

THE CONNECTOR

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2016

Christy Hall confirmed as Secretary of Transportation

By Pete Poore

By a vote of 37-0 on Jan. 18, 2016, the South Carolina Senate gave final approval to Governor Nikki Haley's appointment of SCDOT veteran **Christy Hall** as Secretary of Transportation. The Governor appointed Hall to the job on Oct. 21, 2015. The approval meant that no longer did the Secretary have the words "Acting" or "Interim" at the front of her title as she did on three occasions.

Officially, the title was new, but Hall was not new to the job. Governor Haley called upon her in January 2014 to serve as "Acting Secretary" and again in June 2015. Both appointments were the result of resignations by previous secretaries.

The Abbeville native relied on her experience as a Deputy Secretary in two different Divisions, as a DEA in District 2 and other management and front line positions both at HQ and in the field earned during her 20+ year career at SCDOT.

When Acting Secretary Hall stepped up in 2014, she took the reins just in time for two winter storms that slammed into the state in February. The second storm was so devastating it brought down thousands of trees that not only blocked roads, but brought down power lines all across the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) came to South Carolina to assist SCDOT and other agencies. Little did anyone know at that time that FEMA would come back to South Carolina in

the fall of 2015 on a much larger scale.

That's when the historic rain-fall deluged South Carolina on the first weekend in October of 2015. Three months of rain fell in just three days. The result was an unprecedented 1,000 year flood that took lives, destroyed property, wiped out 541 roads and bridges, while leaving many more temporarily closed until the floodwaters receded.

Then-Acting Secretary Hall led the SCDOT team before, during and after the flood in preparing and putting a strategy in place to deal with a calamity that had never been seen before.

The strategy put together by Hall and her senior staff paid off. South Carolina was braced for road and bridge damage expected to add up in the billion dollar range. The SCDOT team pulled together as one unit and held the cost down to \$137 million. The majority of the 541 roads and bridges were expected to be closed well into 2016. But within 60 days, just over 90% of those devastated facilities were back in service once more.

Shortly after Secretary Hall was named to the job, she devised a list of four management initiatives, all aimed at making SCDOT a more stable, open and accountable agency and to improve delivery of projects. In short, Hall wants the agency to get better at doing what it promised, and completing projects when it promised to do so.

Hall's initiatives are living, breathing efforts that can be monitored. This link to the



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

South Carolina Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall

SCDOT web site: <http://www.scdot.org/inside/mmDashboard.aspx> provides an introduction to a "Monthly Management

Dashboard" for a short summary of agency accomplishments and specific measurements for the four initiatives:

See HALL page 10

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Branham, Robbins join Commission

Two new members have joined the Transportation Commission replacing Commissioners whose terms have expired.

David Eugene "Gene" Branham now represents the 5th Congressional District.

Branham, of Kershaw County, was sworn in on March 10 to replace Commissioner W. B. Cook.

Branham has been employed with Lynches River Electric Coop for 44 years. He served 20 years on the Kershaw County Transportation Committee. Branham has been a citizen of Kershaw County for more than 43 years.

Branham and his wife, Gail H. Branham, have three adult children, David, Patricia and Adam.



Branham

The new SCDOT Commissioner from the 1st Congressional District is **Robert D. Robbins**. He replaces Jim Rozier whose term expired.

Robbins is an attorney from Summerville and is a past chair and member of



Robbins

both the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Sumerville/Dorchester County Chamber Board of Directors.

Robbins and his wife, Mary Bryce Robbins, have a son, Bryce, and daughter, Lena.

Wooten elected Commission Chairman; Hardee, Vice Chairman

By Bob Kudelka

The SCDOT Commission on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, unanimously elected Mike Wooten of the 7th Congressional District as the new Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

The Commission also unanimously elected John N. Hardee of the 2nd Congressional District as the new Vice Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

Wooten, of Murrells Inlet, is the Founding Partner and the Principal Engineer of DDC Engineers, Inc., a Myrtle Beach based consulting engineering firm specializing in land planning, landscape architecture, environmental planning, land surveying and civil engineering.

Prior to founding DDC Engineers, Inc., in 1986, Wooten was employed by Santee Cooper where he was responsible for the upkeep of 42 miles of dams. He also served as the liaison with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Congress-

sional Delegation for the state owned utility. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Citadel in 1977.

Hardee, representing the 2nd Congressional District, is Director of Public Affairs for Lamar Outdoor Advertising. Hardee previously served a term as SCDOT Commission Vice Chairman from 2002 to 2004.

Over a six-year period, Hardee helped secure \$1.2 million in funding for enhancements in the Loris community. A portion of U.S. 701 is named in his honor. Hardee has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Midlands Council of Governments since 2004. He is chairman of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism and was a member of the Richland County Transportation Committee prior to becoming an SCDOT Commissioner again. For his efforts in securing funding for the Airport Connector, the road was named in his honor, the "John N. Hardee Expressway."

South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission



Robert D. Robbins
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

Samuel B. Glover
6th Congressional District

Mike Wooten
7th Congressional District

Clifton Parker
Commissioner At-Large

THE CONNECTOR

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

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Christy Hall is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



South Carolina Press Association Associate Member

SCDOT is #1 in asphalt reclamation in U.S., Canada



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

LEFT: Christy Hall accepts an award from the Asphalt Recycling and Reclaiming Association (ARRA) on April 21, 2016, during the April SCDOT Commission meeting. Shown from left: SCDOT Director of Maintenance Jim Fedra, S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall, Miller Group General Manager Kimbel Stokes, ARRA President Ryan Essex, SCDOT Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin, and Stan Bland of the Portland Cement Association.

ABOVE: ARRA President Ryan Essex makes comments before presenting the award. Essex said that SCDOT does more asphalt reclamation than any other state or province in the United States or Canada.

Engineering
publication
names Hall
a top 25
newsmaker
of 2015



By Pete Poore

Christy A. Hall has been named by “Engineering News Record” (ENR) as one of the publication’s Top 25 Newsmakers of 2015. Secretary Hall is credited with leading the massive effort in South

Carolina to restore the state’s highways and bridges following the historic 1,000-year October flood.

ENR announced its annual list of Top 25 Newsmakers in January 2016. Upon learning of the honor, Hall said, “I’d like to thank ENR for recognizing the hard work and

dedications of the SCDOT Team in managing an unprecedented natural disaster in our state.”

Secretary Hall was invited to attend ENR’s recognition ceremonies in New York in early April. She was honored along with the other members of the Top 25 list.

I-85/I-385 Gateway groundbreaking ceremony

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT's largest project since the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge ceremoniously began on a chilly morning in February with a groundbreaking led by state and local leaders.

The I-85/I-385 Gateway Project in Greenville was described as both as a watershed moment for the region and an impact project for the state.

"It's an absolutely phenomenal day here in Greenville," said Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**. "The Governor and members of the General Assembly are very supportive of this project."

The I-85/I-385 Gateway is designed to improve safety and increase traffic capacity for an estimated 200,000 vehicles that use this interchange each day. By 2035, that number is estimated to rise to 350,000 vehicles per day.

Hall knows the region well, having spent 10 years there earlier in her career, including doing design and construction work on past I-385 improvements.

"So I know what the traffic is like up here; in the morning rush hour, evening rush hour, Friday after lunch on Woodruff Road, holidays... This project is absolutely intended to correct all those issues we deal with day to day in this particular region of this state," Hall said.

State Representative Wendy K. Nanney, of House District 22, said there was a lot of excitement for the project and advised the public to visit www.85385gateway.com for more details.

"It's going to be fantastic," said Nanney, who is also Chairman of the Greenville County Legislative Delegation. "We thank the DOT for their hard work and the effort and energy that's already been put into this project."

GPATS Chairman Butch Kirven said, "A project of this magnitude...no matter how you look at it, it takes teamwork, old-fashioned communications, hard work and understanding among all the partners."

SCDOT partners on the project include: the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); the contractor, Flatiron-Zachry Joint Venture; Civil Engineers Consulting Services as the Lead Engineer for Contractor; HDR/ICA, (the Design Review Consultant); and Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering, (the Construction Engineering and Inspection Consultant).

"FHWA is very fortunate to have such a good relationship with SCDOT, which benefits the Federal Highway Administration, SCDOT, other partners, stakeholders and, ultimately, the traveling public," said Emily Lawton, FHWA South Carolina Division Administrator.



