

Connecting the DOTs

STIP public meetings being held


The Department is currently holding its annual series of public meetings across the state to gather public input on the 2008-2012 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Acting Secretary Darin Bergquist, the Division Directors, Region Engineers and other SDDOT staff will attend each of the public meetings to receive testimony on the proposed STIP and to discuss any other transportation issues.

The project listing for each meeting is available on the department's Web site.

The comments received from the public are considered by both SDDOT staff and the Transportation Commission prior to adopting the final STIP this fall.

The proposed STIP contains \$396.9 million in projects for FY2008. The amount of funds programmed is up from last year because of increased federal funding and more earmarked projects being ready to proceed.

The majority of the funds (60 percent) will be spent on highways, totaling \$239.4 million, while planning takes up the 


(see STIP Meetings on page 2)

SDDOT marks 90th birthday this month

The South Dakota Department of Transportation will celebrate its 90th birthday on July 24.

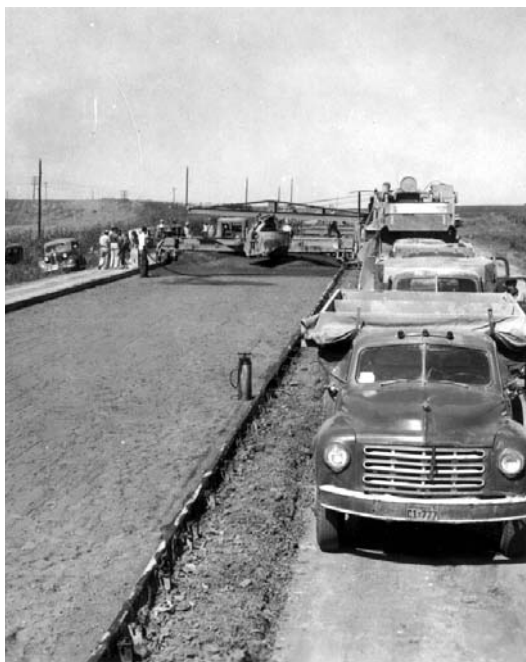
From the earliest days of highway construction to the multimodal efforts of the present, the SDDOT has worked diligently to lay a strong transportation foundation for South Dakota.

The SDDOT was created by the state legislature in 1917 as the State Highway Department. The steamboats and horse-drawn wagons of the prairie had been replaced with the "iron horses" of the railroad. While the citizens of South Dakota had just amended the state constitution to allow public construction of roads, South Dakota wouldn't have its first concrete highway for another six years.

Since that time, the SDDOT has constructed an efficient highway system, and is now involved in all methods of transportation, connecting South Dakota to the nation. 

Notable events in SDDOT history

- 1861 Congress created the Dakota Territory. The Legislature provided for six roads.
- 1868 The first road law was enacted to generate revenue. Citizens could pay an annual road tax of \$2.50 or contribute two days of work.
- 1889 South Dakota obtains statehood.
- 1917 The S.D. Highway Department was created.
- 1919 The S.D. Highway Commission was established. At this time, there were more than 100,000 vehicles registered in the state.
- 1921 A one cent gas tax was established. The current emphasis was on hard-surfacing all the roads.
- 1923 The first concrete road was constructed with help from federal funds.
- 1941 The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. All highway construction stopped, (except Federal-aid projects currently under contract). Many construction projects remained unfinished and exposed until the end of the war.
- 1946 A Soils Laboratory and Materials Section was created by the Commission to help improve methods of highway construction.
- 1956 The Federal-aid Highway Act launched the modern interstate system and created the Highway Trust Fund.
- 1979 The Office of Bridge Design hires SDDOT's first female engineer.
- 1997 On its 80th birthday, the SDDOT unveiled its current logo and sealed a time capsule to be opened in 2017, in honor of the department's 100th birthday.



Crews set concrete on the not yet complete I-90 near Rapid City. The modern interstate system was launched in 1956, creating the highest employment in SDDOT history. Photo courtesy of the S.D. Historical Society.

