

Connecting the DOTs

SDDOT teamwork efforts recognized

A total of 422 SDDOT employees will be recognized for their outstanding teamwork efforts in 2007 as part of the annual Team Awards Program.

“The work we do as a department impacts every single day of people’s lives,” said Secretary Darin Bergquist. “It takes a great deal of relationships to make these things happen for the people and visitors of South Dakota. The Team Awards Program allows us to celebrate the great work done every day at SDDOT, and thank those individuals who went above and beyond in their service to the public.”

Nine teams were selected as top award winners and six were selected to receive an honorable mention. A total of 42 teams were nominated this year, including those involving maintenance, construction, business improvement and more.

“What’s great about this program is that everyone wins by working together,” said Bergquist. “Not only do we get to reward and showcase our deserving teams, but we can all learn from their accomplishments. Some of the solutions these teams came upon might have applications in another shop or part of our department.”

Bergquist says staff should also feel free to contact the individuals who nominated the team to learn more about a project.

Short descriptions of teams and a list of team members can be found on pages five and six.

Teams selected for top awards receive their choice of a denim shirt, a hooded sweatshirt,

a foldable camping chair or an executive ring binder. Where possible, items will be imprinted or embroidered with the SDDOT logo and “2007 Team Award.”

Teams chosen as honorable mention winners will receive a SDDOT automobile cell phone holder/organizer and nominated teams will receive a SDDOT pocket tape measure.

All teams will receive certificates honoring their achievements and they will be recognized again at the earliest opportunity with the presentation of their awards.

Nominations for the annual Team Award Program are sought in January to recognize teamwork during the previous calendar year. The nominations are then reviewed by a selection committee, which is comprised of representatives from each of the divisions, with new members nominated by the division directors each year. The committee selects the winning teams and the awards, which are funded by the Western Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (WASHTO) through reimbursement to the department.

“I want to express my sincere appreciation for the team members’ efforts on these projects,” said Bergquist. “Time and time again, SDDOT employees have shown their willingness to work together to achieve a goal. Teamwork is what our department is all about, and their accomplishments truly exemplify the team spirit.”

(see Team Award Results on pages 5&6)

National transportation commission releases report to Congress

After 20 months of hearings and deliberation, the congressionally-chartered National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission unveiled its report, *Transportation for Tomorrow*, on Jan. 15.

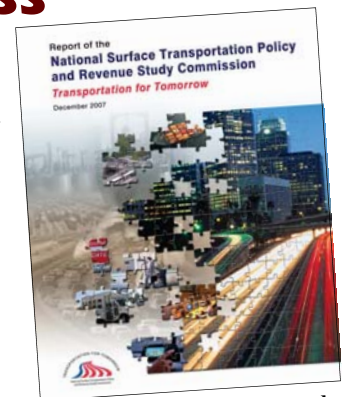
In the report, the commission insists there must be a strong federal role and support for a national transportation system, that a significant increase in investment is needed to preserve our system and modernize it for the future, and that the per gallon motor fuel tax should be replaced by a vehicle-miles traveled fee by 2025.

“The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission has put forth some bold and groundbreaking concepts to deliver on the promise of mobility for this and future generations,” Pete Rahn, President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), said in a press release. “Some of the recommendations in this report will be considered controversial,

but clearly the ideas presented will help to stimulate the national debate we must have if we are to chart a course for a transportation network equal to the demands of the 21st Century.”

Committee members at the news conference said recommendations were necessary to keep the U.S. competitive in the global economy, improve safety and maintain the quality of life for Americans. The report states, “We have outgrown this system and it is time for new leadership to step up with a vision for

(see National Transportation Committee Report on page 2)



The congressionally-chartered transportation committee released its report last month.

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Pavement Management System could play greater role in programming decisions

By Julie Bolding
SDDOT Management Analyst

SDDOT engineers already are busy re-evaluating projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program, and the Department as a whole is considering a more disciplined use of the Pavement Management System for scheduling those projects, Planning and Engineering Director Loren Schaefer told the Transportation Commission at its Jan. 24 meeting.

"I'd like to at least plant the seed ... that our first priority should be to take care of what we've got first," Schaefer told commissioners.

In short, maintain existing pavements and structures. New routes, unwarranted capacity improvements, new interchanges, and unwarranted rural or urban reconstruction have little chance of approval unless covered by an existing agreement.


"We have a large state with a lot of different entities that think their projects are important," Schaefer said. While the Department will honor agreements for new construction, such as SD100 in Sioux Falls and the Sturgis bypass, when they will occur depends on funding. These projects will compete each year with many other projects for what may be a small pot of money left over after preservation maintenance work is done on the entire system.