SCDOT's team is led by District 3 Engineer Administrator **Stephanie Jackson-Amell**; District Construction Engineer **David Hebert** and Resident Construction Engineer **Jack Valetti**.

Also speaking at the event was Max Metcalf, former vice chairman of the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board (SCTIB). Rev. T.E. Simmons of Reedy Fork Baptist Church delivered the invocation and benediction.

- The construction of 11 new bridges, including two flyovers that will replace the existing tight loop ramps that tie I-85 from and to I-385.

- Reconstructing and enhancing the traffic signal system on the Woodruff Road Corridor.

- Constructing additional turn lanes at the Woodruff Road intersections with Market Point Drive and Garlington Road.

The project's scope includes creating a

By The Numbers

The I-85/I-385 Gateway Project

- 4.7 miles of interstate rehabilitation
- 7.2 miles of widening for northbound and southbound lanes
- 350,000 square feet of new bridges
- 260,000 square feet of MSE walls (Mechanically Stabilized Earth)
- 95,000 cubic yards of concrete
- 9.5 million pounds of structural steel
- 5.7 million pounds of rebar
- 50,000 linear feet of drainage pipe

Cost

\$231 Million

new interchange within the general footprint of the current interchange by staging construction of the new lanes, ramps, and bridges; and by widening I-385 through the project limits.

The completion of the project is estimated for summer 2019.



Commission Vice Chairman John N. Hardee led the pledge of allegiance. Director of Communications **Pete Poore** was emcee.

Funding sources for this project include Act 98, signed into law by Governor Haley in 2013 after passage by the Legislature; FHWA; the SCTIB; and GPATS.

Highlights of the Gateway project also include:

- The extension of the 4th auxiliary lane on I-85 Northbound & Southbound between I-385 and Pelham Road.

- The widening of I-385 to six lanes from Butler Road to Roper Mountain Road.



SCDOT flooding story goes international

By Bob Kudelka

Finland and South Carolina each have a population of about 5 million, but it's hard to find other similarities between the country and state that are 4,683 miles apart.

That doesn't mean the Finnish people aren't interested in what goes on in the Palmetto State, however.

In February, a correspondent from the Finnish Broadcasting Company, Yle, visited Headquarters in Columbia for a story on SCDOT's response to the 1,000-year flood in October 2015.

Pirkko Pontinen, who is from Helsinki but works out of Washington, D.C., and cameraman Bryan Rager had been in town covering the Republican Primary. They decided to stay an extra day to visit SCDOT and then stop by Bluff Road for footage of one of the remaining recovery projects.

"We always tell about the disasters, and when it's over we never mention what happens afterward," Pontinen said. "This is a good chance to cover South Carolina and what it is doing."

Pontinen interviewed Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** about SCDOT's response to the flood and its impact financially.

"As a small country, we are about the size of South Carolina so people like to know about the culture and understand what a huge country the United States is," Pontinen said.

Finland, who shares a 1,300-kilometer border with Russia, has constant budget battles concerning its own roads and bridges, Pontinen said.

"We have a heavy winter... so roads and bridges don't really compare well with South Carolina," she said. "The whole structure has to be different. Here you don't have the ice cold one meter down. So when the



ABOVE: Bryan Rager, videographer, and reporter Pirkko Pontinen were in town to cover the Republican Primary, but stopped by SCDOT to ask about the disastrous flooding in October.

spring and summer comes you see what has happened during the winter."

Pontinen said her broadcasting company is funded through its government, with each family paying a yearly tax based on their income. She said like the BBC, the news company is not censored by its government.

Yle has four television channels, six radio channels, and over 20 regional radio stations and regional news from eight districts. Its mission is to "support democracy and everyone's opportunity to participate by providing a wide variety of information, opinions and debates as well as opportunities to interact."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The crew interviews Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** on Feb. 2, about SCDOT's response to the flood and its financial impact on South Carolina.

2016 State of SCDOT

By Pete Poore

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** presented the "State of SCDOT" report for 2016 to the Senate Transportation Committee on Feb. 3, 2016.

The annual review provided the current status of South Carolina's transportation network. Secretary Hall's overall assessment was summed up in these four points:

- Most South Carolinians are riding on poor pavement.
- Most bridges are in good condition, but high-risk areas exist that need to be addressed.
- Day-to-day maintenance is graded a "D."
- Congestion is increasing and will impact S.C.'s economic competitiveness.

Secretary Hall also presented her vision of the agency in an effort to make SCDOT more effective as well as initiatives to improve the agency's transparency and accountability.

The entire presentation of the 2016 State of SCDOT can be found on the SCDOT web site or at the link shown at right:

<http://www.scdot.org/Inside/pdfs/StateofSCDOT2016.pdf>



David Bland
IT Services



John Boylston
Preconstruction



Thomas Dorn
District 2



Sarah Gaffney
District 6



Rickele Gennie
FHWA



Claude Ipock
Construction

Leadership Education and Development

New SCDOT program to find, train LEADers

By Pete Poore

Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** places great value on recruiting, training and retaining SCDOT employees. The goal is for SCDOT to provide career opportunities, not just jobs.

However, the agency had not had a leadership program for a number of years. In 2015, the Human Resources Office was directed to develop a program that would groom future leaders and would get underway in 2016.

The newly launched Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) SCDOT program has been designed to provide leadership training to employees who wish to compete for senior positions as they become vacant in the future.

LEAD SCDOT is a year-long program. Sessions are scheduled two days per month. The core of the program is a series of presentations by senior managers who discuss the structure and mission of the office or division each one represents, and how these offices or divisions play a role in the overall mission of SCDOT.

Additional sessions are conducted on leadership, hands-on activities with maintenance crews and bridge inspections teams. Class members also team up to work on a class project that addresses an issue that impacts SCDOT as a whole.

The first class members were nominated, screened and selected in 2015. LEAD SCDOT's first class got underway in January 2016.

Members in the first class are: **David Bland** of IT Services, **John Boylston** of Preconstruction, **Thomas Dorn** of District 2, **Sarah Gaffney** of District 6, **Rickele Gennie** of FHWA, **Claude Ipock** of Director of Construction Office, **Jim Johannemann** of Director of Maintenance Office, **Cedric Keitt** of Rights of Way, **James Mattox** of Preconstruction, **William McGoldrick** of Environmental, **Keith Melvin** of Director of Maintenance Office, **Chad Rawls** of Planning, **Cathy Rice** of LPA, **Jeff Terry** of District 7, **J. Allen Thompson** of District 1, **Tony Thompson** of District 3, **Mark Westbury** of Rights of Way and **Jacqueline Williams** of Finance and Administration.



Jim Johannemann
Maintenance



Cedric Keitt
Rights of Way



James Mattox
Preconstruction



William McGoldrick
Environmental



Keith Melvin
Maintenance



Chad Rawls
Planning



Cathy Rice
Local Program Administration



Jeff Terry
District 7



J. Allen Thompson
District 1



Tony Thompson
District 3



Mark Westbury
Rights of Way



Jacqueline Williams
Finance and Administration

2016 Maintenance Conference: *Engineers share information to increase productivity*



Marlboro Resident Maintenance Engineer Robby Bean explains the salt brine production process and showcases different setups maintenance forces across the state use in their own production of salt brine.

By **Bob Kudelka**

The 2016 Maintenance Conference drew more than 700 employees who attended one of three days of training March 8-10 in Columbia. Attendees heard from SCDOT

leadership and learned the latest about a variety of subjects including how to make homemade salt brine, brush and limb management and chainsaw safety.

"This conference provides training that is beneficial to our maintenance personnel," said As-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Maintenance foremen from across the state spend a day asking questions and gathering information on maintenance-related topics during the 2016 SCDOT Maintenance Conference at The Zone in Williams-Brice Stadium on March 8-10. Topics covered include salt brine production, job site hazards and staying safe, casting and installation of bridge deck panels, brush and limb management and chainsaw safety.

sistant State Maintenance Engineer **Walter Reed**, who oversaw the conference on behalf of the

Office of Maintenance. "They see processes and activities they may have not thought of. It also gives them a chance to network with other foremen and other employees in the state and see how other counties and districts are doing things."

Plus, Reed said, "This is a good way to show them we appreciate them and provide training at the same time."

