

Hall, Patton, Keys: *Top leadership changes at SCDOT*

By Pete Poore

For the second time in two years, Governor Nikki Haley appointed **Christy A. Hall** as Acting Secretary of Transportation, on July 2, 2015, effective immediately. The Governor made the appointment following the resignation of Janet P. Oakley in June.

Acting Secretary Hall had been serving SCDOT as the Deputy Secretary for Engineering since May of 2014. In that position, she was responsible for managing all engineering operations; preconstruction, construction, maintenance and traffic engineering in support of SCDOT's \$1.5 billion program.

Before serving a brief term as SCDOT's Acting Secretary from February to May 2014, the South Carolina native held the position of Deputy Secretary of Finance and Procurement from 2011-2014. In that role, she deployed revised business practices and cash management techniques that led to restoring a sound financial position for an agency with a peak cash demand of over \$100 million during the summer months.

The Acting Secretary has more than two decades of service at SCDOT. She began her career in Road Design and held numerous management positions including Program Manager, District Construction Engineer (DCE) in District 3 and District Engineering Administrator (DEA) in District 2. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

The Clemson University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering said she is honored to serve in this key leadership position for the agency. "I am proud of SCDOT's employees and their dedication and commitment to service for South Carolina. Together, the



Christy Hall
Acting Secretary
of Transportation

leadership team and all SCDOT employees and our partners will work to provide the best and safest possible highway system to provide mobility for our citizens and visitors, and give South Carolina an advantage in economic growth," said Hall.

Speaking at the SCDOT Commission workshop and meeting on July 16 in Columbia, Commission Chairman Jim Rozier commented publicly on Acting Secretary Hall's appointment. "This Commission is in lock-step supporting Christy and this organization under her leadership. We are excited about our direction. Her plans are absolutely excellent and we are 100% supportive of Christy," said Rozier.

As Acting Secretary Hall took the reins of the agency, she had two Deputy Secretary positions to fill due to retirements. On July 2, 2015, **Ron Patton** was announced



Ron Patton
Deputy Secretary
for Intermodal Planning

as the new Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning, effective immediately.

Patton has served in a number of leadership roles for SCDOT. Most recently he held the position of Chief Engineer since June of 2010. Prior to that role, he served as the Director of Planning and Environmental from December 2001 to 2010. He also spent nine years as a Program Manager for much of Upstate South Carolina. Patton began his career at SCDOT in 1991 as a Hydraulic Engineer in the Hydrology Office.

He is a 1990 graduate of Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. The native of Greenville, he is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

Acting Secretary Hall appointed **Brian Keys** as Deputy Secretary of Finance and Procurement on July 6, 2015, effective



Brian Keys
Deputy Secretary
for Finance and Procurement

on that date. Keys has served in several leadership roles for the agency, most recently as Director of Rights of Way since 2013. Prior to that position, he served as the Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, Locations and Design from 2007 to 2013. He held a number of key positions in Preconstruction from 1990 to 2007. He was responsible for ensuring the obligation and delivery of federal-aid eligible and state projects, as well as assisting in overall program management for his assigned region.

The Columbia native began his career at SCDOT in 1986 as an engineering intern while completing his undergraduate degree. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1991. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

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Leaphart named Chief Engineer for Operations

Andrew Leaphart has been selected as the Chief Engineer for Operations for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Leaphart has served in several leadership roles for the agency, most recently as Director of Support Services since November 2011. Prior to that position, he served as the Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations November 2007 to November 2011. He began his career with SCDOT in 1992 in the Traffic Engineering Office.

He is a 1991 graduate of Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.



Andrew Leaphart

Emily Lawton is SC Division Administrator at Federal Highway

In June 2015, **Emily Lawton** became the Division Administrator for the FHWA South Carolina Division. In this capacity, she leads a multi-disciplinary staff of 20 that is responsible for the delivery of the federal-aid program in South Carolina and provides leadership and guidance to FHWA's state, local and federal partners.

Prior to her appointment as Division Administrator, Lawton served as the Assistant Division Administrator in Oregon for 11 years. She joined FHWA's Highway Engineer training program in 1991 with various assignments throughout the United States. Following the training program, she held positions in Eastern Federal Lands and the Division Offices in Virginia and North Carolina.

Lawton is a native of North Carolina and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University.



Emily Lawton
SC Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission



Jim Rozier
1st Congressional District



John N. Hardee
2nd Congressional District



Ben H. Davis Jr.
3rd Congressional District



Woodrow W. Willard
4th Congressional District



W.B. Cook
5th Congressional District



Samuel B. Glover
6th Congressional District



Mike Wooten
7th Congressional District



Clifton Parker
Commissioner At-Large

THE CONNECTOR

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Christy Hall is the Acting South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



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Work begins on I-85/I-385 Gateway project



By Pete Poore

isting interchange in Greenville County which handles 200,000 vehicles per day.

The work that began in late July involves repaving operations on the northbound travel lanes on I-85 between Mauldin Road (mile marker 46) and Woodruff Road (mile marker 51). Repaving will also start soon between Pelham Road (mile marker 54) and the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) Airport exit (mile marker 57). The repaving operations are expected to be complete in November of this year.

“This rehabilitation work is just the first of many upgrades scheduled in the next four years to improve safety and ease congestion around this interchange. The public can expect to see a huge transformation of the current I-85/I-385 interchange in the coming years,” said **David Hebert**, SCDOT Resident Construction Engineer.

Highlights of the project include:

- Extending the right-hand lane on I-85 northbound, about a mile north of the interchange, to tie directly into the Pelham Road exit.
- Extending the Pelham Road on-ramp on I-85 southbound to tie directly into the new interchange.
- Adding collector/distributor ramps through the new interchange and also under Woodruff Road on I-385.
- Widening the I-385 corridor from four thru-lanes to six thru-lanes between Butler Road and Roper Mountain Road.
- Constructing 11 new bridge structures within the interchange, including two fly-over bridges to replace the existing “tight loop ramps” associated with the existing interchange.
- Reconstructing and enhancing the traffic signal system along the Woodruff Road Corridor between Roper Mountain Road and Highway 14.
- Reconstructing three intersections on Woodruff Road at Market Point Drive,

Garlington and Miller Roads.

- Providing a “right-out only” exit from The Shops at Greenridge onto westbound Woodruff Road.

The major phases of construction are expected to begin by early 2016 and finish in late 2018. During this time, lane closures will be restricted to the nighttime hours to minimize impacts on traffic.

This project is using a design-build approach in which Flatiron-Zachry, a joint venture of Flatiron Construction Corporation and Zachry Construction Corporation, will not only be responsible for building the interchange, but also perform the design, obtain permits, acquire right-of-way and coordinate utility relocations under the oversight of SCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The funding source for this project is Act 98 of 2013 which provided SCDOT with additional funding for bridge, resurfacing and mainline interstate projects, the Federal Interstate Improvement Program and the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study Committee (GPATS).

More information for the I-85/I-385 Gateway project, including construction updates and lane closure restrictions is available at www.85385gateway.com, social media at Facebook (85-385gateway) and Twitter (85385gateway).

Motorists traveling at night on I-85 between Mauldin Road and Woodruff Road have seen the first signs of construction activity on the second-largest transportation infrastructure project undertaken by SCDOT in its history. The \$231 million I-85/I-385 interchange improvement project is a four-year project to modernize the ex-



Public gets involved in Carolina Crossroads Corridor Project

By Bob Kudelka

It's hard to watch TV these days without seeing advertisements touting the benefits of "On Demand" programming.

SCDOT engineers even used this concept to help the public learn more about a major highway improvement project, the Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Project.

"Public involvement will be important throughout the project as SCDOT identifies alternatives for the corridor," said **Brian Klauk**, Program Manager, Midlands Regional Production Group.

The community kickoff meeting was held May 12 in Columbia and was well attended. But anyone who could not be there was invited to view an "online meeting" at www.SCDOTCarolinaCrossroads.com between May 12 and May 27.

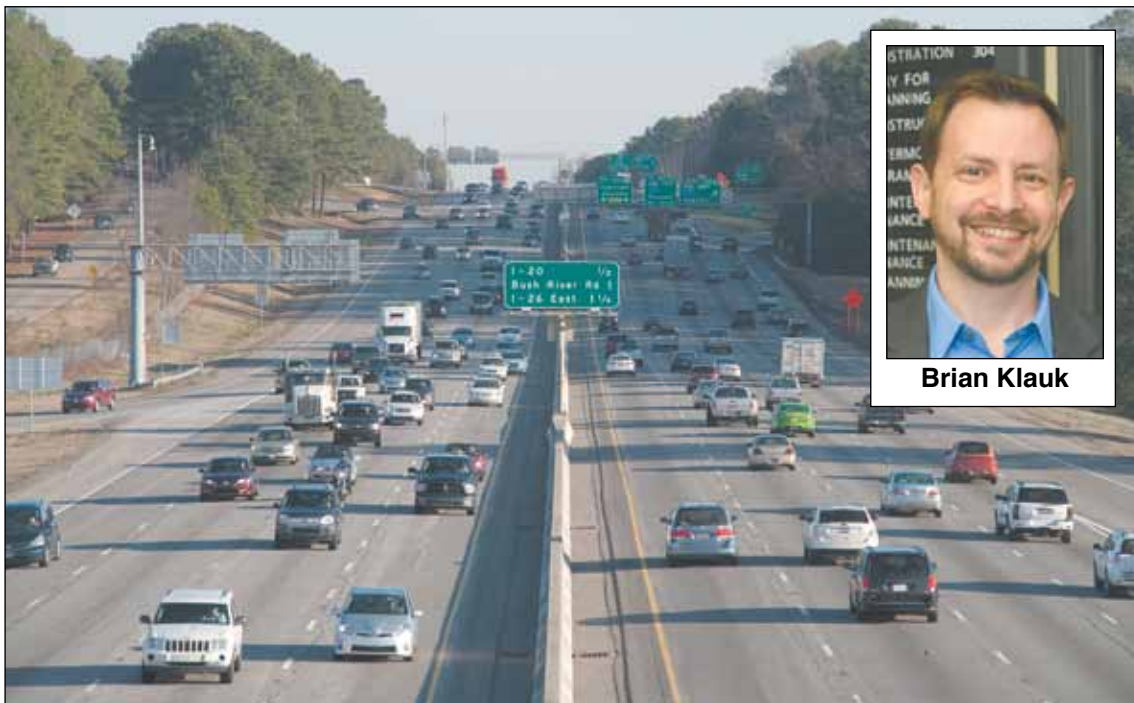
Users at their convenience could access a video explaining

the same processes provided at the May 12 meeting. This "on demand" feature is another way to encourage public involvement in the project.

"We had 157 attendees in person, 216 online meeting visitors, and to date 448,000 social media impressions," Klauk said. "We have received 158 comments as a result of the meeting. These are good numbers for a meeting very early in the process at a point when there were no alternatives to display."

SCDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is working to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to promote informed decision making in the development of a solution to reduce congestion, improve traffic operations, increase safety and increase capacity within the Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor.

The I-20/26/126 Corridor is generally defined as I-20 from the Saluda River to the Broad River,



Brian Klauk

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Carolina Crossroads is the name given to the project to reconfigure the intersection of Interstates 20, 26 and 126 in Columbia.

I-26 from US 378 to Broad River Road, and I-126 from Colonial Life Boulevard to I-26.

First developed in the 1950s and 1960s and improved in the 1970s and 1980s, the design of I-20, I-26 and I-126 does not meet current demands, and the interstate access ramps consistently become congested. Finding an

up-to-date solution has become a statewide priority.

Located in the heart of South Carolina, the I-20, I-26 and I-126 corridor serves as a major hub for Midlands' commuters, travelers and commerce. In addition to being a main route in and out of Columbia, I-26 is a thoroughfare for travelers headed to the coast and

mountains for recreation, and a major cargo route between Lowcountry ports and Upstate manufacturers.

Klauk said the next meeting will be Sept. 10, which will be the Public Input meeting. It is the first in a series of meetings over the coming year as part of the EIS process.



SCDOT projects win two AASHTO awards

By Pete Poore

SCDOT won two of the eight Regional AASHTO awards presented at the SASHTO Conference held in Nashville on August 1-4.