Schaefer advocated setting a level for desired overall average pavement

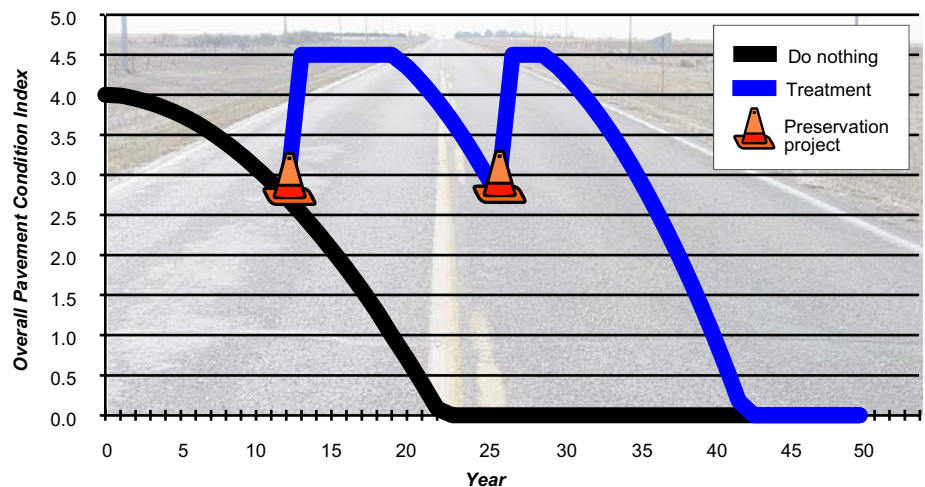
condition in South Dakota—from a low of zero to a high of five—and then using the Pavement Management System to help SDDOT managers determine what kind of maintenance is needed on particular road segments to achieve that level. This data-driven approach would take a lot of emotion out of programming decisions, he said.

Although the Department backlog stands at \$580 million for 2007, the informational value of the backlog number can be overstated. SDDOT has always had a backlog and always will, he said. Chairman Jerry Shoener,

initially appointed in 2003, added that the Department has had a \$500 million backlog for some time.

Schaefer said that Road Safety Improvement projects and maintenance activities such as plowing snow and removing dead deer precede preservation maintenance in importance. Because many State bridges are approaching the end of their 75-year design lives, the State will have to figure out how to pay for rebuilding them in 15-20 years. Targeting bridges for \$5 million of highway money for preservation maintenance now also will extend the life of some of these structures. 

Pavement Preservation



The figure illustrates an example of how the overall pavement condition over time can be improved by preservation projects. The black line represents the normal deterioration of the pavement condition over time if nothing is done to the roadway. The blue line shows how properly timed preservation projects can improve the condition and extend the life of the roadway without reconstruction.

National Transportation Commission Report

(continued from page one)

the next 50 years that will ensure U.S. prosperity and global pre-eminence for generations to come."

AASHTO officials said that the majority of the commission's recommendations are consistent with their policy recommendations and they were pleased that much of the information they provided was included in the report.

AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley said in a press release that he commends the members of the commission "for their devotion and the countless hours they spent gathering

the perspectives of transportation users and providers from around the country."

In April of last year, then-department Secretary Judy Payne testified in front of the commission, saying that "their support of strong federal investment in highways and surface transportation in rural states is essential."

South Dakota was one of only a few rural states invited to testify before the commission, which was due to the fact that the department aggressively sought a seat at the table in order to communicate rural needs to the panel, Payne said.

The 12-member commission was created in 2005 under the Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). They were charged with examining the condition and future needs of the nation's surface transportation system, as well as evaluating alternative revenue sources to supplement the motor fuel tax. Several field hearings were held across the country to gather information and input from concerned groups.

The commission's report is online at www.transportationfortomorrow.org. 

Department not intimidated by groundhog's prediction

Better bundle up and keep the plows at the ready.

On Groundhog Day, the furry critter that folklore says can predict the weather saw his shadow. According to tradition, that means we're in store for six more weeks of winter.

And that won't be a problem, says SDDOT Construction and Maintenance Engineer Jason Humphrey.

"We're hoping the rest of the winter is kind, but our crews are ready for whatever comes our way," he said. "Although we all like to play in the snow, we don't really want to push a lot more of it around."

Humphrey says the department has only used about 45 percent of this year's winter maintenance budget as of the end of January, but he cautions that could all change with just one winter storm.


"We've had a pretty mild winter so far, but a three-day blizzard would affect us greatly," he said, adding that

those bigger storms typically occur late in the season.

The official weather forecasting rodent, known as Punxsutawney Phil, was pulled from his stump early Feb. 2 morning, surrounded by onlookers. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle, a group of local businessmen, oversees the event, which is held each year in the western Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney.

The ceremony stems from a German superstition that says if a hibernating animal casts a shadow on Feb. 2, winter would last another six weeks. If no shadow is seen, spring would come early.

"An early spring would be nice," Humphrey said, "but we've learned not to expect that in South Dakota.

"Our maintenance folks have an extremely important and difficult job to do. We are grateful for all their hard work to keep the whole state moving during the winter, no matter how long it lasts." 

More roadway cameras added

Motorists in South Dakota now have even more tools to help them travel safely.

The department has added seven new locations for their roadway cameras, available on the traveler information Web site, www.SafeTravelUSA.com.


Cameras have been added to show the roadway conditions at following sites:

- I-29 at Beresford
- I-29 at the Dell Rapids Exit
- SD44 at Silver City
- US83 at Vivian
- US18 at Edgemont
- I-29 and W. 41st Street (Exit 77) in Sioux Falls
- I-229 and E. Benson Road (Exit 9) in Sioux Falls

These join cameras found at many locations along I-29 and I-90 that the department activated in late December and early January. The Web site now allows users to access 43 camera views at 28 locations across the state.

The cameras provide snapshots of the roadway taken at 10-minute intervals. The images are immediately available at the SDDOT's traveler information Web site. Travelers can access links to all of the camera views by clicking on "Cameras" found towards the top left of the page.

The department plans to add several more cameras before next winter, including many on non-Interstate highways.

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of all of the traveler information services provided by the SDDOT. 



