

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXIX NO. 1

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2018

SCDOT exceeds goals in first year of the 10-Year Plan



PAVING



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



INTERSTATE WIDENING



RURAL ROAD SAFETY

By Pete Poore

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** had good news for the SCDOT Commission and the public on June 18th of this year at the Commis-

sion's monthly meeting. The report for Year 1 of the 10-Year Plan to rebuild South Carolina's roads and bridges revealed a record-breaking year for SCDOT. For the first time in the agency's 100-year history, the total amount of road

and bridge work underway on the state's highway system had exceeded \$3 Billion which is three times the normal levels.

Hall noted that the 10-Year Plan is the first significant effort to repair South Carolina's high-

way system after three decades of neglect. Hall said, "We are now one year into a strategic 10-year repair and reconstruction program designed to start the long journey to improve and repair our 42,000-mile highway system that includes

just over 8,400 bridges with new and sustainable funding that we have not had for 30 years."

Hall reported that SCDOT had

See GOALS on page 2

GOALS from page 1

not varied in its priorities and has implemented the plan in accordance with strategic items identified prior to the gas tax increase: (1) Rural Road Safety, (2) the Pavement Resurfacing Program, (3) Bridge Replacements and (4) Interstate Widening.

“The projects selected for these programs were based on analytical, not political processes, where SCDOT engineers ranked projects based on objective and quantifiable factors,” said Hall.

The 10-Year program utilizes all of the state and federal resources dedicated to SCDOT for its use on prioritized projects, including the recently-passed gas tax increase that the SC General Assembly directed to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund (IMTF), which is to be used exclusively by SCDOT for the repairs, maintenance and improvements to the existing highway system.

Hall pointed to the state’s number one ranking in the nation in highway fatality rates. To combat the high death toll, one of the four major programs is the Rural Road Safety Program. The 10-year target is to provide customized improvements on 1,000 miles of rural at a rate of 100 miles per year.

However, the agency surpassed that goal during Year 1. SCDOT has already awarded contracts in this category totaling 187 miles of safety improvements, either through direct safety projects, or safety improvements that were added to repaving projects.

The list of Phase II - Rural Road Safety Improvement projects is expected to be announced later this summer

The Pavement Resurfacing Program is the second of the four program that exceeded expectations in Year 1. The 10-Year Plan has four targets:

- Interstate Highways – 92% Good after 10 years. 70% are rated Good in Year #1.
- Major Roads – 53% Good after 10 years. 27% are rated Good in Year #1.
- Farm to Market Roads – 40% Good after 10 years. 20% Good in Year #1.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Boiling Springs Road in Spartanburg was recently repaved with funds from the increased gas tax.

- Neighborhood Streets – 25% Good after 10 years. 16% rated Good in Year #1.

The overall goal of the Pavement Program is to improve the quality of SC’s roads by up to 3% per year. SCDOT has awarded contracts totaling 2200 miles over the past year alone which is more than a doubling of the paving program. The 10-year plan calls for essentially another doubling of the paving program as the gas tax increase is fully phased-in. Based on the annual pavement assessment, SCDOT has achieved up to a 5% pavement improvement in Year 1.

This Program received more good news at the June 18th Commission meeting. The Commission voted to approve an additional \$417 million for paving approximately 600 more miles of roads and highways. That brings the total up to 2800 miles, distributed among all 46 counties which will see repaving in the remainder of 2018 and 2019.

The 10-Year Plan Bridge Program calls for a dramatic increase in funding for replacing Load-Restricted and Structurally Deficient bridges on SC’s major corridors. Three years ago (2015) the funding level for this target was \$80 million. The new Bridge Program

provides \$150-180 million annually to begin to address the state’s critical bridge needs of the 2016 baseline of 750 structurally deficient bridges statewide.

- The 10-year target for this Program is the replacement of 465 bridges.
- In Year #1, 51 bridges are under construction.
- This Program is on schedule.
- The design and planning work continues to put more bridge projects out for bid.

The fourth major program in the 10-Year Plan is the Interstate Widening program.

The Plan designates a minimum of \$5 billion investment in this category over the course of 10 years. Hall reported that \$1 billion in projects is already underway on the I-85 corridor and within the next 12-18 months another \$1 billion + in the Midlands with the start of the “Malfunction Junction” project. Following those projects will be the improvements on existing I -526 in the Lowcountry.

- The specifics for the 10-Year Plan include improving at least 140 miles of interstates over the decade.
- Already in Year 1, 70 miles are under contract.

Hall also reviewed the emer-



SHAWN BUCHANAN/LEXINGTON CONSTRUCTION B

The Cherokee Trail Bridge Road bridge over 14 Mile Creek in Lexington County was recently replaced.

gency responses that challenged SCDOT shortly after the Roads Bill became law on July 1, 2017: Hurricane Irma, a coastal snow storm, a train derailment, a truck collision that destroyed a bridge on I-26 and the emergency repairs to the Wando Bridge in the Lowcountry.

Secretary Hall credits the SCDOT staff for minimizing the impact these challenges had on the 10-Year Plan schedules. “I am very proud of the SCDOT Team.

We have an experienced staff that is more than capable of reacting to emergency situations while still keeping our long-term task of fixing our roads and bridges on schedule,” said Hall.

The public is invited to review SCDOT’s webpage www.scdot.org for information about the 10-year plan, Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund, and to view the interactive Project Viewer map to see what projects are planned and underway in your community.

SCDOT unveils Workers Memorial Wall

By Bob Kudelka

In a poignant and historic ceremony, SCDOT on April 27, 2018, unveiled a Workers Memorial in Columbia to honor the men and women who have given their lives in service to SCDOT and the State of South Carolina.

Gov. Henry McMaster, Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** and SCDOT Commission Chairman Ben H. Davis, Jr. were among the speakers. Hundreds of family members and employees gathered for the event in front of Headquarters.

Adorned with plaques of 83 names dating back to 1925, the SCDOT Workers Memorial is a permanent tribute to the memory of our fallen co-workers.

“These 83 honored members of our family will always be in our thoughts and will forever remain in our hearts,” Hall said.

“Families, thank you for being here today as we honor and remember your loved ones,” Hall said. “The pain of their loss still hurts and I imagine that you still search daily for answers. Today is a somber reminder that when the unthinkable happens, it has a profound impact on families forever. Just know that we are here today to wrap our arms around you.”

Hall said, “We also have families that weave all through the

DOT, including many generations of families that work within the DOT. Cousins, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, grandfathers. Family.”

“It is with a heavy heart, that we know that we must continue our mission as a tribute to them. We know that we must continue to work on our assignments until we too complete them. We know that we have to exemplify the same enduring faithfulness to our family and mission as they did. I firmly believe that the 83 individuals soon to be immortalized on the wall behind me would want it that way and would expect nothing less from us,” Hall said.

SCDOT staff representing 39 units walked down the middle aisle and pulled back the curtain covering the memorial wall.

Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** and Chief Engineer for Project Delivery **Randy Young** read aloud each name on the wall while Director of Safety **Kenny Eargle**, wearing white gloves, rang a silver bell in their honor.

Employee **Robert Webb** joined Secretary Hall and Governor McMaster for the laying of the wreath, a symbolic gesture of respect and gratitude for the fallen employees. Webb lost his father, Edsel C. Webb on Nov. 17, 1969.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

If you are near SCDOT Headquarters, stop by and view the Memorial Wall honoring all SCDOT employees who died on the job. SCDOT Headquarters is located at 955 Park Street (about three blocks from the State House) in Columbia, S.C.

Edsel Webb was an employee in the Greenville Maintenance office at the time of his death. As the wreath was being laid, the bell was again rung: two rings followed by

four rings, a signal of 10-24, denoting a call of assignment completed, a job well done. “The employees on this wall have completed their assignments and certainly have done them well,” said Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**.

After the ceremony, Webb told media gathered around him: “I remember telling my father that I would fulfill all of his dreams,” he said. “One of his dreams was to retire from where he worked, where he died, 18 years. Well, I’m here to fulfill that dream . . . it’s an honor to be here to represent Edsel C. Webb.” Webb’s dream was to study math in college and one day retire from the SCDOT.

“That’s when I stepped in and said, ‘Daddy, with all the dreams that you wanted, I will fulfill those dreams.’ I did,” he said. “I went to college, I retired from the military. I came here working at the SCDOT going on 28 years and I’m fulfilling that dream of getting his

retirement.”

While hundreds attended the historic ceremony, thousands more followed along on SCDOT social media. The ceremony was streamed live on SCDOT’s Facebook page.

Family members appreciated the ceremony.

“I thought it was very well done—excellent,” said Aileen Webb, daughter-in-law of Edsel Webb. “Everything was wonderfully presented for those that are being honored and for the families that were able to come and participate. They were very well represented.

“It’s amazing they would take the time to do that,” Aileen Webb said. “It was a beautiful ceremony.”

The oldest family represented at the ceremony was the Ellis Hollis Lancaster family, according to Agency Events Coordinator **Tina**



SCDOT employee Robert Webb looks at his father’s plaque on the memorial wall. His father died while working for the department back in 1970.

See MEMORIAL on page 7

SCDOT Commission has four new members

Commissioners John Hardee, Samuel Glover terms end

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commission has four new members including new Commissioners representing two at-large seats appointed by Governor Henry McMaster and new Commissioners representing the 2nd Congressional District and 6th Congressional District.

Kristen Blanchard

At-Large Commissioner Kristen E. Blanchard is the Vice President of External Corporate Affairs for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster, SC. She has worked for the company since 1997. Currently she serves as the executive point person on behalf of the company for all community relations on the local, state and federal levels. She received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego in 1990 and conducted post-graduate work at the University of San Diego. Blanchard has served on several boards and executive committees during her tenure at Nutramax Laboratories. Her most recent service includes the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster County Economic Development Advisory Board, among many others.

John H. Burriss

Commissioner John H. Burriss of Chapin represents the 2nd Congressional District. Burriss is President and owner of The Burriss Corporation, a real estate and construction management company. He is also President and owner of St. Andrews Fitness Corporation. Burriss served in the S.C. House of Representatives from 1984-1988. He was also a member of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Board from 1988 through 1999. He served as the Board's Chairman from 1994 through 1999. Burriss earned a Bach-

elor of Arts degree in Economics from St. Andrews Presbyterian College (now St. Andrews University) in Laurinburg, NC.

J. Barnwell Fishburne

Commissioner J. Barnwell Fishburne represents the 6th Congressional District. He is the owner of Fishburne and Company Development Corporation in Walterboro, SC. Fishburne's prior community service includes serving on the Colleton County Planning Commission for approximately 20 years. In addition, he served on the Colleton Resource and Development Board. He currently sits on the Board of Trustees of HCA affiliate Colleton Medical Center as Vice Chairman, as well as numerous memberships on the boards of financial institutions in Walterboro and Charleston. Fishburne is a graduate of Wofford College where he earned a B.A. degree in Political Science.

James T. McLawhorn

At-Large Commissioner James T. McLawhorn Jr. has served as the President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League since 1979. In his many years of public service, he has served on numerous boards, including past chair of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. McLawhorn is the recipient of many awards including the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award given to a citizen in the state of South Carolina. He earned a B.S. in Political Science from North Carolina A&T University, a Master's degree in City & Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami and an Honorary Doctorate from the College of Charleston.

SCDOT Commission



Robert D. Robbins
1st Congressional District



John H. Burriss
2nd Congressional District



Ben H. Davis Jr.
3rd Congressional District



Woodrow W. Willard
4th Congressional District



Gene Branham
5th Congressional District



Barnwell Fishburne
6th Congressional District



Tony K. Cox
7th Congressional District



Kristen Blanchard
Commissioner At-Large



J.T. McLawhorn
Commissioner At-Large

THE CONNECTOR

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

Editor: Pete Poore

Photography / Layout Editor: Rob Thompson

Editorial Board: Bob Kudelka, Bonnie Cramer, Tasha Crumpton, Cody Crouch, Zoe Cook, Drew Stewart and Lauren Rountree.

THE CONNECTOR is an employee newspaper of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. All news

items may be reproduced with credit to The Connector or the source. News, photos and information to appear in The Connector should be submitted to Stan Shealy, Office of Communications, S.C. Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202, no less than three weeks prior to date of publication. Copy should include the name and phone number of the source or person submitting the article. For inquiries regarding news copy, telephone (803) 737-

1270. All materials submitted become the property of SCDOT unless their return is stipulated. The Connector is distributed free by mail to employees and to others upon request.

Christy A. Hall is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



Governor hosts meeting to discuss federal infrastructure spending plans

By Bob Kudelka

Gov. Henry McMaster hosted a roundtable discussion on President Trump's American Infrastructure Initiative on March 13, 2018. He was joined at the table by SCDOT Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** and USDOT Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy **Finch Fulton**.

Several SCDOT Commissioners were in attendance, along with a mix of local government and industry leaders.



USDOT Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Finch Fulton talks with Gov. Henry McMaster and S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall about the President's plan to spend \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure projects.



Gov. Henry McMaster, center, leads the roundtable discussion on President Trump's American Infrastructure Initiative in Columbia on March 13, 2018.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The meeting was significant because President Donald Trump's proposal to spend \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure projects offers a prime opportunity for development in South Carolina.

McMaster called for coordination and communication under the leadership of Hall, who will be the "center point" for coordination on this topic with the federal government.

Fulton represented U.S. Secretary of

Transportation Elaine L. Chao at the discussion.

"This is incredibly important to us," Fulton said. "Thank you very much for your leadership and thank you for having us here."

Hall offered SCDOT to "be a resource to all of our stakeholders as we move forward," she said. "We're very engaged in D.C., not only with the Administration but our Delegation...to try to make sure South

Carolina remains well positioned."

Hall said she has already been working closely with the Administration to prepare for a possible benefit to projects in South Carolina.

"It's very unusual to have this level of dialogue on infrastructure being driven by the White House at this point in an Administration, so the president deserves a lot of credit for bringing this issue to the forefront," Hall said.

Greg Davis selected for national leadership program

SCDOT's Director of Minority and Small Business Affairs **Greg Davis** has been selected to participate this spring in the National Transportation Advanced Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. The Institute is sponsored by the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO). Participants will learn about emerging national policy insights, federal policies and enhanced senior executive leadership skills.

The advanced training program is considered to be a "post-graduate level" course in transportation leadership. The advanced program was designed by a number of state transportation CEOs, including South Carolina's Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**.

Davis has been in his current position at SCDOT since October 2014. He came to SCDOT from the S.C. Department of Commerce where he held a management position. Davis worked numerous years in the private sector prior to his state service. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism – Advertising. He holds two professional certifications.