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STIP meetings

(continued from page 1)

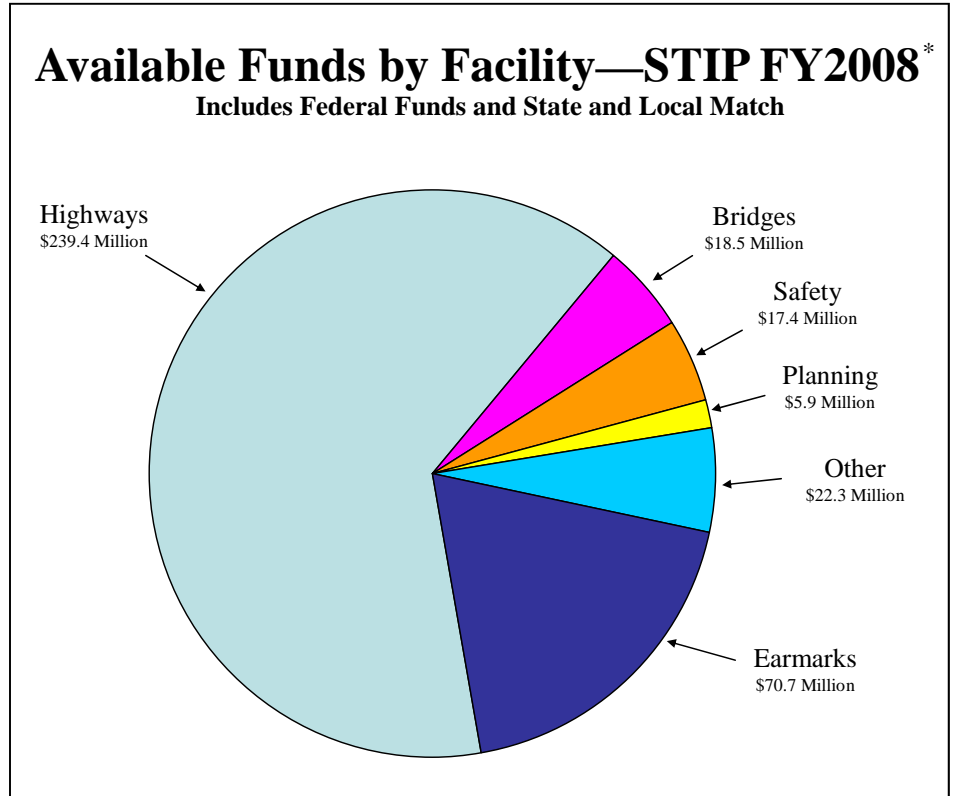
smallest portion at under 1.5 percent (\$5.9 million). See Figure 1.

Another \$70.7 million will go to earmarks, which are projects with funding specifically designated by Congress. In the 2008-2012 STIP, earmark projects include the continued construction of the Heartland Expressway (\$12.5 million), the rehabilitation of the old Chamberlain highway bridge (\$16.7 million), and the extension of East Anamosa Street in Rapid City (\$7.1 million).

When broken down into categories, nearly one-fourth of the funds will be spent on major arterial roads (22.8 percent), followed by Interstate (16.4 percent) and minor arterial (15.7 percent). See Figure 2.

The tentative STIP is available on-line at www.SDDOT.com.

