

THE CONNECTOR

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2017

SCDOT's plan to rebuild SC's highway system

By Pete Poore

Long before the General Assembly passed the Roads Bill in May that provided the agency with the first sustainable revenue increase in three decades, SCDOT had been preparing for a plan to use the new source of revenue and couple the new money with current funding for existing programs.

The result was a 10-year plan designed to rebuild decayed and crumbling roads, replace structurally deficient bridges, widen interstate highways and very importantly, improve the safety of our rural roads in the corridors where the highest percentage of fatalities occur.

The Roads Bill went into effect on July 1 with a two-cent gas tax increase. The fee will be raised two cents per year for six years for a total of 12 cents at the end of a six-year period. In addition, the vehicle sales tax will be raised on July 1 along with other vehicle-related fees.

The estimate for the new revenue in the first year is \$149 million. Those funds will be put to work immediately. Those projects are primarily road resurfacing projects. Already, SCDOT has awarded a total of 247 projects for 260 miles of paving projects in 30 counties. More proj-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The state's gasoline tax will increase 2 cents per year for the next six years. Motorists across the state will see more traffic cones and work zones as road repairs, paving and interstate widening projects increase over the next 10 years.

ects in these and other counties the next four months. A new program that has

launched as part of the plan is the Rural Road Safety Program.

South Carolina has the highest rural road fatality rate in the nation.

To learn more about SCDOT's plan visit:
<http://www.scdot.org/inside/smp.aspx>

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Cox joins SCDOT Commission

Governor Henry McMaster announced the appointment of Myrtle Beach businessman Tony K. Cox to the state Department of Transportation Commission representing the seventh congressional district. The appointment follows the Thursday resignation of former commissioner Mike Wooten.

“Tony is a highly respected leader in our state’s business community and his service to our state will be invaluable,” said Gov. McMaster. “He will ensure taxpayer dollars are properly used to pave and repair roads because that’s what South Carolinians deserve. He will be an advocate for reform and efficiency because that’s what the system needs.”

Cox, a graduate of Coastal Carolina University, is a real estate professional with over 35 years of experience. He currently serves as the executive vice president at Burroughs and Chapin Co, Inc. in Myrtle Beach.



Tony K. Cox
SCDOT Commissioner
7th Congressional District

Cox has previously served on the South Carolina Real Estate Commission, Horry County Planning Commission and the Myrtle Beach Air Base Redevelopment Authority.

Cox, 59, is a resident of Horry County.

SCDOT places second at Regional Rodeo



ANDY LEAPHART/SCDOT

SCDOT’s State Team included, from left: Ken Hunt, Tommy Johnson, Sam Leroy, Scott Burgess, Brian Hodges, Jeff Shrewsberry, Jacob Cockrell, Charles Long, Ronnie Byars, Brandon Varnadore, Ricky Stroble and Cody McAbee.

SCDOT came in second place at the Regional Equipment Operators’ Rodeo in Sevierville, Tenn., on Sept. 20, 2017.

The first and second place winner’s in this year’s SCDOT State Rodeo competed with their counterparts across the Southeast.

Jeremy Shrewsberry from

District 4 took third place in the tandem axel dump truck.

Brian Hodges from District 4 placed second in the tractor with lowboy trailer competition.

Charles Long from District 2 took second place in the backhoe competition.

SCDOT’s team finished second

overall out of 10 states. Mississippi was third and Tennessee was first for the eighth time in the last 10 years.

In the past 3 years, SCDOT has placed first, third and second.

SCDOT hopes to take first place from Tennessee next year at the competition in Rogers, Ark.

South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission



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1st Congressional District



John N. Hardee
2nd Congressional District



Ben H. Davis Jr.
3rd Congressional District



Woodrow W. Willard
4th Congressional District



Gene Branham
5th Congressional District



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6th Congressional District



Tony K. Cox
7th Congressional District



Clifton Parker
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THE CONNECTOR

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Christy Hall is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



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In preparation for this program, SCDOT traffic engineers have identified the rural roads that are the most dangerous.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said this program is aimed at the worst-of-the-worst roads. “The research done by our engineers has revealed that 30 percent of our rural highway deaths occur on only 5 percent of our highways and these roads are in our rural areas. We plan to invest \$50 million of the new funds into this program each year to save as many lives as possible,” she said.

These targeted roads will see a variety of improvements as needed in each location. Among the improvements are the addition of rumble strips, guard rail, widening shoulders and building shoulders where there are none.

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** said the additional funding will allow the agency to continue and expand on-going programs. “Our current bridge replacement program began in earnest in 2013. The new funding enables us to set a higher

target of replacing 465 bridges over the next ten years. Many of the structures are load-restricted and cannot be used by school buses and larger trucks,” said Colvin.

Another on-going program that will benefit from additional funding is the Interstate Widening Program. SCDOT is currently working to improve 140 miles of interstate highways. As the revenue grows, SCDOT will reach a point in the 10-year plan where even more interstate widening can be added to the program. But for now, the agency is taking a “Fix it First” approach.

SCDOT considers the hallmark of the 10-year plan to be the rebuilding and resurfacing of the roads in the state. Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration **Brian Keys** said a three-decade shortfall in resources has led to crumbling roads all over the state. “The poor pavement conditions and countless potholes are spread throughout the system on our interstates, the major routes that connect our cities and towns and our secondary roads. These conditions did not occur overnight, nor will rebuilding the highway system be accomplished overnight. But the additional funding



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The plan includes reducing the number of structurally deficient bridges across the state. Above, a ‘posted bridge’ on North Rhett Avenue in Charleston County limits the weight of vehicles able to use the bridge.

allows SCDOT to turn the corner and start the repairs,” said Keys.

Secretary Hall’s message to the public is patience. “Our roads fell into neglect over a 30-year

period. We believe the 10-year plan can make great strides in rebuilding our system. The new funding will trickle into the Maintenance Trust Fund at first. But as

**See PLAN
on page 21**



The preservation of our existing roads includes increased routine maintenance and paving.



Here, crews repave a rural road in Greenwood County on July 17.

SCDOT unveils its updated Strategic Plan

By Pete Poore

SCDOT's Leadership began developing a new strategic plan last year which would serve to set goals for the agency and provide a specific, but uncomplicated system to measure the progress of achieving those goals.

The significance of this version of the Strategic Plan is that it's designed to fit hand-in-glove as one of the measuring systems for SCDOT's 10-Year Plan for "Rebuilding our Roads."

This 10-Year Plan is the SCDOT's road map to implement the new highway revenue provided in the Roads Bill on July 1, 2017. The Roads Bill is the first significant, sustainable increase in resources for SCDOT in 30 years. SCDOT's task is to repair and rebuild the state's transportation network to provide a safe and reliable system.

In early July of 2017, Secretary Hall and members of the Senior Staff began "rolling out" and introducing the Strategic Plan to SCDOT employees. A series of half-day sessions were held at Headquarters and at the Districts to unveil the plan, explain how this one differs from previous plans, and to answer questions.

A series of "roll outs" is taking place at the District and County levels in August and September. Secretary Hall said, "The purpose of the rollouts is to educate and inform our team members on the funding, our plan for implementing it along with other recurring annual programs and clearly identify our strategic priorities. The alignment of the entire organization to achieve our 10-year vision is absolutely essential. I look forward to working cohesively to achieve our goals and demonstrate that we can get the job done."



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT has a 10-year plan to rebuild the state's highway system. A major project in that plan includes redesigning and updating Carolina Crossroads, the intersection of I-26, I-20 and I-126 in Columbia.

The SCDOT Strategic Plan for 2018 –to 2020 can be found on the Intranet and at this link on the SCDOT web site:
<http://www.scdot.org/inside/smp.aspx>

Crane removes S.C. 41 swing span bridge



A 500-ton crane lifts the steel swing-span truss from the S.C. 41 bridge over the Wando River on Aug. 18, 2017.

The 1939 structure was placed on a barge to be relocated and used as an artificial reef.



PHOTOGRAPHS
BY ROB THOMPSON
/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT's Updated Strategic Plan

Our task over the next 10 years and beyond is to repair and rebuild our transportation network to ensure that our citizens and businesses can travel on a safe and reliable system. This is a core function of government and SCDOT is entrusted with the responsibility to effectively and efficiently utilize tax payer funds to turn the status of the state-owned transportation network around. We will accomplish this mission by establishing an overarching Strategic Plan to guide our initiatives, a Transportation Asset Management Plan to articulate our targets and embrace performance management principles that will enable us to determine how we are doing in achieving our goals. We will also utilize risk management strategies to help us identify and mitigate potential obstacles to achieving success.

Strategic Plan

Provides direction through Vision, Mission, Goals, Strategies and Objectives.

TAMP

Transportation Asset Management Plan: Implements priorities by establishing investment levels and desired targets.

Performance Management

Tracks Progress towards Goals through outcome-based measures and provides information to guide decisions regarding changing or adjusting goals, targets or investment levels.

VALUES: The SCDOT team recognizes the importance of all SCDOT divisions, units, and offices functioning as one team – One SCDOT. Our team not only serves our citizens and businesses to accomplish the mission and achieve the vision, it also exemplifies the qualities and holds the values that make us one of the top DOT's in the nation.



Our core Values are:
Team
Excellence
Accountability
Make a Difference

Goal 1: Improve safety programs and outcomes in our high-risk areas.

- Strategy:** Continue implementation of Highway Safety Plan.
- Objective:** Reduce fatalities by 6% by end of calendar year 2020.
- Strategy:** Develop and implement a data-driven, rural road safety program.
- Objective:** Reduce fatalities on roads in our rural areas.

Goal 2: Maintain and preserve our existing transportation infrastructure.

- Strategy:** Improve SCDOT's reliability on resolving reported maintenance issues.
- Objective:** Increase responsiveness regarding customer service requests for routine maintenance items.
- Strategy:** Utilize the Transportation Asset Management Plan to drive outcomes on system and asset condition.
- Objective:** Increase the % Good Pavements on the road network across the state.
- Objective:** Decrease the number of structurally deficient bridges across the state.
- Objective:** Improve the level of service of our day-to-day maintenance of the State System for key safety-related items.
- Objective:** Decrease the number of mass transit vehicles in poor condition.
- Strategy:** Increase competition by growing the number of South Carolina contractors capable of bidding on road & bridge work.
- Objective:** Enhance the network of small businesses that are ready, willing and able to assist the Agency in meeting its infrastructure goals.