Speakers at the conference included Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall**, Acting Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**, Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** and Director of Maintenance **Jim Fedra**.

Employees who led training sessions included Marlboro RME **Robby Bean** on Salt Brine Production, Kershaw Maintenance Foremen **Dewey Bass** and **Chris Team** on Casting and Installation of Bridge Deck Panels, Aiken RME **Joe Winfield** and Bamberg

RME **Bobby Crider** on Brush and Limb Management – Contract and In-House.

District 3 ADME **Brandon Wilson** and Spartanburg ADME **Jamie Gambrell** on Equipment Operator Training, District 4 Vegetation Manager **Ken Caldwell** on Chainsaw Safety, District 5 ADME **Lorena Pate** and District 6 ADME **Keith Richards** on Training for Hazard Assessment Forms, Dorchester ARME **Steve Michalski** and Charleston ARME **Joel Smith** on Maintenance and ITMS.

Chris McCurry of the Director of Maintenance Office on DOM – HMMS Updates and Issues and **Charlie Brown** of Human Resources on Headroom and Hiring.

Reed would like to thank the following for helping make the 2016 Maintenance Conference a success: **Michelle Walker, Tina Kennedy, Meagan Hare, Phyllis Hughes** and **Lawton Player**.



SHEP

State Highway
Emergency Program

*Incident responders
get hands-on training*

By Rob Thompson

SCDOT incident responders with the state's SHEP program got hands-on experience during special trainings across the state.

The training was given to teach them how to clear vehicles quickly and safely from the roadway after they have been in an accident. The training was done by Danny Thompson and John Weaver from Parsons Corporation.

SHEP responders in Columbia met on March 10. Greenville received training on Feb. 17, and SHEP responders in Charleston received training on March 8. There was an extra make-up session in Greenville on April 20.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Incident Responders in Columbia examine a vehicle before they use a chain and their truck to flip the vehicle back on its wheels during the March 10 training session in Columbia.



John Weaver of Parsons Corporation shows SCDOT Incident Responders the best place to attach a chain to turn over a flipped vehicle.



Once the chain is attached properly to the flipped vehicle and the SCDOT SHEP truck, responders slowly flip the vehicle back onto its wheels.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Danny Thompson of Parsons Corporation gives SCDOT Incident Responders instructions on how to push a disabled vehicle out of the roadway depending on the steering capabilities and other conditions after a vehicle is damaged in a crash.



SHEP, Brian O’Cain celebrate 20 years of helping SC motorists



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SHEP Incident Responder Brian O’Cain has been with the highway assistance program since its inception in 1996. O’Cain says helping people is his favorite part of the job.

By Kim Corley

This year, the State Highway Emergency Program (SHEP) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since 1996, SHEP has served thousands of motorists across the state. Those iconic blue trucks are one of the most visible programs administered by SCDOT.

Brian O’Cain has been with the SHEP program since the beginning. His first job with SCDOT was as a summer intern with the Richland Construction Office. For the past seventeen years, he has been a SHEP supervisor.

Being a SHEP responder seemed to be a natural fit. His father was a mechanic and he says that’s something that’s really helped him over the years.

A typical day begins bright and early for O’Cain and his crew. He arrives early to check out the trucks and meet with responders before heading out to cover the morning rush hour traffic.

Technology is one of the biggest changes for the SHEP program throughout the years. The introduction of the 511 Program and traffic cameras has dramatically decreased response time for responders. O’Cain added that SCDOT camera services often report disabled vehicles to responders.

During a ride along, O’Cain spots a vehicle on the side of I-20. A couple and their dog are stuck with a flat tire. Kelly McDonalds and her husband were on their way to Fort Bragg all the way from San Diego, Ca.

She was surprised South Carolina offered the SHEP Program. “This is great. We didn’t expect this at all,” she said. O’Cain makes quick work of putting on the spare and directed them to the closest tire shop.

He says that helping people and interacting with the public is his favorite part of being a responder. He’s glad to see how SHEP’s reputation has grown. “As the program has grown over the years, more local people are aware,” he said. People often tell him they are “Glad to see their tax money at work,” he added.

As one can imagine, O’Cain has seen a lot in the last two decades. For the most part, he sees flat tires and minor collisions. An afternoon in July 2006 made a lasting impression when a Columbia pilot turned a stretch of I-26 near Chapin into a runway. A mechanical problem with the single engine plane forced the pilot to make an emergency landing. Along with other emergency responders, O’Cain helped control slowed traffic until the plane was cleared to take off.

In his spare time, O’Cain enjoys a very unique hobby. “I’ve been a beekeeper for about four years,” he said. O’Cain describes himself as an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing. He began researching and reading about bees, then joined the South Carolina Mid-State Beekeepers Association. He gives the honey he harvests to family and friends.

O’Cain is a Columbia native where he lives with his wife, two dogs, three chickens and a few thousand bees in Rosewood.



On Monday, April 25, the SHEP 20th anniversary news conference was held at the Traffic Management Center (TMC) on Shop Road. Speakers included Secretary Christy A. Hall, DPS Director Leroy Smith and Highway Patrol Colonel Michael Oliver. Above, Hall, SHEP operators and some Traffic Engineering personnel pose by a SHEP truck after the news conference.

The table below shows the number of motorists/incidents SCDOT’s SHEP Program has assisted in the past four fiscal years.

AREAS	FY 2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Columbia	7,584	7,847	8,350	8,408
Upstate (G’Ville/Spart.)	5,295	5,105	5,397	5,969
Rock Hill	2422	1,699	1,529	2,069
Charleston	10,115	9,745	9,059	8,181
Myrtle Beach	2869	3,132	4,952	5,209
Florence	3326	3,238	3,182	2,692
Cherokee	973	757	968	993
TOTAL RESPONSES	33,687	31,524	33,427	33,521

Coincidence?

When the SHEP program first started, the logo included a photo of a German Shepherd. On March 1, the couple O’Cain helped had a German Shepherd named Mac.



O’Cain changes a tire for a couple from California on March 1. Incident responders help keep disabled vehicles from causing traffic congestion along urban interstates in South Carolina.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall thanks the members of the South Carolina Senate upon her confirmation.

HALL from page 1

http://www.scdot.org/inside/pdfs/Secretarys_Monthly_Management_Report.pdf

Secretary Hall's "Dashboard" is updated each month at the SCDOT Commission meetings.

After a whirlwind 10 months as SCDOT's leader, Secretary Hall had this to say upon her confirmation. "I am honored to serve the Great State of South Carolina and I greatly appreciate Governor Haley providing me this opportunity to lead the dedicated men and women of the S.C. Department of Transportation."

Severe February weather keeps SCDOT crews busy

Winter weather did not cause as much damage as it could have on two occasions in the state during the month of February. However, Maintenance crews were heavily involved during the week leading up to Feb. 12-14 in preparing for a mix of snow and ice that had been forecast for South Carolina.

Crews prepared equipment and supplies and pretreated the interstates, anticipating winter storm conditions. However, the center of the front went further north causing only minimal accumulations on the state's roads.

Later in the month on Feb.

24 and 25, a storm front that spawned tornados and caused significant damage and loss of life came from the Midwest to the East coast. Once again, our state was spared the brunt of the storm. But Maintenance crews around the state were called out to respond.

More than 650 reports of fallen trees and tree limbs were made beginning on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 24. Crews worked through the night and into Thursday, Feb. 25, clearing roads and repairing some traffic signals that were damaged or destroyed.

COMMISSION HONORS EMPLOYEES KILLED ON THE JOB



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The SCDOT Commission presented a resolution in memory of SCDOT employee Timothy Gibson who died in October while working during the flood. The resolution was presented to coworkers on Feb. 18, during the SCDOT Commission Meeting. From left, Commission Chairman Mike Wooten, Richland Maintenance Engineer Tony Magwood, Assistant Richland Maintenance Engineer Sandra Riley, District 1 Engineering Administrator Bryan Jones and South Carolina Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall.



The SCDOT Commission read a resolution in honor of Henry Clay "Ray" Norris Jr. on March 24. Norris, a trades specialist III at Darlington Maintenance, died on the job on Oct. 20, 2015. From left, Roy Parnell and Treasure Scarborough accepted the framed resolutions which include a state flag from the South Carolina Statehouse from S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall and SCDOT Commission Chairman Mike Wooten.