The first award was for the Cypress Gardens Road Bridge replacement in Berkeley County in the "Small Project" category. The \$3.5 million project was described by AASHTO as "a quick and cost-effective solution to restore access

to a local bridge destroyed by a derailed train." The replacement was completed three weeks ahead of schedule and 19% under budget.

The second award was for Columbia's Assembly Street Improvement project in the "Quality of Life/Community Development" category ("Small Project" designation). The \$4.5 million project enhanced pedestrian and transit safety with improved sidewalks and transit shelters. The job was completed more than three months ahead of schedule and \$1.5 million under budget.

The awards are presented annually by AASHTO to recognize the best in America's transportation projects in four regional competitions. The Assembly Street Project was selected as one of the Top 10 projects in that nation. This designation qualifies it for one of two American Transportation Awards. The first of the two will be selected by a panel of experts. The second will be a "People's Choice" award, determined by voting on-line later in the fall.



Stan Jones Jr. receives scholarship

Scholarships open to children of highway workers killed, disabled on the job



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Jones family holds a photograph of **Standra Jones Sr.** during a visit to SCDOT headquarters on May 19, 2015. From left, Breana Jones, Stan Jones Jr. and Julia Jones.

By Kim Corley

Each year, the American Road & Transportation Builders' Association-Transportation Development Foundation (ARTBA-TDF) awards scholarships to the children of highway workers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Stan Jones Jr., of Gaston, is one of only 10 recipients across the nation of the Lanford Family Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship.

In 2007, **Standra Jones Sr.**, Lexington County Maintenance Foreman, was fatally injured in a collision on I-26 in Lexington County. He and his crew had just completed a barrier wall cleaning operation. As they were preparing to leave the site, a truck ran off the side of the interstate and struck Jones and a fellow worker. That stretch of interstate is now called the "Standra Jones Memorial Highway." At the time, Stan Jr. was only ten years old.

Despite this devastating loss at a young age, Stan Jr. stepped into his father's role in the family. "I had to grow up fast. It made me more mature than my other friends," he says.

"I'm proud of my son," says Julia Jones. "I couldn't ask for a better child," she says as she describes her son's dedication to his education, spirituality and family.

Younger sister Breana is also very proud of her brother, but

she says she will miss him when he goes away to college. "Ever since my brother was 10 he has set a goal for himself in life and I believe that he has achieved that goal," she says.

Julia Jones believes her family's unwavering faith in God has helped them persevere during difficult times since losing her husband.

Stan Jr. graduated from Airport High School in June. He is attending Clemson University to study architecture. He also plans to try out as a walk-on for the Clemson football team.

The 2015 National Work Zone Awareness Week was held March 23-27, 2015. According to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) most recent statistics in 2013:

- 579 work zone traffic-related fatalities (6% decrease from 2012)

- 29,000 work zone injuries (9% decrease from 2012)

- 105 worker fatalities (21% decrease from 2012)

- 186 large trucks (184) and buses (2) involved in fatal crashes in work zones (11% increase from 2012)

SCDOT and partnering agencies continue to research and develop innovative safety initiatives to protect the lives of highway construction workers and motorists.

To learn more about ARTBA, please visit their website at <http://www.artba.org/>.

Outstanding!

SCDOT employee, former commissioner recognized by State Employee Association

The South Carolina State Employees Association (SCSEA) announced its 2015 Outstanding State Employee and Outstanding State Retiree recipients. Two of those honored have ties to SCDOT.

Nancy Fipps is the Outstanding State Employee female for 2015. Fipps is the chief administrative assistant at SCDOT in

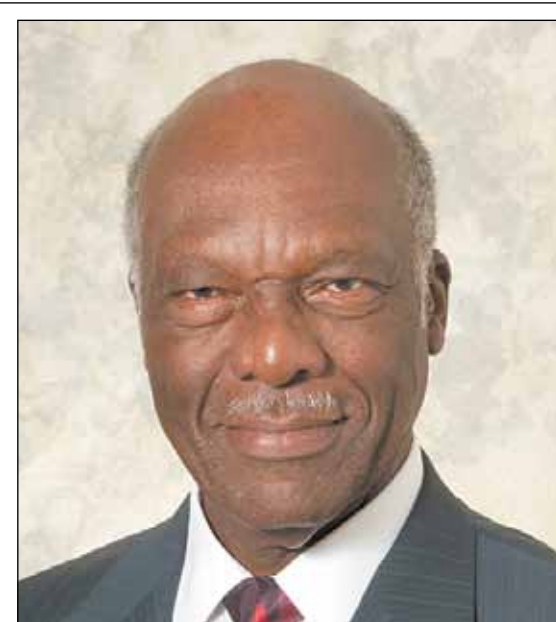
Marion County. She has been a state employee for 33 years.

Former SCDOT Commissioner **Harrison Rearden** was named the SCSEA Larry G. Ellis Outstanding State Retiree for 2015.

The award recipients were recognized during the SCSEA Annual Meeting and awards luncheon on June 20, 2015.



Nancy Fipps
District 5 Construction



Harrison Rearden
Former SCDOT Commissioner

Urban planning student finishes her degree with SCDOT internship

By Kim Corley

Ohio native **Amanda Wroblewski** is spending her summer down south interning in the Intermodal Planning Division at SCDOT Headquarters.

Her primary focus this summer is researching and presenting options to expand public engagement through different community outreach efforts. Not only is she involved in SCDOT's transition to an electronic system for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), but she is also working closely with engineers coding projects for transportation demand modeling and ranking MPO/COG projects.

Wroblewski previously interned with the Erie Regional Planning Commission in Ohio where she worked closely with transportation planners. This experience, along with similar courses, sparked her interest in transportation. "I wanted to get experience at the state level of government, and the idea of moving south appealed to me, so here I am," she said.

She adds that South Carolina has been a great place to enjoy her hobbies -- tennis, boating and fishing.

This internship is the last step of her academic career. Although she walked

at graduation in May at the University of Cincinnati, the School of Planning requires her to participate in a cooperative education program before officially receiving her degree in Urban Planning.

Wroblewski also has experience in the private sector. In 2013 and 2014, she interned with Walt Disney Imagineering and Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. She conducted GIS mapping and square footage studies to determine future park expansion options. She also assisted with their asset management program, which focused on projects within the Animal Kingdom theme park. "It was extremely interesting getting to spend time working on both the creative and technical sides," she said.

Wroblewski says she was drawn to a career in urban planning because of "the idea that what you are working on has the potential to make an impact on somebody's life, or make the community or region a better place."

Her dedication to public service goes well beyond her chosen career field. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and the Planning Student Organization. While at the University of Cincinnati, she was a teaching assistant for a professor in the College of Design. She also volunteers at



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Amanda Wroblewski's internship with SCDOT consists of inputting Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan data into the new electronic system. The Ohio native has spent a lot of this summer at Lake Murray where she's adjusted to the heat and humidity of South Carolina. She hopes to work at SCDOT after her internship.

the Literacy Center tutoring adults studying for their GED.

In the future, she plans to work toward a Master's degree in planning and her AICP certification. "These two things will help me to reach my ultimate goal of a career in

public service, where I hope to plan, design and manage projects that will benefit the community I work in," she says.

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



Target Zero: *How many traffic deaths are acceptable?*

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT joined the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to announce the launch of a 24-member Target Zero Enforcement Team to reduce traffic deaths.

SCDOT is providing funding for a new 24-trooper unit to focus on proactive enforcement on roadway corridors that are high-risk for traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

Acting Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** said SCDOT worked with SCDPS and FHWA to identify locations where fatal collisions are occurring. Most are caused by driving under the influence, not wearing seatbelts and speeding, Hall said.

"Our goal is zero deaths, but unfortunately over 800 motorists die each year on our roads," Hall said at a news conference in Columbia. "This is unacceptable and unnecessary."

To inform motorists, SCDOT's overhead roadway message signs will periodically show fatality counts throughout the year.

"This announcement represents another exciting step forward in eliminating deaths on our roadways," said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. "We believe that the loss of one life on our highways is unacceptable. We want every driver, every family in our state to take the pledge to make Target Zero their personal goal."

SCDOT Commissioner John N. Hardee, of the 2nd Congressional District, informed people of the new Target Zero website, www.sctargetzeroplan.org, which shows Target Zero corridors and includes a pledge to reduce fatalities.

The web site also features the state's Strategic Highway Safety plan, which was recently completed by representatives from SCDPS, SCDOT, FHWA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Remember, you, the motorist public, have a stake in South

Carolina reaching its goal of zero deaths," Hardee said.

Commission Chairman Jim Rozier and 1st Congressional District Commissioner Mike Wooten joined similar news conferences held in Charleston and Myrtle Beach. FHWA South Carolina Division Administrator Emily O. Lawton attended the Columbia news conference.

The 16 corridors of focus are:

- I-26 in Lexington, Berkeley and Charleston counties;
- U.S. 1 and S.C. 48 in Richland County;
- U.S. 301 in Orangeburg County;
- U.S. 17 in Charleston County;
- Three segments of U.S. 17 in Horry County;
- U.S. 501 in Horry County;
- S-62 in Berkeley County;
- U.S. 25, U.S. 276 and I-385 in Greenville County;
- U.S. 28 in Anderson County

The Target Zero message is also currently being spread through billboard and regional television campaigns.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Acting Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall announces that SCDOT is providing funding for a 24-member Target Zero Enforcement Team.

For more information on Target Zero, the Target Zero team or the state's Strategic Highway Safety plan, visit www.sctargetzeroplan.org.

Richland Maintenance employee struck, killed on the job

By Pete Poore

SCDOT lost **Paul L. Fee**, 56, in February of 2015. Fee was a Trades Specialist III and a member of the team in Richland Maintenance. He was assigned to the Blythewood Section Crew. He was the Crew Leader for Hot Mix Asphalt Patching Operations. Fee had been an SCDOT employee since 2007.

On Friday evening, Feb. 27, Fee and his crew were performing pothole patching operations in a temporary work zone on Farrow Road in Columbia. Shortly before 8:30 p.m., a pick-up truck drove into the work zone, striking Fee. The driver of the pick-up fled the scene on foot.

Fee was taken to a Columbia-area hospital in critical condition. He died early Saturday morning.

Late Saturday afternoon on February 28, Ray Pickett, 59, turned himself in at the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Pickett was charged with hit and run resulting in death.

Paul Fee left behind his widow, Betty Fee; three children, Paul Fee, LaTonya Fee Cook, O'tria Cook; and four grandchild-



Paul Fee

dren.

The SCDOT Commission, at its monthly meeting on May 21, 2015, adopted a resolution in memory of the fallen Maintenance employee, and to express appreciation for



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

On June 18, 2015, the SCDOT Commission presented a resolution to the family of Paul Fee, an SCDOT employee from Richland Maintenance who was killed while on the job. From left, Commissioner Mike Wooten, LaTonya Fee Cook (daughter), Betty Fee (wife), O'tria Fee (daughter) and Commission Chairman Jim Rozier.

his service to the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The resolution was presented to the Fee family and friends at the June 18 Commission meeting.

Fee's passing is a somber reminder of the dangers SCDOT employees face each day while working on the roads and bridges in the state.

Meet Jerodd Todd

'Peanut' is nuts about SCDOT

By Kim Corley

Employee: Jerodd "Peanut" Todd
Office: District 5 Maintenance
Title: Trades Specialist III

Jerodd "Peanut" Todd began his career with SCDOT in 2009. In February, he received his Certificate for 5 Years of Service. He works with the paint crew in Horry County.

Before joining SCDOT, he worked with a contractor mowing right-of-ways. Todd says he is glad the opportunity to work with SCDOT came along because he enjoys working on the paint crew.

He says the best part about his job is "traveling around to different counties in our district." Todd has also had the opportunity to work outside his district. He and his crew were asked to lend a hand to crews in Lexington with paint-

ing. During February's winter storm, Todd's crew was one of many on call to assist crews in the upstate. "I work out of Horry and we got the truck ready to head up to York around 4:30 in the morning," he enthusiastically posted on the SCDOT Facebook page.