Goal 3: Improve SCDOT program delivery to increase the efficiency and reliability of our road and bridge network.

- Strategy:** Target known congested areas.
- Objective:** Improve the reliability of the movement of people and goods across the major portions of our road network.

- Strategy:** Increase SCDOT's reliability of delivering projects on-time and on-budget.
- Objective:** Projects proceed on schedule and within budget in accordance with SCDOT's 10-year Program Delivery Plan.
- Objective:** Expedite the environmental permitting process for road and bridge projects. ITC

Goal 4: Provide a safe and productive work environment for SCDOT employees.

- Strategy:** Promote workforce safety throughout the state.
- Objective:** Increase the public's awareness of highway worker safety in our work zones.
- Objective:** Establish programs to provide unit and individual safety awards and incentives.
- Strategy:** Reinforce a culture of excellent customer service at SCDOT.
- Objective:** Launch updated Customer Service Training.
- Objective:** Increase responsiveness.
- Strategy:** Plan for an evolving workforce.
- Objective:** Prepare for an anticipated loss of workforce experience and expertise due to TERI program completion and other retirements.
- Objective:** Train and develop a strong bench of future leaders through participation in leadership programs.
- Objective:** Continue and enhance efforts to promote a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

Goal 5: Earn public trust through transparency, improved communications and audit compliance.

- Strategy:** Utilize multiple ways to facilitate interactive communication about SCDOT.
- Objective:** Simplify the website to create a more user-friendly interface.
- Objective:** Launch Speaker's Bureau to provide forums for agency personnel to provide updates directly to the public and our industry partners.
- Strategy:** Re-tool our existing reports to make them easier to understand.
- Objective:** Simplify public reporting on the use of taxpayer dollars.
- Objective:** Develop an effective method for communicating how projects are prioritized.
- Strategy:** Provide continuous assurance of audit compliance.
- Objective:** Institute a process for providing verification that corrective actions implemented as a result of an audit are continuous.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE: Highway contractors work on replacing bridges on U.S. 378 east of Columbia in Richland County on June 22, 2017. With the recent passage of an increase in the state's gasoline tax, motorists will see a ramp-up in the number of road and bridge repairs, widening projects and paving projects across the state.

Contractors gearing up for added workload

By Bob Kudelka

Contractors began gearing up for additional work even before the General Assembly passed the historic roads bill of 2017.

"They're very excited to see the state made the investment," said Leslie Clark, director of Carolinas AGC's SC Government Relations. "It makes them more comfortable in investing as well. They know it's real now."

That's important considering it would have taken firms 12 to 18 months to get the necessary equipment, manpower and facilities to handle more contracts, according to Carolinas AGC, a construction trade association made up of 1,000 contractors and construction-related firms that perform work in North Carolina and South Carolina.

"For the first time, I think they were starting to feel comfortable that we could get a package across the finish line," Clark said. "Had they not been, I think we would be two to three years behind the eight ball."

The centerpiece of the roads bill provides an increase in sustained funding to fix more roads and bridges through a graduated increase in the gasoline tax. Effective July

1, the state raised the gas tax 2 cents per gallon per year for the next six years for total of 12 cents per gallon after the sixth year.

By year six, SCDOT expects to have grown its statewide resurfacing program by about \$400 million. A first priority is \$50 million to improve safety on some of the state's higher risk locations.

"Having a phase-in (for funding) gives us time to get our ducks in a row," Clark said. "Our members can hire the workers, buy the equipment, and build more plants. That gives both us and DOT the opportunity to be successful."

It had been 30 years since the state's gas tax was adjusted.

This included some lean times for contractors who had been "saying for years they were not going to invest in their com-



Leslie Clark
Carolinas AGC

panies when the state was not going to invest in projects," Clark said.

Contractors will be using plans adopted by the Commission in June and Secretary **Christy A. Hall's** 10-year plan "to help determine not only what projects to bid on but also if they'll need additional asphalt plants."

One challenge ahead will be finding the additional workforce needed. Nationally, there has been a shortage of workers for highway jobs, Clark said, mainly due to how tough the work is and the sometimes extreme weather conditions.

Clark said Carolinas AGC visits middle schools and high schools to educate students about construction careers. The group hopes to get funding for a program with an 18-wheeler complete with hands-on video applications used to showcase the industry



to students.

"We are trying to sell the industry to these students and also their parents," Clark said.

SCDOT has been holding outreach sessions with industry partners on strategies to meet the ramp-up in work.

State Construction Engineer **Claude Ipock** said the agency has been pleased to see the private sector response.

"We anticipate seeing more asphalt plants in the state and increased numbers of paving crews," Ipock said. "Our industry partners have been adding capacity, increasing equipment purchases and boosting their recruiting and training processes."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Crews were ready for Irma

Annual drills prepared employees

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT crews were out in force June 7 for the annual hurricane evacuation drill, practicing what it takes to reverse lanes on major routes from the coast.

Years of practice paid off in 2016 when the state reversed lanes on I-26 for Hurricane Matthew, marking the first time a reversal was put in place on an SC interstate highway.

Several hundred SCDOT employees took part in this year's exercise. They were stationed on portions of I-26, including at the I-77 crossover, U.S. 501, U.S. 21 and U.S. 278.

"Everything went well," said State Traffic Management Engineer **Rob Perry**, who has taken over the supervisory role from now retired **Dick Jen-**

kins.

Perry said it is important to practice the large-scale evacuations yearly for a couple of reasons.

"As we upgrade our facilities, you might see where a median crossover is at a different position or that an interchange has changed," Perry said. "Also, it ensures that any new employees tasked with a supporting role know their mission and job."

Perry, who early in his career participated in the annual drill as an engineer in District 6, said he was surprised at how many different agencies work together to make the evacuation possible.

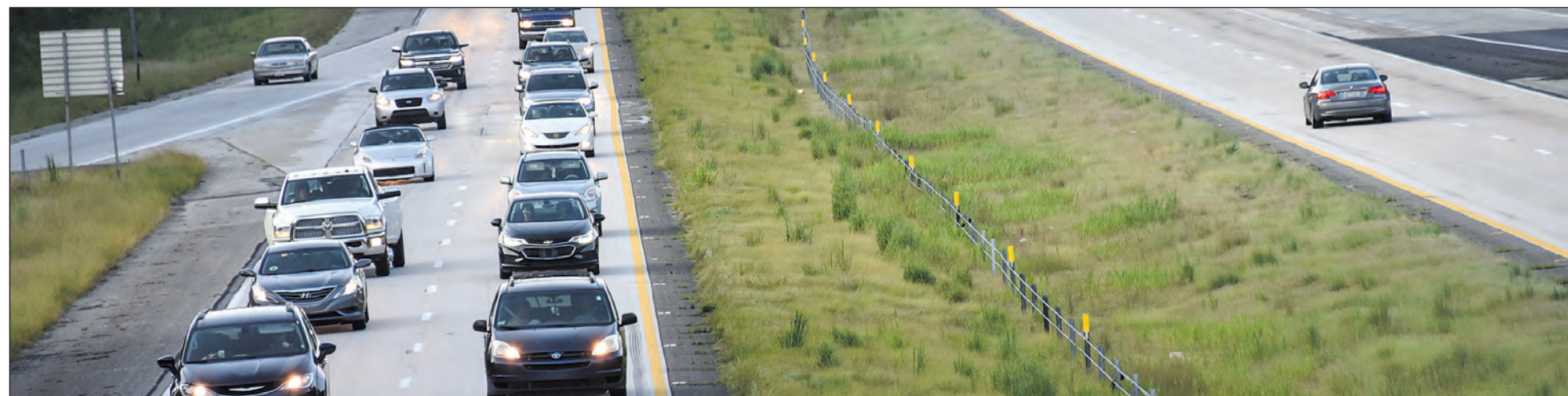
"It's not just DOT and the Highway Patrol – there's SLED, Civil Air Patrol, DNR, the SC National Guard and other partners," Perry said. "It takes a village to conduct an evacuation of our coast."

SCDOT crews put traffic barrels out on the I-26 West ramp to I-77 North during the June 6, 2017, drill.



LEFT: On Sept. 9, 2017, the District 6 Bridge Construction crew was ready with cones, barrels and barricades in case U.S. 278 needed to be reversed for Hilton Head Island evacuation traffic from Hurricane Irma.

RIGHT: Jasper Maintenance was ready to block off turn lanes with cones if U.S. 278 needed to be reversed out of Hilton Head Island on Sept 9, 2017.



Evacuation traffic from Florida filled I-95 North through South Carolina on Sept. 9, 2017. Traffic was moving along at a good pace, but the speed varied along the interstate route.

GROUNDBREAKINGS & RIBBON CUTTINGS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

I-95/U.S. 301/S.C. 6 CONNECTOR PROJECT

Dignitaries officially cut the ribbon on the completed I-95 and U.S. 301 Interchange and U.S. 301 extension to S.C. 6 on May 8, 2017.



S.C. 9 BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS IN LOCKHART

Dignitaries, SCDOT project managers and contractors break ground on a project to replace four bridges on S.C. 9 in the Union County town of Lockhart. The groundbreaking was held on May 5, 2017. All four structures are being replaced due to structural deficiencies. Completion is scheduled for March of 2020.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

U.S. Representative James E. Clyburn of the 6th Congressional District and other dignitaries cut the ribbon on the new pedestrian bridge at South Carolina State University over the Highway 21 Bypass in Orangeburg on May 12, 2017.



U.S. 301 BRIDGES IN CLARENDON COUNTY

Dignitaries cut the ribbon on May 4, 2017, to mark the completion of three bridges and one section of roadway on U.S. 301 that had been washed out by the flood of October 2015. This section of U.S. 301 connects the towns of Manning and Turbeville.