Greg Davis

Beech Island Section shed renamed for fallen employees

By Lauren Rountree

The SCDOT Beech Island section shed in Aiken County has been dedicated to two SCDOT workers who lost their lives in a deadly hit and run. The crash happened in a work zone on March 13, 2017. The dedication happened one year later on March 13, 2018.

SCDOT Aiken Maintenance employees **Anthony “Tony” Redmond** and **Robert “Bob” Clark** were killed after being struck by a vehicle while inspecting a shoulder washout in Aiken County. The Beech Island Section Shed on Atomic Road was renamed the “Redmond-Clark Section Shed” in their honor.

SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** said SCDOT has plans in place to keep workers safe in the future.

“We’ve lost two valued members of our SCDOT team. We certainly want to thank them for their service. We also thank the families of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Clark for being here today. As we move forward into 2018, we’re going to move forward with several safety initiatives,” said Colvin.

Redmond worked for SCDOT for nearly 22 years. Clark worked for SCDOT for five years. Resident Maintenance Engineer **Joe Winfield** spoke highly of the two men during the ceremony.

“It is an honor to dedicate the Redmond-Clark Section shed. We’re glad their families were able to be here. We’ll continue to honor them through the things we do daily in Aiken County,” said Winfield.

Two signs were installed at the shed in Aiken County. One is on the fence at the front of the building and a second is at the main entrance to the shed.



Tony Redmond



Employees filled the section shed to hear remarks during the dedication ceremony on March 13.



Bob Clark



The Redmond family, left, and the Clark family, right, attended the ceremony to honor the employees who were hit by a vehicle while they were inspecting damage on Atomic Road.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT coworkers pose in front of the renamed Redmond-Clark Section Shed after the ceremony where the fallen employees were honored.

MEMORIAL from page 3

Kennedy. Lancaster passed away in July 1953.

In Hall's final comments at the ceremony, she read a poem she had composed especially for occasion:

WE REMEMBER THEM

At the rising of the sun and
at its going down,

We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind
and in the chill of Winter,

We remember them.

At the opening of buds and
in the rebirth of Spring,

We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies
and in the warmth of Summer,

We remember them.

At the rustling of leaves
and the beauty of Autumn,

We remember them.

At the beginning of the year
and when it ends,

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too
will live;

For they are now a part of
us, as we remember them.

When we are weary and in
need of strength,

We remember them.

When we are lost and sick
at heart,

We remember them.

When we have joys we
yearn to share,

We remember them.

When we have decisions
that are difficult to make,

We remember them.

When we have
achievements that are based
on theirs,

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too
shall live,

For they are a part of us, as
we remember them.

SCDOT Employees Honored on The Memorial Wall

Asa F. Teague of Laurens Maintenance died November 14, 1925.

Claude Prue Gentry of Richland Maintenance died February 13, 1930.

Henry Fallaw Ulmer of Hampton Maintenance died January 01, 1939.

Benjamin Moye Proctor of Hampton Maintenance died January 01, 1939.

Francis Curtis Devore of Richland Maintenance died January 14, 1946.

William Lee White of Chester Maintenance died October 17, 1947.

Joseph Guy Simmons of Allendale Maintenance died April 04, 1951.

Ellis Hollis Lancaster of Union Maintenance died July 06, 1953.

Johnnie Evans Mckellar of Dillon Construction died July 16, 1953.

Matthew Kinard of Richland Maintenance died October 15, 1953.

Furman Hatten Dallas of Spartanburg Maintenance died June 07, 1954.

William Thomas "Tom" Johnson of Horry Maintenance died June 21, 1954.

James Dalton Nimmons of Anderson Construction died March 18, 1955.

Spofford James of Chesterfield Maintenance died June 01, 1956.

Robert Caldwell Ruff of Newberry Maintenance died May 26, 1959.

Jolly Rampey of Pickens Maintenance died December 03, 1959.

Daniel Perry Padgett of Allendale Maintenance died March 04, 1960.

Donnie Cecil Fulmer of Fairfield Maintenance died May 19, 1960.

William Eugene Caldwell of Laurens Maintenance died August 31, 1960.

Claude M. Dillashaw of McCormick Maintenance died July 12, 1961.

Daniel Webster Peavy of Horry Maintenance died April 24, 1961.

Leroy Dawkins of Newberry Maintenance died August 30, 1961.

George Sims of Newberry Maintenance died August 30, 1961.

Clark Perry of Supply and Equipment died November 19, 1962.

Thomas Johnson Sr. of Clarendon Maintenance died July 08, 1963.

John Robert Wiggs of Beaufort Maintenance died April 16, 1964.

Mary Elizabeth Moorer of Director of Maintenance, in Headquarters, died June 08, 1964.

George Graham Jr. of Horry Maintenance died November 25, 1964.

Dennis Ralph Kelly of Kershaw Maintenance died November 17, 1965.

Cecil Jerome Alford of Horry Maintenance died February 21, 1966.

Joseph D. Matthews of Greenville Maintenance died March 25, 1966.

Luther Ancrum of Charleston Maintenance died January 15, 1968.

Maceo Shuler of Orangeburg Maintenance died August 28, 1968.

Edsel C. Webb of Greenville Maintenance died November 17, 1970.

Audie Williams of Holly Hill Maintenance died May 24, 1971.

Clarence Thompson of Oconee Maintenance died September 10, 1971.

James Edgar Hulon of Dillon Construction died July 24, 1972.

Gaines Jenkins of Chester Maintenance died January 08, 1973.

Jadie Harmon of Charleston Maintenance died May 01, 1973.

Vivian Cofield of Laurens Maintenance died August 20, 1973.

Walter Hazard Owens Jr. of Georgetown Construction died May 07, 1974.

Ralph Edward Moore of Cherokee Maintenance died December 21, 1979.

Johnnie Bussey Jr. of Edgefield Maintenance died June 30, 1986.

Charles William Earl of Chester Maintenance died December 04, 1986.

Michelle Yvonne Stokes of Clarendon Maintenance died June 01, 1988.

Theodore Gibbs of Berkeley Maintenance died September 21, 1988.

James Evans of Union Maintenance died July 25, 1989.

Charles Obie Vaughn of Anderson Maintenance died April 27, 1990.

David A. "Chicken" Stevens Jr. of Berkeley Maintenance died August 30, 1990.

Johnny Randolph Jr. of Calhoun Maintenance died August 11, 1992.

Robert N. Rice II of Traffic Engineering, in Headquarters, died March 25, 1993.

William E. Murray of Cherokee Maintenance died August 30, 1993.

Spencer Rogers of Lee Maintenance died January 03, 1994.

Mitchell David Smith of Berkeley Maintenance died April 04, 1994.

Charles W. Richards of Charleston Maintenance died August 27, 1994.

Larry Keith Tyler of Lexington Maintenance died April 16, 1997.

Larry Edwin Stevens of Newberry Maintenance died August 05, 1997.

Robert "Bobby" Frank Shuler of Dorchester Maintenance died February 10, 1999.

Edward Lee Brooks of York Maintenance died September 02, 1999.

Jimmy Tyrone Harrison of Richland Construction "B" died May 09, 2000.

Arthur Lee Hay of Allendale Maintenance died February 01, 2001.

Ted Cooper Yandle Jr. of Richland Maintenance died August 16, 2001.

Bobby Carlyle King Jr. of Florence Materials Lab died April 11, 2002.

David Allen Stapleton of Cherokee Maintenance died August 11, 2003.

James Russell Hinson of Chester Maintenance died October 13, 2003.

Alan Scott Snider of Calhoun Maintenance died January 20, 2005.

Michael Anthony Wilson of Lexington Maintenance died February 16, 2006.

Adrian Daniel Smith of Darlington Maintenance died April 17, 2006.

Standra "Stan" Jones Sr. of Lexington Maintenance died December 06, 2007.

Noah Carroll Lark of Greenville Maintenance died April 06, 2011.

Nathaniel "Nay" Preston of Holly Hill Maintenance died January 12, 2012.

Nicholas Zachary "Nick" Johnson of Richland Maintenance died December 03, 2012.

Peter Harold Tarpley of Communications, in Headquarters, died October 01, 2013.

Lanny R. Cope of Lexington Maintenance died January 27, 2014.

Dora Ruth "Pickle" Marchant of Dorchester Construction died August 12, 2014.

Paul Lewis Fee of Richland Maintenance died February 28, 2015.

Timothy Wayne Gibson Sr. of Richland Maintenance died October 04, 2015.

Henry Clay "Ray" Norris Jr. of Darlington Maintenance died October 20, 2015.

John Keith Branham of York Maintenance died September 16, 2016.

Anthony John "Tony" Redmond of Aiken Maintenance died March 13, 2017.

Robert L. Clark of Aiken Maintenance died March 13, 2017.

Clyde Hare McCants of Berkeley Maintenance died January 09, 2018.

Jeffrie Todd McAbee of York Maintenance died January 19, 2018.

Unusual winter storm hits lower part of the state rather than upstate

By Bob Kudelka

When a winter storm hits our state, it is usually the crews from the coast that help out the affected areas in the Upstate.

This time, the reverse was true. A rare winter storm that primarily impacted the coastal regions hit the state during the first week of 2018. This had SCDOT employees in the Upstate and Midlands packing their bags to support de-icing and plowing operations in Districts 5, 6 and 7.

“Boy did we need help,” said Assistant District 6 Maintenance Engineer **Kirk Richards**.

“They’re always sending people up here, and this time we helped them out,” said District 4 Communications Manager **Al Terry**, who sent four SHEP employees and four trucks to Colleton County to help out with the black ice.

The storm was a good example of the “One DOT” approach that erases district and county lines when it comes to planning, responding to and recovering from significant events affecting South Carolina.

For Terry’s team of employees, the mission was routine – for the most part.

One of Terry’s employees, **Ernest Rodriguez**, was providing traffic control for two S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) employees who were pushing a disabled car off the road. Rodriguez spotted a tractor-trailer sliding on the ice heading their way and blew his horn to warn the others. The SCDNR employees jumped over a guardrail to safety and Rodriguez pulled his truck out of danger.

“Things like that are always out there; you’ve got to be aware of it,” Terry said.

More than 2,100 Maintenance workers spent the week involved in preparations or response to the storm.

Total materials used:

- 10,047 tons of salt
 - 75,361 gallons of calcium chloride
 - 762 tons of sand
 - 285,810 gallons of salt brine
- SCDOT’s Twitter feed was

viewed more than a half-million times between January 2 and January 7; and the agency’s Facebook page topped 133,610 views.

The Customer Service Call Center answered 1,619 calls in a three-day period, with the majority of callers seeking information about road and traffic conditions. On average, callers only had to wait 13 seconds to get a live agent on the phone to assist them.

For employees along the coast, a lot has changed over the years in terms of responding to winter storms.

Assistant District 5 Maintenance Engineer **Treasure Scarborough** recalled working when more than a foot of snow fell in North Myrtle Beach in 1989.

“In 1989, we would wait until we got a snowflake before calling people in,” Scarborough said. “Now we are more proactive in our approach and have staff in place before the storm hits.”

In this year’s winter storm, the biggest challenge was trying to clear roads when weather stayed too cold for any significant thawing, Scarborough said.

“When the temperature doesn’t get above 20 degrees all day, it was a really difficult storm to manage,” he said.

Scarborough said it was beneficial for the District that it took part in pre-season training including dry runs along high priority routes.

As for plowing snow, Scarborough said: “You don’t learn that in the classroom, you learn it on the road.”

He commended District 5 employees for their hard work and innovations, such as Georgetown Maintenance creating a saw-tooth blade at the bottom of a plow to help rip apart the stubborn ice.

“In times of need, our employees run – they don’t walk,” Scarborough said.

In District 6, employees chipped in to do roles they don’t normally handle. Richards said three employees from the specialized bridge crew spent seven days on a rotating basis making brine continuously.

Communication was critical, with Districts talking about assets they needed during regular



PHOTO BY DISTRICT 5

ABOVE: Williamsburg Maintenance loads salt in dump trucks to pretreat the roads before the storm. **BELOW:** Tow truck operators work to hitch a disabled vehicle along I-95 in Orangeburg County on Jan. 4, 2018. South Carolina’s eastern counties were hit hard by an early 2018 blizzard.



CODY GROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

conference calls.

“I can’t say enough about how our district employees handled themselves through one of the heaviest and longest snow and ice storms that ever hit the coastal region,” said District 6 DEA **Tim Henderson**. “Our employees worked tirelessly for several days around the clock getting our roadways passable for the many citizens and businesses in our district. I also would like to thank the supporting districts who mobilized experienced crews that were top of the line on how to handle snow and ice.”

“Without their efforts, knowledge and dedication we couldn’t have been as successful as we were. I would be remiss if I didn’t include the headquarters staff who coordinated all the hotel arrangements and salt/calcium chloride supplies that were instrumental in our operations. This was truly a ‘One SCDOT’ team effort that demonstrates our agency’s dedication to its transportation func-

tion.”

Just two weeks later, a second



DAVID COOK/DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE OFFICE

Charleston Maintenance crews scrape snow and ice off of I-526 during the winter event that hit lower part of the state.

snow and ice storm impacted areas of the state with crews again working around the clock to clear roads and combat ‘black ice.’

On Feb. 15, the SCDOT Commission approved a resolution commending employees for their response to the two storms and their “continued exemplary performance and valuable contributions to achieving the mission of the Department and meeting the motoring public needs for the state of South Carolina.”



SCDOT Call Center helps drivers weather the storm

By Lauren Rountree

Winter Storm Inga moved into the south on January 17 and caused major travel problems. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has a customer service center that takes calls from motorists all year round. When our state faces inclement weather, the call center gets very busy.

Customer Service Manager **Ryan Cole** says the customer service center took 297 calls from the evening of January 16 until the evening of January 18. Customer service representatives work around the clock during inclement weather. Typically when

the district works around the clock, the call center does as well.

Nine people are on staff to answer calls year round. During inclement weather, the call center reaches out to other SCDOT employees for help.

During Winter Storm Inga, most calls came from the Upstate. Call Center Representative **Barbara LaCock** said people called asking about road conditions. They also were looking to learn when roads would be clear, especially secondary routes. LaCock said she received a lot of calls from Greenville, Spartanburg and Rock Hill.

Call Center Representative **Bruce McLamore** said, “Safety is our number one priority. We want people to stay safe. We want their families to stay safe as well. So if you don’t have to go on the roads, don’t.”

The SCDOT call center number is 1-855-GO-SCDOT.

“Stay safe...If you don’t have to go on the roads, don’t.”