Todd lives in Loris with this two lab/pit mixes, Onyx and Cephus. He is an avid outdoorsman who spends much of his free time fishing, camping and duck hunting. Todd also enjoys golf frequently, even though he confessed that his golf game could use some work.

A proud Free Mason, Todd is a member of the Little Pee Dee Lodge #83 AFM where he is a master mason and sitting senior deacon.

His nickname is a remnant of his high school days. He says the name came from friends his sophomore year in agricultural science class. Ever since, Todd has embraced the name. For a short time, it was even on his SCDOT uniforms.

Congratulations to him on his five years of service, and we wish him many more.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DISTRICT 5

Jerodd Todd works on the paint crew in District 5. He enjoys traveling around the District and has helped out other areas of the state during emergency situations. He is enthusiastic about his job and loves SCDOT.

BRIEFLY

Crash Closes Ravenel Bridge

On Tuesday, May 26, at around 11 a.m., a fuel tanker and a sedan collided on the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston County. The leaking tanker caused the bridge to be shut down in both directions for most of the afternoon. Fortunately, less than 100 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from the truck. The fuel had to be transferred to another tanker while the spilled fuel needed to be scrubbed off the bridge deck. The Ravenel Bridge was reopened at 7:20 p.m.

SCDOT Receives FTA Award

SCDOT was recognized with an award from the Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator, Dr. Yvette Taylor, for "consistently demonstrated outstanding transit service" at the Southeastern Regional Transit Conference held in Atlanta in May. The conference was co-sponsored by the Georgia Transportation Institute/University Transportation Center and the Center for Urban Transportation Research. Attendees included transit operators, MPOs, state agencies, state transit associations and other

transit stakeholders and advocates throughout the Southeast, along with senior leadership of the Federal Transit Administration in Washington. The award recognizes SCDOT's innovation, leadership and efforts on behalf of the state's public and human services transportation providers with the state and the Federal Transit Administration.

SCDOT DBE firm in USDOT mentor program

Freeland Construction Company, Inc., based in Charleston, has been selected to participate in USDOT's first Heavy Civil Construction Contractor Mentor Protégé Agreement. Freeland Construction will be partnered with Skanska, one of the largest construction companies in the US. This program provides an opportunity for small businesses to create strategic alliances with successful prime contractors in an effort to move their businesses to the next level. The agreement is a three-year arrangement. Freeland's President & CEO, Kenneth Cantey, P.E. says his company is honored to be a part of this mentor program and states that the goal for the company is to be worthy enough to serve as a mentor at the conclusion of the three-year contract.

Ethics Training Deadline: Nov. 30, 2015

South Carolina General Assembly Act 114 requires all SCDOT employees to take mandatory Ethics training every two years. This two hour e-learning class is now available via the SCDOT Learning Management System.

All employees are required to complete the course no later than **Nov. 30, 2015**.

Each employee with computer access needs to log in and take this mandatory training class.

For those employees without a computer, the training can be delivered in a group setting. Employees completing the training in a group setting must sign a sign-in sheet including the employee's name and employee number. This sign-in sheet can then be entered into the LMS by the Learning Manager for your office.

Course Name: SCDOT Workplace Ethics
 Course Length: 2 hrs

The training is located on the e-learning site

<https://scdot.csod.com/client/scdot/default.aspx>

New system detects, warns overheight trucks on I-85

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT has installed the state's first detection and warning system aimed at reducing dangerous and costly overheight truck collisions with bridges.

The system, which is similar to systems in place on I-95 in North Carolina, consists of sensors that can detect loads that are close in height to the existing bridge clearances.

"I would like to thank everyone who played a role in getting the system designed and installed," said Director of Traffic Engineering Tony Fallaw.

Fallaw thanked **Wayne Feaster** and **J.T. Egan** for creating the signs and **Dan Campbell** and **Charlie Shirley** for their work on the electrical components.

This new system was recently installed along I-85 in Cherokee County. It covers the portion of I-85 from S.C. 5/198 - Exit 102 to U.S. 29 - Exit 106, which is just south of the North Carolina State line. The detour route runs along S.C. 5 and U.S. 29 and is approximately 5½ miles in length.

Last fall, one of the bridges along this stretch of I-85 with less clearance than the current standard of 17½ feet was struck and badly damaged by an over-sized load.

SCDOT installed the new system in an effort to prevent a repeat occurrence until the bridge clearances can be increased as part of an upcoming interstate rehabilitation project. Once the rehabilitation project is completed, the detection/warning system of signs can be relocated elsewhere in the state.

Here's how it works:

An advance notice warning sign alerts trucks of the upcoming detector station. When triggered, the detectors activate a system of flashing beacons mounted on a second sign, located down the road from the first sign. This sign displays instructions for the driver to exit the interstate and follow the posted detour route when the beacons are flashing. A Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) also provides additional detour information over a designated AM channel (1680 northbound and 1610 southbound).



TOP LEFT: Trucks are directed to use the right lane for height detection.

CENTER LEFT: A closeup of the sensor

ABOVE AND RIGHT: Overheight trucks are detected by sensors located on poles between mile markers 106 and 102 at the state line on Interstate 85.

BELOW LEFT: Flashing lights alert vehicles that are too tall for upcoming bridges.

BELOW: The clearance of one bridge in the area is less than 15 feet.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/SCDOT



Responder helps bust theft case

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT incident responders in the SHEP program travel our highways, making traffic smoother by helping disabled vehicles, setting up traffic management in major incidents and sometimes even helping solve crimes.

Call it CSI: SCDOT.

In this case, SHEP driver **Matthew Perry** of TE-HQ/SHEP helped crack a case of vandalism and thievery involving state-owned variable message signs along interstate highways in the Midlands.

Perry's supervisor, **James Zarpentine**, is not surprised that Perry went the extra mile to help nab the perpetrator.

"We're proud of Matthew," said Zarpentine, Columbia SHEP supervisor, said. "We're proud of him for what he did and we're proud of the job he does every day."

In January, SCDOT began to get reports of wires cut and batteries and tires stolen from variable message signs, said **John Wood**, Columbia SHEP Program Supervisor who works out of the Traffic Management Center on Shop Road.

The batteries alone cost \$1,500 to replace, Wood said. In one stretch of five



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Incident Responder Matthew Perry was an extra set of eyes on the highway that helped catch a thief who was stealing batteries from variable message signs.

days, three signs were found vandalized and batteries stolen.

Wood and other SCDOT officials alerted SHEP responders to be on the lookout for anything suspicious with signs as they made their routine patrols.

Among the SHEP responders notified was Perry, who said being a member of SCDOT's SHEP is a dream job.

He was 14 years old when he came across

a horrible tractor trailer accident in North Carolina. He vividly remembers passing by as authorities helped at the scene. He's wanted to be part of SHEP ever since.

"I enjoy helping people," said Perry.

On the morning of Jan. 27, Perry was patrolling in Lexington County on I-77 northbound near mile marker 2 when he saw a man and a vehicle at the side of the highway.

Perry stopped his truck, figuring the man needed help changing a tire. Instead, the man approached Perry and told him he was just checking the batteries of the portable message sign.

"He had a vest on, but he wasn't in a truck with a strobe light," Perry said.

Perry noticed the battery box on the sign was open as the man started to drive away. Perry wrote down his license tag and helped make sure the man merged safely back into traffic. He called in the information to the TMC dispatcher and then went back to check the sign.

It had been broken into; one battery was gone. "He must have been trying to take the next battery out" when Perry had first pulled over, he said.

Perry gave police a description of the man and the vehicle.

The next day, a man was arrested stealing a battery out of a car on I-77. Perry picked the man out of a police lineup, linking him to the theft and vandalism of the state sign battery.

After the arrest, officials said the incidents of sign vandalism and thefts along the interstates stopped.

"He handled it well," Zarpentine said of Perry. "SHEP operators are out there by themselves."

Perry, of Gilbert, joined SCDOT seven years ago and has been with SHEP for more than a year. It's a job he wouldn't trade.

"Anything I do I try to give it 110 percent," he said. "My favorite thing is watching the people leave after they get helped."

Hurricane season starts early

By Bob Kudelka

Hurricane Season was still three weeks away when SCDOT employees readied for a storm aimed at the SC coast.

It was no drill, despite the calendar showing May 9. The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30

"This is the earliest that I can recall having to prepare for a storm," said State Maintenance Engineer **David Cook**, a 23-year veteran of SCDOT.

The threat of subtropical storm Ana put employees into action, from crews in Districts 5 and 6, led by DEAs **Kyle Berry** and **Robert Clark**, to Headquarters and the Traffic Management Center, Cook said.

Horry and Georgetown counties brought in one crew each early Saturday morning in case roads needed to be cleared. Those crews worked a 12-hour shift. They were relieved on Saturday evening by a second crew in each county, also working a 12-hour shift.

In addition, traffic signal crews were on stand-by to repair any signals taken down by high winds. Charleston and Berkeley counties each had two crews on-call. The state Traffic Management Center (TMC) monitored conditions around the clock. The TMCs in Districts 5 and 6 were open for extended weekend hours.

Crews and bridge inspectors were assigned to the three swing bridges in Little River, Socastee and the Ben Sawyer Bridge in Charleston. Crews were prepared to lock down those bridges to maritime traffic once sustained winds reached 25 mph. Only the Little River Bridge was closed from Saturday evening to midday Sunday due to high winds. All three bridges remained open to vehicular traffic.

Fortunately, Ana weakened and no structural damage was reported on the coast.

Cook said it turned out to be a meaningful warmup for what the agency could face later in the season.

"It was good for us to go through all the preparations to make sure everyone

was very familiar with their responsibilities," Cook said. "That's the time of the year we are going through lane reversal practice, updating plans and contact information. It was a good shot across the bow for us."

On June 10, SCDOT employees again were focused on hurricanes – but this time it was the annual lane reversal and evacuation exercise.

The evacuation drill activities were coordinated from the SC Department of Public Safety Headquarters at Blythewood at the Highway Patrol's Operations and Control Cell (OCC) for Emergency Traffic Operations.

State Traffic Management Engineer **Dick Jenkins** worked there alongside representatives from the Highway Patrol Command Staff, SLED, Department of Natural Resources, Probation Pardon and Parole Services and the Civil Air Patrol.

Jenkins coordinated SCDOT's actions at the OCC and communicated with SCDOT Headquarters Command Staff in room 311 by 800 mhz radio and telephone. The Headquarters staff communicated with the Districts to coordinate

placing of traffic control devices for each reversal roadway.

The lane reversals that made up the exercise were U.S. 501 in Horry County; I-26 from Charleston to Columbia; U.S. 21 from Beaufort; and U.S. 278 from Hilton Head.

Hundreds of employees from Districts 1, 5, 6 and 7 participated in the drill.

Director of Traffic Engineering **Tony Fallaw** joined Jenkins at the OCC. **Berry Mattox** was in Conway at the Horry County Emergency Operations Center. Headquarters staff included **Brian Keys**, **Kenny Eargle**, **Leland Colvin**, **Laura Masem**, **Kevin Sheppard**, **Jason Stillwell** and **Brad Latham**.

The SC Emergency Management Division in Pine Ridge was fully staffed for this event with **Tom Johnson** leading Emergency Support Function One-Transportation.

"I am quite proud of our entire team as a quick evaluation by Highway Patrol after the exercise revealed very good coordination between our crews and the Patrol," Jenkins said. "Continued planning and exercising is the key."

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Comprehensive statewide plan focuses on 'four Es' to reduce highway deaths, injuries

By Dick Jenkins and Brett Harrelson

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a statewide, data-driven, comprehensive plan that provides a framework for reducing deaths and severe injuries on all public roads. The SHSP establishes statewide goals and identifies critical areas of emphasis. Federal, state and local safety stakeholders were involved in the development of the plan.

The centerpiece of the SHSP involves the "Four Es" of roadway safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Response.

USDOT and the Federal High-

Engineering

Enforcement

Education

Emergency Response

way Administration (FHWA) require all states to have an SHSP as the foundation for how all roadway safety improvements are made and for safety policies that are adopted.