Figure 1



Public Meeting Schedule 2008-12 STIP

Aberdeen —July 17 (Tues)
Ramada Inn, 2727 6th Ave. SE
7 p.m. CDT

Sioux Falls —July 18 (Wed)
Ramkota Hotel, 3200 W. Maple
7 p.m. CDT

Mitchell —July 19 (Thurs)
Davison County Fairground
3200 West Havens
7 p.m. CDT

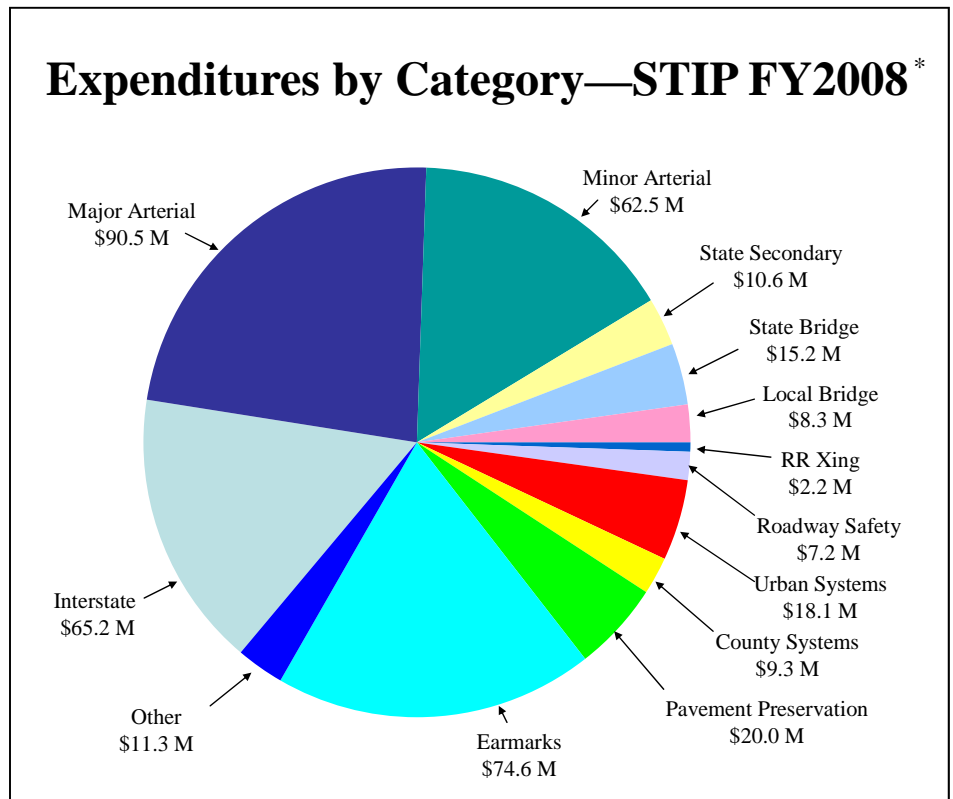
Pierre —July 24 (Tues)
Kings Inn, 110 East Sioux Ave.
7 p.m. CDT

Rapid City —July 26 (Thurs)
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center,
444 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
7 p.m. MDT

Written comments are accepted until Aug. 6 and can be sent to:
Darin Bergquist, Acting Secretary
SD Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

SDDOT employees are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings as private citizens.

Figure 2



*Figures rounded for space.

New goal for disadvantaged businesses set

The Office of Local Transportation Programs has set the Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for FY2008 at .51 percent, which means the Department will strive to award 0.51 percent of all contracts to companies owned or managed by those who are both socially and economically disadvantaged.

The office sets the overall DBE goal for federal-aid contracts annually, based on the number of certified DBEs and past years' contracts.

The methodology is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST) in Room 157 at the Becker Hansen


Building, Pierre, South Dakota. Comments are taken until August 13.

The DBE program strives to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federal-aid contracts by creating a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly. The DBE program also assists in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

A firm is considered a "small business concern" if it has annual gross receipts below \$20.41 million for general construction or under \$4 million for engineering, architectural

and surveying firms over the previous three fiscal years. An economically disadvantaged individual is one whose personal net worth does not exceed \$750,000.

Individuals who are reputedly presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged include Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, women and others as determined on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on the DBE Program, visit the SDDOT Web site at www.sddot.com/operations/dbe.asp. 

Commission Notes June 28 meeting


By Julie Bolding
DOT Management Analyst

In response to a previous request by commissioners, Jason Humphrey of Operations Support said a review of the last 12 months of Construction Change Orders (CCOs) showed only a 2.4 percent increase in the final project cost when compared to the bid award amount. That means SDDOT does a pretty good job of controlling costs after a project is let.

"We're pretty proud of that number," he told commissioners, especially in contrast with how other DOTs fare on this metric.

In the bid award part of the meeting, Dean VanDeWiele talked about how bids are coming in at about two percent under the engineer's estimate.

This is another example of good planning on the part of the Division of Planning and Engineering, which has a long history of doing this very well in comparison to other states.

Commissioner Bob Benson remarked on how Planning and Engineering's two percent above balanced out the minus two percent on the Operations side. 

Employee Spotlight



Scott Eisenbeisz

(pronounced eyes • in • byes)

Journey Transportation Technician Aberdeen Area Office



Date started: June 26, 2006

Job in a nutshell: Testing, inspection and survey on construction projects.

Current project: Low slump deck overlays on US12.

Chose my current job field because: I already worked in construction and wanted to get further into the field with testing and inspection.

Born and grew up in: Aberdeen.

Calls home: Aberdeen—grew up here and I know the community well.

Special training: Numerous certifications for testing and inspection on projects.

Hobbies/favorite activities: Hunting, fishing and cooking.