Call Center Representative Bruce McLamore



Spring Spruce Up: SCDOT employees hit the road to combat litter along South Carolina highways

By Lauren Rountree

Thousands of SCDOT highway workers and even office workers spent Thursday, March 22, collecting litter on highways in every county of the state.

Those efforts resulted in the collection of 20,170 bags of litter. The litter filled more than 100 dump trucks.

Secretary of Transportation, **Christy A. Hall**, said this Spring Spruce Up should not be considered a one day event. "We would ask the public to help us keep the newly-cleaned highways litter-free. We see Thursday's clean-up as a call-to-action," she said. Hall added that littering is a personal responsibility for every South Carolinian.

Highway worker **Ikiem Wash** said, "We're out here today picking up your fast food bags, beer cans, diapers and everything else you throw out there. Help us help you. Keep our state clean."

"Inmates with the Department of Corrections pick up litter. We do our part to keep the state clean by picking up litter. The public can see us doing a nice job in the community," said highway worker **Kelvin Mitchell**.

SCDOT encourages all motorists to use the "Litter Busters Hotline:" 877-7LITTER. This number can be used to anonymously report someone tossing litter from their vehicle. Callers are also able to report "litter hotspots" where excessive amounts of litter have accumulated.



To see hundreds of photos from across the state of our crews picking up litter, visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SCDOT



Lexington Maintenance crew members pick up trash along I-20 during the Spring Spruce Up on March 22.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



CODY CROUCH/SCDOT

SCDOT Richland Maintenance Section Crew 4020, and volunteers, pick up litter at the intersection of S.C. 277 and I-20 in Richland County on March 22. SCDOT employees across the state participated in Spring Spruce Up throughout the day with volunteer help from Headquarters staff.



CODY CROUCH/SCDOT

Orangeburg Maintenance crew members Chris Banks, left, and James Bowman pose next to collected trash bags alongside Cordova Road in Orangeburg County on March 22.



CODY CROUCH/SCDOT

SCDOT Director of Maintenance David Cook, left, picks up litter with Orangeburg Maintenance Foreman Jim Christopher on Cordova Road in Orangeburg County on March 22.

SCDOT launches new Work Zone Safety campaign

By Lauren Rountree

March 15 marked the launch of SCDOT's new Work Zone Safety campaign. The objective of the campaign is to provide a safe and productive work environment for SCDOT employees.

To do this, SCDOT is working to increase the public's awareness of highway worker safety in work zones. Employees were given new badges with the saying, "Safety 1st – Live by it. Let 'em work, Let 'em live."

The Communications Office is creating a series of work zone public service announcements. These provide a look at how driving safely in work zones can save lives.

New bar lights will be installed

on all work vehicles. They'll have amber and white LED lights. The LED lights will also be put around the perimeter of work vehicles. The same lights will be put on all trailers and equipment. In addition to the new larger and brighter bar lights; the new light package will consist of four lights on the rear of the vehicle, four lights on the front of the vehicle and two lights on each side of the vehicle. Lights on the sides of vehicles give 360 degree visibility. This will bring attention to SCDOT employees in all situations.

Currently, SHEP trucks have amber lights visible on the rear. SCDOT safety officials are looking at options for more lighting. That could entail a bar with amber and white or red and white LED lights. SCDOT officials are look-

ing into putting chevron reflective striping on the rear of SHEP trucks. They're also working to get more visible uniforms for SHEP drivers.

SCDOT safety officials surveyed employees in the field to hear how they felt about their safety at work. Many employees said they felt they resembled orange road work signs. They said the color of their vests was too similar to that of a traffic cone. SCDOT workers now wear lime colored safety vests and pants. The vests have sleeves to provide 360 degree visibility. Flaggers are now using a lighted stop/slow paddle that will be more likely to get motorists attention.

Temporary rumble strips are being used in maintenance work zones. They were first tested in

Edgefield County. They warn motorists of something happening ahead of them, and they also serve as an audible warning to workers that someone is approaching their work zone.

In addition to the lights and new uniforms, SCDOT safety officials are taking the current maintenance work zone traffic control manual and simplifying it. They

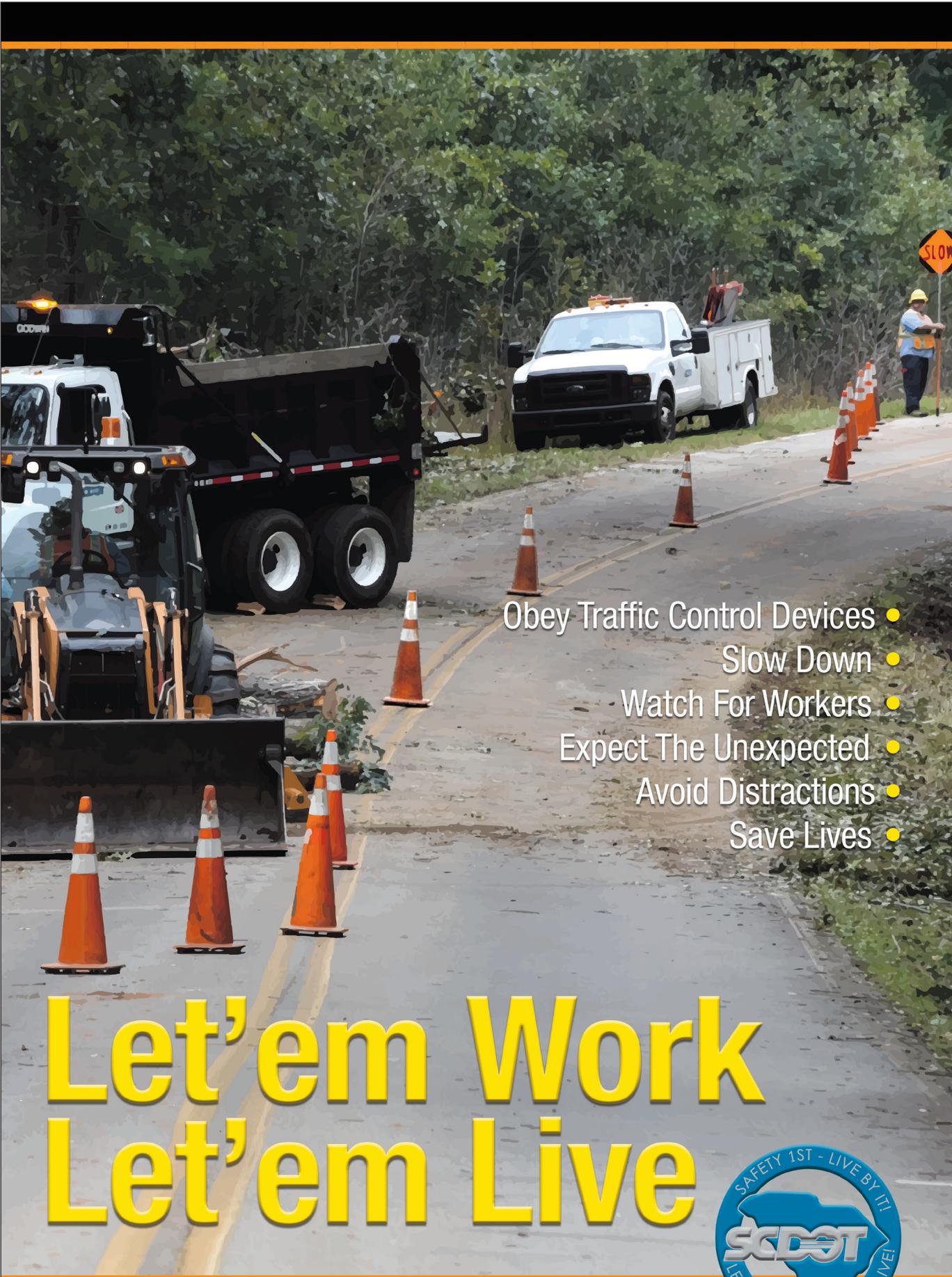
are converting it from a 500 plus page manual to an abbreviated flip book.

We have lost seven members of the SCDOT family in work zones in the last 10 years. The Safety Office is working collaboratively with Maintenance, Construction and Traffic Engineering to revamp work zone safety for all employees.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The campaign includes new amber and white LED light bars on work vehicles, flashing flagger paddles, hi-res yellow safety vests and pants that include longer sleeves and temporary rubble strips that alert both the driver and work crews.



Secretary Hall presents the State of the SCDOT

By Bob Kudelka

There is approximately \$3 billion in road and bridge work underway across South Carolina, Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said during the annual “State of the DOT” presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee in Columbia.

“I am pleased to advise that we are currently at our highest level of construction activity over the past decade, there is work happening all over the state and there is much more coming down the pipeline,” Hall said during the February 7 meeting attended by several SCDOT Commissioners.

Hall said the \$3 billion in work is three times more than what was being done just a few years ago.

This new project activity level and start of a long journey to recover our infrastructure has been enabled by the actions of the General Assembly, Hall said. Once the new funding is fully phased by 2023, SCDOT’s state funding is expected to grow by just under \$800 million.

“The SCDOT Team is very focused on the task at hand and understands the expectations of the public that we will put the taxpayer dollars to good use,” Hall said.

Based on a previous Darla Moore School of Business study, we estimate that this will have the potential to create at least 25,000 new road-construction-related jobs in the state, Hall said. “We are already seeing the road industry growing in state. The asphalt industry in particular has increased its capacity and is steadily ramping up.”

Hall said SCDOT’s priorities with current revenues are Rural Road Safety, Resurfacing, Bridge projects and Interstate widening projects.

- Rural Road Safety: South Carolina is number one in the nation in highway fatality rates. “We are going to tackle the deadliest roads in the state,” Hall said. “Thirty percent of the fatalities are happening on 5 percent of our roads. Our target is to address about 100 miles of the worst of the worst each year. Our maintenance units have already moved forward trying to make improvements on these roads and we have also modified the plan scope of work on 43 miles of resurfacing projects to include safety features.”

- Resurfacing: “Our plan is to double our paving program by ramping it up incrementally each year based on planned industry growth rates,” Hall said. “Each county in the state will see a dramatic increase in paving projects. As a matter of fact, since July 1, we have put out to contract about 1,300 miles of resurfacing on 1,525 roads in the state.”

- Obey Traffic Control Devices ●
- Slow Down ●
- Watch For Workers ●
- Expect The Unexpected ●
- Avoid Distractions ●
- Save Lives ●

Let'em Work Let'em Live



See STATE page 36

2018 S.C. Highway Engineers Conference

By Bob Kudelka

At a time when texting, emails and voicemails are so popular, highway engineers jump at the chance to meet people face to face.

A record crowd of 875 attended the 2018 S.C. Highway Engineers Conference, bringing together SCDOT engineers with local and federal government colleagues and industry partners March 27-28 in Columbia.

"It's such a great opportunity for people to get together; contractors, consultants and DOT to meet and get to know each other," said conference co-chairman and SCDOT Assistant Road Construction Engineer **David Rogers**, explaining why the conference is growing every year. "It's becoming more and more important to the industry and to DOT."

Safety was a main theme of the conference, which had a wide range of design, construction and maintenance topics, according to Rogers and conference co-chairman **Joey Rhoades**.

"I was pleased with the quality of our presentations and the willingness of all our different presenters to help out, contribute ideas and speak on behalf of subjects they're invested in and excited about," Rogers said.

Speakers for the opening session included Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**; Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**; FHWA S.C. Division Administrator **Emily Lawton**; SC-

DOT Director of Safety and Health **Kenny Eargle**; and SCDOT State Safety Engineer **Brett Harrelson**.

Presenters and moderators included **Mark Mohr, Will McGoldrick, Chowdhury Siddiqui, Stephen Benedict, Mark Anthony, Gary Linn, John Burns, Duncan Smith, Kurt Mead, Emmett Kirwan, Billy Coleman, Eric Hall, Joey Riddle, Todd Anderson, Kevin Harrington, Chad Rawls, Kirk Richards, Brett Harrelson, Hugh Haddock, Terry Koon, Tony Thompson, Rob Manning, Melanie Mobley, Suresh Karre, Greg Cook, Wayne Sarasua, Kimberly Bishop, Dennis Meder, Elisa Prange, Wei Johnson, Russ Touchberry, DeeDee Burton, Samuel Hess, Jeff Brown, Michael Peterson, Gregory Cleveland, Jay Hawkins, Ashley Dawsey, Ladd Gibson, Ramona Stone, Dusty Turner, Tony Sheppard, Kenny Eargle, Jonathan Guy, Jay Thompson, Robert Dubnicka, Nick Harman, Georges Tippens, Mark Attaway, Ray Spence, Daniel Burton, John Fleckenstein, Jack Valetti, Randall Mungo, Michael Dennis, Treasure Scarborough, David Bland, Chris Gaskins, Jennifer Rhoades, Kevin Gantt, Rob Perry, Kevin McLaughlin, Stephanie Jackson-Amell, John Bolyston, Chad Long, Claude Ipock, Jim Feda, Robert Dickinson, Kyle Berry, Tim Henderson, Mike Barbee, Leland Colvin, Randy Young and Andy Leaphart.**

After a welcome message from Leaphart, Colvin spoke of the per-

sonnel changes in top engineering positions since the last conference one year ago. "It's an exciting time at the DOT," Colvin said.

Hall gave the audience an update on SCDOT as well as on her work with the federal government on a possible new infrastructure plan "to shore up federal funding and possibly improve it."

She lauded the General Assembly for approving an "unprecedented" level of investment in infrastructure with the fuel user fee increase of 2 cents per year over a six-year period.

"South Carolina has doubled its state resources for roads and bridges," Hall said. With slow, well thought out, incremental growth... I have every bit of confidence that we are going to hit our targets."

"We're pushing for a 'fix-it-first' approach to our infrastructure," Hall said, adding that there is now a heavy focus on maintenance and our existing system.

Interstate highways, for one, have become a "problem that was 30 years in the making and we're not going to be able to fix it overnight."

However, she said "we are poised now to make a difference on interstates."

Rogers and Rhoades thanked the presenters, moderators and those who helped with the nuts and bolts of the conference including Agency Events Coordinator **Tina Kennedy, Meagan Hare**, as well as **Shaun Gaines** and the staff from Clemson University's Transportation Technology Transfer Service.



MAINTENANCE SAFETY UNITS OF THE YEAR

From left: Small Safety Unit of the Year winner **Barnwell Maintenance** accepted by **Barnwell Resident Maintenance Engineer Joey King**, Medium Safety Unit of the Year winner **Newberry Maintenance** accepted by **Newberry Resident Maintenance Engineer Jeremy Knight** and Large Safety Unit of the Year winner **Horry Maintenance** accepted by **Horry Resident Maintenance Engineer Shannon Welch**.