SCDOT and the SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) were the lead agencies in the col-

laborative processes with safety stakeholders. The plan must be evaluated and updated on a regular basis to determine if the goals are being met. If any goals are falling short, then changes in emphasis are adjusted.

The key success process of the SHSP is the use of real collision data to determine which types of crashes are causing the highest rates of death and serious injury. This data is the only way to get actual results and reduce the high fatality and serious in-

jury rates. There is no other way for the plan to be successful.

The SCDOT Office of Traffic Safety within Traffic Engineering has been in the forefront of SCDOT's efforts in developing the SHSP. The Traffic Safety staff has taken great pains to make sure the collision data was properly and precisely located. The staff used GPS coordinates, SCDOT mapping assets and road inventory data in this process.

The data gathered related to fatalities and serious injuries have revealed this list for the "emphasis areas" with the highest percentages listed first:

- Roadway Departure
- No Seatbelt Use
- Younger Drivers

- Speed Related
- Vulnerable Roadway Users – Motorcyclists, Pedestrians, Moped and Bicyclists
- Intersections
- Impaired Driving
- Heavy Trucks

Proven, successful solutions for each of these areas are listed in the SHSP.

If these measures are applied, South Carolina's fatal and serious injury statistics will drop.

A complete copy of the SHSP can be found at: www.sctargetze-roplan.org. The website offers you an opportunity to take the pledge to make a positive difference in South Carolina's fatal and serious injury rates.

SCDOT awarded Federal Highway Administration grant for bridge inspections

By Pete Poore

SCDOT is one of six state Departments of Transportation to receive FHWA grants to fund demonstration programs for innovative road and bridge work that will foster better and safer infrastructure.

SCDOT's \$787,104 grant will be invested in structural health monitoring (SHM) technology used to complement visual bridge inspections. The grant will allow SCDOT engineers to determine if SHM can effectively be used statewide.

Bridge Maintenance had already installed this technology on the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston County and two other bridges. The grant will permit the monitoring of an estimated 50 additional bridges using SHM.

The current limited use of SHM has already proven valuable. The technology has saved \$700,000 in repairs on one bridge and data resulting from SHM has allowed engineers to stop overweight activity on a few bridges.

SHM will assist in making decisions ranging from considering load restrictions, to rehabilitation and replacement. SCDOT will share the results of the demonstration project with other states interested in deploying this technology.

Lee Floyd of Bridge Maintenance installs a health monitor on the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston. The monitor will be used in conjunction with visual inspections.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Meet the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs

By Lis Bleasdale
Division of Minority and
Small Business Affairs

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs (MSBA) is to enhance equal opportunities through small business development, contracting, monitoring and workforce development. Several programs are implemented in this division to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations governing Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), External Equal Opportunity (EO), External On-the-Job Training (OJT), and Title VI. The office builds and maintains relationships to facilitate the development of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses and individuals.

SCDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) programs assist prime contractors in their efforts to identify and use DBEs that are participating in the Agency's DBE Program. Certification is granted through the Division as verification that a business is bona-fide in its claim to be a disadvantaged/small business enterprise. Certified firms are used to meet goals on federally assisted projects and certain state contracts. They also have a Business Development Center (BDC) which provides programs and services to socially



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs office is made up of: Front Row, from left: Division Director Greg Davis, Gary Linn, Alexander Burton, Anthony Cromartie and James Cooper. Middle Row, from left: Syrees Oliver, Steve Smith, Zaria Brown, LaChandra Walker, Rebecca Blue, Amber Eldridge; Arlene Prince and Colette Swann. Back Row, from left: Tammie Greene, Carolyn Burton, Delicia Wingard, Paula Hollis, Barbara Beagles, Lis Bleasdale, Christina Johnson, Betty Richardson, Luevertia Moore, Mary Spence, Juanita Campbell and Renee Miller-Cotton. Not pictured, new employee Michele Amritt.

and economically disadvantaged businesses, as well as small businesses that have been certified through the South Carolina Unified Certification Program (SCUCP). This is accomplished

through the offering of various services for firms seeking to participate in SCDOT pre-construction and construction related projects, as well as other procurement opportunities. The

Division also offers special programs such as the Mentor Protégé Program.

In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Division's major

program objective is to assist firms in becoming more competitive entities in the transportation industry.

For more information, please go to www.scdot.org.

SCDOT collects 49 pints for American Red Cross

The American Red Cross sets up blood collection stations in SCDOT headquarters every few months.

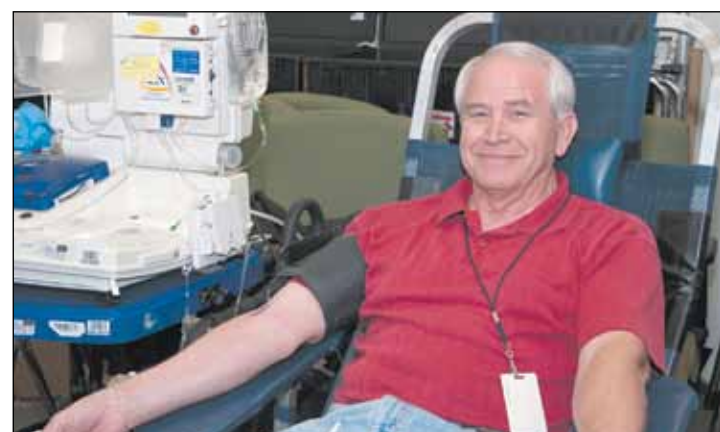
The two most recent collection events nearly reached their goals of 30 collected units of blood. The May 5 drive collected 28 units with 29 employees registered to donate. On the July 22 drive, 21 units of blood were collected with 25 employees registered to donate.

Donating can save lives, and blood is always in demand.

For more information on Red Cross Blood Drives visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> or call the Safety office at 803-737-1161.



Collection Specialist Bernice Smith prepares to draw blood from Chris Williams of Traffic Engineering during the May 5 blood drive.



Donnie Cason of Safety donates a pint. Cason retired from SCDOT on Aug. 31 after 42 years of service.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Johnny Mmanu-ike appointed Director of Public Transit

Johnny Mmanu-ike has been appointed as the Director for the Office of Public Transit effective Aug. 2, 2015. He has been with SCDOT for 25 years, spending his first two years in Traffic Engineering. For 23 years he has been with the Office of Public Transit, serving as Assistant Director for the past 10 years.

He completed the Certified Public Manager Program and Certified Transit Administrator Program.

As Director of Public Transit he directs and manages various Federal Transit Administration and State Mass Transit Funds to develop and promote public transportation in South Carolina as part of the SCDOT strategic plan. He supervises 13 employees with an annual budget of \$52,000,000.



Johnny Mmanu-ike

Ipock is State Construction Engineer

Claude Ipock has been selected to fill the position of State Construction Engineer for the Director of Construction Office.

Ipock began his career at SCDOT in 2006 and has served in various roles including Project Engineer and Design Build Engineer.

Ipock earned his Civil Engineering/Environmental Science degree from North Carolina State University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

He is married to Gayle and they have three children. They are members of Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church. His hobbies include golf, fishing and watching his kids play soccer.



Claude Ipock

Information Technology selects regional Information Resource Consultants

By Doug Harper
IT Director

In early 2012, SCDOT began a comprehensive look at how our Information Technology (IT) resources are managed throughout the agency.

The goal was very simple – to provide the best service and fastest response times to our users across the state. An important part of this effort is to initiate centralized management of our IT resources, and to install regional teams. **Michael Masi**, formerly of District 1, was hired to lead this effort.

SCDOT has announced the selection of the four regional leads. The region leads will assist Masi in establishing, developing, and maintaining IT standards, procedures and policies and overseeing installation and support of all HQ and district desktops, laptops, tablets and printers.

Myron Singleton attended the public school system in Columbia. After completing high school, he attended South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, then continued his studies at University of Phoenix, completing his bachelor degree in 2015. He began his career at SCDOT in 1993. For the past 10 years, he supervised and managed end user



Myron Singleton
Region A
HQ and District 1

IT support in HQ Information Technology Services (ITS). His goal is to strategically utilize his skills to advance in management within the agency.

Singleton's hobbies include family gatherings, traveling, cooking, talking with friends and rollerblading. He keeps his velvety voice tuned by singing with The Voices of Deliverance, The Male Chorus Inc. and Capital City Chorale Performing Arts. And last but not least a spiritual meditation with God.

Tameki Watts has multiple degrees that include Information Technology (Computer Networking), Business Administration,



Tameki Watts
Region B
Districts 2 and 3

and Public Service Degrees. For the past 8 years, she has been the primary IRC for District 3 where she took the lead in developing the Encroachment Permit Processing System (EPPS).

Watts has two children. She enjoys spending time with her family and helping her son manage his business ventures.

Julie Young received her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of South Carolina. After graduating in 1978, She worked as a Systems Analyst for companies in Chapel Hill and Charlotte working on financial applications. For the last 12 years, she



Julie Young
Region C
Districts 4 and 5

has done IT Support. She was the IT Manager of Springs Mortgage from 2002 to 2009. Since then, she has been the primary IRC for SCDOT District 4.

Young is married to Steve Young, project manager for Guy M Turner, Inc. They are the proud parents of two grown daughters. She enjoys running and bicycling and did her first Sprint Triathlon in May.

Donna Cleland began her career with SCDOT in 2002 as the Lead IRC for District 6. She has served on several improvements process committees and has assisted in developing and implementing enhancements



Donna Cleland
Region D
Districts 6 and 7

throughout the agency. She is a 1992 graduate of Francis Marion University where she received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Computer Information Systems Management.

In 2000, she received a Master of Business Administration Degree from Charleston Southern University. She is married to Morgan Cleland and they are the proud parents of two sons, Cole and David.

Please congratulate them on their selection and assist them during this transition. SCDOT should see improved levels of responsiveness with these additional resources at your disposal.

PROMOTIONS

Li yana Abayasinghe, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Construction on Apr. 2.

Russell Alston, promoted to trades specialist III at Kershaw Maintenance on May 17.

Eric Anderson, promoted to trades specialist V at Aiken Maintenance on Mar. 17.

William Andrews, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on Mar. 2.

Jonathan Antley, promoted to communications manager at D6 - Traffic Signals on June 17.

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

Philip Bethea, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Darlington Construction on Apr. 2.

David Bilodeau, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Berkeley Maintenance on Mar. 2.

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

Fouad Bouani, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Colleton Construction on Apr. 2.

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

Doreen Brennan, promoted to associate geodetic technician at York Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Jessie Brown, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Joseph Burns, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Greenwood Construction on Apr. 2.

Sylvester Campbell, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Barry Campbell, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Abbeville Construction on May 2.

Joseph Cannon, promoted to osha officer II at Greenville Maintenance on Apr. 2.

David Cantrell, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on June 2.

Ronald Cassell, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Pickens Construction on Apr. 17.

John Cathcart, promoted to trades specialist III at Fairfield Maintenance on June 17.

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

Brandon Clark, promoted to

senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on July 2.

Richard Corley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 4 - Upstate on Apr. 17.

Alexander Crawford, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Mar. 17.

David Crisp, promoted to trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Henry Cross, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Preconstruction on May 2.

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

Mary Davis, promoted to administrative assistant at Charleston Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Wilton Dean, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Darius Devore, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on May 2.

William Dickert, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Mar. 2.

Paralee Dozier, promoted to trades specialist III at Clarendon Maintenance on May 17.

Bobby Easler, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Edgefield Maintenance on May 2.

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

Richard Ellis, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on Apr. 2.

Travelus Floyd, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Dennis Garber, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 3 Office on June 17.

Edward Goff, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenwood Construction on Apr. 2.

Eddie Haggins, promoted to trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Eugene Hailey, promoted to trades specialist III at Marlboro Maintenance on June 2.

Jordan Haley, promoted to mechanic II at Oconee Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Jason Hall, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Preconstruction on June 17.

Wesley Hedden, promoted to

engineer/associate engineer III at Laurens Maintenance on June 17.

Doyle Hill, promoted to trades specialist IV at Clarendon Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Andrew Huff, promoted to right of way agent III at Right of Way - Greenville on May 2.

Todd Jackson, promoted to trades specialist V at Cherokee Maintenance on June 2.