Work Zone Safety Bill

Governor signs new law protecting highway workers

By Bob Kudelka

State leaders celebrated the June signing of a new law to make work zones safer, three months after two SCDOT employees were killed on the job.

"This is a tragic moment, but is also a moment of hope and determination for the people of South Carolina," Governor Henry McMaster said before signing Act 81 at SCDOT's Aiken Maintenance facility on June 14, 2017.

It was in Aiken County on March 13 when SCDOT employees **Anthony "Tony" Redmond** and **Robert "Bob" Clark** were killed while inspecting a shoulder washout. The driver of the vehicle has been charged with two counts of reckless homicide and two counts of hit-and-run involving death and one count of hit-and-run involving minor injury, according to press reports.

Family members of fallen workers attended the signing ceremony, sitting in the front row during remarks and then standing around the seated Governor during the signing.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said the signing of Act 81 was a five-year effort. Hall, who has spoken out for the need for tougher laws, thanked Carolinas AGC and the Aiken County Legislative Delegation. "Without you, we would not be here today," she said.

State Representative William "Bill" Hixon, of District 83, said Hall approached him in March and asked if he didn't mind sponsoring a bill to help workers in work zones.

"I got every one of my delegation to sign on," Hixon said.

"There was never any hesitation. It's an honor to stand here today to talk about this bill."

"It's dangerous out there," Hixon said. "What we wanted to do is save lives; this work zone bill is going to save lives. We mean business in South Carolina. This is a serious offense and if you're caught in one of the work zones, there will be substantial penalties. We want to make it crystal clear that South Carolina takes this issue very seriously. We want to protect our workers in South Carolina."

State Senator Tom Young Jr., of District 24, said it was a "bittersweet day."

"As you know, we have tried to pass this bill for several years in the General Assembly," Young said. "We finally got it passed but it happened this year because we had the tragic loss of life in Aiken County in March... This bill will make sure more workers in this state will go home to their families at the end of the day."

SCDOT Commission Chairman Woodrow "Woody" Willard Jr. of Spartanburg delivered remarks on behalf of the Commission. In attendance were Vice-Chairman John N. Hardee and Commissioner David E. "Gene" Branham.

"It is the Commission's hope that this act will improve the awareness of all citizens to respect and protect those whose mission is to keep us safe," Willard said.

Hall said the new law is designed not only to protect SCDOT workers, but road-building contractors, utility workers and anyone else doing work on the roadside.

"Work zones are a temporary



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signs the Act 81 Work Zone Safety Law on June 14, 2017, at SCDOT's Aiken Maintenance Facility.

inconvenience to the average motorist," Hall said. "Our one ask is to be patient, to slow down and pay attention. Let 'em work; let 'em live. The life you may save may be your own."

McMaster, who recalled that one of his first jobs was working highway construction for a private firm, said seeing all the SCDOT workers wearing orange vests reminded him of law enforcement officers who wear bullet proof vests.

The orange vests, he said, "won't stop a bullet, and neither will they stop an automobile or truck."

"Because of the tragedies that have fallen to these families and many others over time in South Carolina we have passed a new understanding, a new law of what we expect of our people, and that is to slow down and be careful when you're going through one of these work zones," McMaster said.

The legislation increases the penalties for motorists who speed through work zones above the posted limits. The fines range from \$500 to \$5,000 for endangering a highway worker without injury, to causing bodily harm, to the death of a highway worker. The fines collected will be used to provide more law enforcement officers to focus on patrolling work zones.

H.4033, Work Zone Bill

- Creates the offense of "endangering a highway worker" when:

- Driving through a work zone outside of a designated lane, or
- Failing to obey traffic control devices in the work zone,
- Unless due to avoiding obstacle, emergency, or for safety of another person

- Endangering a Highway Worker levels of offense:

- No physical injury--\$500-1000
- Physical injury--\$1000-2000
- Great bodily injury--\$2000-5000

- Fines are in addition to other charges that may be brought, such as DUI, reckless driving, vehicular homicide

- Fines may not be waived or reduced below the minimum

- 65% of revenue goes to DPS for work zone enforcement

- 25% of revenue goes to SCDOT for hiring off-duty police to monitor work zones

- 10% goes to county or municipality

SOURCE: SCDOT LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ALLEN HUTTO

Workers' Memorial Day April 28, 2017



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall greets family members and presents them with flowers before the start of the ceremony on April 28, 2017.



Three empty chairs with hard hats and safety vests feature photographs of the most recent SCDOT workers killed on the job – John Branham, Robert Clark and Tony Redmond.

Ceremony honors fallen SCDOT workers

By Bob Kudelka

One by one, the names of 73 SCDOT employees who died on the job since 1945 were read aloud by Director of Communications **Pete Poore** at

the 2017 Workers' Memorial Day ceremony.

A year earlier, at the 2016 ceremony, Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** had hoped no additional names would be added to that list for 2017.

"Unfortunately, that's not the case," Hall said. "Three more names were added to the list."

John Keith Branham of York Maintenance died Sept. 16, 2016; and **Anthony "Tony" Redmond** and **Robert L. Clark**, both of Ai-

ken Maintenance, died on March 13, 2017.

Members of fallen employees' families, co-workers and Commission members gathered for the brief ceremony in front of Headquarters on April 28.

There is "great sadness and a heavy heart today as we honor fallen employees," said SCDOT

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**.

"This is a solemn day, but an important day," said Commission Chairman Woodrow "Woody" W. Willard Jr., of Spartanburg. "These

Continued on next page



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Director of Communications Pete Poore reads off the names of the 73 employees killed on the job while working for SCDOT. The employees are listed below:

ASA TEAGUE 11/4/25 – Laurens Maintenance	DONNIE CECIL FULMER 5/19/60 – Fairfield Maintenance	CLARENCE THOMPSON 9/10/71 – Oconee Maintenance	SPENCER ROGERS 1/3/94 – Lee Maintenance	MICHAEL A. WILSON 2/16/06 – Lexington Maintenance
LAUDE P. GENTRY 2/13/30 – Columbia Maintenance	WILLIAM EUGENE CALDWELL 8/31/60 – Laurens Maintenance	WALTER H. OWENS JR. 5/7/74 – Georgetown Maintenance	MITCHELL DAVID SMITH 4/4/94 – Berkeley Maintenance	ADRIAN DANIEL SMITH 4/17/06 – Darlington Maintenance
H. F. ULMER 1/1/39 – Headquarters	JOLLY RAMPEY 12/3/60 – Pickens Maintenance	RALPH EDWARD MOORE 12/21/79 – Cherokee Maintenance	CHARLES W. RICHARDS 8/27/94 – Charleston Maintenance	STANDRA JONES 12/6/07 – Lexington Maintenance
B. M. PROCTOR 1/1/39 – Headquarters	CLAUDE M. DILLASHAW 4/12/61 – McCormick Maintenance	JOHNNIE BUSSEY JR 6/30/86 – Edgefield Maintenance	LARRY TYLER 4/16/97 – Lexington Maintenance	NOAH C. LARK 4/6/11 – Greenville Maintenance
FRANCIS CURTIS DeVORE 1/14/46 – Richland Maintenance	DANIEL WEBSTER PEAVY 4/24/61 – Horry Maintenance	CHARLES W. EARL 12/4/86 – Chester Maintenance	LARRY E. STEVENS 8/5/97 – Newberry Maintenance	NATHANIEL PRESTON 1/12/12 – Holly Hill Maintenance
WILLIAM LEE WHITE 10/17/47 – Chester Maintenance	GEORGE SIMMS 8/30/61 – Newberry Maintenance	MICHELLE YVONNE STOKES 6/1/88 – Clarendon Maintenance	ROBERT (BOBBY) SHULER 2/10/99 – Dorchester Maintenance	NICHOLAS Z. JOHNSON 12/3/12 – Richland Maintenance
ELLIS H. LANCASTER 7/6/53 – Union Maintenance	LERROY DAWKINS 8/30/61 – Newberry Maintenance	THEODORE GIBBS 9/23/88 – Berkeley Maintenance	EDWARD LEE BROOKS 9/2/99 – York Maintenance	PETER TARPLEY 10/1/13 – Headquarters
JOHNNIE EVANS McKELLAR 7/16/53 – Dillon Maintenance	CLARK PERRY 11/19/63 – Supply & Equipment	JAMES EVANS 7/25/89 – York Maintenance	EDWARD HAMBY 3/8/00 – Anderson Maintenance	LANNY COPE 1/27/14 – Lexington Maintenance
MATTHEW KINARD 10/15/53 – Richland Maintenance	MARY ELIZABETH MOORER 6/8/64 – Headquarters	CHARLES OBIE VAUGHN 4/27/90 – Anderson Maintenance	JIMMY TYRONE HARRISON 5/9/00 – Richland Construction	DORA R. MARCHANT 8/7/14 – Dorchester Construction
FURMAN HATTEN DALLAS 6/7/54 – Spartanburg Maintenance	CECIL JEROME ALFORD 2/21/66 – Horry Maintenance	D. A. STEVENS JR. 8/30/90 – Berkeley Maintenance	ARTHUR LEE HAY 2/1/01 – Allendale Maintenance	PAUL L. FEE 2/28/15 – Richland Maintenance
J. D. NIMMONS 3/18/55 – Anderson Maintenance	JOSEPH MATTHEWS 3/25/66 – Greenville Maintenance	JAMES EMERSON Fairfield Maintenance	TED C. YANDLE JR. 8/16/01 – Richland Maintenance	TIMOTHY W. GIBSON 10/4/15 – Richland Maintenance
JAMES SPOFFORD 6/1/56 – Chesterfield Maintenance	LUTHER ANCRUM 1/15/68 – Charleston Maintenance	JOHNNY RANDOLPH JR. 8/11/92 – Calhoun Maintenance	BOBBY KING 4/11/02 – Florence Materials Lab	HENRY C. (RAY) NORRIS JR. 10/20/15 – Darlington Maintenance
ROBERT CALDWELL RUFF 5/26/59 – Newberry Maintenance	MACEO SHULER 8/28/68 – Orangeburg Maintenance	ROBERT N. RICE 3/25/93 – Headquarters	DAVID A. STAPLETON 8/11/03 – Cherokee Maintenance	JOHN KEITH BRANHAM 9/16/16 – York Maintenance
LOUIS DONDERO 11/1/59 – Colleton Maintenance	AUDIE WILLIAMS 5/24/71 – Holly Hill Maintenance	WILLIAM E. MURRAY 8/30/93 – Cherokee Maintenance	JAMES RUSSELL HINSON 10/13/03 – Chester Maintenance	ANTHONY "TONY" REDMOND 3/13/17 – Aiken Maintenance
DANIEL PERRY PADGETT 3/4/60 – Allendale Maintenance			ALAN SNIDER 1/20/05 – Calhoun Maintenance	ROBERT L. CLARK 3/13/17 – Aiken Maintenance.