Groups/organizations: Ducks Unlimited, National Rifle Association.

What is the craziest/silliest/dumbest/most fun thing you've ever done? Went wade fishing in the Gulf of Mexico—with sharks following in the shallows.

People would be surprised to know: I have taken ballroom dance classes.

Favorite vehicle you've owned: 2003 Dodge Ram.

Driver or passenger? Driver—in control.

My personalized license plate would be: BYIIBY (I's in by's) 

Official logos on M: drive

The SDDOT logo is now on the network drive. As the official logo, it is the graphic to be used on publications, correspondence, and other materials, created in-house and by outside interests for the Department. It is found at [M:DOTCommonDOTGraphics](#).




Also available are several electronic versions of the South Dakota script and the Great Faces, Great Places logo.

When using any of the logos, the image must remain as is. Resizing is allowed (keeping its proportions), but do not skew or recolor the images.

The JPEG files are compatible with most computer programs.

If you have questions,


or are in need of other sizes or versions, contact Kristi Sandal, Information Officer, at 773-7179. 



New attorney in Legal Office

Randy Bingner started June 25 as a Senior Trial Attorney for the Department.

Bingner brings a wealth of experience to SDDOT, previously practicing law in Clark, South Dakota, for nearly twenty years and also working as a state's attorney and as a law-trained magistrate. For the last eight years, he has served as an administrative law judge for the South Dakota Department of Labor, deciding worker's compensation, unemployment insurance, and labor disputes.

Bingner is married and has three grown children. 




SDSU gets USDOT grant for study

South Dakota State University has been selected to partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation to research better ways to monitor rural road conditions and other improvements in transportation system performance. The partnership includes a grant for \$583,000 over two years.

"Roads are critical infrastructure in a large state like ours with lots of wide open space," Senator John Thune said in a press release announcing the grant earlier this month. "Researching remote sensing technologies could greatly

reduce construction and maintenance costs. This SDSU-DOT research project should help improve the safety of the roads while saving money."

The SDSU program is in conjunction with the USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration. The SDSU research team will work with state and local agencies, industry partners, and service providers to develop cost-effective systems that utilize remote imagery to monitor rural road conditions. 



Project Updates

US212 from Frankfort to Doland

The contractor has not made any progress on the grading of US212 due to the very wet conditions. The area received about 21 inches of rain during the first six weeks of the project. The area has dried out in the last two weeks, and grading operations were scheduled to resume July 9. Completion is anticipated this fall.

Discovery Bridge in Yankton

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new bridge was held July 4. Construction of the new US81 bridge over the Missouri River is scheduled to be completed in late 2009. The SDDOT is negotiating a contract with HDR for preliminary engineering and plans to convert the existing Meridian Bridge into a pedestrian bridge.

Heavy rains in Lawrence County

Heavy rains June 1 in Lawrence County caused some relatively minor damage, including:

- Gabion damage and erosion at a bridge abutment on US385.
- Areas of heavy rock fall in Spearfish Canyon, Boulder Canyon, and US85 north of Deadwood. Also, several slide areas on various routes.
- Heavy erosion damage adjacent to asphalt surfaces.

Heartland Expressway from Maverick Junction to Rapid City

Portland cement concrete paving is complete. Asphalt paving of shoulders was scheduled to begin in early July. The expected completion date is July 27. This will open four lanes of traffic from Maverick Junction to Rapid City.


I-90 Exit 61 in Rapid City

The Exit 61 westbound lanes were reopened July 3.

Mt. View Road in Rapid City

Construction continues with a mainline concrete pour. These pours will consist of paving two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes that begin at West Main and tie into the new concrete pavement near the intersection of Canyon Lake Drive. To complete mainline paving, crews will continue to form the right turn lanes and short areas that tie into Jackson Boulevard and the center turn lane will be completed with the paver. New traffic signals have been installed at the intersection of West Main St. and Mt. View Road. Pavement markings are complete and West Main St. has been opened to traffic. The overall completion date is anticipated for July 28.

US14 in Brookings County

The overlay from Arlington to Volga has been completed. 

Significant events in the lives of SDDOT employees

New Employees



Ryan Knight, Highway Maintenance Worker, Hayes, May 9.

Peter Whitney, Highway Maintenance Worker, Keystone, May 24.

Kory Kolb, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen Region Operations Traffic Crew, June 4.