Legislative update

Department officials have been active this session closely monitoring several bills. Senior staff have also been meeting with several groups of local government officials when their city had their featured day at the Legislature to discuss road, airport and transit issues.

Status of SDDOT proposed bills

- **HB1038**—An amendment to last year's "emergency responder bill," the legislation would add operators of emergency snow removal equipment to those exempt from having some accidents added to their personal driving record. To be exempt, the accident must result during official duties when the operator responds to a call of duty in support of one of the emergency responder personnel outlined in the bill. The exemption does not apply to accidents occurring during regular plowing duties and responsibilities.

Status: Signed by Gov. on Feb. 12.


- **HB1039**—An Act to remove a segment of State Highway 25 in Hanson County from the State Trunk System.

Status: Signed by Gov. on Feb. 4.

- **HB1040**—An Act to remove a segment of State Highway 314 in Yankton County from the State Trunk System.

Status: Signed by Gov. on Feb. 4.

A detailed recap of bills monitored by the department will be featured in the March newsletter edition.

The 83rd session of the South Dakota Legislature continues through Feb. 29, when lawmakers will break until the final day on March 17. 



Get ahead with motivational and instructional resources from the SDDOT Lending Library

Whether you want to work on your leadership skills, your communication style or just need a little extra empowerment, improving yourself and your group is easy with help from the SDDOT Lending Library. The library hosts a collection of books, audio tapes and videos to improve your personal skills and motivate your group.

Improving your individual skills

The library includes a number of books varying in topic and depth, from the quick-read *Who Moved My Cheese?* to the New York Times bestseller *Primal Leadership*. They are great ways to help pass the time if you're waiting for a plane or meeting—and you'll gain some helpful tips at the same time.

Got a long drive in the car ahead of you? Pop in a CD or cassette and learn from experts on resolving conflicts, building relationships, instilling cooperation in others and more. Or, unwind with a Dr. Alan Zimmerman CD featuring motivational quotes and uplifting music.

Learning as a group

For a group meeting or gathering, several videos are available. And they don't have to be boring, either. Try one of the entertaining *Fish* videos, *The Leadership Pickles*, or a Dr. Zimmerman motivational tape to elevate your group to another mindset. Guides and workbooks

are available for several of the videos if you want to take it a step further.


Wisdom from Dr. Zimmerman

The lending library features an extensive collection of Dr. Zimmerman materials, including a variety of videos, audio recordings, books and archived *Tuesday Tips* by the world-famous motivational speaker. Also available is the PIVOT Collection, a grouping of the support materials used and discussed in his PIVOT seminar, made periodically available through BOP Training.

A full list with descriptions of the available items can be found on the

SDDOT intranet at http://intranet.state.sd.us/dot/geninfo_meet.asp.

To check out an item, contact Emilie Miller, Communications Manager, by e-mail or at 773-5103. Be sure to include the name and format of the item, when you need it and when you plan to return it. Or, you can peruse the collection yourself by stopping by Miller's office, currently located in room 100 of the Central Office in Pierre.

Several offices have their own copies of these and other materials. Check in your area to find the ones closest to you. 

Archived publications available on M: drive

Past copies of newsletters, SDDOT monthly reports, Executive Team minutes and Transportation Commission minutes are now available on the M: drive, accessible to SDDOT employees.

To access the archived publications, visit M:\DOT\Common\Publications. The newsletters are in PDF format; the rest will open through Word.

To see all files, access the M: drive through "My Computer," which is normally found on your desktop or through your computer's Start Menu. The appropriate program will start when you open each file.

The most current versions of the publications will still be available online. Newsletters and Transportation Commission minutes are available at SDDOT.com. Monthly reports and Executive Team minutes are accessible through the department intranet site.

Employee Spotlight



James Arens Journey Technician Yankton Area Office

Date started with SDDOT: Jan. 10, 2005

Job in a nutshell: Surveying, materials sampling, testing, inspection and documentation for progress and payment on State highway projects.

Currently working on: Right of Way projects with the Region Land Surveyor.

Chose my current job field: My next door neighbor asked me to work at his engineering company.

Born/grew up in: Born in Faulkton, grew up on a farm near Orient, SD.

Calls home: Five miles west of Yankton. I like the view.

Schooling: Mitchell Technical Institute with a drafting and building construction degree.

Special training: Registered Land Survey License in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Family: Wife, Donna, married 18 years. Children Heath, 15, and Jaclyn, 11. I have 12 siblings of my own.

Hobbies/favorite activities: City league volleyball with co-workers, hunting, coaching and attending my children's activities.

Groups/organizations you belong to: Yankton Baseball Board, Professional Land Surveyors Society (SD and Nebraska chapters).


Craziest/silliest/dumbest/most fun thing you've ever done: Dumbest—swimming after a survey boat that had drifted away from shore on Lake Poinsett in November. Smartest—not flying the Gyrocopter. (See next question.)

People would be surprised to know: I built a Gyrocopter from a kit in the basement of my house for my brother.

The best of times: The birth of my children.

Favorite vehicle: 1966 Pontiac—college car.

Favorite way to travel: Car—see the country.

Driver or passenger? Driver—in control. 



Team Award Results (continued on next page)

Listed in no particular order.

Top Award Teams

The development of the inaugural year of the department's mentoring program. Nominated by Kevin Tveidt.

Team members: Greg Fuller, Jeff Gustafson, June Hansen, Peggy Laurenz, Mark Peppel, Brad Remmich, Tammy Williams

The FEMA Recovery Center following the May 5, 2007, flood in Aberdeen. Nominated by Jeff Senst.