**Continued
from page 10**

men and women are gone but they inspired us with their dedication and their sense of service and duty for the good of all of South

Carolina.”

Vice Chairman John N. Hardee and Commissioner David E. "Gene" Branham Sr. were also in attendance.

Speakers also included FHWA's South Carolina Division Administrator Emily Lawton and SCDOT Director of Occupational Safety and Health **Kenny Eargle**.

Hall's remarks included urging the General Assembly to pass the work zone safety bill which legislators did later in the spring.

After the roll call of names Hall spoke directly to the family members in attendance.

“Thank you all so much for being here today we appreci-

ate your strength and your courage to be here and to carry on” Hall said. “We also honor the crews in the DOT family many of which are standing behind me today and out in the audience. Thank you for the sacrifices you made.”

Hall ended her remarks speaking of the employees who are no longer

with us.

“Rest easy your work is done,” Hall said. “You will be forever in our hearts and minds and we have gratitude for the time we spent together and the lessons you have taught us we will carry those forward . . . and will never forget these fine men and women of SCDOT.”

York Street bridges over railroad replaced in Aiken

The S-31 (York Street) Bridges were identified for replacement due to substandard conditions (classified as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, with a sufficiency rating of 3.0).

The northbound lane bridge was closed to traffic on Feb. 18, 2016, due to significant structural losses in substructure observed during routine SCDOT inspection and had been load restricted prior to closure.

The project consists of replacement of both northbound and southbound bridges and approaches on S-31 (York Street) over Norfolk Southern Railroad with new single-span steel beam bridges with all-wood decking, sidewalks and barrier railings.

The replacement bridges were designed using context sensitive design in partnership with the City of Aiken and the Aiken Historic Society as they are located in the Aiken Historic District.

The project was let on July 12, 2016, and awarded to United Infrastructure Group, Inc. on July 29, 2016, for a low bid of \$3,683,927.50. The contractor was given Notice to Proceed on Sept. 7, 2016, and began work on Sept. 14, 2016.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Dignitaries cut the ribbon on the York Street Bridges in Aiken on June 16, 2017. The twin bridges have steel supports and wooden decks. They span 70 feet across and 21.5 feet above the Norfolk Southern Railroad. From left, are: SCDOT District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt, SCDOT Chief Engineer for Operations Andy Leaphart, Representative Bart T. Blackwell, SCDOT Commissioner John N. Hardee, Representative Bill Clyburn, Aiken City Councilman Philip Merry, Senator Tom Young Jr., Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon, Michelle Jones with the City of Aiken, SCDOT York Resident Construction Engineer Bobby Usry and Alan Decker of United Contractors.

Signs erected to celebrate USC's Women's Basketball championship

Acting upon a request from the University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is installing state highway signs recognizing USC's 2017 Women's Basketball National Championship.

A total of 15 signs will be erected at Welcome Centers near the South Carolina border and at several locations around the City of Columbia. The first sign was installed Friday, May 26, 2017, at southbound S.C. 277 near the Harden Street Extension intersection.

SCDOT funds were not used for the signs, which will remain in place for one year.



Gerald Peoples, left, and Willie Lawson, right, install a highway sign on S.C. 277 near the Harden Street Extension on May 26, 2017, recognizing USC's 2017 Women's Basketball National Championship.

PROMOTIONS

Kenneth Adams, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on May 17.

Barry Adams, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Omar Al-Hindi, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on July 2.

Cleveland Anderson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Georgetown Maintenance on July 2.

Mary Andrews, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 4 - Upstate on May 2.

Candace Bass, promoted to administrative assistant at Fairfield Maintenance on June 17.

Benjamin Baughman, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Joseph Bennett, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 - Midlands on June 17.

Brian Bernier, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Tara Blankenship, promoted to FTS manager I in Traffic Engineering on June 17.

Lester Bodkin, promoted to senior geodetic technician in the office of the Director of Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Gail Bogan, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Pavement Management on May 17.

Frankie Boyd, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Bamberg Construction on Aug. 17.

Jared Bragg, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at York Construction on July 2.

Rusty Britt, promoted to OSHA officer II at Marion Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Karen Brooks, promoted to accountant/fiscal analyst III in Accounting on July 2.

Robert Brown, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Aiken Construction on June 2.

Rodney Brown, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Duane Burdick, promoted to systems programmer/developer III in IT Services on July 2.

William Burgess, promoted to trades specialist IV at Florence Maintenance on June 17.

Akeem Butler, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Lexington Surveys on July 17.

Kevin Bykalo, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 - Lowcountry on June 17.

James Carswell, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Berkeley Maintenance on May 2.

Ronald Cassell, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Pickens Construction on July 2.

Dallen Charles, promoted to trades specialist IV at Sumter Maintenance on June 17.

James Collins, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on July 2.

Ervin Connor, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on June 2.

David Cook, promoted to Director of Maintenance on July 2.

James Corley, promoted to systems programmer/developer III in IT Services on July 2.

Michael Coulter, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Jeremey Coward, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Lexington Construction on May 2.

Ashley Dawsey, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in the office of the Director of Maintenance on June 2.

Hillman Dorn, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Saluda Construction on July 2.

Benjamin Durant, promoted to trades specialist IV at Florence Maintenance on May 2.

Victor Edwards, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 4 Office on July 2.

Jamison Fickel, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Dorchester Surveys on May 17.

Adam Garris, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Florence Surveys on July 17.

Edward Gathers, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on May 2.

Benita Gibbs, promoted to trades specialist III at Orangeburg Maintenance on June 17.

Theodora Gillette, promoted to systems programmer/developer III in IT Services on July 2.

Darrin Glidden, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on June 17.

Derrick Goodman, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Lexington Maintenance on May 17.

Peter Gosnell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Hampton Maintenance on May 17.

Dustin Grady, promoted to trades specialist III at Union Maintenance on May 2.

Romaine Grant, promoted to

trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Megan Groves, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 - Lowcountry on May 17.

Kristi Hackett, promoted to procurement specialist II at District 2 Office on Aug. 2.

James Hall, promoted to trades specialist IV at Newberry Maintenance on June 2.

Brian Hawkins, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Pickens Construction on Aug. 17.

Kevin Haynes, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on June 17.

Timothy Henderson, promoted to director of engineering at District 6 Office on July 17.

Kenneth Hilliard, promoted to mechanic III at Lexington Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Michael Holden, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 3 Office on Aug. 3.

Travis Hough, promoted to trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance on June 17.

Travis Huckabee, promoted to administrative coordinator II in Pre-Construction Support on May 17.

Dennis Hyatt, promoted to trades specialist IV at Marlboro Maintenance on June 17.

Justin Hyman, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on May 17.

Perry James, promoted to trades specialist V at Darlington Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Bradley Jeffcoat, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Materials and Research on May 17.

Stacey Johnson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 - Peedee on June 17.

Dustin Johnson, promoted to mechanic III at Orangeburg Maintenance on July 2.

Travis Jolly, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Lexington Construction on May 2.

Randy King, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support on July 2.

Nathan Lance, promoted to trades specialist V at District 4 - Pavement Repair and Preservation on July 17.

Samuel Leroy, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Abbeville Construction on July 2.

Kawanda Leverett-Brown, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I in Rights of Way on Aug. 17.

Tong Li, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 - Midlands on Aug. 17.

Chad Long, promoted to Director of Environmental Services on June 8.

Shannon Marcus, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Anderson Maintenance on June 17.

Travis Martin, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on July 17.

Joseph McBreairey, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Lexington Construction on Aug. 17.

Shelia McCorkle, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on July 2.

Celina McFadden, promoted to trades specialist III at Calhoun Maintenance on June 17.

Timothy McGee, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Marlboro Maintenance on July 2.

Kevin Mines, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on June 17.

Travis Mitchell, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Darlington Construction on June 17.

Brian Mixon, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Aug. 2.

Shelly Moffett, promoted to administrative specialist II at Lexington Maintenance on June 2.

Holly Moody, promoted to right of way agent III at Right of Way - Florence on May 2.

Cory Morse, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Michael Moss, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Chester Construction on July 2.

Jeffrey Muellenbach, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on July 2.

Christopher Neely, promoted to program manager I in Environmental on May 2.

Stephen Neely, promoted to trades specialist III at Fairfield Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Don Osborne, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Peggy Paxton, promoted to administrative coordinator I at District 3 Office on May 17.

Ingram Rivers, promoted to trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on May 2.

Gene Robertson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Newberry Maintenance on July 2.

David Sage, promoted to communications manager at SHEP - Upstate I-85 on Aug. 2.

Rachel Schilling, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 - Peedee on July 2.

Perry Simmons, promoted to trades specialist III at Marlboro Maintenance on Aug. 2.

John Sims, promoted to trades

specialist IV at Lancaster Maintenance on May 2.

Joseph Small, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Marion Construction on June 17.

Arthur Snelling, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 - Lowcountry on May 2.

Cayleigh Snodgrass, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Jasper Construction on Aug. 17.

Kenneth Spann, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on June 17.

Andrew Stanley, promoted to mechanic III at Colleton Maintenance on Aug. 2.

John Tisdale, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on June 17.

Joseph Tooley, promoted to communications manager at District 2 - Traffic Signals on Aug. 2.

Juan Torres, promoted to associate geodetic technician at District 1 - Bridge Inspection on July 17.