Brandon Fried, Transportation Engineer, Bridge Design, Pierre, June 4.

Lee Geffre, Highway Maintenance Worker, Leola, June 11.

Michael Kruse, Highway Maintenance Worker, Deadwood, June 11.

Jeremy Richardson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Belle Fourche, June 11.

Kimberly Zerr, Automated Mapping Specialist, Transportation Inventory Management, Pierre, June 18.

Matt Hickey, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls Area Office, June 25.

Randy Bingner, Senior Trial Attorney, Legal Office, Pierre, June 25.

Marion Reich, Plan Reviewer, Office of Road Design, Pierre, June 25.

Darin Brandt, Highway Maintenance Worker, Junction City, July 9.

Amy Campbell, Executive Assistant, Secretariat, Pierre, July 9.

Chris Ott, Transportation Specialist, Finance, Pierre, July 9.

Priscilla Hofer, Secretary, Finance, Pierre, July 16.

Promotions



Paul Nelson, to Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Junction City, April 24.

Robert Schilling, to Materials Lab Technician, Materials and Surfacing, Pierre, June 11.

Tim Brown, to Accountant, Finance, Pierre, July 9.

Transfer



Christina Booth, Journey Transportation Technician, to the liquid oil lab from the asphalt mix design area, Materials Lab, Pierre, June 24.

Anniversary Milestones



30 years—**Harlan Muhs**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Winner, July 5.

30 years—**Ben Orsbon**, Federal Funding Specialist, Secretariat, Pierre, July 10.

35 years—**Robert Rohla**, Highway Maintenance Worker, Presho, July 3.

Retirement



Clarence Denouden, Transportation Project Engineer with the Office of Bridge Design in Pierre, retired July 6 after 39 years with the SDDOT. Clarence says he is planning to “get caught up on some work around home, work on my old car and train my young colts.”

What have you been up to?
Call or e-mail Emilie Miller with your news.

New Arrivals



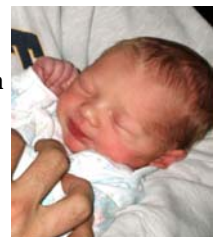
Bonnie Stewart welcomed a grandson, Robert Edward Canedo, on May 11. Robert weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Parents are Bonnie’s daughter Crystal Stanton and Robert Canedo of Denver, Colo. Bonnie is the Parts Room Assistant for the Pierre Region.



Elaina Kay Rhode

Joe and Jenifer Rhode had a girl, Elaina Kay, on June 4. Elaina weighed 6 pounds and 14 ounces, and measured 20 inches long. Joe is a Highway Maintenance Worker at the Flandreau shop.

A girl, Katherine Grace, was born to **Steve and Gretchen Palmer** on June 18 at 8:50 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 5.7 ounces, and measured 20 inches long. Katherine



Katherine Grace Palmer decided to get things going at 2:30 in the morning instead of waiting for the doctors to induce Mommy as scheduled. Steve is the Lead Project Engineer in the Rapid City Area Office.

Congratulations



The following staff members recently passed their Professional Engineering Exams:

- **Mike Behm**, Assistant Director, Planning and Engineering, Pierre.
- **Travis Dressen**, Lead Project Engineer, Sioux Falls Area.
- **Mark Malone**, Project Identification Coordinator (PIC), Office of Project Development, Pierre.
- **Kurt Peppel**, Project Engineer, Sioux Falls Area.
- **Andy Vandell**, Project Identification Coordinator (PIC), Office of Project Development, Pierre.

Our Condolences



Bonnie Stewart lost her mother in a car accident in Oklahoma on May 8. Bonnie is the Parts Room Assistant for the Pierre Region.



Let it snow!
Unusual but not unheard of, several inches of snow fell in higher elevations of the Black Hills in early June, catching many tourists off guard. This photo, sent in by the Rapid City Office, shows the coverage near O'Neill Pass on June 7. Area residents weren't too surprised, telling local papers it all comes with living in the Black Hills.

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

“Towns fight for funds,” by Randy Dockendorf, *Yankton Press and Dakotan*, July 14: At a meeting in Yankton, SDDOT officials informed several towns that road construction projects might not proceed as originally planned. Funding issues and skyrocketing construction costs are forcing the Department to defer (or drop entirely) some projects from the STIP at the same time that towns are pushing for their projects to be at the top of the list. Yankton, Menno and Springfield community members all brought up concerns of needed projects in their areas. Many said they will provide testimony at the regional STIP meeting in Mitchell.