Team members: James Bahr, Stephen Crane, Anthony Hoffman, Karen Hoven, Richard Kahre, Dennis Kinslow, Jerry Maier, Gary Morehouse, Bonnie Palmer, Mark Preszler, Patricia Raugutt, Darla Rousseau, Toby Wolf

Creating a safe, efficient and economical means to install, remove and store sanders. Nominated by John Forman.

Team members: Hadly Eisenbeisz, Chad Hintz, Jim Hyde, John Koch, Rodney Mennenger, Jan Miller, Harlan Muhs, Frank Myers

The creation of a permanent GPS base for use in the Rapid City vicinity. Nominated by Steve Schelske.

Team members: Monty Bollock, Martin Kost, Tony Venjohn

The team to conceive, design and implement a network of 30 video cameras, providing images of key locations on South Dakota's Interstate highways to the public, SDDOT maintenance forces and public officials in SDDOT and other state agencies. Nominated by David Huft.

Team members: Jon Becker, Chris Cressy, Gary Hartman, David Huft, Mark King, Ed Rodgers, Patrick Sendelweck

The cooperative effort to get roads open as soon as possible following the Hermosa flood. Nominated by Richard Zacher.

Team members: Toby Austin, Robert Batterman, Monty Bollock, Clarence Bowman, Nick DeJong, Leland Douglas, Kenny Gednalske, Gene Gunsalus, Shayne Hagen, Jerry Hamaker, Danny Hammer, Lorry Hansen, Marty Harre, Bob Hartman, Robert Hass, Lyle Heinrich, Eugene Helms, Albert Horst, Dennis Kazmer, Doug Kinniburgh, Clarence Larson, Ron Lauritsen, Bill Leimer, Kyle Lewis, Rod Linstrom, Ray McLaughlin, Jack Mengershauser, John Nelson, Tom Nowell, Dave Pennel, Gene Plant, Kim Salzsieder, Tel Saucerman, Allen Skrdlant, Robert Smith, Gary Stender, Danny Stetler, Shane Stewart, Bruce Symington, Dennis Terhaar, Richard Thompson, Brad Tisdall, Don Van Gerpen, Lon Waltman, Pete Whitney, Jim Wiswell, Gary Zeller

Making the retrieval of historical construction plans, plats and ROW plans easily accessible via the Microfilm Projects Catalog application on the SDDOT intranet.

Nominated by Mark A. Leiferman.

Team members: Joel Gengler, Gill Hedman, Warren Ice, Merna Imstrand, Kathy Kenzy, Mark Leiferman, Brian Moore, Janice Reede, Don Skinner, Cindy Stiegelmeier, Ray Trujillo

The design, fabrication and construction of a wheel rut-fill patching machine. Nominated by Larry Kirschenman.

Team members: Steve Baxter, Dave Ehresmann, David Fischer, Ray Haenfler, Tim Hovorka, John Huber, Jacque Humpal, Larry Kirschenman, Jim Larsen, Nathan Loecker, Ed Radack, Marty Schievelbein, Scott Simonsen

The cleanup effort following the May 5, 2007, flood in Aberdeen - including the removal of 185 truckloads of debris.

Nominated by Phil Dwight.

Team members: Roger Brick, Jeff Bryant, Vince Dargatz, Donald Fellbaum, Clarence Gauer, Milo Giesen, Ken Gisi, Morris Grosz, Mark Gupman, Michael Haaseth, Todd Hanson, Terry Hoffman, Jerry Kopecky, Tom Krumm, Lyle Lenius, Cliff Lilly, Melvin Malsam, Jason Malsom, Bonnie McCloud, Roger Monson, Doug Oelkers, Bob Page, Kevin Pavlicek, Jim Semple, Mike Steen, Brian Versluis, Duane Wolf, Bob Woolridge, Lynn Zubke

Honorable Mention Teams

The development and initial implementation of the department's first-ever Strategic Highway Safety Plan in under a year, preventing the loss of approximately \$800,000 in federal funds.

Nominated by Jerry Ortbahn.

Team members: Julie Bolding, Terry Keller, Craig McIntyre, Jerry Ortbahn, Cliff Reuer

Developing a more efficient method of distributing funds for highway projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. Nominated by Jerry Ortbahn.

Team members: Mike Behm, Phil Clements, Steve Gramm, Blair Lunde

The team that placed over 8,000 tons of hot mix for patching and chip sealed over 28 miles of road - nearly twice the amount done in previous years. Nominated by a combination of Loren Brandner and Robert Shannon.

Team members: Mark Bates, Drew Berens, Randy Berndt, Jay Boldt, Loren Brandner, Jim Brooks, Thane Brooks, Michael Dady, Dave Doan, Neil Filler, Max Goetz, Kenny Gruhlke, Garth Hansen, Charles Haynes, Brian Hintz, Chad Hintz, Robert Joaquin, Robert Kern, James Koters, Jason Kraft, Del Marshall, Kody McCollam, Justin Moser, Dennis Neigel, Leroy Reinert, Zach Schaefer, Matt Sulzle, Clayton Weisbeck

The in-house work to modify and reinstall signal equipment near Surgis, saving the department money by not contracting it out.

Nominated by Joel Jundt.

Team members: Daniel Cooper, Lorry Hansen, Doug Kinniburgh, Ron Lauritsen, John Nelson, Luke Neville, Tom Nowell, Dave Pennel, Charles Schulz, Bruce Symington, Pete Whitney

The construction of a permanent lab in the Murdo maintenance building, allowing testing and other project administration duties to be done more efficiently. Nominated by Bradley S. Norrid.