Terrica Turner, promoted to program coordinator II in Road Data Services on May 17.

Chase Waites, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Newberry Maintenance on June 2.

Qing Wang, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 - Peedee on May 17.

Kelly Ward, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on June 2.

James Weaver, promoted to mechanic III at Berkeley Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Justin Welch, promoted to chief geodetic technician at District 1 Office on May 17.

John Wessinger, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Rights of Way on May 17.

Dennis West, promoted to OSHA officer III in Safety on July 2.

Heath Whitfield, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Anderson Construction on June 17.

Seth Williams, promoted to mechanic III at Oconee Maintenance on May 2.

Sinclair Wright, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Colleton Construction on June 17.

Xinge Yin, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support on July 2.

Benjamin Yost, promoted to trades specialist IV at Chester Maintenance on July 17.

D'Mont Zeigler, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Traffic Engineering on Aug. 17.

Preston Zeigler, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on May 2.

Robert Dickinson named District 1 DEA

Robert C. Dickinson has been selected to serve as the District 1 Engineering Administrator (DEA).

Dickinson began his career with SCDOT in September 1990, after working 6 ½ years as the Division Manager for Professional Service Industries, an engineering consulting firm in Columbia.

Dickinson began his career at SCDOT in the Research and Materials Laboratory, as a geotechnical engineer. After 7½ years there, he became Resident Construction Engineer (RCE) in Richland County in February 1998.

After four years as an RCE, he became the Assistant District Construction Engineer for District 1 in February 2002 and was promoted to District Construction Engineer in May 2005.

Dickinson assumed the responsibilities of the District 1 Maintenance Engineer in April 2008. From April 2016 through February 2017, Dickinson assumed the duties of Acting DEA for District 1.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has experience as a Geotechnical, Environmental, Materials and Construction Engineer and has worked in various roles on numerous construction projects in District 1 and across South Carolina.

Dickinson was born in Kinston, N.C., and raised in Florence, S.C. He is a graduate of Wilson High School in Florence. He is married to the former Stacey Waldkirch of Camden, S.C. They have a daughter, Corey (26), and two sons, Lo-



Robert Dickinson

gan (23) and Clay (20). They live in Blythewood and are members of Shandon Baptist Church, where he is a deacon and teaches 12th grade boys Sunday School. In his

spare time he enjoys time with his family, camping and playing various sports, hunting, gardening and doing projects around the house and neighborhood.



Tim Henderson

Tim Henderson named D6 Engineering Administrator

Tim Henderson has been selected to serve as the District 6 Engineering Administrator overseeing the counties of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper.

Henderson is a 1990 graduate of Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor with nearly 24 years of service with SCDOT.

He began his career with SCDOT in 1993 as an Engineering Technician III in Colleton Bridge Construction and was promoted in 1995 to Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in Berkeley.

In 2000 he was promoted to Resident Construction Engineer in Charleston Construction "A" and eventually promoted to Assistant Project Manager of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge in 2002. He served as the Assistant Project Manager until the completion of the bridge in July 2005 and then work until October 2005 on the demolition of the Cooper River Bridges. Since October 2005 he has served as the District 6 Construction Engineer.

Henderson has lived in the Low Country all of his life and resides in the City of Hanahan with his wife, Tracy, and two children, Tristan and Tyler.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

JOB FAIRS

SCDOT participated in several job fairs in August. Here, job seekers visit with SCDOT's Tiffany Jones at the Employ SC Job Fair on Aug. 16, 2017. The job fair ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Jim Feda is Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning



Jim Feda

Jim Feda has been selected to serve as the SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning.

Feda has more than 34 years of experience within SCDOT and is recognized as an expert at the national level in maintenance, specifically with asset and performance management.

Feda's abilities will help SCDOT advance its vision for an expanded Transportation Asset Management Plan, which is the agency's 10-year road map that ties investment levels to predicted system condition/performance.

His commitment to service, continuous improvement, management metrics and innovative ideas will enable SCDOT to continue to advance its initiatives to make a difference to the state of South Carolina.

After graduating from Columbia's Cardinal Newman High School, serving in the US Navy for five years and then earning a BS degree in Civil Engineering at the University of South Carolina in 1983, Feda began his career at SCDOT in May of 1983 at

Richland Construction. He went on to hold a number of Assistant RME and RME positions in Midlands Counties. He was selected as RME of the Year twice in District 1 while serving in Sumter County.

In 1992, Feda was promoted to Assistant District Maintenance Engineer for District 1. Promotions followed to District Maintenance Engineer and in July of 2000, Feda assumed the duties as the DEA for District 1. Then came a move to Headquarters where he took on the job of Director of Maintenance in October of 2001. In that position, Feda was a key player in Maintenance Workforce Development on a national level as a member of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance. He served as SCDOT's Director of Maintenance until being named acting Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning.

He and his wife, Debra, have two sons, Joseph and Justin, and a daughter, Taylor (deceased), and two grandchildren. He enjoys cycling and spending time with his grandchildren.



David Cook

David Cook is Director of Maintenance

David B. Cook has been selected to serve as the SCDOT Director of Maintenance. His appointment was effective July 2, 2017.

Cook earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1991. After graduating, he began his career with SCDOT as an Engineering Technician V in Hampton Maintenance. Since that time, he has served as the Resident Maintenance Engineer for Hampton County, the District Mechanical Engineer in District 7, the Assistant Director of Supply and Equipment, the Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, and for the past eight years he has been serving as the State Maintenance Engineer in the Director of Maintenance office.

Cook became a Registered Professional Engineer in 1999. He also earned the Certified Public Manager credential in 2004.

He and his wife, Rhonda, reside in Chapin and have four sons ranging in age from 12 to 22 years old.

Rob Bedenbaugh is new Support Engineer

Rob Bedenbaugh, P.E, has accepted the position of Support Engineer within the Preconstruction Division. He started the position on June 2, 2017.

Bedenbaugh began his career with SCDOT in 1993 as a summer employee in the Abbeville Construction office. After graduating from Clemson University in May 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, he continued working as a Construction Engineer Assistant in Abbeville until being promoted into a road design position at headquarters. He was promoted to Design Group Coordinator in April 2000 where he supervised and trained a road group in the area of secondary, primary, interstate, safety and bridge projects.

In 2003, he was promoted to SCDOT Preliminary Design Engineer where he and his staff were responsible for the creation, evaluation and recommendation of preliminary geometric highway designs for the entire state. He also served as a Program Manager for the Ramp Upgrades for Safer Highways (RUSH), a program designed to identify and implement low cost safety improvements to interstate interchanges. After the restructuring of Preconstruction in 2007, Bedenbaugh became the State Roadway Design Support Engineer within the Preconstruction Support Section where he was responsible for roadway and geometric design support, pedestrian and bicycle program, landscape architecture, quality assurance reviews, policies and design standards.

Bedenbaugh is a registered Professional En-



Rob Bedenbaugh

ineer in the state of South Carolina, a Certified Public Manager and a member of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Design.

Bedenbaugh and his wife have two sons and is a member of Red Bank United Methodist Church in Lexington.

2017 Equipment Operators' Safety and Training Conference: Congratulations to all of this year's county winners, participants



Donnie Anderson
Clarendon Maintenance



J.W. Austin
York Maintenance



Brian Bernier
Charleston Maintenance



James Bishop
Jasper Maintenance



Lee Brazell
Holly Hill Maintenance



Melvin Brown
District 4 Crew



Scott Burgess
Lexington Maintenance



Wanda Burris
Kershaw Maintenance



Ronnie Byars
District 4 Crew



James Catoe
Kershaw Maintenance



Dallen Charles
Sumter Maintenance



Jacob Cockrell
Richland Maintenance



Wilshawn Commander
Darlington Maintenance



Robbie Craigo
Greenville Maintenance



Stanley Crews
Laurens Maintenance



David Crisp
Pickens Maintenance



Thaire Daley
Jasper Maintenance



John Davis
Saluda Maintenance



Joseph Dwinell
Anderson Maintenance



Kenneth Eaddy
Florence Maintenance



Luke Erwin
Colleton Maintenance



Patrick Fowler
Spartanburg Maintenance



Robert Galbreath
Pickens Maintenance



Darrin Glidden
Aiken Maintenance



Ervin Green
Charleston Maintenance



Phil Griffin
Sumter Maintenance



Larry Harvey
Spartanburg Maintenance



Tony Higgenbottom
Barnwell Maintenance



Brian Hodges
District 4 Crew



Danzell Hubbard
Lexington Maintenance



Ken Hunt
Oconee Maintenance



Frederick Jackson
Berkeley Maintenance



Matthew Johnson
Pickens Maintenance



Tommy Johnson
Spartanburg Maintenance



Nathan Lance
District 4 Crew



Sam Leroy
Abbeville Construction



Charles Long
Saluda Maintenance



Bernard Lucas
Florence Maintenance



Cody McAbee
York Maintenance



Ashley Miller
Greenwood Maintenance



Terry Morris
Newberry Maintenance



John Moses
Clarendon Maintenance



Michael Murphy
Horry Maintenance



Brent Nelson
Colleton Maintenance



Robert Perkins
Marlboro Maintenance



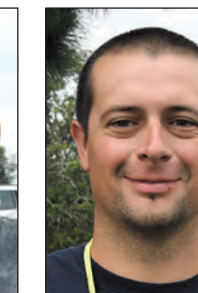
Charles Porter
Pickens Maintenance



Justin Powell
Florence Maintenance



Eric Purvis
Kershaw Maintenance



William Rabon
Horry Maintenance



Franklyn Robertson
Hampton Maintenance



Marcus Robertson
Saluda Maintenance



Michael Rowlen Jr.
Marlboro Maintenance



Troy Seigler
McCormick Maintenance



Jeff Setzer
McCormick Maintenance



Jeremy Shrewsberry
York Maintenance



Perry Smith
Colleton Maintenance



Rusty Smith
Greenville Maintenance



Joe Still
Barnwell Maintenance



Richard Stroble
Charleston Maintenance



Gene Taylor
Kershaw Maintenance



Jonathan Thomas
Jasper Maintenance



Curtis Trimble
Anderson Maintenance



Joe Turner
Florence Maintenance



Brandon Varnadore
York Maintenance



Ashton Walker
Barnwell Maintenance



Corey Watkins
Lexington Maintenance



Cliff Weaver
Spartanburg Maintenance



Justin White
Greenwood Maintenance



Jamie Williams
Orangeburg Maintenance



John Williams
Bamberg Maintenance



Joshua Williams
Calhoun Maintenance



Edward Wilson
Williamsburg Maintenance

Scenes from the 2017 Equipment Operators' Roadeo



STATE WINNERS - June 14, 2017

Single Axle Dump Truck

- 1st: **Brandon Varnadore**, York Maintenance
2nd: **Sam Leroy**, Anderson Maintenance
3rd: **Larry Harvey**, Spartanburg Maintenance