Stephanie Jackson-Amell, promoted to director of engineering at District 3 Office on Apr. 2.

Patricia Jenkins, promoted to trades specialist III at Orangeburg Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Vernette Jenkins, promoted to trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Debra Jerideau, promoted to program coordinator II at District 6 Office on May 17.

David Johnson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 5 Office on June 17.

Chris Jordan, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 4 - Upstate on June 17.

Michael Kelley, promoted to right of way agent III at Right of Way - Greenville on May 2.

Randy King, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Preconstruction on Apr. 2.

Margaret Kizer, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Richland Construction on Apr. 17.

Christopher Madden, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Greenville Maintenance on May 7.

William Martin, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on May 2.

Jerry Matthews, promoted to trades specialist III at Florence Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Laurie Mazzell, promoted to right of way agent III at Right of Way - Central on May 2.

Donald McElveen, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Clarendon Construction on May 17.

Randy McKenzie, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Florence Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Travis McKnight, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Florence Construction on June 17.

Jean Miller, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 - Midlands on May 2.

Ashley Miller, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood

Maintenance on June 2.

Thomas Mims, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on May 2.

Harriett Moore, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Lexington Maintenance on Mar. 17.

John Moore, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Surveys on May 2.

Michael Moser, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on Mar. 17.

James Moultrie, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on May 2.

Jennifer Necker, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 - Midlands on May 2.

Christopher Owens, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Jake Pagels, promoted to trades specialist IV at Oconee Maintenance on June 2.

Susan Phillips, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 4 - Upstate on Apr. 17.

Douglas Phillips, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on June 17.

Michael Pitts, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 - Lowcountry on Mar. 17.

Barry Powell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 4 - Upstate on Mar. 17.

Bruce Raffield, promoted to trades specialist III at Barnwell Maintenance on May 2.

Joshua Readett, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Randy Rhodes, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Jasper Construction on May 17.

James Rich, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Abbeville Construction on Mar. 17.

John Richardson, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Laurens Construction on May 2.

Joshua Richey, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Wanda Roberts, promoted to administrative assistant at District 4 Office on May 2.

Encarnacion Robinson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Charleston Construction on June 17.

Michael Sandifer, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at

District 4 Office on Apr. 17.

Terry Scott, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Rodney Shaw, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance on June 2.

Terry Simmons, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Dorchester Construction on Apr. 17.

Joseph Simpson, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Michael Skilinski, promoted to mechanic III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Michael Smithart, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Lexington Construction on May 2.

Richard Sosebee, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Jacquella Stevenson, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on June 2.

Joseph Sturm, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 - Pee Dee on Apr. 17.

Terry Swygert, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at Materials and Research on Apr. 17.

Seth Tanner, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Florence Construction on Apr. 2.

Tamika Thomas, promoted to administrative assistant at Greenville Maintenance on June 2.

Jerry Thompson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Holly Hill Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Jason Thompson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 5 Office on May 2.

Joseph Thompson, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on June 2.

Bryan Thornton, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on June 17.

Marcie Timmons, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Preconstruction on June 2.

Foy Trantham, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on June 2.

Amitkumar Vaidya, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Laurens Construction on May 2.

Shayne Van Horn, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on June 17.

RETIREMENTS

Patricia Amick, retired as administrative assistant in Construction Office on Mar. 16.

Neal Anderson, retired as trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on June 29.

George Boggs, retired as engineer/associate engineer II at Materials and Research on May 31.

Marvin Brunson, retired as director of engineering in Construction Office on Mar. 31.

Michael Cantrell, retired as mechanic III at Berkeley Maintenance on June 30.

Lowman Dash, retired as trades specialist IV at Orangeburg Maintenance on May 29.

Francis Davenport, retired as engineer/associate engineer IV in Preconstruction on June 30.

Trudy Drawhorn, retired as trades specialist II at Dillon Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Colon Dudley, retired as trades specialist III at D5 - Traffic Signals on May 28.

Ronald Duncan, retired as trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on June 30.

Charles Eleazer, retired as engineer/associate engineer IV in Construction Office on June 26.

James Fludd, retired as trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on May 31.

John Galloway, retired as trades specialist IV at D6 - Traffic Signals on June 29.

Sue Gamble, retired as human resources specialist at Materials and Research on Mar. 31.

Douglas Gause, retired as trades specialist II at Horry 1 Maintenance on Apr. 22.

Steven Gwinn, retired as director of engineering at District 3 Office on Apr. 1.

Michael Hall, retired as geodetic technician I at Greenville Construction on Apr. 30.

Kenneth Hardee, retired as communications manager at Orangeburg Maintenance on June 19.

Julian Harrison, retired as geodetic technician I at Cherokee Maintenance on June 1.

Rodney Hartley, retired as senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Mar. 31.

Michael Holston, retired as trades specialist V at Aiken Maintenance on June 30.

Timothy Honea, retired as trades specialist V at Oconee Maintenance on Apr. 17.

Ricky Horne, retired as trades specialist V at Cherokee Maintenance on June 1.

Norman Jackson, retired as engineer/associate engineer III in Planning on June 30.

Wilma Johnson, retired as communications manager at SHEP - Myrtle Beach on May 1.

Donald Judy, retired as trades specialist II at Calhoun Maintenance on May 29.

Stephen Jumper, retired as senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on June 5.

Herman Kelly, retired as trades specialist III at McCormick Maintenance on June 10.

Jerry Lomax, retired as trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on June 30.

James Love, retired as mechanic III at York Maintenance on June 30.

Michael Lowe, retired as trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Sammie Madden, retired as administrative coordinator I at District 2 Office on Mar. 20.

Joseph Maxwell, retired as trades specialist V at D6 - Traffic Signals on May 1.

Mary McQueen, retired as right of way agent II at Right of Way - Central on Apr. 1.

Samuel Moyd, retired as trades specialist IV at D6 - Bridge Inspection on Mar. 3.

Robert Oliver, retired as trades specialist III at Kershaw Maintenance on Apr. 16.

Margaret Pearson, retired as program coordinator I in IT Services on Mar. 2.

Clyde Richardson, retired as trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on June 30.

James Sease, retired as engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 - Midlands on Apr. 21.

Leroy Shuler, retired as trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance on May 29.

Dannie Timmons, retired as senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on May 31.

Russell Torres, retired as trades specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance on Mar. 31.

John Vereen, retired as trades specialist II at Georgetown Maintenance on June 30.

Betty Wilson, retired as trades specialist II at Holly Hill Maintenance on June 30.

Jimmy Beverly, retired as trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on Apr. 9.

David Capps, retired as geodetic technician I at Richland Maintenance on June 30.

Charles Cooper, retired as mechanic III at Equipment Depot on May 1.

Ray Crisp, retired as trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on Mar. 13.

Larry Davis, retired as geodetic technician at Sumter Construction on July 1.

Elmer Gardner, retired as incident responder II at SHEP - Rock Hill on Mar. 1.

Richard Gilliard, retired as trades specialist II at Berkeley Maintenance on Apr. 23.

Margaret Harrington, retired as supply specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on Apr. 1.

Harold Hodge, retired as me-

chanic III at Clarendon Maintenance on Apr. 30.

James Horne, retired as trades specialist II at Chesterfield Maintenance on Mar. 2.

George Johnston, retired as trades specialist III at York Maintenance on June 18.

Jimmie Jones, retired as mechanic II at Aiken Maintenance on Apr. 30.

Patricia Kannegieser, retired as trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on Apr. 27.

David Kirk, retired as geodetic technician I at Greenville Surveys on May 31.

Mark Lester, retired as director of engineering in Intermodal and Freight on June 26.

Mitchell Metts, retired as director of engineering in Construction Office on June 26.

Vance Morrison, retired as trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on Mar. 16.

Roger Raines, retired as trades specialist II at Pickens Maintenance on Apr. 30.

Thomas Rambo, retired as trades specialist II at Greenwood Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Ronnie Reynolds, retired as senior geodetic technician at Jasper Maintenance on Mar. 2.

William Ridley, retired as trades specialist II at Oconee Maintenance on June 15.

Bobby Small, retired as trades specialist V at Florence Maintenance on July 1.

Marvin Smith, retired as mechanic III at Jasper Maintenance on June 30.

Julie Smoak, retired as administrative assistant at Lexington Construction on Apr. 16.

Elijah Thompson, retired as trades specialist II at Holly Hill Maintenance on Apr. 1.

Charles Vliet, retired as engineer/associate engineer II at Charleston Construction on May 1.

Marion Welch, retired as trades specialist III at Clarendon Maintenance on June 8.

associate geodetic technician at Charleston Construction on Apr. 2.

Sinclair Wright, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Charleston Construction on May 17.

Jeremy Yuhus, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Lexington Construction on May 17.

I at Charleston Construction on May 17.

Kara Weber, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Richland Maintenance on June 17.

Jayhue Weisner, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on May 17.

Randy Westmoreland, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Anderson Construction

on June 2.

Todd Williams, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Jimmy Williamson, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on Mar. 17.

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

Zachary Wood, promoted to

DEATHS



Edwin Alison Bethea Jr., special projects engineer in Road Data Services, died July 5, 2015.



Efrid Calhoun "Cal" Boland, trades specialist IV in Building Maintenance, died May 8.

Charles C. Catoe, SCDOT retiree, of Elgin, died May 30.

John Gaither, trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance, died May 2.



Glenn Edward Hammond, retired associate geodetic technician, died April 17.

Herbert Hood, trades specialist II at Sumter Maintenance, died Apr. 23.

Tommy McClure, trades specialist II at York Maintenance, died Apr. 21.

Wesley Morrison, trades specialist II at Anderson Maintenance, died Apr. 1.

Robert R. Salisbury, retired SCDOT bridge engineer, died June 21.

PROMOTIONS

continued from page 14.

Eric Vickery, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 2 Office on June 17.

Carl Warren, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Apr. 2.

Jemmie Watson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer



Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference: *Employees mix training with friendly competition*

By Bob Kudelka

Seventy-three employees took part in this year's Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference in Columbia.

It was the 13th year of the conference, and Committee Chairman **Sam Riddle** said the program continues to grow and gain interest and support each year.

"Our goal is to provide training for the equipment operators, safe operation of the equipment and vehicles as well as improvement of their skills," said Riddle, the agency's Assistant Director of Supply and Equipment.

Employees take the conference seriously. Just ask **Scott Burgess**, of Lexington Maintenance, who won the motorgrader event for the third consecutive year.



Assistant Director of Supply and Equipment Sam Riddle welcomes the employees to the competition portion of the training. Riddle gave the employees the rules of the competition and reminded them of the importance of doing their jobs safely.

"The first time I was nervous, but the second time I just calmed down and did it," said Burgess, a ditching foreman and 27-year veteran employee. "I really enjoy it; I enjoy my job."

The May 21 conference was the culmination of county and District competitions. Winners advance to the state competition, and those winners will advance to a Southeast regional competition held in South Carolina this fall.

The events included using backhoes; tractors with mowers; motorgraders; single-axle dump trucks; tandem axle dump trucks; and tractor trucks with lowboy trailers.

"There is a significant amount of team spirit within each District's representatives,"

Riddle said. "We also see a lot of work-related information being shared among the operators, which builds on a system of networking between counties and districts across the state. This allows them to take information back to their respective counties and possibly make improvements in work quality and production."

"Overall, it does increase morale and comradery among employees," Riddle said.

Speakers at the awards presentation included then Secretary of Transportation Janet Oakley, Commission Chairman Jim Rozier, Commissioners John N. Hardee and Mike Wooten and Chief Engineer of Operations **Leland Colvin**.

"Our most precious and most important

asset in the SCDOT is you – our family – we really appreciate everything you do," Oakley said. "It's our job to give you everything we can to make your job safer... Thank you very, very much for your commitment to safety and to each other."

Looking ahead to the regional conference, Oakley said, "We need to beat Tennessee... so bring your A-game with you."

Chairman Rozier praised the work of all maintenance employees at SCDOT.