Team members: Joel Aeschbacher, Bill Gardner, Mike Hausmann, Brad Horstman, Tim Huffman, Jay Lovejoy, Dan Riedl, Neil Schroeder, Randy Vesely

The extensive testing of the Central Lab's California style profilograph. Nominated by Josh Bench-Bresher.

Team members: Dave Atyeo, Bruce Barnett, Robert Batterman, Norley Becker, Josh Bench-Bresher, Earl Berg, Vernon Bormann, Clarence Bowman, Vince Dargatz, Nick DeJong, Evan Edinger, Gary Engel, Donald Felbaum, Del Fluth, Charles Forrell, Lynn Fravel, Brad Gilbertson, Michael Haaseth, Bill Haines, Danny Hammer, Trent Hanson, Robert Hass, Eugene Helms, Brian Hipple, Darin Hodges, Larry Hoffman, Albert Horst, Gary Hovey, Mike Hoyme, Tim Huffman, David Huft, Albert Janish, Todd Kirkie, Aaron Larsen, Bill Leimer, Rod Lillebo, Roger Monson, Will Mortenson, Brian Myers, John Nelson, Tom Nowell, Darin Noyes, Ken Payne, Jodi Prince, Ryan Pryor, Harold Raml, Wyatt Reis, Bob Rohla, Tel Saucerman, Charles Schulz, Greg Shoup, Allen Skrdlant, Robert Smith, Tim Sorsen, Ross Sprinkle, Shane Stewart, Bruce Symington, Brad Taylor, Josh Tetzlaff, Kevin Tiger, Justin Toering, Andy Tracker, Larry Uthe, Don Van Gerpen, Keith Voegeli, Roger VonEye, Lon Waltman, Gary Zeller

**Congratulations
and thanks
to all our teams!**



Team Award Results (continued from page 5)

Teams Receiving Nominations

The facilitating team for Storyboarding events which have saved the department an estimated \$3 million. Nominated by Johna Leidholt. *Team members:* Johna Leidholt, Kristi Sandal, Tracy Shangreaux, Tony Wieser

The design and construction of a cattle pass stinger, used to fill in cattle passes with dirt, increasing safety to the public and SDDOT personnel. Nominated by Clarence Hellhake. *Team members:* Craig Diegel, Clarence Hellhake, Roger Liebeg, Wade Mitzel.

The creation and implementation of the first-ever formalized recognition and rewards program for DOT employees. Nominated by Kevin Tveidt. *Team members:* Greg Aalberg, Larry Carlson, Kary Gregoire, Rich Harding, Bob Hofer, Trevor Job, Paul Kaus, Brad Letcher, Emilie Miller, Steve Neumeister, Nancy Pitlick, Deanna Schroeder, Tracy Shangreaux, Dean Skatvold, Keith Voegeli, Brooke White

The team to organize the 2nd Annual Central Office Celebrate Success event, including the "DOT Feud" activities. Nominated by a combination of Kevin Tveidt and Chris Cressy. *Team members:* June Hansen, Bob Hofer, Connie Johnson, Paul Knofczynski, Emilie Miller, Robin Peterson, Brooke White, Linda Wood

Preventing the Highway 385 bridge near Deadwood from being washed out—by placing 100 sand bags in the pouring rain and dark. Nominated by Danny Stetler. *Team members:* Ross Caldwell, Ralph Fiedler, George Gross, Mike Kruse, Kyle Lewis, Bob Skavang, Jim Wiswell

The design, fabrication and installation of two rooftop ladders allowing safe access to rooftop mounted heating/air conditioning units for the Aberdeen Area and Region Materials Labs. Nominated by Toby Wolf. *Team members:* James Bahr, Robert Haak, Eric Jenson

The comprehensive evaluation of factors relevant to highway noise in South Dakota, and producing several training and educational materials. Nominated by David Huft. *Team members:* Wade Dahl, Karla Engle, Terry Erickson, Tom Horan, Jason Humphrey, Dan Johnston, Mark Leiferman, Ben Orsbon, Brian Raecke, Hal Rumpca, Alice Whitebird, Tammy Williams

Preserving integrity of the existing roadway and maintaining safety for the traveling public during several spring flooding events in the James River area. Nominated by Charles Goldammer. *Team members:* Charles Goldammer, Matthew Gottlob, Jeff Gustafson, Rob Hansen, Brad Huffman, Roger Johnson, Paul Kaus, Kelly Keehn, Jay Mueller, John Raschke, Gilbert Schuchardt, roy Sipes, Dale Star, Kevin Tietz, Randall Tollefson, Tom Van Den Hemel, Doc Verba

The three-person team to remove 155 old culvert markers and install 153 new culvert markers along I-90 in just eight hours. Nominated by Randall Tollefson. *Team members:* Dale Star, Randall Tollefson, Doc Verba

The extensive inventory, inspection and anchor bolt tightening program to provide increased service life of existing High Mast Light Towers and increased safety to travelers. Nominated by Tom Gilsrud. *Team members:* Leland Douglas, Hadly Eisenbeisz, Tom Gilsrud, Kevin Goeden, Chris Griesse, Gene Gunsalus, Lyle Heinrich, Todd Hertel, David Howard, Steve Johnson, Jay Larson, Dan Martel, Rick Petersen, Jason Stoltenburg, Todd Thompson, Larry Youngmon