QMT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CONSTRUCTION

From left: **Georgetown Construction** accepted by **Georgetown Resident Construction Engineer Kit Scott**, **Lancaster Construction** accepted by **Lancaster Resident Construction Engineer Ken Wilson**, **Abbeville Construction** accepted by **Abbeville Resident Construction Engineer Adam Rich** and **Pickens Construction** accepted by **Pickens Resident Construction Engineer Joe Laws**.



RESIDENT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS OF THE YEAR

From left: District 1 - **Brian Motley** from **Kershaw Maintenance**, District 2 - **Jeremy Knight** from **Newberry Maintenance**, District 3 - **James Woodward** from **Spartanburg Maintenance**, District 4 - **Clint Beaver** from **York Maintenance**, District 5 - **Roy Parnell** from **Florence Maintenance**, District 6 - **David Pilch** from **Dorchester Maintenance**. Not Pictured: District 7 - **Loraine Beach** from **Allendale Maintenance**



RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS OF THE YEAR

From left: District 1 - **Derek Frick** from **Richland Construction B**, District 2 - **Adam Rich** from **Abbeville Construction**, District 3 - **Joe Laws** from **Pickens County**, District 4 - **Ken Wilson** from **Lancaster Construction**, District 5 - **Anna Barnhill** from **Horry Construction**, District 6 - **Toby Wickenhoefer** from **Beaufort/Jasper Construction** and District 7 - **Bobby Usry** from **Aiken Construction**.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

On Jan. 26, the Leaphart Road Bridge over I-26 opened less than a year after it was closed after being struck by an oversized truck.

Leaphart Road Bridge reopens

By Lauren Rountree

The Leaphart Road Bridge over I-26 reopened in late January. SCDOT engineers made the decision to close the bridge in late March 2017 after it was declared structurally deficient. It suffered multiple hits by oversized eighteen wheelers.

Traffic was detoured from April 1, 2017, until Jan. 26, 2018, when the bridge reopened and motorists resumed their regular commutes.

According to Resident Construction Engineer **Robert Power**, this was a planned bridge re-

placement. He says the bridge was forced to close after a final, severe hit by an eighteen wheeler. Contractors began building the new one aggressively. “The bridge was structurally deficient and also low in clearance. It had taken multiple truck impacts so we had to shut it down after the last impact,” said Power.

Work remains to be completed with this project. The two frontage roads to the north (Chris Drive and Harbor Drive) are closed. The ramps for those roads have to be raised up to the elevation of the new bridge. The full project is set to be completed by late November 2018.



DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

District 1 - Molly Alston of Richland Maintenance, District 2 - Bobby Easler of Edgefield Maintenance, District 3 - Tony Thompson of District 3 Office, District 4 - Danny Carns of District 4 Traffic Engineering, District 5 - Leroy McElveen of District 5 Specialized Bridge, District 6 - Todd Williams of Colleton Maintenance and District 7 - Shelly Sutcliffe of District 7 Office.



HEADQUARTERS ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

From left: Laura Kline of Construction, Mark Mohr of Environmental, Joy Riley of Preconstruction, Brandon Hufnagel of Rights of Way, Issac Bentley of Maintenance, Shirley Johnson of Local Program Administration and Mike Bowman of Traffic Engineering.



ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

From left: Rob Manning of the Strategic Planning Office, Deborah Atkinson of RPG 1, Susan Johnson of the Strategic Planning Office, Dusty Turner of District 2 and Kirk Richards of District 6.



QMT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR MAINTENANCE

From left: Oconee Maintenance award accepted by Oconee Resident Maintenance Engineer Jamie Gambrell, Chester Maintenance award accepted by Chester Resident Maintenance Engineer Dennis Moore, York Maintenance award accepted by York Resident Maintenance Engineer Clint Beaver, Barnwell Maintenance award accepted by Barnwell Resident Maintenance Engineer Joey King. Not pictured: Bamberg Maintenance and Beaufort Maintenance.

When highway emergencies occur

SCDOT ready to get job done, get traffic moving

Four Holes Road bridge over I-26 in Orangeburg County



Bridge struck and damaged morning of March 9, 2018



Damage assessment March 9, 2018



Tearing out damaged bridge night of March 9-10, 2018



Half of structure gone morning of March 10, 2018



Complete structure removed morning of March 11, 2018





Michael Anders
District 3



David Gamble III
District 4



Lynsee Gibson
Program Controls



Brian Heape
District 6

It has been ten months since the LEAD SCDOT Class of 2018 had its first training session. In that time, they have grown a great deal -- both as a class and as future leaders.

What do you need to be considered a candidate?

- Junior and mid-level leaders within the Agency may apply.
- Applicants must demonstrate potential for assuming positions of greater responsibility and authority, and possess effective communication skills.
- Any supervisor, manager, or director in the Agency may nominate an employee for LEAD SCDOT.
- Every candidate must complete a LEAD SCDOT Application (nominated employees are also required to submit a completed application).

What will you discover as a LEAD SCDOT student?

- Agency structure
- Interaction between the Agency's organizations
- Interaction of the Agency with Federal, State and Local organizations
- Finally, LEAD SCDOT provides you the opportunity to be a more effective leader in your current role.

What does a year in the LEAD SCDOT program look like?

The course runs for a year, with meetings averaging two days each month. The bulk of the curriculum consists of presentations from each of the organizations within the Agency and its federal partners. This is generally presented either by the director of that organization or their senior deputy. This portion of the curriculum includes in-person visits to our labs, shops and regional/county offices. In addition, you will experience a day spent as a member of a highway maintenance crew and a bridge inspection team -- two of the most physically demanding positions in our Agency.

The curriculum also includes leadership training. LEAD SCDOT students must complete the Essence of Leadership training as well. Essence of Leadership training includes decision making, professional communication, resolution of workplace conflict and the moral and ethical dimensions of leadership.

The class also, as a team, works on a project assigned by the Secretary to address a significant Agency need.

If you would like to know more about the SCDOT LEAD Program, contact Ike McFarlan at McFarlanIJ@scdot.org.



Brandon Hufnagel
Right of Way



Emmett Kirwin
Procurement



Gary Linn
Minority and Small Business Affairs



Wade Luther
Planning



Josh Makison
District 3



Emily Markley
Director of Maintenance Office



Will McConnell
Traffic Engineering



Bradley Reynolds
Design/Build Office



Katherine Scott
Georgetown Construction



Lindsay Sherbert
FHWA



Duncan Smith
Preconstruction



Eric Stuckey
CADD Management



Amanda Taylor
Legal



Lorenzo Worthy
RPG-1 Lowcountry

First two Rural Road Safety Program projects underway

By Lauren Rountree

SCDOT has awarded more than \$16 million in contracts to make two rural highways safer. The work on the Lexington highways is the first rural roads project in the 10-year roads program.

The first project includes approximately 20 miles of U.S. 178 from near Batesburg-Leesville to near Pelion. The contractor is the Lane Construction Corporation with a contract value of \$11,314,833.07.

The second project includes approximately 15 miles of S.C. 302. It begins at the Aiken County line and continues approximately one mile beyond the town of Edmund. The contractor is ATC Site Construction with a contract value of \$5,407,973.63.

Both projects will include shoulder widening and paving, rumble strips and brighter roadway signs. Motorists will also see wider and brighter pavement markings, additional guardrails, reflective sign post panels and wider clear zones. It is estimated that these projects will be completed by 2019.

The Rural Roads Safety Program is a new program initiated by SCDOT to improve safety on rural roadways through engineering solutions. South Carolina's fatality rate is the highest in the nation. Nearly 60 percent of fatal crashes happen on the state's rural roadways. This program has been designed to target the worst of the worst roads in our state. Thirty percent of fatalities and serious injuries are happening on just 5 percent of our roadways.

SCDOT safety engineers have identified the leading factor of fatal and serious injury crashes in our state is vehicles departing from the roadway. As part of this program, engineers are taking a two-fold approach and working to keep vehicles on the roadway. For vehicles that do leave the roadway, engineers hope to provide drivers an opportunity to safely regain control and get back on the roadway.



U.S. 178
between Pelion and
Batesburg-Leesville



S.C. 302
between the town of Edmund
and the Aiken County line

SHEP Responder narrowly escapes explosive crash, death

By Bob Kudelka

The Saturday morning call into District 4's Traffic Management Center sounded routine.

A large chain, possibly from a logging truck, was in the middle of Interstate 77 at mile marker 84 northbound in York County and presented a hazard to motorists.

SHEP operators **Tom Voss** and **James Clarkson** responded, and used a textbook setup to make sure they were safe along the four-lane stretch on the morning of Feb. 10.

After slowing traffic, which was light that time of day, they staggered their vehicles and came to a stop in the two inside lanes. All safety lights were on, and their large arrow boards directed traffic to the two outside lanes.

With Clarkson in his SHEP truck blocking the lane ahead for Voss' protection, Voss stepped out of his truck to retrieve the chain.

Just then, Clarkson saw a yellow blur in his rear view mirror.

A large, yellow box truck was barreling around a corner and coming toward them from behind.

"Absolute horror," Clarkson said. "I saw the truck and knew he wasn't slowing down and wasn't moving over."

Clarkson, a young father of a 3-year-old boy, pounded his horn to warn Voss.

Voss turned and saw the 24-foot truck coming at about 70 mph.

"I literally stepped out of my truck and looked up and he was there," Voss said. "I thought, 'He's not stopping.'"

Several things flashed through Voss' mind:



Tom Voss

"Should I jump back in my truck? Should I jump in front of my partner's truck? Is there are any more traffic coming I don't see?"

Clarkson said: "As Tom stepped out of his truck, that truck slammed in the rear of his truck. It never hit the brakes. I saw this yellow flash two feet from me in the next lane and Tom sidestepped; he was within 2 feet of getting run over by his own vehicle that got rear-ended."

Voss, in that split second, decided to jump in front of Clarkson's truck. It was a choice that likely saved his life. He watched his 10,000-pound SHEP truck burst into flames and propel forward like a billiard ball from the force of the much heavier box truck.

"When it hit, it exploded," Voss said. "It blew up and knocked my truck a couple of



James Clarkson

hundred feet."

Clarkson: "It was one of the most frightening, scariest things I've ever experienced, and I've seen a lot helping people out here on the interstate."

Soon, firefighters and scores of other first-responders were on the scene. Incredibly, there were no injuries. When Voss and Clarkson checked on the driver of the box truck, he was stepping out of his truck and talking on his cellphone.

Al Terry, a former state trooper and a 40-year veteran with SCDOT, supervises the 10-member SHEP team in District 4. They've never had a fatality or injury since the program began operating in 1999, but Terry's worst nightmare is getting a phone call like the one he got that day.

Once learning of the details and relieved that his employees were not injured, Terry spoke to Voss by phone. Terry said this was most severe crash involving a SHEP truck in District 4's history.

"He was very calm, surprisingly, because you can't get much closer than that," Terry said. "Tom's a good guy and nothing seems to worry him. He's always got his head in the game and he's always safety conscious."

Terry said not everyone is cut out to be a SHEP responder.

"It takes a dedicated person," said Terry, himself a former SHEP responder. "You have to be careful, but you can't be scared. It's a rewarding job. You're a public servant and you have to be dedicated to it."

Asked if they had a message to motorists, Terry, Clarkson and Voss each said the same thing: Pay attention to driving and let SHEP responders do their jobs.

"Please, please stay off your cell phone," Clarkson said. "Pay attention to what's going on when you're driving. The danger of cell-phones is unbelievable."

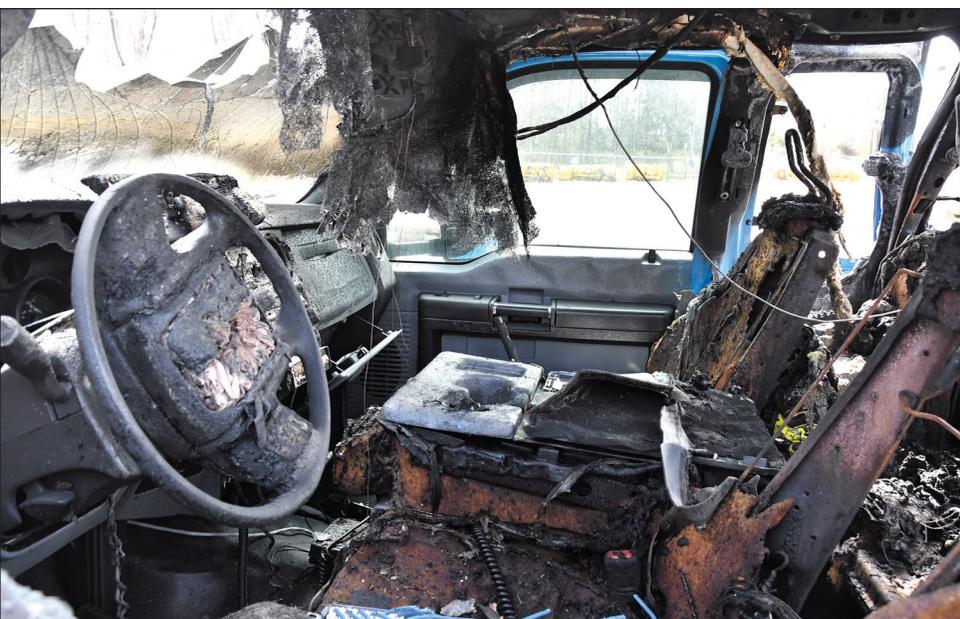
After the crash scene was cleared that day and Voss' charred truck was towed away, Voss got another SHEP truck and finished out his shift.

"Both he and I were lucky that day," Clarkson said. "It will be something I always remember."

Since the crash, Voss said he has noticed that traffic seems to be moving faster when he's on a call. Or maybe, he's just more aware of it, he said.

It hasn't stopped him.

"If you let every incident bother you, you wouldn't do anything," Voss said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Imagine if you had been in this truck when it exploded. This is the aftermath of the SHEP truck after it was hit on I-77.



Tom Voss got out of this SHEP truck only seconds before it was hit by a motorist.

THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT

VOLUME XXIX NO. I

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2018

Let'em Work Let'em Live

To see videos on many of these SCDOT articles, check out the SCDOT Facebook page and look under the VIDEOS heading.

You can also subscribe to our SCDOT CONNECTOR VIDEOS channel on YouTube.

PRSRV STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA, SC
PERMIT NO. 108

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
Secretary of Transportation

The first year of our Strategic 10-Year Plan to Rebuild Our Roads and Bridges has been no less than monumental. As we approached the close of the first year on July 1, 2018, our “scorecard” was a record-breaking success. For the first time in SCDOT history, we exceeded the **\$3 billion** mark in contracts awarded. That number sets the stage for the greatest number of construction projects all around the state in every county and creates many new jobs in the industry.

