be put on, enabling us to get back on the road before dark.

This was our first day on the road, and it could have had a very bad end had it not been for Mr. Perry. We tried to compensate him, but he graciously refused,

simply wishing us well on the rest of our journey. I apologize for the lateness of this letter, but we just returned from the Keys and I had no way to type down there. Anyway, the rest of our journey was uneventful, but we will always remember the good Samaritan from South Carolina who saved the day on SC I-26.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. William Sowers
Blue Rock, Ohio**

(Our response)

Dec. 17, 2015

Dear Mrs. Sowers:

We are extremely happy to know the SCOOT's State Highway Emergency Program (SHEP) provided a valuable service to you in the Columbia area on 10-20-2015.

Our responders are courteous and take great pride while assisting motorists. With this letter, I am passing along your words of appreciation to the Columbia SHEP Supervisor **James Zarpentine**, Responder **Matthew Perry**, and other management personnel. It is very rewarding to know this program is benefiting motorists on the highways in South Carolina.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT SHEP Incident Responder Matthew Perry

If you need them in the future for service, please dial *47 on your cellular telephone. This service is free and provided to you by the SCDOT.

We appreciate you taking the time to write a letter with your

comments, and are happy the remainder of your trip to the Florida Keys was uneventful.

Below is a link to our web site on the SCDOT's Incident Response Program throughout the state:

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<http://www.scdot.org/getting/shep.aspx>