The innovative use of a kayak, tandem truck and pay loader to remove debris from the channel beneath Ponca Creek Bridge. Nominated by Bob Westra. *Team members:* Larry Allyn, John Moor, Larry Schmitz, Neil Soper

Turning poor asphalt shoulders into gravel on Highway 34 and 37 by Woonsocket. Nominated by Bill Haines. *Team members:* Norley Becker, Chad Budde, Evan Edinger, Dan Hinker, Paul Kaus, Todd Kirkie, Mike Kogel, Jay Mueller, Ken Payne, John Raschke, Kirby Ringling, Jim Steichen, Bruce Van Zee, Dan Walters, Jim Whetham

The team to improve knowledge of the true occupied range of the Topeka shiner and evaluate the potential impact of bridge and culvert construction on the Topeka shiner. Nominated by Mike Behm. *Team members:* Ron Bren, Noel Clocksin, Chad Downs, Jason Humphrey, Ryan Johnson, Terry Keller, Nathan Morey, Rich Phillips, Colton Stahl, Steve Van Mullem

The spot sealing of 18 miles of SD44 near Parkston, extending the life of the highway until resurfacing and eliminating costly repairs with asphalt. Nominated by Robert Westra. *Team members:* Larry Allyn, Norley Becker, John Moor, Kirby Ringling, Robert Roth, Larry Schmitz, Neil Soper, Jim Steichen, Bruce Van Zee, Terry Vogt, Dan Walters, Robert Westra, Jim Whetham

The complete reorganization of the Mobridge Area's technician testing equipment. Nominated by Brock Antijunti. *Team members:* James Bieber, Levi Duncan, Donel Lemler, Drew Ruedebusch, Terry Schweitzer, Chris Vetter

The completion of seven projects over an 80-mile area in Meade and Perkins counties. Nominated by Joel Flesner. *Team members:* Delbert Campbell, Chad Erk, Brian Geuke, Richard Peterson, Jay Pfarr, Ron Rothermel

The special attention required for the SD281 detour, which included hand patching, sanding bleeding oil on the county blotter and emergency repairs. Nominated by Eric Prunty. *Team members:* Norley Becker, Paul Behrend, Kent Gates, Jason Heiling, Larry Hoffman, Brad Huffman, Paul Kaus, Tyler Klump, Ken Payne, Troy Sipes, Tim Sorsen, Kevin Tietz, Randall Tollefson, Doc Verba

The emergency response to numerous accident/incident scenes throughout the year, performing duties from traffic control and lane closures to road closures and debris removal. Nominated by Robert Smith. *Team members:* Bruce Barnett, Robert Batterman, Nick DeJong, Jason Digmann, Leland Douglas, Duane Gednalske, Lorry Hansen, Robert Hass, Cary Heiser, Eugene Helms, Albert Horst, Ed Joens, Bill Leimer, Jeremie Mackie, Luke Neville, Tom Nowell, Ralph Riggert, Tel Sauceran, Charles Schulz, Jeff Schut, Robert Smith, Don Van Gerpen, Roger VonEye, Frank Witte, Gary Zeller

The creation of the Department Construction Standards Panel and the development of its operating procedures and business rules. Nominated by Jason Humphrey. *Team members:* Mike Behm, Greg Fuller, Kevin Goeden, Rick Gordon, Jason Humphrey, Mark Leiferman, Steve Palmer, Ronald Peterson, Doug Sherman, Toby Wolf

The team that placed 889 tons of asphalt concrete rut fill on a 10-mile, high traffic volume stretch of I-29 in four days. Nominated by Jerry Hansen. *Team members:* Alvin Bystrom, Jerry Hansen, Jeff Heidebrecht, Ryan Huenink, Richard Jahn, Trevor Job, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Lyle Norling, Tim Wellenstein

The SDDOT First Responder team, making the Becker-Hansen building and the Materials Lab a much safer work environment. Nominated by Christopher Cressy. *Team members:* Sandii Bartels, Bill Boyer, Levi Briggs, Timothy Brown, Jennie Bucholz, Steve Carpenter, Chris Cressy, Leon Ellis, Bill Englehart, Cheryl Frost, Scott Fuerst, Diane Giesinger, Brian Hipple, Terry Keller, Kenneth Marks, Margo McDowell, Brian Moore, Myron Morlock, Hal Rumpca, Steve Ryan, Todd Thompson, Joe Trujillo, Tony Wieser

Hosting the 2007 Western Plains MPO Conference at in Rapid City on March 24-26. Nominated by Brad Remmich. *Team members:* Connie Johnson, Brad Remmich, Marge Schaefers, Jeryl Lynn Stein

Rebuilding the shoulders on a section of Interstate 90. Nominated by Tim Huffman. *Team members:* Kathy Brown, Christiaan DeKlerk, Bob Eckert, Milton Feddersen, Randy Fuhner, Richard Hansen, Trent Hanson, Jim Horst, Gary Hovey, Tim Huffman, Wayne Hunt, Mike Jost, Boyd Letellier, Rod Lillebo, Jim Lolley, Bob Rohla, Paul Speer, Larry Uthe, Jerry Willert

Preparing the site to build the new Lemmon shop. Nominated by Joel Larson. *Team members:* Pat Bootz, Lonnie Collins, Jim Dorfschmidt, Dan Hellekson, Alan Hildebrandt, Joel Larson, Bill Morris, Jarvis Palmer, Richard Peterson, Jay Pfarr, Jerry Polesey, Ron Rothermel, Lee Tomac