Safe Routes to School promotes annual Walk to School Day



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

LEFT and ABOVE: Teachers and students from Hand Middle School students walk and bike from Sims Park to their school on March 9 as part of the annual 'Walk to School Day.'



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE and RIGHT: Students at Pine Ridge Middle School participate in 'Walk to School Day' on March 9.



SCDOT Safe Routes to School honored as 'outstanding program'

The Southeast Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (SEACT) recognized the South Carolina Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program as the Outstanding Transportation Demand Management Program for 2015. The award was presented at the Feb. 18 SCDOT Commission meeting.

The SCDOT SRTS program was selected from nominated projects and programs in eight states including South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, and also Puerto Rico, beating out traditional commuter programs and projects.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT's program was nominated by the engineering firm AECOM, a SEACT organization member. From left are: Doris Ford of AECOM, S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall, Patti Sistrunk of AECOM, S.C. Safe Routes to School Coordinator Rodney Oldham, Emily Swearingen of AECOM, Jennifer Senn of AECOM and Tony Chapman of AECOM.



Jerry Gosnell's second chance

Liver transplant an ordeal, but gives recipient inspiration to help others

By Kim Corley

Jerry Gosnell is the Resident Maintenance Foreman for the Hampton County Maintenance Office in District 7. He has been with SCDOT for 22 1/2 years. He is a native of Hampton County where he lives with his wife, Karen. His daughter, Kayla, is a senior at Clemson University studying accounting. She plans to pursue her master's degree after graduation.

Two years ago, a life-threatening illness tested the limits of his body and spirit.

On July 23, 2015, Jerry Gosnell finally got the call he and his family had been anxiously awaiting for 15 months. He was finally to receive a new liver.

The previous summer, Gosnell went to the ER for pain in his side. A CT scan of his abdomen revealed devastating news. He was diagnosed with gallstones and cirrhosis. He and his wife knew immediately that he would need a liver transplant because 14 years earlier, Gosnell's mother also needed a new liver.

She was the first in the family to be diagnosed with a genetic disorder called Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. It is an inherited condition that may cause lung and liver disease. Tragically, his mother died while on the waiting list. Gosnell and his daughter went through genetic testing after her diagnosis. Doctors told them they were both carriers, but not likely to develop the active disease.

After receiving the call, Gosnell and his family had just 4 hours to get to the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston for the transplant operation. They waited 19 excruciating hours before he was taken into the pre-op area. "I told my wife and daughter I loved them and was wheeled into the OR. That is the last thing I did for 23 days," he said.

Doctor's initially estimated Gosnell would remain in the hospital a week after the surgery. Unfortunately, there were complications. The first transplant did not go as expected; the organ cracked as blood flow was restored. This occasionally happens but doctors thought it could still function properly. He was taken to the ICU to recover. Less than 12 hours later he was hemorrhaging profusely and going into hypovolemic shock. His kidneys shut down and he became septic.

After two weeks, a second liver became available in Myrtle Beach. Gosnell was at the top of the transplant list because of the severity of his condition.

"After seven surgeries, two livers, di-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Jerry Gosnell is living proof that your health, often taken for granted, is the most important thing you have. After his liver transplant he is using his second chance to help others and promote organ donations.

alysis and lots of time and energy from everyone...I am alive and I am so thankful," he said.

That was only the beginning of Gosnell's journey. He was in a medically induced coma and on a ventilator for 23 days. He spent approximately 27 days in ICU, during which he lost 85 pounds.

His devoted wife, Karen, never left his side.

He was then transferred to Vibra Hospital of Charleston where he received extensive physical, speech and occupational therapies. Overcoming the muscle atrophy was his next hurdle. This was a long, slow process. When he first woke up, he couldn't move at all. With the help of his therapist, Alyssa Hydar, he stayed positive and diligent. After only a month at Vibra Hospital, he was able to take five steps.

His last transfer was to Colleton Medical Center where he continued with his therapy. Doctors told him he would stay for at least six weeks. Gosnell took that as

a challenge. He told the therapist he would be discharged by Halloween. He was able to go home on Oct. 23, 2015, after only arriving three weeks prior.

That same day, he returned to MUSC for a follow-up appointment with his surgeon. He was thrilled when the surgeon cleared him to drive.

He continued to grow stronger after he got home. "I threw the walker in the trash," he said and laughed. Karen, who is also a registered nurse, helped him with his physical therapy at home. "She told me I was her worst patient," he joked.

Through a lot of hard work and determination, Gosnell returned to work full-time on Dec. 1, 2015.

Doctors are impressed with his progress. He will have to take immunosuppressant (anti-rejection) medications for the rest of his life. He also takes anti-viral and anti-fungal medications, both are common for transplant patients. The drugs make him sensitive to the sun, so he wears sun-

screen daily.

Gosnell is also pleased with his progress. "I didn't realize how bad I felt while I was sick," he said.

The support from friends, family and coworkers was overwhelming for Gosnell. The Hampton County Office took up a collection for him and sent it to his wife. Resident Maintenance Engineer **Jack Priester** and his wife, JoAnn, visited often and took Karen and Kayla to dinner to take their minds off things. SCDOT coworker **Julie Collins** also visited as often as she could.

MUSC gave Gosnell the opportunity to write letters to both donors' families. He hopes they will respond because he would like to know more about their loved one.

Gosnell is taking full advantage of his second chance. "I'm a miracle. God has plans for me," he said.

This experience inspired him to help others. Every Sunday, he spends time with a mentally challenged man in his community.

Mike Barbee to lead SCDOT Rights of Way

Mike Barbee has been selected to serve as Director of Rights of Way at the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

After working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and in the private sector, Barbee began working with SCDOT in 2003 and has managed many large-scale projects such as the I-73 Project, Backgate Interchange, Fantasy Harbour Bridge and Robert Edge Parkway.

Barbee previously served as Regional Production Engineer responsible for management and oversight of programs and projects in the Pee Dee and Grand Strand regions, including Horry and Florence County's locally funded sales tax programs.

Barbee is a registered Professional Engineer in both North Carolina and South Carolina and received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1992. He resides in Columbia



Mike Barbee
Rights of Way Director

with his wife and three daughters, ages 16, 13 and 10.

Clay Richter is new Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer

Clay Richter has been selected to fill the position of Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer.

He began his career at SCDOT in 2003 as an Engineer I in Beaufort County. He served as an Assistant Construction Engineer in Anderson County, and as Resident Construction Engineer in Abbeville and Anderson counties.

Richter is originally from

Simpsonville and graduated from Hillcrest High School in 1999. He is a 2003 Civil Engineering graduate from Clemson University and is a registered professional engineer in South Carolina.

He and his wife, Ruth, have a daughter, Katherine, and a son, Will. They are members of Covenant Baptist Church in Anderson.

Richter enjoys coaching his son's tee ball team and Clemson



Clay Richter
Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer

athletics.

Ben McKinney is new Design-Build Manager

Ben McKinney has been selected to fill the position of Design-Build Design Manager. He will lead a six-person design team within Preconstruction's Design-Build Section with the primary responsibility of managing the design elements and technical activities for design-build and other innovative projects/programs throughout the state.

McKinney is originally from Hodges, S.C., and graduated from Greenwood High School

in 1981. He is a 1990 graduate from Clemson University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He has 26 years of experience and has been employed by SCDOT for the past 8 1/2 years where he has served as a Design Manager in RPG 1. He is also a registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina.

McKinney and his wife, Lisa, have two daughters, Katy and Ashley, and a son, Jake.

In his spare time, McKinney



Ben McKinney
Design-Build Manager

enjoys Clemson sports and tinkering with mechanical devices.

Heather Robbins leads Environmental Services

Heather Robbins has been selected to serve as Director of Environmental Services.

She began her career with SCDOT in 2010 as the NEPA Division Manager and has more than 15 years of experience in the environmental field.

Robbins is originally from Grand Rapids, Mich., and graduated from Caledonia High School in 1993. She received a bachelor's degree in Geography with a minor in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in Geography from the University of South Carolina. She has been a registered planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2009 and recently became a Certified Public Manager in 2014.

Robbins and her husband,



Heather Robbins
Director of Environmental Services

Jeremiah, have a daughter, Avery and twin sons, Abram and Beckham. They are members of NewSpring Church.