Tandem Axle Dump Truck

- 1st: **Jeremy Shrewsberry**, York Maintenance
2nd: **Ken Hunt**, Oconee Maintenance
3rd: **Joseph Dwinell**, Anderson Maintenance

Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer

- 1st: **Ricky Stroble**, Charleston Maintenance
2nd: **Brian Hodges**, D4 Pavement Crew
3rd: **Joe Turner**, Florence Maintenance

Backhoe

- 1st: **Charles Long**, Saluda Maintenance
2nd: **Tommy Johnson**, Spartanburg Maintenance
3rd: **Jamie Williams**, Orangeburg Maintenance

Motor Grader

- 1st: **Scott Burgess**, Lexington Maintenance
2nd: **Cody McAbee**, York Maintenance
3rd: **Patrick Fowler**, Spartanburg Maintenance

Tractor with Mower

- 1st: **Jacob Cockerel**, Richland Maintenance
2nd: **Ronnie Byars**, D4 Pavement Crew
3rd: **Jamie Bishop**, Jasper Maintenance

District 4 was awarded the most points and took home the team trophy.

First-timers compete at annual Equipment Operators' Roadeo

By **Kim Corley McLeod**

Each year the annual Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference and Roadeo brings competitors together from across the state to show off their skills and compete for the opportunity to represent SCDOT at the Southeastern Roadeo. (See results, page 2.) The conference was held in Columbia on June 13-14, 2017.

Wanda Burris of Kershaw Maintenance is a 16-year veteran at SCDOT. This year was her first time competing in the Roadeo. The single mother of four competed in the single axle dump truck. "I know I didn't

win, but it was worth a shot," she said. She hoped the points she scored helped her district's overall score.

Eric Purvis is also from Kershaw Maintenance representing District 1. He competed in both the single axle dump truck and tractor with mower events. Purvis has been working with SCDOT for the past three years. "It's fun to see people compete," he said. Although he performed well in both events, Purvis said he thought he performed best in the single axle dump truck competition.

Ashton Walker represented District 7 in the tandem axle dump truck competition. He is a new member of the Barnwell Main-

tenance team and has been with SCDOT for more than a year. He was excited to come to the Roadeo because he enjoys learning new things. Between practice rounds you could find him getting to know other competitors. Beneath his cool exterior, Walker felt the pressure. "It's good to be nervous, you can't go in cocky," he said.

Deon Jackson also competed in the tandem axle dump truck competition. He joined Berkeley County Maintenance in 2015. After his practice round his confidence on a scale of one to ten was an 11. "It went excellent, I knew what to expect," he said. In his spare time he coaches recreational league football, baseball and basketball. He

even took the time to give Walker a few last-minute tips, despite being competitors in the same category. "There's a lot of pressure for first-timers," said Jackson.

Even though it was the first time Burris, Walker and Jackson met, friendships formed through friendly competition. By the end of day two, they were talking among themselves as if they had known each other for years. They even offered encouragement and advice to each other on the course.

Overall, these first-timers felt good about their performance. Although they didn't represent SCDOT at the 2017 Southeastern Roadeo in Tennessee, they all look forward to competing again next year.

A cut above the rest

Equipment operators demonstrate, teach chainsaw safety

By Kim Corley McLeod

There could be a new addition to the annual Equipment Operators' Safety Training Conference and Rodeo in the future. This year, District 4 provided a chainsaw demonstration for participants to try in hopes the event will go statewide.

The four categories were chainsaw maintenance, chainsaw speed cut, tree felling and pole saw speed cut.

The chainsaw competition is the brainchild of **Jason Childers**, **Ken Caldwell** and **Brad Trout**. It's an inventive and entertaining way to gauge an employee's general knowledge of the tool. It also helps supervisors identify which employees need extra training and allows seasoned employees to practice in a controlled environment.

"The chainsaw is one of our most dangerous pieces of equipment," says Childers. It's also one of the most commonly used by maintenance personnel.

They did have some difficulty in the beginning. There were two major problems. They had to figure out how to make the equipment portable. They also had a problem finding the wood.

With a little ingenuity, they were able to make each of the four stations portable. They also found a local saw mill that can deliver the wood statewide.

"I'm pretty proud. It's exciting for Ken, Trout and myself," said Childers. Caldwell is a certified arborist who enjoys teaching others about his trade. Childers described himself as an "old farm boy." It was an opportunity for each of them to create something they enjoy.

Childers is grateful they were given the opportunity to do the demonstration at the Backhoe Rodeo this year.

"We are just trying to let everyone get a feel for it," said Childers. The demonstration garnered a lot of attention from the crowd. There were many onlookers eager to try it out.

To learn more about setting up a chainsaw competition in your district, please contact the District 4 Office at (803) 377-4155.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



ABOVE: Ken Caldwell uses a pole saw during a demonstration at the Equipment Rodeo on June 14, 2017.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Jason Childers demonstrates how to use a chainsaw exactly where you want it to land. He is able to do the demonstration safely by cutting a short 'tree' section attached to a long, thin plastic pole.



Summer Intern Program

Studies carry intern from Taiwan to California, Illinois, SCDOT

By Kim Corley McLeod

Lawrence Tseng isn't like most interns at SCDOT. He is from Taipei, Taiwan and is a masters student at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

He decided three years ago that he wanted to study in the United States after an internship at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

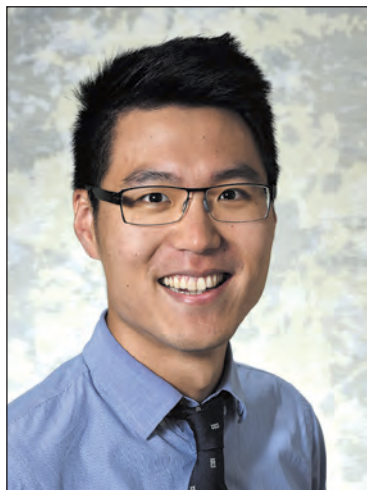
"I went to a High-Performance Materials Lab in UCSD and did research about Martian cement. I tried to find the material that can be used on Mars to create bricks by simple compaction. It was the first time I learned in an American college. I felt the atmosphere was so inspiring, and it must be a place that I can definitely learn a lot and contribute what I learned to the society," he said.

Here at SCDOT, he worked on a variety of design-build projects.

He attended meetings with program managers about the U.S. 21 Bridge Replacement and widening projects on I-85 and I-77. "I learned how to deal with stakeholders, what are the processes for a team to propose, and how a program manager manages a design-build project," he said.

Tseng was interested in interning with a state-level transportation department after an internship experience at the National Disaster Reduction Center in Taiwan and a course at the University of Illinois on disasters and urban planning. He explained that it transformed his concept of being a civil engineer. Additionally, SCDOT gave him "insight on how a state government improves the community's resilience and provides more reliable transportation systems for the public."

Tseng is currently working towards his master's degree in Civil Engineering (Transportation En-



Lawrence Tseng

gineering). He plans to continue with his graduate studies to earn a Ph.D. His goal is to work with an international engineering company in the future.

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

Lawrence Tseng spent this summer working with the Design-Build section at SCDOT. Here, he visits the I-77 widening project in Richland County.



JAE MATTOX/SCDOT DESIGN-BUILD



SCDOT Speakers Bureau Request for Speaker

The SCDOT Speakers Bureau is here to provide your organization a speaker to discuss SCDOT topics. A speaker will be provided based on the information provided on the below Speakers Bureau Request Form. The Communications office will be in contact with you regarding your request for a speaker at your meeting.

Please complete request online at:

<http://www.scdot.org/SCDOTWebForms/speakerBureau.aspx>

Please allow two weeks for a speaker to be assigned to your organization or meeting.



RETIREMENTS

Juanita Abercrombie, retired from Union Maintenance on July 21.

Harry Abraham, retired from Marion Maintenance on July 29.

Marcus Addis, retired from Anderson Maintenance on July 31.

Freddie Aiken, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on June 26.

Donna Allen, retired from Right of Way – Florence on May 31.

Marshall Bogan, retired from Union Maintenance on June 28.

Darin Boland, retired from IT Services on June 30.

Leslie Bradley, retired from Saluda Maintenance on May 31.

Peggy Brown, retired from Accounting on June 3.

Michael Brunson, retired from Materials and Research on June 4.

Jimmie Bryant, retired from Colleton Maintenance on May 20.

Lorraine Buckwell, retired from Right of Way – Central on May 31.

Robert Clark, retired from District 6 Office on Aug. 18.

Carolyn Cobia, retired from Rights of Way on May 31.

Henry Collins, retired from Marion Maintenance on May 31.

Vernell Cooper, retired from

Fairfield Maintenance on June 30.

Rebecca Creighton, retired from Contract Program Resource Service on May 31.

Eric Dillon, retired from District 3 Office on Aug. 4.

Greg Dingler, retired from Lancaster Maintenance on May 16.

Marjorie Dorey, retired from Toll Operations on July 31.

Stanley Dorn, retired from Pavement Management on May 31.

Diane Elmore, retired from Secretary Of Transportation on May 16.

Larry Feaster, retired from Traffic Engineering on May 31.

Darrell Ford, retired from Richland Maintenance on May 15.

Stephen Gantt, retired from Pre-Construction Support on May 31.

James Gilbert, retired from Aiken Maintenance on June 1.

James Graves, retired from Marion Construction on May 1.