The effort to update 56 trucks in the Pierre Region with new computer software and recalibrating the sanders for three different gate settings. Nominated by Tadd Engelmann. *Team members:* Cody Allen, Larry Andersen, Mark Bates, Tim Blow, Steve Bothwell, Don Boyd, Thane Brooks, Kathy Brown, Bonnie Davidson, Craig Diegel, Dave Doan, Bob Eckert, Myles Fairbanks, Milton Feddersen, Neil Filler, Steve Gardner, Max Goetz, Bill Green, Kenny Gruhlke, Garth Hansen, Trent Hanson, Charles Haynes, Loren Haynes, Clarence Hellhake, Sharla Hicks, Brian Hintz, Chad Hintz, Jim Horst, Robert Joaquin, Mike Jost, Robert Kern, James Kusters, Jason Kraft, Boyd Letellier, Jim Lolley, Randy Neilan, Ray Olson, Arlen Prince, Leroy Reinert, Jeff Sampson, Paul Sedlmajor, Paul Speer, Kevin Tiger, Gregg Ulmer, Larry Uthe, Dana Vail, Billy Weischedel, Curt Wiedman

The repair of an erosion site on Highway 37, a project that would normally be done by maintenance contract. Nominated by Larry Kirschenman. *Team members:* Steve Baxter, Dave Ehresmann, David Fischer, Kevin Heiman, Tim Hovorka, John Huber, Jacque Humpal, Larry Kirschenman, Jim Larsen, Nathan Loecker, Ed Radack, Marty Schievelbein, Scott Simonsen

The repair of a large washout, which included operating a loader in a tight and steep area, fence removal and the installation of bale dams. Nominated by Joel Larson. *Team members:* Pat Bootz, Lonnie Collins, Joel Larson, Bill Morris, Jerry Poseley, Lee Tomac

Significant events in the lives of SDDOT employees

New Employees



Nathan Maeschen, Journey Transportation Technician, Mitchell, Jan. 9.

Sean Burns, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls, Jan. 24.

Joshua Goeken, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls, Jan. 25.

Darren Alexander, Highway Maintenance Worker, Newell, Jan. 28.

David Nelson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Brookings, Feb. 4.

Debra Harris, Senior Secretary, Sioux Falls, Feb. 11.

Way to go!



Employees send area kids to circus
The Aberdeen Region Operations Specialty Crews were recently asked by a member of the local Yelduz Shrine Club to help sponsor children to attend the annual Shrine Circus, held March 28-30 in Aberdeen. Through the generosity of **Region Operations personnel**, enough donations were received to allow 18 area children to attend this year's circus for free.

"Just wanted to let you know **the new 24-hour snow removable is great**. I commute Spearfish to Rapid City leaving about 5:30 a.m. and having the plows out and working makes the drive much safer. Thanks."

— via e-mail to SDDOT Web site, Jan. 18

"Just a note to say thanks for adding the cameras to various locations across the state and making them accessible from the internet. As a frequent driver/traveler, **the cameras have been very useful for me**. I appreciate it and look forward to more sites in the future. Thanks!"

— via e-mail to SDDOT Web site, Jan. 29

Update



Crews moved into the new **Sturgis Maintenance Shop** Feb. 1. The Open House was held Feb. 12. →

Transfer



Brandon Riss, from the Road Design traffic squad to the Sioux Falls grading squad, Sioux Falls, Jan. 14.

Curtis Theisen, from the parts room to Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls, Feb. 9.

Departure



The last day for **Roy Griffith**, Transportation Project Engineer in the Sioux Falls Road Design office, was Feb. 8. Roy had been in that position for 10 years. He has accepted a position with Indian Health Service in Pierre.

Our Condolences



Kerwin Burton's grandfather, Wayne Swane, 94, passed away at the end of January. Kerwin is a Project Engineer with the Road Design Office in Pierre.

Sharing Expertise



The Department of Education is using the **SDDOT/Becker-Hansen First Responder group** as a model to develop their own team in the Kneip Building in Pierre. Last month, Brian Moore of Internal Services, Todd Hanson of BOP Training and Chris Cressy of the Research Office gave DOE a quick briefing on the SDDOT First Responders' duties and the training involved. Interestingly, DOE said they found the SDDOT group's information through a Google search. The search engine pulled up the April 2007 *Connecting the DOTs* newsletter, which featured an article on the group.



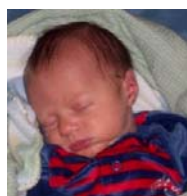
New Arrivals



Dan and Mary Johnston, Research Engineer in Research and Senior Internal Auditor in Operation Support, Pierre, respectively, have another grandchild in the family. Daniel Mathew Vifquain was born Dec. 28, 2007, weighing 6 pounds and 1 ounce and measuring 19.5 inches long. He joins big brother Rhys, mom Saboin Johnston and dad Matt Vifquain.



Daniel Mathew Vifquain and big brother Rhys.



Rowdy Lyle Menning

and his fiancée, Laura Foster. Rowdy weighed 6 pounds and 11 ounces and measures 18 inches long.