In her spare time, she enjoys camping and spending time with family.

David Rogers is new Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer

David Rogers has been selected to fill the position of Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer.

Rogers began his career at SCDOT in 2003 as the Resident Construction Engineer in Richland County. He also served as the Assistant Design-Build and Special project Engineer representing the Director of Construction office.

Rogers is originally from Hampton, S.C., and graduated from Wade Hampton High School in 1993. Rogers has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is a registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

He and his wife, Katie, have two daughters, Annie and Sarah Katherine.

They attend St. Joseph's



David Rogers
Assistant Roadway Construction Engineer

Catholic Church in Columbia.

In his spare time, Rogers enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, college football, gold and playing the guitar.

PROMOTIONS

Cameron Albert, promoted to program coordinator II in Call Center on Mar. 17.

Cesar Aldrete, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Aspen Alford, promoted to trades specialist III at District 5 Bridge Inspection on Feb. 2.

Danny Allison, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Lawrence Armstrong, promoted to trades specialist V at District 3 Maintenance Operations on Feb. 17.

Michael Bagley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Lexington Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Randy Bailey, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Michael Barbee, promoted to Director of Rights of Way on Feb. 17.

Richard Barfield, promoted to trades specialist V at Greenwood Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Joseph Bennett, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 4 – Upstate on Dec. 17.

Kenneth Bethea, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Dillon Construction on Feb. 17.

Dustin Bolding, promoted to trades specialist II at Oconee Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Quincy Brodus, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Loretta Brown, promoted to right of way agent I at Rights of Way – Greenville on Dec. 17.

Michael Brunson, promoted to mechanic III at Lexington Maintenance on Dec. 2.

James Burns, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Oconee Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Nathaniel Burriss, promoted to trades specialist V at District 6 Traffic Signals on Dec. 2.

Kenneth Butler, promoted to IT consultant I in IT Services on Dec. 17.

Elliott Calder, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Horry Construction on Dec. 2.

Steven Canaday, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Berkeley Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Kenneth Carter, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Trenten Chambers, promoted

to trades specialist III at Saluda Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Jason Chambers, promoted to trades specialist II at Oconee Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Raymond Cheek, promoted to chief geodetic technician at District 4 Office on Mar. 17.

James Christmas, promoted to mechanic III at Richland Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Kody Clack, promoted to trades specialist III at Chester Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Marcus Clore, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 5 Office on Mar. 17.

Carroll Collins, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Robert Collins, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Vernell Cooper, promoted to administrative assistant at Fairfield Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Christopher Couch, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Dec. 17.

Robbie Craigo, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Steven Davis, promoted to trades specialist V at Oconee Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Micheal Dukes, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Rebecca Dunn, promoted to trades specialist IV at Kershaw Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Brandon Durham, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Joseph Dwinnell, promoted to trades specialist IV at Anderson Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Robert Galbreath, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Edward Gariboldi, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Traffic Signals on Feb. 17.

Scott Gaston, promoted to mechanic III at Fairfield Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Timothy Gemensky, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Traffic Engineering on Dec. 2.

Chantago Gilchrist, promoted to trades specialist III at Dillon Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Daniel Godwin, promoted to associate geodetic technician at

Horry Construction on Mar. 2.

Jeremy Goodwin, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I in RPG 3 – Midlands on Dec. 2.

Ana Gordon, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 – Pee Dee on Feb. 17.

James Gosnell, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Sonya Grant, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Mar. 17.

James Gray, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Jesse Gregory, promoted to trades specialist IV at Union Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Jesse Hames, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at District 4 Special Projects on Mar. 17.

Whitney Hayes, promoted to trades specialist II at Oconee Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Allen Heyward, promoted to trades specialist IV at Lexington Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Derrick Holmes, promoted to trades specialist III at District 6 Bridge Inspection on Feb. 2.

James Holtzclaw, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 – Lowcountry on Jan. 17.

James Howington, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Donald Hughes, promoted to incident responder II at SHEP – Upstate I-85 on Feb. 2.

Matthew Hunter, promoted to trades specialist III at Chester Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Jeremy Jackson, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Marion Construction on Mar. 2.

Roy Jeffcoat, promoted to IT services specialist III in IT Services on Feb. 17.

Kimberly Johnson, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Jan. 17.

Cedric Keitt, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Rights of Way on Dec. 2.

James Kirkland, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Laura Kline, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Materials and Research on Dec. 17.

Jeremy Knight, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Newberry Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Justin Lance, promoted to

trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Jimmy Leonard, promoted to trades specialist V at Horry 1 Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Jordan Lisenby, promoted to trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Steven Littlejohn, promoted to FTS manager II in Traffic Engineering on Mar. 17.

Aaron Looper, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 17.

James Lusk, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 4 – Upstate on Dec. 2.

David Marlowe, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Laquantra Mayberry, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 17.

David McAlister, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Ryan McAlister, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Joseph McCurry, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Abbeville Construction on Feb. 17.

Levi McLeod, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Preconstruction Support on Feb. 17.

Stanley Meece, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Brad Merritt, promoted to trades specialist IV at Anderson Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Kenneth Mills, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Dallas Mullinax, promoted to trades specialist V at District 3 Maintenance Operations on Mar. 17.

Gregory Nedrow, promoted to trades specialist IV at Horry 1 Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Steven Nelsin, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Dec. 17.

Anthony Owen, promoted to trades specialist V at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Eugene Parnell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Dillon Construction on Feb. 2.

Neal Peeler, promoted to trades specialist III at Cherokee Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Terry Poole, promoted to

trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Charles Potts, promoted to supply manager I at Supply Depot on Mar. 17.

Joseph Powell, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 17.

William Rabon, promoted to trades specialist IV at Horry 1 Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Jon Reese, promoted to IT consultant I in IT Services on Jan. 17.

Christopher Reynolds, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Robert Richter, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 4 – Upstate on Jan. 17.

Anna Riddle, promoted to administrative coordinator I in Capital Improvements on Jan. 17.

Sandra Riley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Sumter Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Ronald Riley, promoted to trades specialist IV at Beaufort Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Leroy Rivers, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Heather Robbins, promoted to Director of Environmental Services on Jan. 17.

Thomas Rochester, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 17.

David Rogers, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Office of Director of Construction on Mar. 2.

Richard Roof, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 – Pee Dee on Jan. 17.

Randall Russell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Timothy Scott, promoted to supply specialist III in Equipment Service Depot on Jan. 17.

Jesse Sessions, promoted to trades specialist V at District 1 Traffic Signals on Jan. 2.

James Simpson, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Mar. 2.

Tracy Smith, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on Jan. 2.

PROMOTIONS
continue on next page

PROMOTIONS - continued

Kelly Stapleton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 4 – Upstate on Dec. 2.

Gary Thackston, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Mar. 2.

Chinmay Thakore, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Feb. 2.

Stephen Tosco, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 3 – Midlands on Dec. 2.

Charles Turner, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Philip Unrue, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Abbeville Construction on Feb. 2.

Jack Valetti, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 3 Office on Jan. 17.

Wilbert Walker, promoted to trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Allen Ward, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Materials and Research on Mar. 17.

Larry Whisenhunt, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

John Williams, promoted to trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Jimmy Williamson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Lexington Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Howard Williamson, pro-

moted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 – Pee Dee on Dec. 2.

Phillip Willingham, promoted to trades specialist II at District 2 Office on Dec. 17.

James Willson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Sumter Construction on Feb. 2.

Sam Wilson, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 6 Bridge Inspection on Feb. 17.

Craig Winn, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 – Lowcountry on Dec. 2.

Emily Woods, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Office of Director of Maintenance on Mar. 17.

RETIREMENTS

Barbara Anderson, retired from Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Lorraine Bouknight Gayton, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Jan. 1.

Jimmy Brock, retired from Union Maintenance on Mar. 1.

Herbert Brown, retired from Colleton Maintenance on Feb. 26.

William Brown, retired from Newberry Maintenance on Dec. 2.

John Caskey, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance on Jan. 29.

Christopher Copeland, retired from District 4 Special Projects on Jan. 1.

William Cross, retired from Darlington Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Neal Dunlap, retired from Greenville Surveys on Dec. 1.

Kelvin Edwards, retired from IT Services on Mar. 4.

Charles Elliott, retired from Anderson Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Lanny Ensley, retired from Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Terry Faulk, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Jan. 28.