"We're constantly amazed at how much you guys get done on our roads with so little money," Rozier said. "New Jersey spends \$2 million per mile per year on their roads; most states spend \$500,000. And South Carolina gives you \$39,000 per mile."

"I don't know how you provide the roads that you provide with so little money," Ro-



ABOVE: District 3 Committee member Jason Allison gives his team a few words of encouragement before the competition. It must have worked. District 3's team scored the highest overall.



Judges measure and record how close an operator pulled up to a stop.



A competitor maneuvers his single-axle dump truck through a narrow set of tennis balls. Equipment operators demonstrate their knowledge of the vehicle's position without being able to physically see the obstacles.



LEFT and ABOVE: This year, judges used iPads to score the competitors which improved accuracy and quickened scoring.



A backhoe operator demonstrates backhoe skills by picking up golf balls and placing them into small containers.

See **EQUIPMENT** on page 20.

The Contestants

Equipment Operators' Safety and Training Conference



Wayne Anderson
Aiken



Dock Bowick
McCormick



Richard Bowman
Clarendon



Freddy Brown
Florence



Melvin Brown
York



Jeremy Bryson
Marion



Donald Bunch
Berkeley



Scott Burgess
Lexington



William Burgess
Florence



Wayne Scott
Canup
Spartanburg



Richard Carter
Horry



Mike Cathcart
Fairfield



James Catoe
Kershaw



Charles Cleveland
Anderson



Earl Coaxum
Beaufort



Jacob Cockrell
Newberry



Wilshawn
Commander
Darlington



Robbie Craigo
Greenville



Alan Crumpton
Newberry



Jerome
Cunningham
Richland



John Davis
Saluda



Gary Downes
Orangeburg



Richard Downs
Sumter



Jerald Drafts
Lexington



Terry Epps Jr.
Union



Robert
Galbreath
Pickens



Randy Gallaway
Pickens



Ervin Green
Charleston



Robert Green
Sumter



Kenneth Harris
Aiken



Gerome Haynes
Dorchester



Timothy Hill
Aiken



Brian Hodges
York



John Holley
Abbeville



Moses John
Clarendon



Tommy Johnson
Spartanburg



Nathan Lance
York



Veron Lingerfeldt
York



Charles Long
Saluda



Beverly Lowery
Lee



Bernard Lucas
Florence



Bobby Maple
Sumter



Timothy McAlister
Oconee



Celina McFadden
Calhoun



Chad McMillian
Colleton



Bobby Meekins
Dillon



Norm Meyer
Charleston



Robert Perkins
Marlboro



John Quick
Marlboro



William Rabon
Horry



Chuck Reynolds
Spartanburg



James Richardson
Newberry



Franklyn Robertson
Hampton



Marcus Robertson
Saluda



Troy Seigler
McCormick



Terry Seymore
Anderson



Rodney Shaw
Greenwood



Jeremy Shrewsbury
York



Calvin Smith
Aiken



Chad Smith
Spartanburg



Perry Smith
Colleton



Walter Smith
Colleton



Jason Stafford
Chesterfield



Richard Stroble
Charleston



Gene Taylor
Kershaw



Brandon Varnadore
York



Corey Watkins
Lexington



Cliff Weaver
Spartanburg



Danny West
Spartanburg



Byron Williams
Richland



Jamie Williams
Orangeburg



John Williams
Bamberg



Steve Zaretzka
Darlington

EQUIPMENT from page 17

tors, Committee members and District personnel from across the state who assisted with judging, scoring and facilitating events within their counties and districts; the Supply and Equipment Office Staff, Equipment Depot Staff, Supply Depot Staff and Radio Services Staff.

In addition to Riddle, the Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference Committee included **Robert Dickinson**, District 1; **Steve Coleman**, District 2; **Jason Allison**, District 3; **Todd Cook**, District 4; **Treasure Scarborough**, District 5; **Michael Black**, District 6; **Efrem Dantzler**, District 7; Tina Kennedy, Support Services; and **Aaron Williams**, Occupational Safety and Health.



Winner, winner chicken dinner! Scott Burgess of Lexington Maintenance won both First Place in Motorgrader and Third Place in Tandem Axle.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The pep talk before the competition must have worked. District 3 Committee member Jason Allison kisses the State Champion trophy after District 3 was announced the overall winner of the competition.



Competitors who will participate in the Southeastern Regional competition in September are: Front row: Troy Seigler, Jeremy Shrewsberry, Melvin Brown, Jacob Cockrell, Tommy Johnson and Scott Burgess. Back row: Richard Downs, Dock Bowick, Robert Galbreath, Richard Stroble, Charles Long and James Catoe.

Employee's daughter gets a special wish

SCDOT Richland Maintenance employee **Timothy Gibson** got to spend some precious time with his daughter Rachael and his wife, Allison, on a Caribbean cruise in August.

The trip was granted by Make-A-Wish® South Carolina. The organization, with the help of dedicated donors and volunteers, grants the wishes of South Carolina children with life-threatening medical conditions.

When Rachael was referred to Make-A-Wish, Midlands volunteers met with Rachael to determine what Rachael's one true wish was. Sixteen-year-old Rachael said, "I wish to go on a Caribbean Cruise."

So the Make-A-Wish staff and volunteer Midlands Regional Team Leader **Gary Linn** (also an SCDOT employee) got to work to make her dream come true.

They coordinated with the family to get passports, a wheelchair accessible van and other

necessities lined up for the family's trip which started on Aug 22.

This wish will give precious time back to Rachael and her family. It will be a period of family bonding without the worry of doctors, appointments or wondering what the next day brings.

That is why these wishes are granted. To create hope, strength and joy that will last a lifetime.

Make-A-Wish® South Carolina grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish South Carolina has never turned a qualified child away and granted 156 wishes last year, averaging three wishes a week. The chapter receives funding through private donations, individuals, companies and special events.

If you would like to help make wishes come true for kids like Rachael, please visit <http://sc.wish.org> to find out more about volunteering or to donate.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Timothy Gibson, left, and his wife, Allison Gibson, pose with their daughter, Rachael. Rachael was recently granted a wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

David Lorick serves 50 years at SCDOT



By Pete Poore

If you are an SCDOT employee born after 1964, it might interest you to know that one of your colleagues has been on the job before you were born. This past spring, **C. David Lorick** reached the 50-year mark in his service to SCDOT and the state of South Carolina.

He came to work for the agency in 1964 in the Road Design Section. He served well in Road Design until he retired after 30 years in 1994.

Retirement did not sit too well with Lorick. He returned to SCDOT by

taking a job in the Property Management section of Rights of Way in 1995 as a part-time employee, where he used his engineering skills in a different venue. He became a full-time employee in Property Management in 2008. Currently he is a Right of Way Agent II and considered to be a dynamic and integral part of the team.

The West Columbia resident has seen many changes at SCDOT over the years, not the least of which has been transitioning from drafting in pencil and ink to electronic design on the AutoCAD. A team player, he's always been willing to share his vast knowledge and experience



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Some of David Lorick's coworkers joined him at the SCDOT Commission meeting on Aug. 20, 2015, where he was recognized for his 50 years of service. Shown above, from left: Laura Alexander, Christene Wright, Kathryn Copeland, David Lorick, Chris Johnston and Jean Barnes. During the meeting, the commission read a resolution and Acting Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall presented him a letter from the governor.

with many SCDOT employees who are always grateful for his help.

Outside of his work at SCDOT, Lorick has a passion for cars, particularly a 1957 red and white Ford. Once upon a time, he'd run home at lunch just to wash his pride and joy. The car is long gone, but not the 45 rpm record player he rigged under the dashboard long before anyone thought of eight-tracks, cassettes, CD players or XM Radio.

Lorick prides himself on being the family auto mechanic, handyman and gardener. He loves music, especially Christmas music and his church, Shandon Baptist. He's married to Sandra Lorick. The couple has a son, Scott Lorick, and a daughter, Windi Sheltra.

The SCDOT family congratulates Lorick on his 50th anniversary working for SCDOT and we look forward to many more years.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT'S Newest Certified Public Managers

SCDOT congratulates four graduates from the Certified Public Managers program on May 14. From left, Bryan Jones, Patty Langeland, Julie Barker and Michele Paoleschi pose after the program held at the S.C. Archives and History auditorium. The mission of the CPM Program is to provide quality training for public administrators, to assist agencies in developing future leaders, and to recognize management as a profession in the public sector.

Crews clean roadways during Litter Pick-Up Week

In support of Gov. Haley's designation of April as Litter Prevention Month, SCDOT Maintenance units and other employees in all 46 counties picked up litter during the week of April 20.

SCDOT employees focused their attention on high visibility routes and "litter

hot spots." SCDOT has long-standing partnerships with PalmettoPride and other organizations to help keep South Carolina beautiful. During that week, 1,200 SCDOT employees participated in the cleanup. The amount of litter collected by those employees totaled 183,395 pounds.



Bamberg Maintenance employees were joined by then S.C. Secretary of Transportation Janet P. Oakley and other members of the SCDOT senior staff for a litter pickup along U.S. 301 in Bamberg on April 23.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Keith Melvin wins national award

By Pete Poore

SCDOT's Director of Outdoor Advertising, Keith C. Melvin was presented with the Chairman's Award by the National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies (NAHBA). The presentation was made at the 2015 AASHTO Subcommittee on Right of Way, Utilities and Outdoor Advertising Control Conference held in Minneapolis in late April.

Melvin was honored for demonstrating strong leadership, communications and consensus building skills. In addition, he was recognized for his commitment of staff and resources for improving the

effectiveness of SCDOT's Outdoor Advertising Control program, his long-term commitment to the program and the creative manner in which he meets challenges.

Melvin is a 16-year veteran of SCDOT. He administers the Highway Advertising Control Act which regulates the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, vegetation management and junkyards on federal aid primary routes and National Highway System routes.

He is a graduate of SCDOT's STTAR Program, the SC Executive Institute and he earned the credentials as a Certified Public Manager (CPM). Melvin has held a number of positions on the NAHBA Board, including Vice Chairman and Chairman.



Engineering News

3D Engineered Model for Construction

What is 3D engineered model? Can it help SCDOT's project deliveries?

By Peter Yeh
Director of Maintenance Office

For many years, design engineers have developed projects from concept to final design in a three-dimensional (3D) CADD environment with the goals of producing two-dimensional (2D) paper record sets.

The contractors would construct the projects in a real world 3D environment based on the paper plan. Often, they have had to interpret what designers wanted, trace lines on the plan, re-enter data, and do other work to turn the design into reality. This traditional 2D paper-based process can introduce discrepancies and add time and cost to the project.

In recent years, the way contractors build projects has changed substantially thanks to an innovative technology called 3D engineered model. As part of MAP21, the transportation law signed by President Obama, and FHWA Every Day Counts (EDC) initiatives, 3D engineered model for construction has become a major point of emphasis to virtually connect design and construction teams.

3D engineered model is a mature technology that serves as the building block for the modern-day digital jobsite, according to FHWA.

The main reason for the use of 3D engineered model is the emergence of automated machine guidance (AMG) technology in construction. The AMG technology involves an on-board computer linked to GPS satellites and sensors that continually monitor directions and ground position. With the 3D model data, the AMG-enabled construction machines such as dozer, excavator, grader, or paver can run day and night via on-screen guidance and achieve accurate measurement within a quarter of an inch. AMG technologies can reduce the needs to stop construction equipment for grade checks and cut infield surveying cost (staking) by 50-70 percent. Safety can also be greatly improved as fewer workers will be onsite, and predefined "avoidance zones" can be set to alert the operators.

Projects using the combined technologies of 3D engineered model and AMG have achieved a 30-50 percent reduction in time delays, material rework, and labor costs as well as a 40 percent reduction in



SCDOT District 5 construction crew took the 3D modeling for automated stakeout and inspection training at Florence U.S. 378 construction site.

fuel consumption.

Realizing the importance of the technologies, SCDOT and FHWA South Carolina Division formed a 3D engineered modeling initiative team in 2013. The 3D AMG specifications for construction were first developed to accommodate the evolving technologies, followed by the development of operation procedures to prepare Electronic Engineering Data (EED) files for construction pre-bid.