Peggy Menning, Right of Way Technician in Pierre, welcomed her first grandchild, Rowdy Lyle Menning, on Jan. 3. Proud parents are Peggy's son Paul

"Grandma 'Ancy" (Nancy Pitlick),

Senior Secretary for the Pierre Region, welcomed a new granddaughter to her family on Jan. 21. Jaelyn Lily Pitlick weighed 6 pounds and measured 18 inches long. Jaelyn is the daughter of Scott and Kelly Pitlick of Pierre. Waiting to welcome their new sister were siblings Alex, Cole, Kaitlyn and Ashlyn.



Jaelyn Lily Pitlick

Anniversary Milestones



20 years

Todd Hanson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Webster, Feb. 13.

35 years

Ron Peterson, Area Engineer, Yankton, Feb. 7.

Marilyn Goff, Senior Secretary, Finance, Feb. 17.

Patricia Raugot, Accounting Assistant, Aberdeen, Feb. 22.

In the news: A digest of articles related to SDDOT and transportation issues

“Legislature rejects road study,”

Associated Press, Feb. 6: A bill that sought to study future state and local road needs through a special commission was killed by the legislature. Rep. Shantel Krebs, R-Sioux Falls, introduced the bill, saying weak state revenues and the uncertainty of federal funding made it imperative that the study be done. Opponents of the bill said the state Transportation Commission already studies highway needs, and that it is evident what needs to be done in the future.

“Wagner Native Ethanol meets with legislators,”

Wagner Announcer, Jan. 9: Bruce Lindholm, head of the SDDOT’s Local Transportation Program, took part in a meeting with Wagner-area legislators and Wagner Native Ethanol (WNE) officials on Jan. 2. WNE is in the process of purchasing the Napa Junction to Ravinia rail line from the state of South Dakota. Lindholm said he thought the acquisition could be finalized in the next couple of weeks and that it could spur further development along the line.

“Project shelved by DOT funding cuts,”


Watertown, Public Opinion, Jan. 25: A cut in funding to the SDDOT Community Development Block Grant program has postponed the planned Third Street project in DeSmet. The cut is one of a number of reductions in

programs as a result of the department’s revenues being down. The \$1.2 million project would have rebuilt a section of the street, including new water lines, curb and gutter, and a drainage system. The city says they plan on reapplying for the grant in the future.

“Governor: State revenue may not grow much,” *KELO, Feb. 7:* As the 2008 legislative session began, Gov. Mike Rounds urged South Dakota lawmakers to be cautious in spending money. Rounds says economic forecasts and recent tax collection reports indicate state revenue is unlikely to exceed projections, adding that the nation’s economic slowdown is expected to impact South Dakota.

“Path from Mickelson Trail to Mount Rushmore possible,” *Rapid City Journal, Feb. 8:* A feasibility study will be conducted later this year to see if a frequently requested path from the George S. Mickelson Trail to Mount Rushmore National Memorial is possible. The study would help determine if a suitable route can be found. The next step, says the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, would be to seek out funding.

“Move Over saturation results,” *KOTA, Feb. 1:* Police in Rapid City have stepped

up their efforts to educate the public about the “Move Over” law. Of the 93 people stopped during an exercise, 73 said they were unaware of the law. Police visited with motorists, issued warnings and distributed pamphlets about the law, which requires drivers to slow down 20 mph below the speed limit or pull into the furthest lane when they come across vehicles with flashing yellow or amber lights. Currently, 40 states have the law, which went into effect in South Dakota in 2003. 

Upcoming Training Opportunity

Integrated Materials and Construction Practices for Concrete Pavements Regional Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2008

Location: Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls, SD

This is a free one-day workshop. Lunch will be served. All attendees will receive a copy of the 350-page manual and CD that accompanies the workshop.

More info:

- www.sdrmca.org, look under the Events section
- Larry Engbrecht, SD ACPA, 605-945-0572
- Darin Hodges, SDDOT, 773-7193
- John Schemmel, SDRMCA, 582-6088

SDDOT Policy Updates

“Removing an Interstate Highway Crossing Structure,”

DOT-P&E-PD-4.0, was approved and went into effect Jan. 29.

<http://intranet.state.sd.us/dot/policy/docs/DOT-P&E-PD-4.0.doc>

This policy outlines a process for removing an Interstate highway crossing structure that includes working with local governments and getting Transportation Commission approval.

“Local Checking Accounts,”

DOT-FM-FIN-3.0 went into effect Jan. 30.

It supersedes F-1999-01.

<http://intranet.state.sd.us/dot/policy/docs/DOT-FM-FIN-3.0.doc>


- Two signatures are now required on each check from a local checking account (commonly created to manage SDDOT-sponsored conference funds).
- The Program Manager must ensure that no employee payments are made from local bank accounts.
- The Program Manager must make sure the person reconciling the account does not have signing authority.
- The original authorization letter must be attached to account renewal requests.

If you have any questions about the changes, contact David Knigge at 773-4555.

The “Apportioning Lighting Project Costs” section of DOT-P&E-RD-2.1,

“Lighting on State Highways” has had a minor change.

<http://intranet.state.sd.us/dot/policy/docs/DOT-P&E-RD-2.1.doc>

Local government agencies that want historical and/or decorative lighting now must pay only the additional costs above conventional lighting. They do not have to pay the match when a new lighting system is included during State highway reconstruction activities or during nonreconstruction activities, if it is determined that partial or full replacement of a State-owned lighting system is needed. 

Connecting the DOTs

is the monthly employee newsletter of the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

This and previous issues are available on the SDDOT Internet site:

www.SDDOT.com

To report news/events:

Contact Emilie Miller at 773-5103 or e-mail Emilie.Miller@state.sd.us