Larry Flowers, retired from Williamsburg Maintenance on Feb. 1.

David Fulmer, retired from

RPG 3 – Midlands on Mar. 21.

Patricia Gaither, retired from Fairfield Maintenance on Jan. 3.

Johnny Garris, retired from Materials and Research on Feb. 15.

Irwin Gibbons, retired from Clarendon Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Tommie Gordon, retired from Spartanburg Construction on Feb. 11.

Christopher Green, retired from SHEP – Upstate I-85 on Mar. 1.

David Gunter, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Mar. 25.

Joe Hawkins, retired from Greenwood Maintenance on Feb. 29.

Clarence Hicklin, retired from Chester Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Judy Hite, retired from Rights of Way on Dec. 30.

Charles Jackson, retired from Dorchester Surveys on Mar. 1.

John Johnson, retired from Greenville Maintenance on Mar. 17.

Donna Keaton, retired from Anderson Maintenance on Mar. 1.

Jeffery Kelling, retired from Sumter Construction on Feb. 1.

Michael Koon, retired from Materials and Research on Mar.

31.

Darrell Lawter, retired from Union Maintenance on Dec. 18.

Donald McElveen, retired from Road Data Services on Mar. 30.

Larry Orr, retired from Hampton Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Willie Pontoon, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Jan. 1.

Nancy Redmond, retired from Human Resources on Jan. 1.

Joseph Reid, retired from Berkeley Maintenance on Jan. 6.

Frank Shealy, retired from Saluda Construction on Feb. 1.

William Skinner, retired from SHEP – Upstate I-85 on Jan. 23.

Michael Sprott, retired from Materials and Research on Feb. 29.

Lewis Sweat, retired from Supply Depot on Jan. 31.

Sammie Taylor, retired from Saluda Maintenance on Feb. 12.

Jake Taylor, retired from Allendale Maintenance on Feb. 26.

Leroy Thomas, retired from Calhoun Maintenance on Dec. 9.

Levon Washington, retired from Dillon Maintenance on Jan. 6.

Joel Watts, retired from Lexington Maintenance on Mar. 31.

Terry Youngblood, retired from Union Maintenance on Jan. 1.

DEATHS



David Castro, a retiree from IT Services, died Jan. 24.



Gregory Todd Lyons, trades specialist III with Bamberg Maintenance, died March 27.



Kenneth Peterson, supply specialist II with Richland Maintenance, died Jan. 13.



Ada Gardner, trades specialist III with Richland Maintenance, died Feb. 26.



William Niver, retired former Darlington Resident Construction Engineer, died March 19.



Jessie Weaver, trades specialist III with Edgefield Maintenance, died Feb. 17.



**Do you have a good story
for The Connector?**

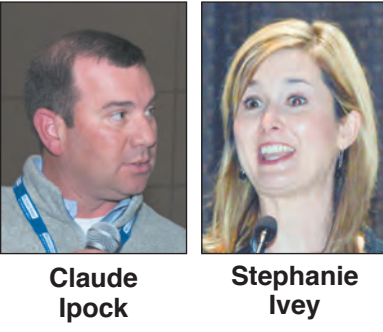
Let us know so we can share the information with our employees and interested citizens.

Email us at: PooreJP@scdot.org

2016 South Carolina Highway Engineers Conference: *Sharing what we learned from recent flooding*



David Beaty Philip Bethea John Boylston Glen Bramlitt Beacham Brooker Joe Bruno Chris Coleman Leland Colvin William Davis Bradley Dows Kenny Eargle Kristofer Edelberg Lee Floyd Robbie Foxworth Kevin Gantt Sarah Gaffney Ladd Gibson Christy Hall Brett Harrelson Van Henson



Claude Ipock Stephanie Ivey



David Kinard Brian Klauk



Andy Leaphart Brad Lee

By Bob Kudelka

The 2016 South Carolina Highway Engineers Conference brought together SCDOT employees with partners in the private sector, local government and federal government.

So it seemed fitting that a theme of this year's conference was an event with those groups five months earlier under much different circumstances – responding to the historic, 1,000-year flood in October 2015.

"We wanted to spend time thanking people and telling our story," said conference chairman **Jamie Kendall**, SCDOT Preconstruction Support Engineer. "From there, that led to several other sessions."

Nearly 700 people, including 393 SCDOT employees, attended the March 22-23 conference at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Topics included subjects on preconstruction, construction, environmental and maintenance. There were behind the scenes accounts of major projects such as Carolina Crossroads, the I-85/I-385 Gateway Project and "Paving the way for Volvo," which highlighted the Swedish car maker's eventual landing in the Lowcountry.

There were also sessions on employee safety and accident prevention; applying proven methods to reduce collisions; the I-26 median safety project; encroachment permitting process; an update on ACT 98; usage of cement treated materials; maintenance of outfall ditches; storm water management; geotechnical design alternatives on U.S. 17; avoiding rights of way delays; OSHA confined space regulations and contract procurement.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback," Kendall said after the conference ended. "There were a lot of different presenters from other DOTs, different state agencies, professors from the universities...We tried to get a wide variety of speakers so there was something for everyone."

Professional engineers gain continuing education credits through the training sessions, but more importantly they are afforded the opportunity to network with people from other areas, both inside and outside of DOT.

One mainstay of the annual conference has been an update from the Secretary of Transportation. This year, recently confirmed Secretary **Christy Hall** delivered wide ranging remarks on efforts to increase funding, the agency's mission and her goals.

Hall, who had spent part of the week providing information to Legislators concerning funding, said she is "ringing the alarm bell the loudest" concerning the needs of the primary system.

The primary system is a core network that connects communities and is where about half the traffic exists. However, 80 percent of the system is in a "state of disrepair."

"It's becoming our current generation of orphan roads," Hall said. "State funds tend to go toward neighborhood streets; federal funds toward the interstates."

The secondary system needs repair as well, and interstates should be "turning the curve" based on past funding decisions. Bridges also need to be addressed, with about 300 structurally deficient bridges on the interstate and primary systems, she said.

Hall also addressed the misperception that the agency spends too much on new roads. In fact, she said less than 1 percent of DOT's budget

goes toward new roads identified locally through COGs and MPOs.

A third of our monies go to widening projects, signal timing projects, intersection improvements and other capacity operation improvements.

More than half our dollars go to maintenance, Hall said.

"We're fixing it first," she said.

Hall said one of her goals is to increase stability to an agency that has had three Secretaries in the past three years. She has created a program to mold future leaders and improve continuity. She also aims to increase accountability and transparency, already reforming FOIA guidelines to improve access of information to the public.

In closing, Hall thanked the "DOT team" and all our partners for their work on recovering from the October floods.

"The results achieved were phenomenal," she said. "The results have been noticed by other states, other countries...We all worked together to achieve a goal."

Kendall, who as chairman was assisted by Letting Preparation Engineer **Mark Anthony**, said he wanted to thank "all the speakers and those who put together presentations to share their stories with us."