Preston Helms, retired from Pre-Construction Support on May 31.

John Henderson, retired from Planning on May 31.

Joseph Hewitt, retired from Beaufort Maintenance on May 31.

Reginald Hickman, retired from Colleton Maintenance on July 14.

Lisa Huffstetler, retired from Accounting on May 31.

Marshall Jackson, retired from Lexington Maintenance on May 18.

Owen Jennings, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on July 28.

James Johannemann, retired from the office of the Director of Maintenance on July 21.

Charles Jones, retired from District 7 Office on June 29.

Susan Long, retired from Saluda Maintenance on May 31.

Sidney Lorick, retired from Program Controls on May 31.

Kathy Lybrand, retired from District 1 Office on June 1.

Merele Mack, retired from Charleston Maintenance on June 30.

Johnny McDowell, retired from Florence Maintenance on June 30.

Jennifer McFadden, retired from Rights of Way on May 31.

Jimmy Miles, retired from Lee Maintenance on May 31.

Antoinette Milton, retired from Human Resources on May 30.

Marshall Morant, retired from Pre-Construction Support on May 31.

Darrell Munn, retired from Traffic Engineering on June 30.

Alfreda Myers, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Aug. 1.

Vivian Patterson, retired from Planning on May 31.

Ronald Patton, retired from Intermodal Planning on June 30.

Douglas Phillips, retired from Anderson Maintenance on Aug. 1.

Jon Priester, retired from District 7 Office on June 14.

Donald Ross, retired from Florence Maintenance on May 31.

Manel Shaw, retired from District 4 Office on June 30.

William Sheppard, retired from Planning on May 9.

Randy Small, retired from Darlington Maintenance on June 30.

Robert Smoak, retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on May 23.

John Swails, retired from IT Services on June 30.

Billy Taylor, retired from Chesterfield Maintenance on June 30.

Melissa Thomason, retired from Laurens Maintenance on May 19.

John Timmerman, retired from Saluda Construction on June 29.

Michael Tuck, retired from District 3 Office on Aug. 16.

Raymond Vaughan, retired from Pre-Construction Support on May 31.

Gollie Walker, retired from Aiken Maintenance on Aug. 16.

Steven Warren, retired from Dorchester Surveys on June 29.

Catherine Willingham, retired from Accounting on June 21.

Nantsai Yeh, retired from Pre-Construction Support on May 31.

Mack Young, retired from Chester Maintenance on May 31.

DEATHS

Charles Bates, trades specialist III with District 4 Pavement Repair and Preservation, died July 26.

Tim Griffin, trades specialist III with Laurens Maintenance, died June 12.

Claudia Whitener, former Human Resources Manager II, died Sept. 10.

PLAN from page 3

“funding increases in small increments over the next six years, South Carolinians and our visitors can expect to see more road and bridge construction all over the state with each passing year,” said Hall.

SCDOT will make monthly and annual reports on the progress of the 10-year plan as revenue accumulates and plans that SCDOT engineers have been preparing for rebuilding projects move forward to construction.

SCDOT wants the public to be involved with the Plan throughout the next 10 years. The agency has recently launched a “10-Year Plan” website that provides an overview of how the Plan will unfold. In addition, the site has a county-by-county list of projects lined up for the next decade.

The agency has created a “Public Involvement Portal” for citizens to make comments, keep up with the calendar of

public meetings related to upcoming projects and the “Project Viewer.” “The “Project Viewer” is SCDOT’s Programmed Projects Viewer. The map showcases projects that are actively being developed. This can include projects in various stages of development, including the design, right of way acquisition and construction phase. These are projects administered by SCDOT, and may not include all projects by local governments or other entities that are being developed on the state-maintained system.

Finally, SCDOT has also launched a Speakers Bureau. The agency invites any group to request an SCDOT speaker to attend their organization’s event to outline the “10-Year Plan from a statewide or local perspective. Any interested group can use the simple form provided on the SCDOT website to request a speaker.

All of these opportunities for the public to follow the “10-Year Plan” progress are located on the main page of the SCDOT web-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The plan includes the Rural Road Safety program. This stretch of highway in Lee County has been improved with new paving, wider shoulders and rumble strips.

site: www.scdot.org.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** notes SCDOT now has the means to make real progress in repairing the state’s highway system, “For the first

time in 30 years, SCDOT has been provided with an increased and sustainable revenue stream. The Roads Bill passed by the General Assembly gives the agency the opportunity to make gradual, but

real and significant strides toward bringing the highway system back from three decades of neglect. We appreciate what the lawmakers have done for the people of South Carolina,” said Hall.

SCDOT Commission presents Ron Patton with retirement resolution

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton a native of Greenville, and proud Clemson Alumni with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering is known far and wide for his love for the National Champions, the Clemson Tigers, and anything Clemson; and

WHEREAS, he joined the South Carolina Department of Transportation soon after his graduation from Clemson University as a Hydraulic Design Engineer in April 1991 and earned his registration as a Professional Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton a native of Greenville, and proud Clemson Alumni with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering is known far and wide for his love for the National Champions, the Clemson Tigers, and anything Clemson; and

WHEREAS, he joined the South Carolina Department of Transportation soon after his graduation from Clemson University as a Hydraulic Design Engineer in April 1991 and earned his registration as a Professional Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton has had a stellar career in the South Carolina Department of Transportation, rising through the ranks to the Deputy Secretary position where he has made numerous contributions to the success of

the agency to which he has devoted himself for the past 28 years; and

WHEREAS, he has had a hand in utilizing his engineering skills to improve the infrastructure of our Great State, including the widening of I-85 and I-385, the J. Verne Smith Parkway and many other projects of regional and statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, his talent for being a leader was recognized early in his career and he was selected by the agency head to serve in a leading role during the “27 in 7” bonding program; and upon his induction into the inaugural group of Program Managers for the agency, he was tapped for managing some of the more complex projects such as the widening of the I-77 corridor serving York County and surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, he also expanded his skill set and learned a great deal about highway finance, particularly the use of bonds to accelerate project delivery; and once again, Mr. Patton was tapped by agency leadership to assist in communicating the agency’s “27 in 7” program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton’s talents for delivery were once again called upon when he was selected to serve as the Director of Planning and Environmen-

tal in December 2001 in which he served until June 2010 and spearheaded several updates to the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, which served as important efforts to define the overall condition, performance, and future needs of the state’s transportation system and has laid the groundwork for the agency’s direction today; and

WHEREAS, he played a critical role in providing insight and guidance during the legislative process that resulted in the passage of Act 114 in 2007, which has been heralded as a transformational piece of legislation for how transportation dollars are spent in South Carolina; and he devoted many hours to the establishment and refinement of the agency’s project prioritization procedures since that time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton was promoted to Chief Engineer for Location and Design in June 2010, a position he held for five years directing preconstruction and project delivery efforts for the agency; and

WHEREAS, his dedication, commitment and desire to make a difference at SCDOT was recognized by Secretary Hall, who appointed him Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning in July 2015. In that capacity, he has proudly served and represented the agency well with honor and



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

PATTON RETIRES

SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning Ron Patton, left, was presented with a resolution upon his retirement at the June 15 SCDOT Commission Meeting.

integrity; and he has been absolutely instrumental in our successful effort to secure additional infrastructure funding at the state level; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton is commonly known as “RP” to many of his friends, “Ron Bond” by the General Assembly and “PATTON!” by the Deputies, Chief of Staff and Secretary and

WHEREAS, he is privileged to be married to his soul mate, the former Laura Coakley, and is a

proud father of son Benjamin and his two dogs, George and Barkley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission this 15th day of June 2017, to express appreciation to Ron K. Patton for his 28 years of exemplary service to the South Carolina Department of Transportation and to the State of South Carolina, and to wish for him many happy years of retirement.

Vivian Patterson retires after 38 years of service

Vivian Patterson retired May 31, ending a career with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) spanning nearly 40 years.

A native of Columbia, she joined SCDOT in the then Public Relations Office as a Public Information Specialist in December 1978. She was promoted to Public Information Specialist II in 1986 and Assistant Director of Public Relations in 1987.

In 1988, Patterson organized and directed SCDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program, work-

ing with SCDOT’s statewide maintenance offices, Keep America Beautiful affiliates and communities in each of South Carolina’s 46 counties.

She was promoted to Program Manager I in 1998 and was transferred to the Engineering Division. There, she coordinated programs to improve the appearance of S.C. highways by increasing public awareness and participation in the agency’s Transportation Enhancement program, and highway beautification, landscaping and litter abatement efforts.

She was a member of SCDOT’s

1998-99 STTAR Program, the agency’s strategic leadership training for transportation agency representatives.

In 2002, she was promoted to Program Manager II when she became the agency’s Director of Community Relations.

From October 2003 to May 2004, she also served as the Interim Director of the agency’s office of DBE Program and Development Office.

SCDOT paid tribute to Patterson’s 20-year service to the AAH Program in 2008 during their annual AAH Awards Ceremony.

In 2010, she transferred to SCDOT’s Office of Planning to serve as the agency’s Public Involvement Manager.

She is active with Word of God Church and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

She is a 1978 graduate of Benedict College with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations.

She and her husband of nearly 40 years, George, have three daughters, Deon (Gregg) Moody; Brittany (Alphonso) Reese and Taylor Patterson; six grandchildren, and one great grandson.



Vivian Patterson



ECLIPSE STAGES BY ROB THOMPSON

Solar Eclipse

SCDOT monitors traffic, keeps roadways moving during historic 'across-the-state' celestial event



Construction Scheduling Engineer Patti Gambill and Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Johnson man Emergency Support Function 1 (ESF) at the S.C. Emergency Management Division on Aug. 21, 2017. Gambill and Johnson were responsible for monitoring any resource requests sent to SCDOT during the eclipse.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE and BELOW: Rest areas were completely full before the event with motorists stopping to see the eclipse. SCDOT had to close them to avoid traffic backing up on the interstates.



SHEP Incident Responder Wade Fullwood is ready to help on the I-26 eastbound entry ramp at Old Sandy Run Rd., in Calhoun County, during the eclipse event.