Since July 1, 2017, we have done what we’ve promised the people of our state and more. All four of our major programs hit their targets for the first year. Our Paving and Resurfacing Program exceeded its goal and our Rural Road Safety Program designed to reduce highway fatalities on the “worst-of-the-worst” rural roads surpassed its goal. Our maintenance forces have also made significant improvements to roadside safety by limb trimming, select clearing, cleaning ditches and clipping high shoulders. Together, we are making a difference.

But we have only just begun. For 2019, we’ve already added more projects and miles to the Paving Program. We anticipate putting another \$1 billion under contract in the Interstate Improvement Program, award another 100 miles of Rural Road Safety projects and push another 41 bridge projects to construction between now and the end of 2019.

As you can see on the pages of this Connector, the men and women of SCDOT had a more than eventful year meeting the challenges of numerous emergencies. Despite those hurdles, you have kept your promise and beyond. You represent THE best state DOT in the nation and I am proud to work with all of you.

- Obey Traffic Control Devices
- Slow Down
- Watch For Workers
- Expect The Unexpected
- Avoid Distractions
- Save Lives



Come work for SCDOT

By Lauren Rountree

There are a variety of employment opportunities at the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Here is a sampling of our employees and why they chose to work at SCDOT.

Manley Gaddy is a Mechanic with Fairfield Maintenance. He said, “My job is not easy but I learn something new every day. I like taking things apart and putting them back together. I like the people I work with. Everybody in my family was a mechanic. I’ve been around it a lot and learned that way.”

King Chappelle is a Highway Worker with Fairfield Maintenance. Chappelle said, “I like construction and being able to work with equipment. I enjoy having the opportunity to work with backhoes and dump trucks. We do everything, from putting in driveways to cutting trees to ditching. You name it we do it. We all get along because we’re part of the same tribe”

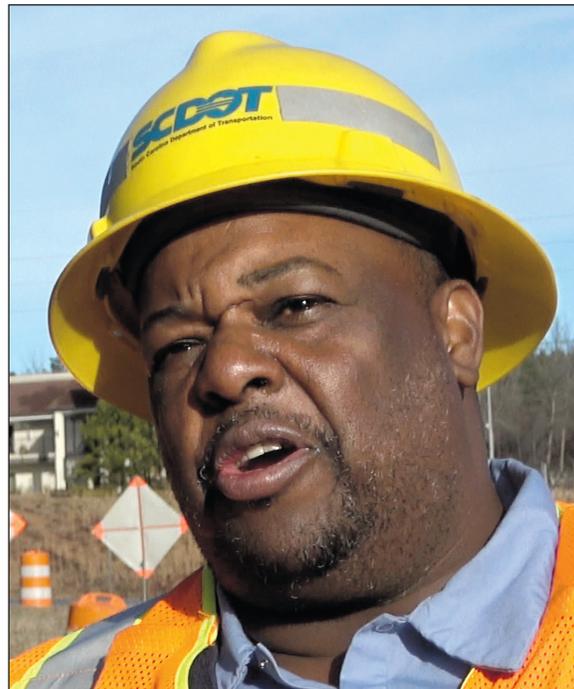
Charles Gadson is a Highway Worker in Fairfield County. According to Gadson, “SCDOT is a wonderful place to work. You get to learn things. When I first came here, I was just a truck driver. Now, I’m a backhoe operator and motor grader driver.”

Kevin Gantt, District Engineer Administrator for District 7, has been with SCDOT for 24 years. He said, “I’ve worked in multiple positions and I like the opportunity to do different things professionally. SCDOT is very exciting. You can work in field construction or in the maintenance office. You can work with the public. It’s very exciting and diverse professionally. This is a great time to become an engineer with SCDOT. We have a lot of positions opening.”

Patrick O’Neal is a Construction Inspector for Richland County. According to O’Neal, “We have on-the-job training here and with that, I became very confident in my work. That opportunity is here for others as well. It’s a wonderful working environment. Everyone is super friendly.”

Doris Reese is a Highway Worker with Fairfield Maintenance. She said, “I love working with my crew. I’ve learned a lot from them. I enjoy being able to work outside, work with my hands, and learn new things. Before I came to SCDOT, I was driving school buses. Here, I am able to drive dump trucks and operate heavy equipment.”

Siobhan Gordon is a Permits Manager at Headquarters in Columbia. Gordon said, “SCDOT has an entire environmental section. We’ve got biologists, archaeologists, and architectural historians. We have to evaluate the impact each project has on the natural environment. As a biologist, I have to analyze whether or not projects are going to have any impact on any wetlands, streams, or endangered species. When I tell people that I’m a biologist at SCDOT, they give me a blank stare. People asso-



Charles Gadson



Manley Gaddy

ciate DOT with paving roads, but there’s so much more to it. There are a lot of opportunities that you may not be aware of.”

Michelle Walker is an Administrative Coordinator in the Director of Maintenance Office at Headquarters. Walker said, “I have really enjoyed my 18 years here and I wouldn’t want to go anywhere else. We help the public and the citizens of South Carolina. There is room to grow and this is a home away from home for me.”



Patrick O’Neal



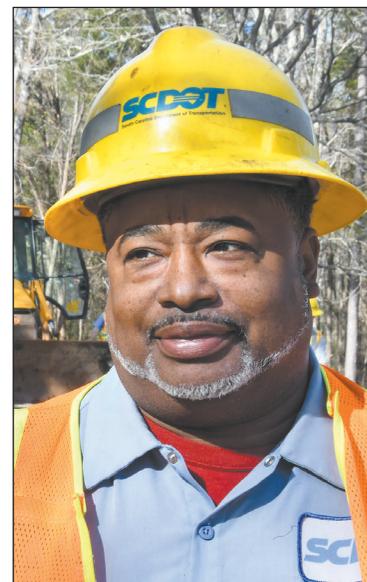
Kevin Gantt



Doris Reese



Michelle Walker



King Chappelle



Siobhan Gordon

Claude Ipock selected as next Director of Construction

Claude Ray Ipock has been selected as the Director of Construction. His appointment was effective in February.

Ipock has more than 19 years of construction management and engineering experience, which includes more than 12 years with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), six years in the heavy construction industry and one year with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Ipock previously served as SCDOT's State Construction Engineer and also as the construction liaison between the Office of Construction and Preconstruction's Design Build Office.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the states of South Carolina (active) and North Carolina (inactive).

Ipock is married to Gayle Haviland Ipock, and they have three children, Rachel, Hayley and Austin. They are members of Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church.

Ipock enjoys the outdoors and watching



Claude Ipock

his kids participate in sports. In his spare time, he hunts, fishes and golfs.

Rob Perry promoted to Director of Traffic Engineering

Robert E. Perry has been selected as the Director of Traffic Engineering. His appointment was effective March 2, 2018.

Perry started his professional career with SCDOT in 1999 with the lowcountry bridge inspection team responsible for in-service inspections for approximately 1,000 bridges in six counties. Perry served as a field engineer during the construction of the Ravenel Cable-Stay Bridge and in the Preconstruction Division as a Program Manager for the Upstate. Most recently he served in the role of State Traffic Management Engineer. Perry's duties also included executive oversight of SCDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems and the State Traffic Management Center.

Perry is currently serving in the Army National Guard and was a recipient of the Bronze Star during his deployment to Iraq. He earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Citadel and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina.

Perry is married to Kelly Teal Perry and they have a son, Kirk and two daughters, Teal and Ella. They are members of North-



Rob Perry

east Presbyterian Church.

Perry enjoys watching baseball games with his son and spending time on Lake Wateree with his family.

John Boylston named new Director of Preconstruction

John D. Boylston has been selected as the SCDOT Director of Preconstruction.

Boylston has more than 26 years of project management experience, which includes more than 11 years with SCDOT and 15 years in the consultant industry. Besides his most recent role as the Midlands Regional Production Engineer, Boylston also served as the Lowcountry Regional Production Engineer and served as the Lead Program Manager of the initial Design Build efforts.

He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina (active), North Carolina (inactive) and Virginia (inactive).

He is on the Board of Directors of Homeworks of America.

Boylston is married to Jacqueline Duvall Boylston and they have three daughters, Bellinger, Mary Louise and Allie. They attend St. John Episcopal Church where he lead summer youth mission trips to Johns Island. He and his wife are coordinators for Family Promise, a ministry to the homeless in Columbia.



John Boylston

In his spare time, he enjoys inshore saltwater fishing, Clemson sports, live music and brewing his own beer.

Cruz Wheeler is Assistant State Maintenance Engineer

Joseph Cruz Wheeler of Lexington has been selected for the position of Assistant State Maintenance Engineer in the Director of Maintenance Office.

He is responsible for the Maintenance Assessment Program (MAP), Quality Management Review Team (QMT), and State Sign Shop operations. He started the new position on April 2.

He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He has 10 years of service with SCDOT. He began his career as a Construction Project Manager in District 2 (Saluda) and District 1 (Lexington). He later served as an Assistant Hot Mix Asphalt Verification Program Manager.

Most recently, Wheeler was the State Materials Management Engineer at the Office of Materials and Research.

Wheeler is a lifelong resident of Lexington where he resides with his wife, Taren, and their two daughters, Blakely and Hartley. They are members of Northside Baptist Church in Lexington.



Cruz Wheeler

In his spare time, Wheeler enjoys outdoor sports, hunting, fishing and farming.

PROMOTIONS

Boyce Adams, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Omar Al Hindi, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer I in Greenville Construction on Feb. 17.

Christopher Anderson, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Lexington Maintenance on March 2.

Michael Anderson, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Anderson Construction on Dec. 2.

Neal Anderson, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Pickens Maintenance on March 17.

Andre Andrews, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Joseph Baggett, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Beaufort Maintenance on April 2.

Donald Baker, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Oconee Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Joshua Bearden, promoted to Trades Specialist II in McCormick Maintenance on March 17.

William Bedenbaugh, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Saluda Maintenance on March 2.

Dakota Bell, promoted to Administrative Assistant in Pickens Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Dwayne Best, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Jasper Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Matthew Bishop, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 3 - Midlands on Dec. 17.

Ronnie Blevins, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in RPG 2 - Peedee on March 17.

Justin Boggs, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Daniel Booth, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Edgefield Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Leslie Bowick, promoted to Mechanic III in McCormick Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Timothy Britt, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Georgetown Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Robert Brown, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Preconstruction Support on Jan. 17.

Randy Brunson, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Orange-

burg Maintenance on April 2.

Morgan Bryant, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Jonathon Bryson, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Union Maintenance on March 2.

Wanda Burris, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Kershaw Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Shawn Burroughs, promoted to Human Resource Manager II in Human Resources on Dec. 17.

April Byrd, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Jasper Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Rodney Cameron, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Florence Maintenance on April 2.

Joshua Campbell, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on March 2.

Robert Cartier, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Aiken Maintenance on Dec. 2.

John Chapman, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Richland Construction on Dec. 17.

Jason Childers, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Union Maintenance on March 17.

Tyler Clark, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in District 1 Office on Jan. 17.

Frederick Closs, promoted to Trades Specialist III in York Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Jacob Cockrell, promoted to Mechanic III in Equipment Service Depot on Feb. 2.

Darrell Coker, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Colleton Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Matthew Coker, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in RPG 3 - Midlands on Feb. 2.

April Cook, promoted to Right of Way Agent II in Right of Way - Florence on Dec. 17.

Christopher Cooper, promoted to Program Manager I in Environmental on March 17.

James Copeland, promoted to Trades Specialist III in D3-Traffic Signals on Feb. 17.

Jerry Coxe, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Marlboro Maintenance on Feb. 17.

James Crosby, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Chester Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Matthew Crouse, promoted to Incident Responder I in SHEP -

Charleston on March 17.

Mabel Cuellar Azcarate, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Preconstruction Support on March 2.

Kirby Daniels, promoted to Trades Specialist III in McCormick Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Daniel Davis, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in Greenwood Construction on Jan. 17.

Jacquin Davis, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Orangeburg Maintenance on April 2.

John Davis, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Saluda Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Sheila Davis, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Timothy Davis, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Chesterfield Maintenance on April 2.

Ramon Diaz, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Dorchester Construction on April 2.

William Dickert, promoted to Chief Geodetic Technician in Materials and Research on March 17.

Joseph Dickson, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Preconstruction Support on Feb. 2.

William Dingle, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Clarendon Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Cedric Dorsey, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Colleton Construction on Jan. 17.

Cody Edwards, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in District 6 Office on Feb. 17.

James Ennis, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance on March 17.

Dustin Fail, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Barnwell Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Janet Fairey, promoted to Procurement Specialist II in Procurement on Feb. 17.

Arthur Felder, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Clarendon Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Randy Galloway, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Pickens Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Brittany Gardner, promoted to Administrative Specialist II in Kershaw Maintenance on April 2.

James Garron, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenwood Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Jonathan Goodding, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Marlboro Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Steven Goodwin, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Charleston Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Vernell Goodwin, promoted to Procurement Specialist II in Procurement on March 2.

Charles Greene, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Pickens Construction on March 17.

Ginger Griffin, promoted to Administrative Assistant in Saluda Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Chad Hall, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in District 4 Office on Feb. 2.

Richard Hall, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Lexington Construction on Jan. 2.

Toby Hall, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on March 2.

Michael Hannah, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in District 2 Office on Jan. 2.

Anthony Harbin, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Anderson Maintenance on March 2.

Kyle Hardwick, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in District 5 Office on Feb. 2.

William Hare, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Chester Maintenance on Feb. 17.

John Hawkins, promoted to Chief Geodetic Technician in Spartanburg Construction on Jan. 2.

Brian Heape, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in District 6 Office on Dec. 2.

Angela Hicks, promoted to Chief Geodetic Technician in District 5 Office on Jan. 2.

James Hodge, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Clarendon Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Cedric Hollingsworth, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Kershaw Maintenance on April 2.

Evan Hunter, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 4 - Upstate on April 2.

Rondel Irby, promoted to Incident Responder II in SHEP - Upstate I-85 on March 2.

Jeremy Jackson, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Marion Construction on Feb. 17.

Danny James, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Florence Maintenance on April 2.

Jimmy Joffaux, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Hezekiah Jenkins, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer

II in Lexington Maintenance on March 17.

Albert Johnson, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Dorchester Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Charles Johnston, promoted to Director of Engineering in District 4 Office on Jan. 2.

Dwight Jones, promoted to GIS Manager II in Road Data Services on March 17.

Eric Jones, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in D6-Bridge Inspection on Dec. 2.

Jessie Jordan, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Kershaw Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Kendal Jumper, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in RPG 3 - Midlands on Feb. 2.