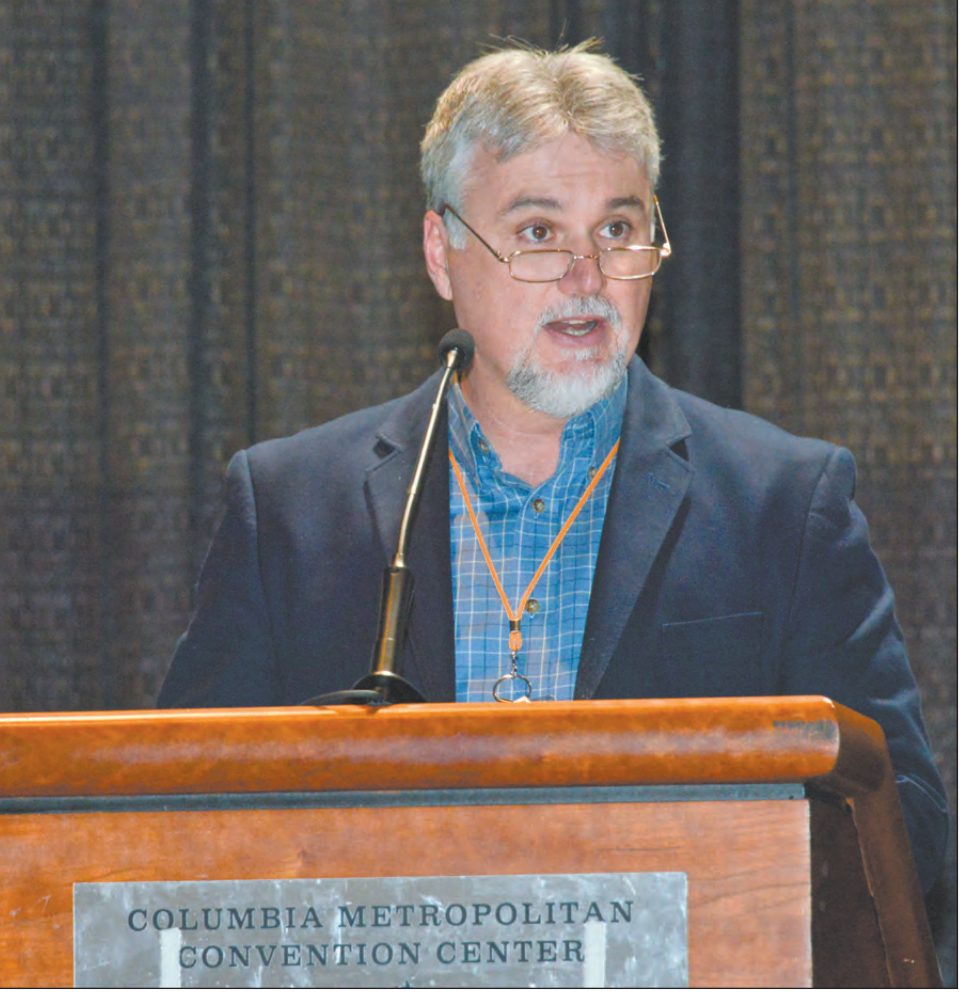
"I'm thankful that so many people turned out and enjoyed it," Kendall said.

Kendall also thanked Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**, Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart**, Acting Chief Engineer for Project Delivery **Randall Young**, Agency Events Coordinator **Tina Kennedy**, as well as Shaun Gaines and the staff from Clemson University's Transportation Technology Transfer Service.

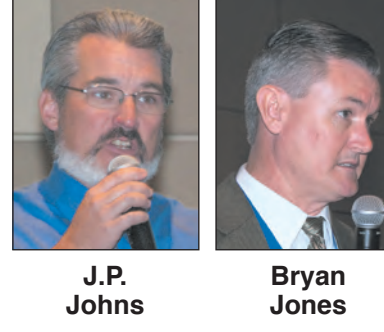
Speakers and presenters included:

Leland Colvin, **Christy Hall**, Hope Mizzell (SCDNR), **Andy Leaphart**, **Tony Magwood**, **Ladd Gibson**, **Todd Steagall**, Stephanie Ivey (University of Memphis), Keith Honeycutt (NCDOT), Mark Ward (NCDOT), **Jay Thompson**, **Heather Robbins**, Greg Schuch (HDR, Inc.), Barrett Stone, (HDR, Inc.), David Beaty (HDR, Inc.), Jennifer Ogle (Clemson University), **Claude Ipock**, **Bryan Jones**, **Linda McDonald**, Wayne Sarasua (Clemson University), Joe Bruno (ESP), **Chris Coleman**, **Philip Bethea**, **Robbie Foxworth**, Bill Roper (Roper Laser Co.), **Sarah Gaffney**, **Brett Harrelson**, **Dipak Patel**, **Lee Floyd**, **Glen Bramlitt**, **Stephanie Jackson-Amell**, Kevin McGlumphy (Associated Asphalt Co.), **Ray Vaughan**, J.P. Johns (Woolpert, Inc.), Emily Thomas (SCDPS), Gil Owens (SCHP), **Mike Barbee**, **Joy Riley**, **Beacham Brooker**, **Jackie Williams**, **Jeremy Harmon**, Bill Ventry (VE Group), John Ledbetter (VE Group), **Hugh Haddock**, **Daryl Hardwick**, **Chris Johnston**, **Jim Fedra**, Van Henson (SCLLR), **Kenny Eargle**, **Henry Cross**, Brad Lee (Trinity Industries, Inc.), Jeff Smith (Work Area Protection Corp.) Brian Klauk, David Kinard (HDR, Inc.), Rocque Kneece (CECS, Inc.), Kristofer Edelberg (Flatiron Construction), **Tina Kennedy**, **Randall Young**, **John Boylston**, **Jae Mattox**, Daniel Young (Department of Commerce), **Brian Keys**, Emily Lawton (FHWA), **Kevin Gantt**, **Ron Patton**, and SCDOT Commission Chairman Mike Wooten.

See **ENGINEERING AWARDS** on next page.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON AND CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR
SCDOT Preconstruction Support Engineer **Jamie Kendall**, above, served as this year's conference chairman. He was assisted by Letting Preparation Engineer **Mark Anthony**.



J.P. Johns Bryan Jones



Rocque Kneece Emily Lawton



Tony Magwood Jae Mattox



Linda McDonald Kevin McGlumphy Hope Mizzell Jennifer Ogle Dipak Patel Joy Riley Heather Robbins Bill Roper Wayne Sarasua Greg Schuch Jeff Smith Todd Steagall Barrett Stone Emily Thomas Jay Thompson Mark Ward Jackie Williams Mike Wooten Daniel Young Randall Young

2016 Engineering Recognition Awards



2016 DISTRICT RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS OF THE YEAR

DISTRICT WINNERS: Seated, from left: District 1- Paul Miller of Richland Construction A, District 2 - Matthew Shealy of Newberry Construction, District 3 - Kimberly Bishop of Greenville Construction B, District 4 - John Huskins of York Construction, District 5 - Travis Patrick of Horry Construction, District 6 - Behling Guess of Dorchester Construction and District 7 - Bobby Usry of Aiken Construction.



2016 RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
Travis Patrick
Horry Construction



2016 DISTRICT RESIDENT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS OF THE YEAR

DISTRICT WINNERS: Seated, from left: District 1- Tony Magwood of Richland Maintenance, District 2 - Fritz Wewers of Anderson Construction, District 3 - Steven Henderson of Pickens Maintenance, District 4 - Jamie Johnston of Fairfield Maintenance, District 5 - Robby Bean of Marlboro Maintenance, District 6 - Roger Bowers of Charleston Maintenance and District 7 - Lyle Davis of Calhoun Maintenance.



2016 RESIDENT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER OF THE YEAR
Tony Magwood
Richland Maintenance



2016 SAFETY UNITS OF THE YEAR

Seated, from left: Small Unit of the Year - Bamberg Maintenance - RME Bobby Crider; Medium Unit of the Year - Newberry Maintenance - RME Jeremy Knight; and Large Unit of the Year - Orangeburg Maintenance - RME David Brandyburg.



2016 EXCELLENT CONSTRUCTION QMT INSPECTION

Seated, from left: Abbeville Construction - RCE Adam Rich and Spartanburg Construction - RCE Patrick McKenzie.

2016 Engineering Recognition Awards



2016 HEADQUARTERS ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR (EOTY)

Seated, from left: Construction EOTY - Jay Thompson, Environmental EOTY - Tucker Creed, LPA EOTY - Cathy Rice, Preconstruction EOTY - John Caver, Right of Way EOTY - Annette McCrorey, Maintenance EOTY - Keith Frick and Traffic Engineering EOTY - Brett Harrelson.



2016 HEADQUARTERS ENGINEERING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Keith Frick
Maintenance



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

2016 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Standing, from left: Lee Floyd, Tad Kitowicz, Andy Leaphart and Todd Steagall. Seated, from left: Kyle Berry, Bryan Jones and Ladd Gibson.



2016 EXCELLENT MAINTENANCE QMT INSPECTION
Seated, from left: Laurens Maintenance - RME Adam Hedden and Bamberg Maintenance - RME Bobby Crider



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

MPO/COG Conference

The 2016 Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Council of Governments (MPO/COG) Conference was held at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia on Feb. 24-25. FHWA S.C. Division Administrator Emily Lawton, left, presents facts on South Carolina's highway system and reviews FHWA planning program updates. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall, right, reviews her State of the DOT address and discusses how it closely relates to planning processes.