Customer Service Center personnel Barbara LaCock and Bruce McLamore monitor calls from the public during the eclipse.



Bradley Latham, left, and Laura Masem work at Headquarters as the SCDOT contact points for SCEMD and the State Traffic Management Center. Latham and Masem also have radio contact with every SCDOT crew statewide.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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

Meet Robert Hall

Robert Hall is the Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer for Lexington Maintenance—West Columbia.

Hall is a great catch for District 1. After graduating from Florida State, he started his SCDOT tenure in Richland Maintenance in October 2013 as a permit technician. In August of 2014 he transferred to Richland Construction, and in June of 2016 he moved to Headquarters Traffic Operations.

Hall returned to the Maintenance side in April 2017 under the same supervisor who hired him, fellow Florida State mega-fan Mike Bagley.

Hall used to rebuild cars, but at this point you can usually catch him in his spare time fishing and doing a little hiking.

He has family in Okeechobee, Fla., and lives with his dog in Chapin.

If you ask him, he is just an “all around normal guy.” If you ask us, he is an ordinary guy that does extraordinary work.



Robert Hall

Got news?

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

Alan Kozusko



KERSHAW BLOOD DRIVE

For the second year in a row, Kershaw Maintenance held a blood drive for the Red Cross. With 31 donors, they beat last year's total by six. Blood donated is set to benefit Red Cross operations in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Thank you to all the donors for giving the gift of life.

Strategic Planning Meeting in District 1



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 1 management in Columbia on July 18, 2017.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

Salters Road widening project includes new I-85 bridge

The widening of Salters Road — a key connection between Woodruff Road and the Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) Millennium Campus — has long called for a new bridge over I-85.

SCDOT and the City of Greenville allocated \$12 million to the project. This project was designed to include a visually appealing bridge at an important gateway to

Greenville for locals and for travelers coming in from Charlotte and Atlanta.

The aesthetic work includes a rock pattern on concrete parapet walls, colored stain, dark bronze metal railing, double-tiered retaining walls and piers that provide lighting.

Overall, the widening project added three more lanes to Salters Road, as well as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, planted medians and

curb lawns, from the Millennium Campus to Verdae Boulevard.

The construction of bicycle lanes and sidewalks on the bridge was part of the base funding for the project. Salters and Old Sulphur Springs roads merge near I-85 on the Woodruff Road side and connect with Sulphur Springs Road on the Millennium Campus side. Planners have long seen the road as important relief to Woodruff Road congestion.



NEW SALTERS ROAD BRIDGE



SALTERS ROAD BEFORE



SALTERS ROAD AFTER

Got news?

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

**Karuam
 Booker**



Strategic Planning Meeting in District 3



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 3 management in Greenville on July 17, 2017.

District 4 News

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

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

Got news?

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



Edward Moore



Fishing tournament raises money for fallen coworker's family

On May 5, 2017, York Maintenance held their annual catfish tournament at Lake Wateree in Fairfield County.

The tournament was open to all District 4 employees. More than 30 participants competed for the prize of most weight of a 3 fish stringer and largest fish.

Rusty Snider and **Brett Montgomery** took home the prize for biggest fish (15.5 lbs) and the most weight of a three-fish stringer (31.3 lbs). All participants had a great time, and raised over \$300 for the family of the late **John Branham**. Branham was vegetation foreman at York Maintenance and died in 2016 as the result of a vehicle accident.

LEFT: Rusty Snider, left, and Brett Montgomery show off their catch during the tournament. They won prizes for biggest fish and weight of a three-fish stringer.



John Branham of York Maintenance died last year.

Strategic Planning Meeting in District 4



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 4 management in Chester on July 18, 2017.

District 5 News

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

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

Got news?

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

Michael Miller



Dillon Maintenance assists motorists after eclipse

Dillon Maintenance was prepared to assist motorists as they left the state after viewing the eclipse. Two service trucks patrolled the Dillon County portion of I-95 as the mass of cars made their slow way out of the state. Fortunately, there were only minor vehicle problems as they made their rounds.



Chantago Gilchrist and Chris Townsend



James Buie and William Rouse

Strategic Planning Meeting in District 5



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 5 management in Florence on July 24, 2017.

District 6 News

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

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

Meet Darlene Broughton

This past February **Darlene Broughton** was promoted to Resident Construction Engineer (RCE) in the Charleston Construction B office.

Broughton began her career with the South Carolina Department of Transportation in the summer of 1995 as a summer employee. Currently she manages the quality control and assurance of more than 20 federal, state and local sales tax funded roadway construction projects in District 6 which includes Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper counties. The contracts her office manages total more than \$50 million. In addition, her office oversees construction on more than 20 encroachment permits held by

local municipalities, private land owners and developers in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. Darlene is the first African American female to serve as an RCE at SCDOT.

She is also one of 22 women who graduated in August from the inaugural class of the Delta Fellows sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta's National Leadership Academy Committee.

She is the oldest of three siblings (Derwin and Dana) to John C. and Roberta W. Broughton of St. Stephen, SC. She is a 1998 graduate of Clemson University, holding a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Darlene also holds a master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management from Webster University.



Darlene Broughton

Got news?

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



Debra Jerideau

DEA Robert Clark retires



Robert Clark

Robert T. Clark has retired after 27 years with SCDOT. He began his career in 1990 as the Assistant District Traffic Engineer and was promoted to District Traffic Engineer in 1992. He has been the District Engineering Ad-

ministrator since September 2001.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning - Specialist in Transportation Engineering from Clemson University.

Strategic Planning Meeting in District 6



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 6 management in Charleston on July 14, 2017.

District 7 News

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

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

Got news?

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



Danny Simmons



Jack Priester retires after 40 years of service to SCDOT

Jon K. “Jack” Priester, Resident Maintenance Engineer at Hampton Maintenance, recently retired after 40 years of service with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Priester started his career at SCDOT in construction, and has worked in various capacities in Hampton, Allendale and Barnwell counties. He finished his service with SCDOT

as the Resident Maintenance Engineer at Hampton County Maintenance. Priester is married to Joanna Priester, and has two daughters Linsey and Rachel. His hobbies include hunting and woodworking. When asked about future plans he says he plans to “simply enjoy retirement.”
Best Wishes, Jack!

District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt, left, and District Maintenance Engineer Efrem Dantzer, right, present Jack Priester with a plaque recognizing his 40 years of service to SCDOT.

Strategic Planning Meeting in District 7



Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT's Deputy Secretaries, Rob Manning and Susan Johnson presented SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to the District 7 management in Orangeburg on July 13, 2017.

ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT projects win AASHTO awards

SCDOT earned two awards in the 2017 America's Transportation Awards Competition by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The Broad River Road Bridge Project in Columbia was the winner in the "Quality of Life/Community Development, Medium Project" category. The bridge carries U.S. 176 over the Broad River in Columbia.

The Lexington Roundabout won in the "Operations Excellence, Small Project" category. The roundabout is located at the intersection of Mineral Springs Road, Cromer Road and Cedar Road.

The America's Transportation Award competition was created with the support of AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to showcase all tremendous projects delivered by state transportation departments every year," according to AASHTO. The projects nominated make communities stronger, our economy more efficient and our quality of life better, all while utilizing the most innovated technology to get the projects done better.

The awards were announced on Aug. 15 at the 2017 Southeastern Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (SASHTO) meeting in Norfolk, Va.



ABOVE: The Broad River Road Bridge Project includes a pedestrian walkway and access to the Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park.



LEFT: The Lexington Roundabout won in the "Operations Excellence, Small Project" category. The roundabout is located at the intersection of Mineral Springs Road, Cromer Road and Cedar Road.

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
South Carolina Secretary
of Transportation

Earlier this year, we asked you how you felt about SCDOT and a little over 1800 of you gave us an answer. I want to thank each of you who did so, and ask that when we do this again, which we will, that all of you take the opportunity to tell us how you feel. I find it incredibly important that the leadership team receives periodic feedback and that we use this constructive information in order to continue to improve the organization. The chart below shows the total responses for each question, and I am happy to say that in every area, you responded more favorably than

when we asked the same questions three years ago. It is evident from the survey results that morale is high and there is tremendous pride within the SCDOT Team. That said, I know that you have concerns, and I thank you for sharing them with me. Almost a third of you feel that the greatest challenge facing SCDOT is our salary levels. This was also a major concern expressed in our last survey in 2014. As many of you know, over the past couple of years, we increased Trades Specialists' salaries as a result, and instituted a pay for performance program. I am happy to report that over 1200 employees have received pay raises as a result of that program and we have reauthorized its continued use for the foreseeable future.

Another major concern you ex-

pressed regarded our ability to hire and retain qualified employees especially as the TERI program winds down. I have directed all of my senior management to look closely at the coming gaps, develop plans to fill them, and report those plans back to me. In order to obtain your help in this area, we have implemented a pilot program, at the county level, which will result in current employees earning up to \$500 in bonus money for referring someone to work in SCDOT who subsequently remains with us for a year. As we move forward, we will examine its results carefully with an eye toward possibly expanding it beyond the county level.

The third major challenge you expressed regarded the quality of leadership on our team. I have directed mandatory training for ev-

ery member of our team on Customer Service. While this may not seem, at first glance, to be directly related to leadership, I think you will see, as you go through the training, that it will have a positive effect on how we talk and act with each other, as well as the public. I am also ensuring that all of our supervisors and managers receive additional, specific training to make them more effective in leading our greatest resource, our people.

Thank you again to those of you that participated in the survey, as well as those that have provided feedback during some of our recent strategic planning sessions. I hear you and I am fully aware that our success is dependent upon all of us working well together as One DOT.

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Survey measures how employees feel about SCDOT

By Charlie Brown
Human Resources

These are the results of the organizational climate survey conducted in May 2017.

The questions asked were exactly the same as those asked in a similar survey conducted in 2014, with two additions.

The goal of both surveys is to give SCDOT leadership insight into the way employees feel about the department, and how those feelings change over time.

Several policy changes were made after the 2014 survey, including increases in minimum salaries for all levels of Trades Specialists and the introduction of pay for performance increases.