"The EED files are the key ingredient to the successful 3D engineered models. They can save time and reduce the possibility of human error due to direct data import," said **Peter Yeh**, SCDOT Design Automation Engineer, and Co-chair of the 3D modeling initiative team. "We adopted a universal file format to ensure compatibility among CADD design software, survey and construction equipment. Our goal is to prepare EED files to automate both AMG construction and SCDOT field verification."

The technologies have since been applied to let four SCDOT projects for AMG construction. The first pilot project, U.S. 378 from Lake City to Kingsburg, went out for bid in November 2013.

"It is an ideal project for AMG construction," said **Wilson Elgin**, Upstate Regional Production Engineer who was then the Design Manager for the project. "The project involves widening the existing two lanes to a five-lane section for approximately eight miles with an estimate of more than a million cubic yard earthwork volumes."

vey equipment upgrade. In 2014, over \$770,000, including FHWA STIC grant assistance of \$100,000, were used to procure advanced survey instruments. "A total of 44 robotic total stations (RTS) and 41 GPS rover units were set up and distributed to construction and preconstruction survey offices," said **Dr. Wei Johnson**, Engineer in the SCDOT Director of Construction office.

"The SCDOT has utilized FHWA STIC funds to purchase 3D modeling survey equipment for construction verification, which has allowed them to expand their resources to move this innovative technology forward in the state," according to Alice Travis, SC Division Operations Engineer, Co-chair of 3D modeling initiative team.

But that was just the beginning. Over the next several months, SCDOT coordinated extensive training and workshops to assist the technology implementation. Several "Just-In-Time" training classes were introduced to SCDOT field construction offices with hands-on practices in automated stakeout and inspection. Just like the AMG operators, SCDOT field surveyors could access 3D models of finished grade elevations anywhere on the construction site, allowing their advanced survey instruments to receive instant feedback on cut/fill information.

"The potential moving forward on the design front is tremendous - greater ability to evaluate alternatives, to visualize them, to make changes and quickly im-

Got news?

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



Dede Elmore

While the 3D engineered modeling was exciting, SCDOT faced many challenges during the pilot project execution.

The most critical was the field survey

equipment and improve the way design is done," said Elgin.

"3D AMG is the future of construction," according to SCDOT District Bridge Engineer **Jason Thompson**. "The learning curve is steep, but with patience and experience, it does indeed increase efficiency, speed, precision and yield a better product while lowering operation costs."

On Feb. 18-19, 2015, SCDOT and FHWA co-hosted a 3D Engineered Models for Construction workshop in Columbia. Acting Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** and FHWA Assistant Division Administrator Bob Thomas made the opening remarks and stated leadership's support of adopting the new technology. Seventy-two engineers from FHWA, SCDOT construction and preconstruction offices, consultants, contractors and other state highway agencies attended the two-day workshop and peer exchange sessions.

"FHWA invited subject experts to provide overviews on various topics of 3D engineered models," said Johnson who was also the workshop coordinator. "We have received positive feedback from the participants and will certainly tap into the resources provided by FHWA and fellow DOT's."

Workshop moderator David Unkefer, who is the Construction and Project Management Engineer from FHWA Resource Center Atlanta office, said: "It was interesting to hear from the Sitetech Inc. representative about SCDOT's Conway Bypass in 1998 being the world's first AMG project. I hope that provides some encouragement to SCDOT to move ahead with this powerful shift to the 3D engineered models for construction technology."

"The most important lesson we learned: 3D engineered model is not a product," said Yeh. "It is a combination of technologies, processes and people that could lead to a much faster, safer, cost effective and predictable project delivery."

District 2 News

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

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

Mower operator puts best foot forward

Alan Crumpton has served with SCDOT Newberry Maintenance since May of 1987. He has performed well on every crew in each duty assigned to him over the years.

From asphalt shoveling and patching, to mowing, to litter pickup, he has been a reliable employee with a positive attitude since his arrival with the Department.

Originally from Newberry, Crumpton has been a resident of Whitmire for many years.

A turning point in his life happened when he was around seven years old and was accidentally

run over by a riding lawnmower—resulting in him losing his right foot and three toes on his left.

Crumpton has dealt with this handicap so well, that for years we did not know of it until one morning our ARME noticed him carrying his foot to his car. All he said was, “the bolt broke!” and his leave slip was immediately approved. He was back at work in an hour.

In one of life’s ironies, he has been performing his duties very well on the Newberry mowing crew and most recently has been the District 2 runner up two years in a row in tractor-mower of the Equipment

Operators’ Safety Training Conference.

Crumpton has been a true example of overcoming obstacles in life and keeping a positive outlook; his crewmates call him “Chipper.”

As with all our employees, we are blessed and thankful to have Crumpton here in Newberry. In his spare time, he is a strong supporter of local dirt track racing and loves vacationing in the mountains.

Crumpton lives in Whitmire with his wife, Teresa; son, Cody; and daughter, Jessica.

Got news?

Contact Steve Coleman at 864-889-8029 or email her at ColemanWS@scdot.org.



Steve Coleman



Newberry mower operator Alan Crumpton has consistently been one of the best mower operators in District 2. He has never let a handicap prevent him from doing his job, and doing it well.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

Staff, building changes in District 3

As summer draws to a close and many of us prepare for the start of yet another school year to begin, we here in District 3 have seen many changes occur this summer for our District 3 headquarters.

SCDOT District 3 also welcomed a new DEA, **Stephanie Jackson-Amell**. Please join me in wishing her much success in her new position.

The building has also received a much needed facelift. Stop by and see the District 3 headquarters building updates. The lobby has fresh paint as well as new flooring, and the old elevator has been updated.

These updates have been a much anticipated effort and will go a long way in providing employees a harmonic and cohesive working environment. It will provide visitors to the SCDOT headquarters with a positive and welcoming impression.



Stephanie Jackson-Amell
District 3 Engineering Administrator

Got news?

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

**Brian
Harris**



Meet Brooke L. Lewis

Name: Brooke Lewis
Title: Administrative Assistant
Office: Greenville Signal Shop

District 3 introduces Brooke L. Lewis to the SCDOT family. Lewis has been with the SCDOT for three months as an administrative assistant at the signal shop in Greenville.

Lewis enjoys reading, Pinter-

est and is big fan of the online game Candy Crush. She is often quoted as saying, "If you stand straight, do not fear a crooked shadow."

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



District 4 News

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

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

Chester employee helps officers get bulletproof vests

Following the gang-related shooting death of a Chester City Councilman in November, Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood pled with Chester County Council for more funding to combat the gang problem in Chester County. The County Council stated that funds were not available at this time to help with the problem. During the exchange, residents learned that the Sheriff's deputies were wearing bullet-proof vests that had exceeded their life expectancy.

SCDOT District Four OSHA Officer **Kim Desrosiers**, after watching the news clips from the council meeting, put her thoughts on Facebook that morning before going to work. She stated that the officers needed to feel safe to be able to protect the citizens. Kim suggested that if each person in Chester County, which is roughly 33,000 residents, would donate just \$1, the citizens could help the deputies.

By the time she arrived home, her post had been shared many times and the responses poured in that many were willing to donate. After talking it over with her husband, she once again posted on Facebook that what had just been thoughts would now be a reality and that she was going to contact the Sheriff's office about starting the fundraiser. She also stated that she and her husband Bob would purchase the 1st vest, soon her friend Susan Thomas stated that she and her husband, Scott, would also purchase a vest. Susan began contacting dozens of people who pledged support. Media outlets from the Rock Hill and the Charlotte area picked up the story and the campaign for a vest drive was underway. Working with the



PHOTO BY SUSAN THOMAS

Kim Desrosiers, left, poses with Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood with a new vest for officers.

Sheriff's Foundation of Chester County, donations and pledges poured in, and in less than a week enough money was raised to provide 18 new vests to the Sheriff's Office. The vests are custom fit for more protection from high powered weapons and the costs is approximately \$800 per vest. Once ordered and custom made, a press conference was held to present the vests to the Sheriff and his Deputies. Sheriff Underwood was overwhelmed with the community's support of his officers; fighting back tears as he thanked all the citizens who helped to protect those who protect them.

Got news?

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



Edward Moore

Hooked on fun

District 4 employees enjoy annual fishing tournament

Employees from Chester and York Maintenance came together on May 11 to participate in the annual District 4 fishing tournament.

The tournament was held at the Chester State Park with prizes awarded in bass and bream categories.



CHAMPS!

D4 Signal Tech Colby Hall, left, and his fishing partner show off the winning catch of bass.

Meet Leonard Scott

Name: Leonard Scott
Age: 29
Title: D4 Information Resource Coordinator

Started at SCDOT: July 2014

Leonard Scott grew up in the Columbia area and graduated from Lower Richland High School.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Limestone College in Gaffney. He is married and has 3 sons and 1 daughter. He served 3 years in the US Air Force.



SERVICE AWARD

DEA **John McCarter** presented Administrative Coordinator **Juanita Abercrombie** with her certificate for 20 years of service.



Juanita Abercrombie

RETIREES



Ricky D Horne
Cherokee Maintenance
33 years of service.



Julian C. Harrison
Cherokee Maintenance
37 years of service.

District 5 News

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

*District Engineer: Dennis Townsend (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



Equipment Operators' Training

An opportunity to perfect their skills

The 2015 Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference was a tight competition this year. All the contestants did great, but the winners were just a bit better than the other competitors this time around. Congratulations to the first and second place finishers!

Thanks to the all the
equipment operators
for the hard work
they do every day.



Backhoe:

1st Place: Richard Carter, Horry Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: Wilshawn Commander, Darlington Maintenance (Left)



Motor Grader:

1st Place: Steve Zaretska, Darlington Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: Robert Perkins, Marlboro Maintenance (Left)



Single Axle Dump Truck:

1st Place: William "Dexter" Rabon, Horry Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: John Quick, Marlboro Maintenance (Left)



Tractor and Mower:

1st Place: William Burgess, Florence Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: Jeremy Bryson, Marion Maintenance (Left)



Tandem Axle Dump Truck:

1st Place: William "Dexter" Rabon, Horry Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: Bobby Meekins, Dillon Maintenance (Left)



Lowboy and Tractor Operation:

1st Place: Bernard Lucas, Florence Maintenance (Right)

2nd Place: Freddy Brown, Florence Maintenance (Left)

District 6 News

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

District Engineer: Robert Clark (843) 740-1665
FAX (843) 740-1663

District 6 clears the way

Every local SCDOT Maintenance Office is required to maintain an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Plan.

There are various activities that are performed by SCDOT or subcontractors to support the goals of this plan. They include: Mowing, Brush Management, Hand Trimming, ODA Window Mowing, Routine Mowing, Safety Mowing, Herbicide Application, Grassing, Limb Management, Tree Removal and Debris Removal.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a safe roadway and it also allows the Department to reclaim its right-of-way that may have been lost due to vegetation overgrowth.

Mechanical mowing uses various types of equipment to maintain clear zones free of obstructions and to allow vehicles, which may leave the travel way, to recover. Mowing is necessary to maintain adequate site distances, roadside ditches, and the integrity of associated structures, such as fences. Mowing helps keep an aesthetically pleasing appearance of the roadside for the traveling public.

District 6 has added two Caterpillar 320E Excavators to the list of equipment that will aid in accomplishing the IRVM

Plan. The machine is a modern day mechanical lumberjack.

The Loftness cutter head allows the machine to cut various heights and diameters of trees depending on the skill level of the operator. These machines are a great all-around excavator, easy to maneuver, yet powerful enough to handle tough jobs. They have many modern conveniences such as: coat hook, beverage and literature holder, storage shelf suitable for lunch or toolbox, adjustable armrest and color LCD display showing warning fluid/filter change and working hour information.

They have been modified to provide safety for the operator with cages and more maneuverable controls. These machines are located in Charleston and Colleton counties. They have dedicated operators **Legree F. Alston** and **Luther "Bubba" Erwin, III**.

Alston has been with Charleston Maintenance for 25 years as a Trades Specialist III. Erwin has been with Colleton Maintenance for 2 years as a Trades Specialist III. These employees have had extensive training inside and outside SCDOT on heavy equipment. Their knowledge of proper use of these machines is apparent when you see the various job sites.