Leroy Kelley, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Materials and Research on Feb. 17.

Joseph King, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Barnwell Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Alan Kozusko, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in District 1 Office on Dec. 17.

John Lawson, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Laurens Maintenance on March 2.

Chad Lewis, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Marion Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Bernard Lucas, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Florence Maintenance on Feb. 17.

James Lusk, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in RPG 4 - Upstate on Jan. 17.

Zachary Lykes, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in Lexington Construction on Feb. 2.

Randy Major, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance on March 2.

Emily Markley, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in Director of Maintenance on April 2.

John Martin, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in Greenville Construction on April 2.

Ricky Martin, promoted to Mechanic II in Charleston Maintenance on Dec. 2.

John Matheny, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Materials and Research on Feb. 2.

Donald McClary, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Williamsburg Maintenance on March 17.

Carlito McCrorey, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Lancaster Maintenance on Feb. 2.

PROMOTIONS

Jonathan McCutcheon, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Chester Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Korene McDow, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering on Feb. 2.

Shane McJunkins, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on March 2.

Kurt Mead, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Anderson Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Michael Mendoza, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Central Sign Shop on March 17.

Kenneth Mills, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in Saluda Construction on Feb. 17.

Michael Norris, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Darlington Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Richard O'Cain, promoted to Program Coordinator II in SHEP - Columbia on March 17.

Leon O'Neal, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Richland Construction on Jan. 17.

Charles Parker, promoted to Trades Specialist III in York Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Kennedy Parnell, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering on March 2.

Barney Patterson, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Orangeburg Construction on Dec. 17.

Adam Payne, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in District 6 Office on Jan. 2.

Sarah Payne, promoted to Administrative Assistant in Beaufort Maintenance on March 2.

Juston Pearce, promoted to Communications Technician in Radio Service on Dec. 2.

Elizabeth Penn Sanders, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Beaufort Maintenance on March 17.

James Pope, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Justin Powell, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Florence Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Brooks Priester, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Allendale Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Tyler Pritchard, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Tevin Richard, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer I in Charleston Construction on Jan. 17.

John Roberson, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Darlington Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Marcus Robertson, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Saluda Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Elizabeth Robinson, promoted to Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II

in Accounting on March 2.

Tatum Roof, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Lancaster Construction on Feb. 2.

Franklyn Ruth, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Jasper Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Jerry Sapp, promoted to Trades Specialist II in Sumter Maintenance on April 2.

Jerome Sinclair, promoted to Trades Specialist V in D4-Capital Improvement on Dec. 17.

Joseph Small, promoted to Associate Geodetic Technician in Marion Construction on Feb. 2.

Jermaine Smalls, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Colleton Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Brian Smith, promoted to Trades Specialist V in Newberry Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Derrick Smith, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Georgetown Construction on April 2.

Brian Snell, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Dorchester Maintenance on March 17.

William Spann, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Beaufort Maintenance on April 2.

Charles Stillwell, promoted to Chief Geodetic Technician in Oconee Construction on March 17.

Jason Stone, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Richland Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Richard Stone, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in

Materials and Research on April 2.

Susan Stone, promoted to Audits Manager II in Contract Assurance on March 17.

Jennita Sumter Jacobs, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Calhoun Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Freddie Sweet, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Ashley Tate, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in York Construction on March 2.

Timothy Telford, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Ricky Terry, promoted to Trades Specialist III in D4-Pavement Repair & Preservation on Dec. 2.

Janet Thomas, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Allendale Maintenance on March 17.

Jonathan Thomas, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Jasper Maintenance on Jan. 17.

John Timmerman, promoted to OSHA Officer III in District 2 Office on Dec. 2.

Heath Toney, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Cherokee Maintenance on March 17.

George Townsend, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Marion Maintenance on March 2.

Kimberly Townsend, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Darlington Construction on March 2.

James Walker, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Lee Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Jemmie Watson, promoted to Chief Geodetic Technician in Charleston Construction on Jan. 17.

Jeffrey Watts, promoted to Senior Geodetic Technician in Chester Construction on Feb. 2.

Bruce Wells, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in Director of Construction on March 2.

Ronald West, promoted to Mechanic III in Lexington Maintenance on March 2.

William Wetmore, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering on Jan. 17.

John Wheeler, promoted to Trades Specialist V in D2-Traffic Signals on March 17.

Johnathan Whitfield, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Anderson Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Stacy Willetts, promoted to Assistant Geodetic Technician in Richland Construction on Feb. 17.

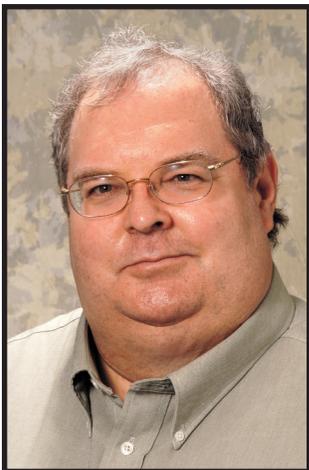
Corey Williams, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Colleton Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Edward Williams, promoted to Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Kenneth Williams, promoted to Trades Specialist IV in Barnwell Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Christopher York, promoted to Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 4 - Upstate on Feb. 2.

DEATHS



Timothy Edwards

Frank Timothy Edwards, retiree from Preconstruction Support, died May 5.



Jeffrie McAbee

Jeffrie McAbee, Mechanic III in York Maintenance died on Jan. 19.



Clyde McCants

Clyde McCants, Trades Specialist II in Berkeley Maintenance died on Jan. 9.



Luther Simmons

Luther Simmons, Trades Specialist III in Beaufort Maintenance died on Jan. 4.



Gene Smith

Cranell "Gene" Smith, Trades Specialist V in Allendale Maintenance died on Jan. 30.

RETIREMENTS

Reuben Alston, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Pamela Amick, retired from Road Data Services on Feb. 16.

William Ashcraft, retired from SHEP – Upstate I-85 on Dec. 31.

Anthony Bagwell, retired from Greenville Construction on Jan. 31.

Sherry Barton, retired from Deputy Secretary For Finance & Admin on Dec. 31.

Laura Beaver, retired from Marion Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Clyde Blackwell, retired from Preconstruction Support on Dec. 31.

Julia Boozer, retired from Accounting on Dec. 31.

James Breland, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on Feb. 1.

Gloria Brown, retired from Accounting on Dec. 3.

Leslie Brown, retired from Cherokee Maintenance on Dec. 30.

Dennis Bryant, retired from Clarendon Maintenance on Feb. 28.

Herbert Bryant, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance on April 2.

Michael Bryant, retired from D5 Incident Responder on Dec. 31.

Sheila Bryant, retired from Dec. 29.

Carolyn Burton, retired from Minority and Small Business Affairs on Dec. 31.

Timothy Callenback, retired from District 3 Office on Dec. 29.

Catherine Campbell, retired from Right of Way – Central on Dec. 14.

James Carmichael, retired from SHEP – Charleston on Dec. 31.

Dianne Carter, retired from Accounting on Jan. 2.

Melvin Chapman, retired from Newberry Maintenance on Dec. 5.

William Coleman, retired from District 2 Office on March 31.

Paul Compton, retired from Pickens Maintenance on Jan. 2.

James Corley, retired from Equipment Service Depot on

Dec. 31.

Sonja Crenshaw, retired from District 2 Office on Dec. 31.

Timothy Davidson, retired from Radio Service on Jan. 5.

Audrey Davis, retired from Director of Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Anthony Deese, retired from SHEP – Charleston on March 30.

Dana Dodds, retired from Preconstruction Support on Feb. 12.

William Drayton, retired from Horry Construction on Dec. 31.

Henry Drew, retired from Marion Maintenance on Dec. 30.

Frank Edwards, retired from Preconstruction Support on Dec. 31.

Edward Elmore, retired from Florence Maintenance on Dec. 29.

Anthony Fallaw, retired from Traffic Engineering on March 3.

James Feda, retired as Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning on Dec. 31.

Steven Floyd, retired from Marion Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Melvin Foster, retired from IT Services on Dec. 31.

Patricia Gambill, retired from Director of Construction on March 31.

Mary Gibbs Morris, retired from Director of Construction on Dec. 31.

Richard Goodine, retired from Oconee Construction on Jan. 2.

Keith Goodman, retired from Newberry Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Robert Goodwin, retired from Williamsburg Maintenance on Jan. 19.

Joe Graham, retired from D5 Incident Responder on Jan. 16.

Rodney Grant, retired from Pickens Maintenance on Jan. 1.

Samuel Gravely, retired from Pickens Maintenance on March 16.

Franklin Green, retired from Oconee Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Randell Grove, retired from Florence Maintenance on April 1.

Eugene Hailey, retired from Marlboro Maintenance on Feb.

11.

Gary Hart, retired from Anderson Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Wanda Havird, retired from IT Services on Dec. 31.

Michael Hawes, retired from SHEP – Upstate I-85 on Dec. 15.

Darryl Hentz, retired from Contract Assurance on Dec. 1.

Robert Herndon, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on Feb. 5.

Loyd Hicks, retired from Aiken Maintenance on Dec. 1.

Phillip Hinson, retired from Union Maintenance on Dec. 29.

Michael Hogan, retired from District 6 Office on Dec. 1.

Stanley Holladay, retired from Barnwell Maintenance on Dec. 28.

John Huskins, retired from York Construction on Dec. 31.

Larry Ingram, retired from Aiken Maintenance on Feb. 28.

James Jones, retired from D2-Traffic Signals on Dec. 31.

Chris Jordan, retired from RPG 4 - Upstate on March 20.

James Joyner, retired from Lancaster Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Albertha Koger, retired from Colleton Maintenance on March 2.

Steven Lever, retired from Newberry Maintenance on March 31.

Henry Littles, retired from Marlboro Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Cynthia Locklear, retired from Marlboro Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Henry Long, retired from Kershaw Maintenance on Dec. 29.

Gary Lott, retired from Edgefield Maintenance on March 16.

Michael Lovelace, retired from Union Maintenance on Jan. 31.

Douglas Lybrand, retired from Program Controls on March 1.

Curtis Mack, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance on March 30.

John McCarter, retired from District 4 Office on Jan. 1.

Michael McCaslin, retired from Lancaster Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Melvin McNinch, retired from D4-Bridge Inspection on Jan. 26.

Jack Melvin, retired from Fairfield Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Natalie Moore, retired from Legal Services on Dec. 29.

Frank Moss, retired from Spartanburg Maintenance on Jan. 11.

Earline Muchow, retired from Pickens Maintenance on Dec. 15.

Wendell Mulligan, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Charles Murdaugh, retired from Colleton Maintenance on March 30.

Lynn Myers, retired from Right of Way – St. George on Feb. 1.

Albert Neighbors, retired from District 2 Office on Dec. 31.

Karen Neighbors, retired from District 2 Office on Dec. 31.

Steven Nelsin, retired from Greenville Construction on March 31.

Henry Nero, retired from Florence Maintenance on Feb. 4.

William Phillips, retired from Preconstruction Support on Dec. 1.

Harold Pope, retired from Williamsburg Maintenance on March 16.

Richard Pope, retired from Georgetown Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Tikah Rambharose, retired from IT Services on Feb. 28.

Timothy Ray, retired from Director of Construction on March 31.

Michele Reece, retired from District 6 Office on March 31.

Paul Register, retired from SHEP – Charleston on Dec. 31.

Annette Rish, retired from Budget on Dec. 31.

Ernest Rodriguez, retired from SHEP – Rock Hill on April 1.

Donald Rogers, retired from Director of Construction on Jan. 1.

Elise Rouse, retired from Florence Maintenance on March 1.

Donald Samuel, retired from D5-Maintenance Contracts on Dec. 31.

Tommy Sawyer, retired from Fairfield Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Dwayne Scott, retired from IT Services on Dec. 31.

Kay Smith, retired from Newberry Maintenance on March 31.

Randal Smith, retired from Florence Surveys on Dec. 31.

Todd Steagall, retired from Director of Construction on Jan. 31.

Edward Steck, retired from Traffic Engineering on Dec. 29.

Stephanie Stevens, retired from IT Services on Dec. 31.

Jeffery Stroud, retired from Chester Maintenance on Feb. 28.

Junius Taylor, retired from Darlington Maintenance on Dec. 22.

Gloria Thomas, retired from Surveys on Dec. 27.

Edgar Truax, retired from IT Services on Dec. 31.

Hugh Van Faussien, retired from Bamberg Maintenance on March 23.

Gerard Wachowski, retired from District 5 Office on Dec. 31.

James L. "Rusty" Welch, retired from Lowcountry RPG on April 12.

Chester Williams, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on Feb. 28.

Tommie Williams, retired from Edgefield Maintenance on March 17.

Elizabeth Woodall, retired from District 7 Office on Feb. 28.

**Are you retiring?
Do you want to stay on our mailing list?**

When you retire, your name comes off the employee mailing list for THE CONNECTOR. If you wish to continue receiving news about SCDOT, please email CrumptonLW@scdot.org and ask to stay on the mailing. Include your name and complete mailing address.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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

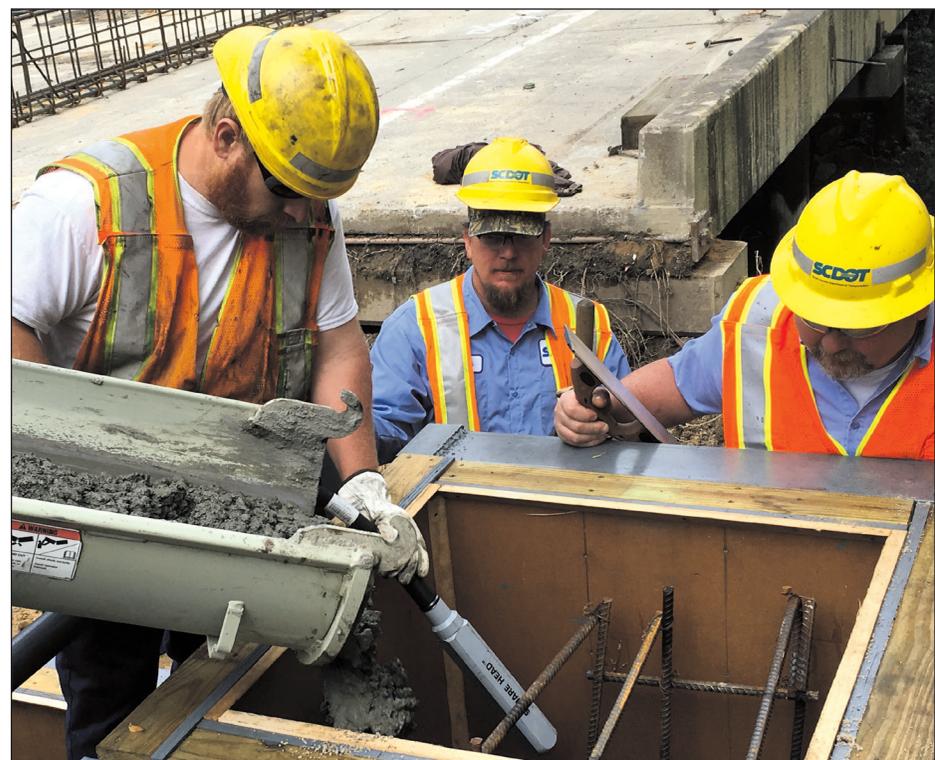
District 1: Strategic Plan in Action

Bridge Replacement

Bridges are one of the most important pieces of our infrastructure, and have been named as one of our primary Strategic Plan goals.