“Road repair is another issue that won’t go away,” Editorial, *Yankton Press and Dakotan*, July 17: Following a meeting in Yankton, this editorial recognized the SDDOT’s plight in funding and construction planning. “One of the worst jobs in this state simply has to belong to the guy from the South Dakota Department of Transportation who has to tell someone *no*,” the piece said. It went on to say that while schools and health care are annually the most prominent legislative issues, we forget about transportation infrastructure. “Our roads are our lifelines,” especially for rural communities. Funding is needed, it said, through taxes, budget cuts or shifting funds. “Of course, any of those measures to find the funding needed will produce howls of protest, but that’s what we are hearing now anyway. And like the unattended roads, they won’t go away on their own.”

“Brookings flights hang on subsidy,” by Megan Myers, *Argus Leader*, July 17: The future of Brookings’ air service relies on two things: federal help and finding more passengers. If passed, a provision in a transportation funding proposal would reauthorize a \$1.2

million taxpayer subsidy, but passenger numbers would need to increase to even be eligible. Senators John Thune and Tim Johnson say the Essential Air Service program helps their constituents and the pair have worked to reauthorize Brookings’ subsidy in the latest transportation bill, including co-sponsoring a measure last March that would have changed the way the USDOT calculates eligibility for the program.

“County panel lowers truck speed limits on selected roads,” by Ross Dolan, *The Mitchell Daily Republic*, July 11: The Davison County Commission passed a resolution limiting the speed of heavy trucks on some county roads in order to help prevent their deterioration. The issue was brought to attention when trucks hauling grain to the ethanol plant at Loomis were avoiding a paved, 40-mph road in order to take gravel roads at 55 mph.

“State ranks high in national roadway survey,” by Emily Arthur-Richard, *Aberdeen American News*, July 5: A recent national roadway analysis placed South Dakota 11th in the nation, something that the state should be proud of, said Darin Bergquist, SDDOT Acting Secretary. The ranking came from the Reason Foundation’s annual highway study, which measures the performance of state-owned roads and highways by taking into account congestion, road and bridge condition, maintenance and other costs and traffic fatalities. While the state’s roads are currently in good shape, the challenge is staying there, said Bergquist. That means balancing the work that needs to be done with the funds available. Safety and maintaining the current system are two of the Department’s top priorities. North Dakota came in first overall for the second straight year. The study analyzes the 2005 data.

“Yankton Bridge Ceremony,” *KELO-TV*, July 4: About 250 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Missouri River bridge at Yankton. Ralph Marquardt, a member of the Transportation Commission, was one of the approximately 20 people who turned over symbolic dirt with a golden shovel. Officials from the National Park Service, Nebraska and South Dakota spoke during the ceremony. 

Way to go!



Boy Scouts thank SDDOT employee
The Mobridge Area Office recently received a letter thanking **Del Marshall**, Highway Maintenance Worker in Mobridge, for his volunteer work with the local Boy Scout group. It says:

“Del took a significant portion of vacation time to make it possible for a group of Boy Scouts from your community to attend Scout camp this Summer at Lewis and Clark Scout Camp, operated by the Sioux Council, BSA.

“It is hard to find a way for us to adequately say “thank you,” but we wanted you to know of **the commitment and dedication of this fine representative** of your company.”

Way to go, Del!

—via July 12 letter to John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer, from Paul G. Myers, Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, Sioux Falls

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

This and previous issues are available on the DOT intranet site:

<http://intranet.state.sd.us/dot>

To report news/events:
Contact Emilie Miller
at 773-5103 or e-mail
Emilie.Miller@state.sd.us



SDDOT Policy Updates

“Building Construction and Major Capital Improvements,” DOT-FM-IS-3.0, received minor revisions and was reformatted.

This revised policy clarifies requirements for developing the list of SDDOT building and improvement projects now known as the Audit Mate inventory. This policy also covers emergency requests, construction change orders (CCOs) and processing of payments. It supersedes IS-2004-04.

“Delegation of Authority,” DOT-S-ADM-4.1, has been revised to say that the Right of Way Program Manager has the authority to approve utility relocation agreements, instead of the Project Development Program Manager. This change became effective June 28 and reflects standard practice since the restructuring. It supersedes DOT-S-ADM-4.0. 