Legree F. Alston



Debra Jerideau

Got
news?

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



Luther Erwin III



Meet Craig Brown



Craig R. Brown, a graduate of University of North Carolina at Charlotte, began his career with SCDOT in 1985 at the research and materials lab in Columbia. He is currently the Resident Maintenance Engineer in Berkeley County. Prior to becoming RME he worked as an Assistant Maintenance Engineer and Construction Project Engineer.

Brown's hobbies are weight lifting and restoring old cars.

He is the proud owner of a 1967 RS Camaro convertible, and drove it in the 2014 and 2015 Hotrod Power Tour, Long Haulers Group.



Brown restores old cars including his 1967 RS Camaro convertible.

District 7 News

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

*District Engineer: Jo Ann Woodrum (803) 531-6850
FAX (803) 531-6854*

Aiken Maintenance wins local fitness challenge

The Aiken City Cup Corporate Fitness Challenge serves as a common ground for small and large companies, as well as, government, education, and professional organizations to meet in friendly competition.

The competition promotes healthy lifestyles, friendly competition, boosts employee morale and provides community exposure, leadership skills and personal skills.

The event was held May 19-21 at the H.Odell Weeks Center in Aiken.

Events included volleyball, shuffleboard, bocce ball, racquetball, horseshoes, ladderball, cornhole, table tennis and more. Aiken Maintenance has participated for three years and took first place this year.

Congratulations to Aiken Maintenance, 2015 winners of the Aiken City Cup Corporate Fitness Challenge!



Aiken Maintenance employees pose with the trophy after winning the Aiken City Cup Corporate Fitness Challenge.

Bamberg gets top safety, excellent QMT awards

During the 2015 Engineering Conference Bamberg Maintenance was awarded the Top Safety Award. The unit won in the small unit category. Orangeburg Maintenance won the large unit category. The units were rated on OSHA lost work day case rate, SCDOT lost work days, vehicle accidents, accident frequency rate, backing accidents, equipment accidents and the OSHA incident rate.

Bamberg Maintenance, under the leadership of **Bobby Crider**, has rated excellent during three consecutive Safety Quality Management Team (QMT) inspections. Crider credits his staff's quality work, commitment to safety, and excellent customer service for this achievement.



Efrem Dantzler and Bobby Crider celebrate Bamberg Maintenance after getting the top safety award and three consecutive excellent QMT inspections.

Got news?

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

Danny Simmons



Baskins recognized for 30 years of service



DEA Jo Ann Woodrum, right, congratulates District Traffic Engineer Ems Baskin on 30 years of service

Ems Baskin reached a milestone of 30 years of service with SCDOT in January 2015.

Baskin began his career with the SC Department of Highways and Public Transportation in 1985 as an Assistant Research Engineer. He was promoted into the Headquarters Traffic Engineering section in 1987 and supervised various offices.

Baskin's engineering and management experience at SCDOT involves 18 years in the field at District level assisting the DEA, 10 years at headquarters in Traffic Engineering and includes time cross training in construction and time in the research and materials lab.

Baskin became District Traffic Engineer in the Orangeburg District 7 office in 1996 and continues to serve in that capacity.

Baskin, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, has a BS in Civil Engineering and achieved registration as a professional engineer in 1992. Baskin resides in Cameron with his wife and three daughters. He and his family are active at Four Holes Baptist Church. Baskin enjoys spending time with family, tries to live a healthy lifestyle and strives to be a good husband, father, engineer and employee.

Congratulations Ems!

Crash and burn

Crews make repairs as summer crashes, fires destroy roadways

By Kim Corley

Crews in Districts 1 and 3 have really felt the heat this summer. Three separate fires shut down sections of South Carolina's busiest interstates and caused extensive damage. Motorists posted pictures and videos of black smoke billowing for miles on social media.

The first fire occurred just before 6 a.m. on May 27, 2015, on I-26 between exits 104 and 106 in Richland County. Eight cars, a tractor trailer and a gasoline tanker carrying 8,500 gallons of fuel were involved in the collision. Fuel from the tanker spilled into a 300 foot drainage pipe and ignited. Luckily, only four people required medical attention at nearby hospitals for minor injuries. After Columbia firefighters extinguished the flames, DHEC officials were called to the scene to investigate any environmental damage. SCDOT had four crews (25 employees) respond to the incident. The intense heat from the fire caused severe damage to the median barrier wall and several sections of pavement. Those crews repaired 177 square yards of asphalt roadway that were severely damaged to re-open all lanes on I-26 before the afternoon rush hour. Additional repairs were completed by a contractor. Including the repair/replacement of:

- 860 feet of barrier wall scorched and damaged by heat.
- 420 feet of chain link fence burned/melted.
- 7650 square yards of asphalt roadway – moderate damage & exposed to unleaded fuel.

The total SCDOT and Contractor cost for response and repairs to I-26 in Richland County was \$643,725.84

A month later, another fire engulfed parts of I-26 near mile

marker 17 in Spartanburg County. The crash on the morning of June 27 involved two vehicles and a tanker truck loaded with gas and diesel fuel. The tanker overturned and caught fire causing extensive damage to both lanes of I-26 westbound. Firefighters held the fire at bay while they waited for a special crash truck used to extinguish airplane fires to arrive at the scene. Unfortunately, there were three fatalities and a fourth person was severely burned and airlifted to the hospital. SCDOT crews worked over thirty-six hours straight to reopen I-26. Crews milled 6 inches from the bridge for approximately two hundred feet and replaced the asphalt roadway. In addition, there was barrier wall and traffic control repair and debris removal.

The total SCDOT and contractor cost for response and repairs to I-26 in Spartanburg County was \$85,101.94.

Most recently, an 18-wheeler hauling frozen chicken overturned and caught fire after hitting a dividing wall on I-85. The incident happened around 4:30 p.m. Aug. 3, 2015 at mile marker 68 near Hwy 129 in Spartanburg County. The driver of the 18-wheeler suffered fatal injuries. A woman who was driving on the other side of the interstate was taken to the hospital after she was hit by debris. After emergency response workers battled the flames, SCDOT crews worked overnight to have all lanes open just before 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Currently, the SCDOT and Contractor cost for response and repairs to I-85 in Spartanburg County is \$33,813.18.

These crashes were investigated by the South Carolina Highway Patrol's Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT).

RIGHT: On Aug. 3, 2015, a truck carrying frozen chickens crashed and burned on I-85 in Spartanburg.



TONY MAGWOOD/RICHLAND MAINTENANCE

The burned up tanker and vehicles had to be removed before crews made repairs in Columbia along I-26.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Richland Maintenance crews make repairs to I-26 after the tanker crash on May 27, 2015. Damaged roadway was repaved to open all lanes of traffic on the same day.



PHOTO BY DISTRICT

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ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

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PHOTO BY DISTRICT

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXVI NO. 1

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2015

Roundabouts save lives

By Pete Poore

When drivers approach a roundabout for the first time, navigating the circular intersection might be a little challenging, but getting the hang of it shouldn't take very long. It's in the best interest of drivers in the state to learn how to use roundabouts. One reason is that they are proving to be the safest places on the road.

The SCDOT Safety Office worked through the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to complete the first roundabout project on September 29, 2011, at the intersection of Longs Pond Road (S-204) and Nazareth Road (S-243 in Lexington County). A total of nine roundabouts were constructed in under the HSIP in 2011-12. Federal requirements called for an evaluation of

all of these projects using "Before Crash Data" (prior to construction of the roundabouts) and "After Crash Data" for a period of time after construction was completed.

The evaluation reveals that crashes on the nine intersections were reduced significantly. In fact, both the number of crashes and "injury crashes" were reduced by 71% each. In addition, no fatal crashes have been reported in the "after" period for a 100% reduction in fatalities.

An evaluation of roundabouts on a national scale also reveals significantly improved safety. The current national data shows that crashes on roundabouts are 35% less than those on traditional intersections, 76% less for crashes with injuries and fatal crashes are 90% less.

Roundabouts are a proven success for the SCDOT Safety



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Office. Safety engineers will continue the use of roundabouts to meet the agency's safety goals. Approximately 20 more roundabouts are in the design phase for future construction.

Roundabouts have other benefits in addition to saving lives:

- This design creates less delay and better traffic flow than a traditional stop sign or signal controlled intersection.
- The operational costs are lower in the long term versus signs and signals that need both short-term and long-term maintenance.
- Roundabout intersections are more environmentally friendly than signalized intersections that require utilities to operate.
- Roundabouts generally have

lower right-of-way impacts than other geometric improvements.

• Roundabouts are designed to easily accommodate larger vehicles such as trucks, buses and emergency vehicles.

To demonstrate further proof of the effectiveness of roundabouts in preventing crashes, injuries and saving lives, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has advised all states that roundabouts are one of the top nine proven safety countermeasures for roadway safety.

FHWA encourages all states to make consideration of the use of roundabouts a high priority in helping to save lives and prevent serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

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VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
Acting Secretary
of Transportation

I am honored to be able to serve as your Acting Secretary for SCDOT. I sincerely appreciate all that each and every one of our team members do every day in order to ensure that we are meeting our mission to the best of our abilities. I am always proud of our workforce and especially appreciate the recognitions of excellence we receive, whether if it is for emergency situations such as fire, ice or storms, or a simple thanks for assisting with a flat tire or winning regional awards for some of our key projects. Thank you for your commitment to SCDOT and South Carolina.

As we move forward day to day, we will continue to adhere to our Strategic Plan and Division Goals in order to ensure that we are all pushing on these very important goals together in order to make a difference for the state. Over the next few months, there are also 4 key areas that we will be focusing on in order to make some self-improvements.

1. Stabilizing the Workforce and Leadership Team. SCDOT has recently seen a number of key employees retiring or otherwise leaving the agency. These vary from senior managers to the front line maintenance employee. We must continue our efforts in recruiting and retaining employees in those positions to keep a consistent and productive team.

2. Improve Project Delivery. This effort is aimed at getting projects "on the street" faster and completing our construction projects on-time or ahead of schedule. The nature of most federal-aid projects and the process of developing and constructing projects is complex. In order to address this challenge, the agency must start developing projects earlier and put more projects in the development pipeline. We must also understand where delay is introduced into a project, whether it is in design, right of way, utility coordination, permitting or construction. This initiative will take several years to mature before it will yield consistent results, but we will go ahead and start working in the right direction with our internal staff and industry partners.

3. Simplify Messaging and Provide Visibility. "Complex" is perhaps understating the federal funding and engineering issues that SCDOT deals with on a daily basis. We realize that we must provide easy to understand descriptions of our activities, budget, revenues and other items of interest. We owe it to the citizens of South Carolina an easy to use resource that explains how the agency is funded and what it does with those resources. As such, we will be launching some new graphics for our budget, posting our project rankings, releasing a monthly expenditure report and using Facebook and Twitter to get the word out on the good things that our team does. I will need the help of everyone on the SCDOT team to help keep our Communications Office in the know, so please don't hesitate to send Pete Poore items and pictures of items that you want to celebrate so he can consider posting them to social media.

4. Procurement of Professional Services. SCDOT wants the procurement process for consultants to be transparent and free from any appearance of conflict. We are in the process of revising our selection process for consultants in order to assist with this effort. Additionally, we have

implemented a new policy that adds an additional layer of protection to the statutory provisions of the Ethics Act by precluding any former SCDOT employee from using their qualifications to gain an unfair advantage on a contract for a year after leaving SCDOT. This requirement does not preclude any employee from gaining employment in their profession once they leave agency. However, it does restrict their new company from using that former employee before the agency as they compete for a contract. The purpose of this new policy and our revisions to our selection process is to draw a clear line and address the perception of conflicts of interest or undue influence in these multi-million dollar contracts.

I expect the dialogue to continue in the next legislative session on funding and restructuring of SCDOT. We must continue our efforts to remain focused on our mission and doing our very best every day to get the job done. I have a vision of SCDOT as being recognized as a strong and effective DOT. The goal is for SCDOT to be viewed as efficient, reliable, focused on the mission, and ACT 114 compliant. We are committed to restoring relationships. I am calling on you to help the agency achieve that vision.