Large bridges with high traffic or in certain areas require replacement by a contractor, but there are many bridges that are fit for replacement by in-house crews who can do it as fast or better, as good or better quality, and for a better price.

To that end, Kershaw Maintenance has taken an initiative to supplement the District Bridge Replacement Crew. While very lengthy to fully explain, the process is an “orchestration of complicated calculated consequences and conundrum avoidance using careful conclusions.” It touches several departments from Administrative, to Environmental, and especially Procurement.



ABOVE LEFT: Chris Team helps the District Bridge Crew direct the placement of a bridge section on Back Swamp Road in Richland County. The Crew set 24 sections in seven hours.

ABOVE: Jessie Jordan, Cedric Hollingsworth and Dean Melton pour a bridge cap on Eskie Dixon Road in Elgin.

LEFT: Front Row - Bobby Grooms, Jessie Jordan and Nate Sovine. Back Row - Chris Team, Dean Melton, Dewey Bass, Cedric Hollingsworth, TJ Nesbitt and Bernard Boone. Not pictured: Rusty Shinault.

Intersection Safety

Lexington Maintenance was the first unit visited by **Susan Johnson** and **Rob Manning** and the Strategic Team, so they had to come up with something impressive.

Terry Tucker has been the Sign Crew Foreman in Lexington for some time, and one of the most knowledgeable in her field. She and her crew proposed a goal of 30 intersection improvements for the year using thermoplastic pavement markings. Their work ethic is so solid, they actually completed this goal by the first quarterly report, and are only limited by funding. Excellent work!

Fixing Roads

Resident Maintenance Engineer **Sandra Riley** and her Sumter Maintenance Unit has an ambition: fix the road surface.

One of their Strategic Goals is to “improve patching and leveling in Sumter County by in-house work crews and contracts.”

Even if or when their strengthening, radius improvement, leveling and patch work is capped by a resurfacing contract; they all will have some well-

deserved satisfaction in that their efforts are supporting that work underneath it all.

Included in their other goals are im-

proving shoulder and ditching mileage and improving safety by having more hands-on training at safety meetings.



Phil Griffin, Eddie Isaac and Albert Reuben (on roller) level a defect on S.C. 53 in Sumter County.

Got news?

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

**Alan
Kozusko**



District 2 News

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

*District Engineer: Kevin McLaughlin (864) 227-6971
FAX : (864) 227-6567*

Chainsaw safety, training, competition

On Jan. 31, the 2018 D2 Chainsaw Conference was held at the McCormick Maintenance facility. Teams from each Maintenance Office in District 2 competed in Chainsaw Speed Cut, Tree Felling, Chainsaw Maintenance and Pole Saw Speed Cut. Each individual competitor's results earned point towards the Overall Team Winner. This year's event Overall Team Winner was Saluda Maintenance. Following are the top two competitors for each event.

Chainsaw Speed Cut

1. Marcus Robertson, Saluda Maintenance
2. Matthew Riddle, Saluda Maintenance

Tree Felling

1. Quincy Weaver, Edgefield Maintenance
2. Matthew Riddle, Saluda Maintenance

Chainsaw Maintenance

1. Trey Schmuck, Anderson Maintenance
2. Matthew Riddle, Saluda Maintenance

Pole Saw Speed Cut

1. Marcus Robertson, Saluda Maintenance
2. Robert West, Edgefield Maintenance



District 2 Chainsaw champions, from left: Jeffrey Jordan, Charles Long, Marcus Robertson, Lamar Berry, Matt Riddle, John Davis and Edward Gassman.

Thanks for a job well done

A citizen in Saluda County made a call to the Saluda Maintenance Office to report trash that had been dumped on the side of the road.

Administrative Assistant **Kathy Addy** dispatched **Jeffrey Lewis**.

Saluda Resident Maintenance Engineer **Edward T. Gassman**, said "Lewis is our General Purpose 'Hero' Trades Specialist for the Saluda Maintenance yard." The citizen was pleased with the quick response and contacted the SCDOT Customer Service Center to show her appreciation.



Kathy Addy, left, and Jeffrey Lewis were recognized for their quick response to a report of litter in Saluda County. Kudos to the team for helping keep our roadways clear of debris.

Got news?

Contact Jennifer Pickens at
864-716-2380
or email her at
Pickens.JH@scdot.org.



Jennifer Pickens

Job shadowing in District 2



Sixth grader Evan Lawson came to work with his dad, District Asphalt Manager Jeff Lawson, to job shadow his father at work.

Happy Retirement and Happy Hunting to Steve Coleman from SCDOT!

Broken cable closes westbound I-526 Wando bridge: Team works 24/7 to complete repairs ahead of schedule

By Bob Kudelka

National expertise, a team effort and around the clock work led to the early reopening of the I-526 westbound bridge over the Wando River on June 2, nine days ahead of schedule.

Bridge inspectors closed the westbound structure after finding a broken cable on May 14.

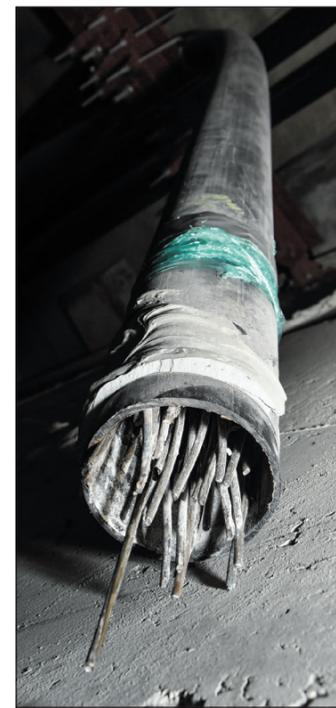
It originally was scheduled to reopen June 11, but Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** delivered the good news during a May 31, press briefing at the District 6 office in North Charleston.

"I can assure you that my new leadership team understands our responsibility to the citizens and visitors to our state and we will not stop on our efforts to get and keep these bridges in service for years to come," Hall said. "We understand the importance of these bridges and this leadership team pledges that we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that our citizens are riding on safe bridges and receives the proper return on the taxpayer dollars. I expect that, with some maintenance performed on these bridges, we will be able to have safe structures that can serve the area for decades to come."

The emergency closure of the westbound bridge presented traffic management challenges in a populated Lowcountry area where cities and towns are linked by bridges.

To help traffic during the closure, SCDOT and its partners came up with a plan for temporary two-way traffic on the eastbound bridge. To make that happen by Sunday, May 20, crews had to work long hours to prepare the eastbound lanes, cutting new paved crossovers to convert eastbound lanes into one lane flowing in each direction.

SCDOT Director of Traffic Engineering **Rob Perry** said the two-way traffic was effective, with traffic conditions gradually improving as motorists got used to the new traffic pattern. More than 20,000 vehicles a day were able to traverse the bridge westbound that otherwise would have been unable to take that route. A total of 40,000 vehicles were crossing the bridge



A broken cable was found during an inspection and the bridge was shut down on May 14.

in both directions each day, Perry said.

Perry said the other two alternate routes saw speeds increasing on the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge and congestion eased on the SC Highway 41 bridge after the two-way traffic switch on I-526 eastbound.

Additional SCDOT SHEP responders were brought into help in the emergency and ended up assisting more than 200 motorists in need, Perry said.

Meanwhile, Hall and Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** assembled a team of national and international bridge experts to help not only to repair the bridge but also to find out the cause of the broken cable. SCDOT used its website, along with its social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter, to keep the public up to date on repairs.

Just nine days after the cable break, Colvin announced a "major milestone" at the bridge as a new cable was being fabricated by Strand-Tech Manufacturing of Summerville.



SCDOT, Federal Highway, Florida DOT and other experts familiar with the box truss bridge design inspected the damage to determine the cause of the cable break. The team also managed the repair operations and inspected the work as it was done.



Governor Henry McMaster, second right, visited the project and was shown a cross section of the cable that failed on the bridge. From left, District 6 Bridge Engineer Kevin Turner, Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin, McMaster and Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall.

The progress was evident, as Colvin and other officials described the work and pointed out two large spools behind them with 9,000 feet of new cable materials.

At the May 31 press briefing, Hall surprised everyone by kicking it off with the announcement

that the westbound lanes would reopen in two days.

Other highlights of what turned out to be the final briefing included:

- Hall said the team made significant progress in collecting historical records about the bridge

dating back three decades. Voluminous files were displayed at the press briefing, provided to media and made available on SCDOT's website: www.scdot.org.

- Hall said she had asked the State Inspector General to assist SCDOT with assist with the

review of the agency's protocols and procedures for inspecting and maintaining the state's bridges as requested by Governor Henry McMaster.

- In Hall's assessment, she said, "It's clear to me that these bridges have been problematic almost from the beginning, especially with regards to water intrusion." This problem has been common with these types of bridges in other states, she said. Over time, water intrusion led to corrosion into some of the post-tensioning tendons.

Colvin, using photographs and illustrations, described the complex repairs and maintenance plan developed by the national team to move forward.

Colvin said to ensure the long-term reliability of these structures, engineers agreed the best method was to thoroughly seal the structure from the deck side, incorporate redundancy as specified by the expert engineers and implementing continuous monitoring.

Repairs not only included installing a new cable to replace the broken one, but an additional new cable for "redundancy to increase our factor of safety," Colvin said. There are total of nine cables, which is one more than existed when the bridge was built. Moving forward, an additional 10th cable will also be installed for an additional safety factor. Each cable has 19, seven-wire strands housed a black conduit covering plus cement grout.

SCDOT Commission Vice Chairman Robby Robbins thanked Secretary Hall and her team for "working on this issue around the clock since it happened."

"I have been most impressed with their professionalism, dedication, hard work and with the care they have put into this particular project," Robbins said, noting that Secretary Hall was spotted working with a crew on the bridge deck during Memorial Day Weekend.

"I don't know that I've seen that kind of effort out of a lot of governmental agencies, but this crowd does it. I've been on the Commission since March 2016. Secretary Hall was confirmed by the Senate in January 2016, and I can tell you she is a real leader; she has a great



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Crews use a special jack to tension the replacement cables on the structure. Two extra cables are being installed on both west and east bound bridges for safety and redundancy.

senior command staff."

Robbins said, "The safety of the motoring public has always been priority number one...and that has been what these folks have been working so hard to accomplish for the citizens of the Lowcountry and everyone else who uses the Wando bridge."

Hall thanked the Town of Mt. Pleasant, City of Charleston, CARTA, County of Charleston, the SC Ports Authority and all of the local governmental groups that have provided assistance during this emergency event.

"I'd also like to thank Governor McMaster for sending DPS, DNR and other law enforcement members down to help us with traffic management," Hall said. "All of these partners have played a big role in helping manage through a very challenging task of moving an estimated 35,000 vehicles on alternate routes."

The 10-member response team



ABOVE: Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin talks to the media about the progress on the repairs before it was reopened. TOP: Experts inspect the damaged cables and determined water intrusion caused the cable to break.



The expedited repair schedule finished the project 10 days early. Traffic was back to normal on the morning of June 2.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

FAX: (864) 241-1115

Got news?

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

**Karuiam
Booker**



Load restricted bridge replaced in Greenville

BEFORE

LOAD NOTICE
WEIGHT LIMIT
3 TONS PER AXLE
6- TONS GROSS



AFTER

Greenville Construction recently completed the Edwards Road load restricted bridge replacement. This route is a major cut-through from Greenville to the Taylors area for the upstate. According to Resident Construction Engineer Ben Olson, this was the last of the Act 98 Maintenance Bridges to be replaced and was the most challenging due to the significant amount of utilities. This project site had two large sewer lines, power lines and water lines. The contractors worked through the snow and rain due to an accelerated schedule, and the bridge was opened on March 6. The overall size of the bridge was doubled and now local fire departments can cross without an issue.

Hands-on training for SHEP



On April 12, SHEP responders from District 3 and District 4 collaborated to host an emergency response training exercise. The SHEP responders received hands-on instructions for pushing inoperable vehicles out of the roadway and how to flip an overturned vehicle using the SHEP truck.

Equipment rodeo raises money for charity

On April 17, District 3 held its annual equipment operator's rodeo. Contestants from Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens and Oconee counties competed to be given a chance to represent the district for the state competition. This event not only tested the ability of individuals to use various equipment, but also their ability to give back. During the last day of events lunch was provided by district staff, but in return contestants and judges gave monetary donations to the District 3 "Adopt-A-Family" campaign. This program allows District 3 personnel's children a chance to have Christmas funded due to any hardship. Overall this event was a success in competition and charity.



District 4 News

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

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

Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference Winners announced in District 4 Competition

Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Jeremy Shrewsbury (York)
2nd Brandon Varnadore (York)

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Brandon Varnadore (York)
2nd Jeremy Shrewsbury (York)

Tractor Truck w/Lowboy Trailer

1st Brian Hodges (D4)
2nd Jason Shroyer (Lancaster)

Backhoe

1st Jeremy Etters (York)
2nd Brian Hodges (D4)

Motor Grader

1st David Kelley (York)
2nd Heath Toney (Cherokee)

Tractor w/Mower

1st Cody McAbee (York)
2nd John Watson (Cherokee)



The District 4 competition winners are, from left: John Watson, Jason Shroyer, Brian Hodges, Heath Toney, Brandon Varnadore, David Kelley, Jeremy Etters, Jeremy Shrewsbury and Cody McAbee.

Got news?

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



Edward Moore

District 4 brushes up on First Aid, CPR



District 4 employees have been taking classes on Blood Borne Pathogen, CPR and First Aid. Approximately 225 employees attended the training offered by the American Red Cross and instructed by D4 OSHA Officers. All participants were required to demonstrate proper CPR skills on practice manikins during classroom training.

Meet Fred Copeland

Name: Fred Copeland
Title: District 4 Information Technology Consultant
Length of Service at SCDOT: 15 months

Fred Copeland lives in Rock Hill and is married to wife Sandie; they have four adult children and 12 grandchildren.

Copeland served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as a technical sergeant in satellite communications. He also worked for AT&T for 17 years.

In his free time Copeland plays darts in local leagues and regional tournaments. He and his wife enjoy spending time at the beach and mountains.



Fred Copeland

District 5 News

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

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

Got news?

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

Michael Miller

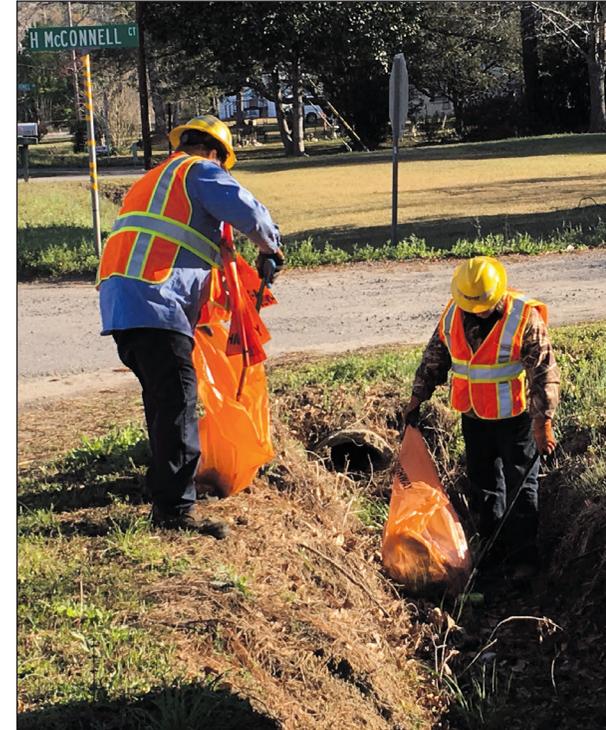


District 5 does their part to clean up roadways



AMY CARDWELL/DILLON MAINTENANCE

Members of Dillon Maintenance stand in front of some of the litter they picked up during the March 22 Spring Spruce Up.



RON CLEMMONS/GEORGETOWN MAINTENANCE

Georgetown Maintenance Employees cleaning around a ditch near a side street.



It was a cold and windy day for litter pickup in District 5 on March 22 during the Spring Spruce Up. Each county participated in the litter pickup on the highways. Here are a few pictures of our employees in action.

MICHAEL MILLER/DISTRICT 5

Florence Maintenance picks up litter along U.S. 501 during the litter pick up on March 22.



MICHAEL MILLER/DISTRICT 5

Members of the Florence and Headquarters Rights of Way offices pick up trash on U.S. 501 in Florence.



MELINDA JENKINS/WILLIAMSBURG MAINTENANCE

Williamsburg Maintenance employees pick up trash during the event.

District 6 News

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

*District Engineer: Tim Henderson (843) 740-1665
FAX: (843) 740-1663*

D6 Spring Spruce Up

Employees remove 158 pounds of litter per person

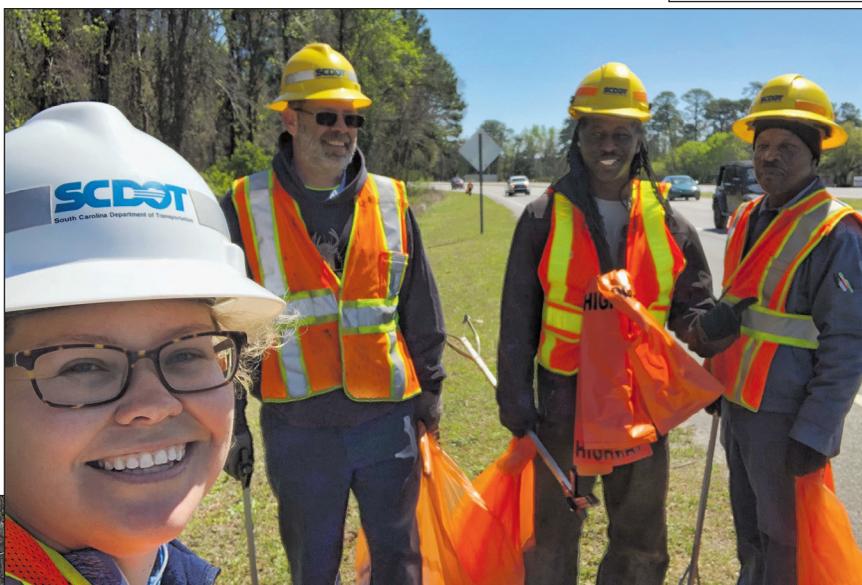
Got news?

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

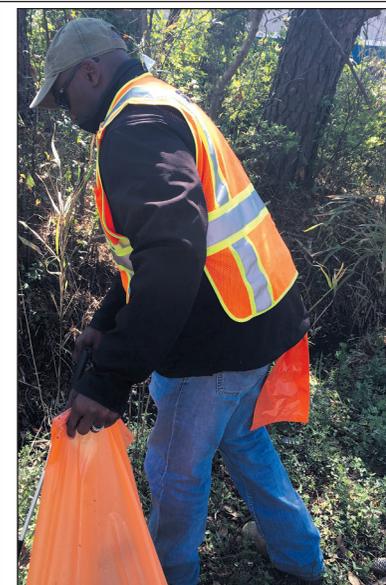


Debra Jerideau

District 6			
County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Beaufort	32	366	5,493
Berkeley	63	336	5,040
Charleston	41	310	4,650
Colleton	52	1,098	16,477
Dorchester	36	483	7,245
Jasper	37	234	3,505
District Crews	12	56	845
Totals	273	2,883	43,255



Beaufort Maintenance



Colleton Bridge Crew



Charleston Maintenance

Meet Brian W. Heape



Brian W. Heape

Name: Brian W. Heape
Title: District 6 Construction Engineer

Brian W. Heape began his career with SCDOT in 2006 as the Resident Construction Engineer at Bamberg Construction in District 7. Since then, he served in the positions of Assistant District Construction Engineer and Assistant District Traffic Engineer, both with District 7. In December 2017, he was promoted to District Construction Engineer with District 6.

Heape is a 1999 graduate of The Citadel, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and has been a licensed professional engineer since 2004. He lives near Branchville with his wife, Amber, and daughters Emily (13) and Ellie (11).

He is an active member of Branchville Christian Church where he serves as a young adult Sunday School teacher, elder and secretary of the board. In his spare time, he coaches his daughters' softball team and enjoys working on the family farm.



Berkeley Maintenance

District 7 News

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

*District Engineer: Kevin Gantt (803) 531-6850
FAX: (803) 531-6854*

Barnwell Maintenance helps community soup kitchen



The First Baptist Church of Barnwell opened a Community Soup Kitchen last December. The soup kitchen is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and serves an average of 50 people per day. Barnwell Maintenance foreman **Dennis Buckman** and Shop Foreman **Joseph Gainey** organized the effort to support

the kitchen by taking up donations of canned foods and non-perishables. Barnwell Maintenance has taken three donations to the kitchens' drop off center.

Stan Holladay retires after 39 years of service

Stanley W. Holladay began his employment with the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation Oct. 2, 1978. He was hired as an Electrician/Signalman for District 7 and continued in this position for approximately 18 years. Holladay became the Resident Maintenance Engineer at Allendale Maintenance on July 1, 1996. After working in Allendale for 5 years, he transferred to Barnwell Maintenance on Aug. 2, 2001. He remained in Barnwell as the Resident Maintenance Engineer until his retirement on Dec. 28, 2017.

Holladay completed 39 years of dedicated service. His wife is the Reverend Carol Holliday. They have one daughter, Sam, and a son-in-law Jonathan. Best wishes for your retirement, Stan!



District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt congratulates retiring Barnwell Resident Maintenance Engineer Stan Holladay for his 39 years of service.

Got news?

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



Danny Simmons

Meet John Moses

John Moses is a Trades Specialist II at Clarendon Maintenance. He has been employed with SCDOT for 18 years and 7 months. He is a member of Cypress Fork A.M.E. Church in Cypress Fork. He is married to Ruby D. Moses. His hobbies include biking, fishing and hunting.



John Moses



**Cranel Eugene "Gene" Smith
June 22, 1973-
Jan. 30, 2018**

In God's Hands: Gene's Journey

by Dawn Smith

Our world fell apart at the doctors that day,
When they told us it wouldn't just go away.
With tears in our eyes, we would pray and pray.
He gave us hope; we needed to obey.

STRENGTH - because we put it all in God's hands.

A demonic force, this cancer from hell,
Poisoned your body from cell to cell.
From surgery to sickness, we prayed you'd get well
And we remembered Jesus saved us-up on that nail.

FAITH - because we put it all in God's hands.

Prayers gave us strength and miracles were found,
Throughout the journey, our blessings would abound.
Soccer games, suppers, and chasing the hound,
Boating and fishing and goofing around.

JOY - because we put it all in God's hands.

You fought like a champ, so humble and strong.
Through nausea and pain, you'd still tag along.
But the cancer kept growing and the days got long,
You remembered to Whom you truly belong.

ACCEPTANCE - because we put it all in God's hands.

Your eyes shimmered when they saw the light.
You watched the angels glowing in white.
I can't imagine the most beautiful sights
You see from beside His throne to the right.

HOME - because we put it all in God's hands.

**A poem written
by Gene's widow**

Minority & Small Business News

By Colette Murray-Swann

The SCDOT Division of Minority & Small Business Affairs, along with its partners FHWA, FMCSA and SCDPS Highway Patrol, hosted a Forum for Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Hauling firms on Dec. 6-7, 2017, at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in West Columbia.

The DBE Haulers Forum is a two-day workshop convened every two years to bring together the largest single group of minority business firms certified by the SCDOT. The Haulers Forum ensures that participants are aware of the most recent federal/state compliance laws and regulations. It provides networking opportunities to meet prime contractors and service providers. Contractors that served as panel guests were Ron Banks of Banks Construction, Jeff Andrews of Preferred Materials, Inc., Diane Rushing of AOS Specialty Contractors, Inc., owners La-

tall & Matthew Zimmerman of VBW Hauling Company and owner Kevin Manning of Manning & Sons Trucking & Utilities. In addition, there was a business finance panel entitled "Deal or No Deal" that had individuals from financial institutions that offered distinctive programs for small businesses. Sitting on the finance panel were representatives from TD Bank, Woodforest National Bank, South Carolina Community Loan Fund and Community Works.

Other workshops held during the DBE Haulers Forum included the Davis Bacon Act, a session on the additional funding SCDOT will receive from the gas tax revenue and the Joint Ventures / Expansion Through Collaborations session. Participants were given a special on-site Level-1 Commercial Vehicle Inspection demonstration by Cpl. Todd Catoe of the South Carolina Highway Patrol/State Transport Police. This year's DBE Haulers Forum saw a record number of participants.



ABOVE: SCDPS Transport Police Cpl. Todd Catoe conducts a simulated dump truck inspection at the 2017 DBE Haulers Forum.



SCDOT Minority and Small Business Affairs employees Steve Smith and Collette Swann, center, pose with DBE Haulers Forum Moderator Terecia Wilson.



LEFT: DBEs Latall and Matthew Zimmerman, owners of VBW Hauling Company, were the luncheon speakers at the DBE Haulers Forum



Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall addresses questions from participants at the 2017 DBE Haulers Forum.



SCDOT Chief Engineer for Project Delivery Randall Young gives a presentation on Gas Tax Revenue and SCDOT Projects at the DBE Haulers Forum.

PHOTOS BY NATHANIEL ABRAHAM III/CAROLINA PANORAMA



STATE from page 13

- Bridge replacements: “Our goal is to completely eliminate all load restricted bridges in the state over the next 10 years,” Hall said. “We will also tackle the structurally deficient bridges that we have on the National Highway System too, replacing 465 bridges in total.”

- Interstate widenings: “We have moved forward with several interstate widening projects that are more than a decade past due,” Hall said. “I-85/385, I-26/526 and the biggest one of all, Malfunction Junction. Finally addressing the major pinch points in the movement of freight in the state. A functional interstate system is key to our continued economic growth.”

Hall said the Commission already approved the 10-year investment plan for the use of the funds and the agency has moved forward incrementally increasing our programs to match the incremental flow of funds.

The agency’s key strategic goals are safety; maintaining our existing infrastructure; improving SCDOT program delivery; providing a safe and productive work environment; and earning the public trust.

“I am pleased to advise that we have established the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund Account as required by the General Assembly,” Hall said.

She ended her presentation with a quote from Mark Twain: “Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.”



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall presents the ‘State of the SCDOT’ to the Senate Transportation Committee on Feb. 7, 2018.

David Rister named Mega Projects Construction Manager

David Rister, P.E., has accepted the position of Construction Manager within the Mega Projects Division. Rister’s effective date for this position was March 17, 2018.

Rister earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, a master’s degree in Civil Engineering/Structural Engineering from the University of South Carolina, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina.

He has 23 years of experience with SCDOT including Design Engineer, Bridge Program Manager, Assistant Resident Construction Engineer, Consultant Coordinator (CRM Program), Assistant State Bridge Design Engineer, Assistant State Bridge Construction Engineer and State Bridge Construction Engineer.

As Construction Manager for the Mega Projects Division, Rister will be responsible for construction management oversight, coordination and administration of major transportation projects such as the Carolina Crossroads Corridor Improvement Project.

Rister is married to Rachel Priester Rister and they have six-year-old twins, Michael



David Rister

and Elizabeth. They are members of Mt. Pilgrim Lutheran Church where Rister serves as the church treasurer.

Rister enjoys Clemson sports, do-it-yourself projects and is a budding businessman/entrepreneur.

Christopher Lacy named Mega Projects Design Manager

Christopher R. Lacy, P.E., has accepted the position of Design Manager within the Mega Projects Division. Lacy’s started in the position on March 2, 2018.

Lacy earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina. He has 21 years of experience including seven years in the consultant sector where he served as a Design Engineer and Project Manager. Since 2004, he has been employed by SCDOT serving as Program Manager and most recently as a Design Manager within the Preconstruction Division.

As Design Manager for the Mega Projects Division, Lacy will be responsible for design oversight, design review and coordination of projects such as the Carolina Crossroads Corridor Improvement Project.

Lacy is married to Tiffany Bonneau Lacy, and they have two sons, Carter and Garrett. They attend Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church in Lexington.

Lacy enjoys fishing, camping and watch-



Chris Lacy

ing college sports. For the past seven years, he has coached his sons’ teams at the Lexington County Soccer Club. He also enjoys going to the beach and mountains with his family.