Flood recovery continues

By Pete Poore

Based on Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall's** monthly report on Infrastructure Recovery for the month of April, SCDOT is still tracking 25 full bridge replacements resulting from the historic flood of October 2015. Twenty-one of these replacements have already been awarded to contractors or are being replaced in-house with SCDOT forces.

One of the recent highlights in the recovery efforts includes the completion of the U.S. 176 bridge in Newberry County (District 2). This structure was part of the first emergency design-build bridge package awarded after the flood.

SCDOT crews and contractors worked around the clock to reopen this bridge located very close to Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School. The new bridge was opened to traffic on March 11, nearly three weeks ahead of schedule. But not before the Pomaria-Garmany students took a field trip to take a close look at the new bridge.

The final estimates for the damage incurred by the devastating flood totaled \$137 million. Included in that figure was \$20 million for latent damage, or

needed repairs that would not appear until later in 2016 and even into 2017.

Evidence of latent damage showed itself on S.C. 48 (Bluff Road) in Richland County during the second full week of April. At that time, three bridges crossing Bluff Road were closed after routine inspections discovered portions of the stream bed had been washed away. Inspectors found the situation to be at a critical level. Underwater inspections were conducted of the bridge support foundations which confirmed the critical status of the structures.

Additional locations of latent damage have been identified around the state to include roadways, pipes, culverts and bridges.

Secretary Hall said SCDOT will address these situations. "SCDOT remains committed to protecting the motoring public and continues to take appropriate measures to ensure safety. We are disappointed that our infrastructure continues to suffer from the historic flood and impact local communities. However, we are pleased that our inspections discovered these issues before the public was placed at risk. We have processes in place to effectively address these latent issues," said Hall.



Bert Shumpert, left, and John Magni of Preconstruction Surveys set control points on the Bluff Road bridge over Back Swamp on April 15.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Newly discovered damage from the October flooding closed three bridges on Bluff Road in Richland County on April 14.



Bridge engineers examine the wood pilings below the Bluff Road bridge over Back Swamp where scouring below the surface of the water has made the bridge unsafe.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Richland Maintenance crews sweep and make patching repairs along Old Bluff Road, the detour route for Bluff Road in Richland County.



Commissioners W.B. Cook, Jim Rozier honored, thanked for their service



SCDOT Commission Chairman Mike Wooten, left, presents a resolution from the SCDOT Commission to former Commissioner W.B. Cook of Gaffney, center, during the March 24 Commission meeting. The resolution thanks Cook for his service as a member of the SCDOT Commission. At right is Cook's wife, Teresa Cook.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Commission Chairman Mike Wooten, left, presents a resolution from the SCDOT Commission to former Commissioner James H. Rozier Jr. of Moncks Corner, center, during the March 24 Commission meeting. The resolution thanks Rozier for his service as a member of the SCDOT Commission. At right is Rozier's wife, Kathy Rozier.



The SCDOT Commission passed a resolution commending the SCDOT employees who participated in and won the 13th Annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators' Rodeo and Safety Training Conference in September 2015. The group competed against nine other southeastern states in six different events -- Backhoe, Motor Grader, Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer, Tandem Axle Truck, Single Axle Truck and Tractor with Mower. The winners included: Front row, from left: Richard Stroble, Robert Galbreath, Tommy Johnson, Scott Burgess, Charles Long and Dock Bowick. Back row, from left: Melvin Brown, Jeremy Shrewsbury, William Rabon, James Catoe and Troy Seigler. The group was recognized in front of the full SCDOT Commission and senior staff at the Jan. 21 Commission meeting.

SCDOT wins a 2015 'Perpetual Pavement' award

By Pete Poore

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance of America (APA) has named SCDOT as one of eight state DOTs to receive this award for 2015. A 6.53-mile section of I-20 in Lexington County from the Aiken County line to S.C. 34 is the specific award-winner.

The award is presented to state transportation departments and local agency road owners for well-performing asphalt pavements that are at least 35 years old with proven high-quality structural design. To earn the award, the pavement must have not suffered a structural failure, and it should have an average interval between resurfacing of no less than 13 years. The road must demonstrate the characteristics expected from a long-life, Perpetual Pavement design: excellence in design, quality in construction and value to taxpayers.

This 2015 honor marks the fifth "Perpetual Pavement Award" earned by SCDOT.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

This section of I-20 in Lexington County has been recognized for well-performing asphalt with proven high-quality structural design.

SCDOT Perpetual Pavement Awards:

2004 I-26 Spartanburg County. N.C. state line to S.C. 11
2005 I-20 Aiken County. Lexington County line to U.S. 1

2007 I-20 Kershaw County. Section between U.S. 601 and U.S. 521

2009 I-20 Kershaw County. A 7.3-mile section near Camden

2015 I-20 Lexington County. Aiken County line to S.C. 34.



Chris Jordan

Chris Jordan gets scouting award

The Indian Waters Council of the Midlands presented **Chris Jordan** of SCDOT's Upstate RPG office with the Silver Beaver Award during a ceremony on March 17.

The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is a council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Recipients are registered Scouters who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

Jordan is a veteran Scout leader whose expertise and leadership abilities, both in and out of Scouting, have made a lasting positive impact on others and on his community. He has devoted himself to serving others in the school system, church, civic institutions and in Scouting.

He grew up in Anderson and was a Cub Scout as a youth. He is a 2009 graduate of the University of South Carolina and has been with SCDOT for 24 years.

When his children joined Cub Scouting, Jordan became active as a Tiger Cub Coach and then a Webelos Den Leader, Cubmaster, Committee Member and Committee Chair.

As his sons went into Boy Scouts, Jordan became Assistant Scoutmaster and has been Scoutmaster of Troop 339 in Cayce-West Columbia for the past six years.

Jordan is also a merit badge counselor and has served at Merit Badge University for five years, and leads the council's initiatives in programming for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, also known as STEM. He also serves on the BSA National STEM committee. In 2014, he served on the Logistics Staff of the BSA National Jamboree at the Summit in West Virginia, and he will be on the Leadership Team for STEM at the 2017 National Jamboree.

Jordan has served in adult leader training roles in Scouting including on the staff of Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, STEM Mentor Training, and has served on the staff of two Wood Badge training courses. He has also participated in national STEM training at the Florida Sea Base and this summer will serve as a STEM Instructor at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, NM.

For his service in Scouting, he has been

recognized with the Scouter's Key, Unit Leader Award of Merit, Scouter's Training Award, Scoutmaster Award of Merit, and the District Award of Merit in the Chinquapin District. In 2015 he was named Scoutmaster of the Year for the Chinquapin District in the Indian Waters Council. He earned his Wood Badge Beads in 2011 and became a member of the Order of the Arrow a year later.

Outside of Scouting, Jordan has been active for 16 years as a leader of Broadacres Baptist Church and has served as a Deacon and on the Building and Grounds Committee.

He is a Past Master of the Gaston Masonic Lodge and is an active leader of the Brookland Cayce Band Parents Association for six years. He has been a PTO President and School Improvement Council Member of the BC Grammar #1 School. He also serves on the Planning Commission for the City of Cayce.

Jordan and his wife, Dawn, are the parents of two Eagle Scouts, Zachary and Elijah.

Jordan is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of South Carolina.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

South Carolina Alliance for Mobile Infrastructure

Transit group's annual conference gives drivers safety, technology updates

A Mechanics look over the air compression system display as they compete in the mechanic's competition where they check over a bus for engine and safety equipment problems on Feb. 27 during the annual Mass Transit Rodeo.

B Competitors in the Van category compete in an MV1, a vehicle that can carry several wheelchairs and passengers together in one smaller vehicle.

C A bus driver competes by backing into a coned space. The driver is timed and penalized for cones hit.

D A driver is judged in their ability to handle passengers in a wheelchair. The driver must load the passenger into their vehicle and safely secure the passenger and wheelchair.

E SCDOT Public Transit Director Johnny Mmanu-ike, left, presents this year's Human Services Transit Provider of the Year to the Clarendon County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

F SCDOT Public Transit Director Johnny Mmanu-ike, left, presents this year's General Public Transit Provider of the Year to the Santee Wateree Regional Transit Authority.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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

Bridging the gap

Some say roads take you places. Those who like to go off-road say roads are confining. But all opinions are united when it comes to a bridge. They take you from here to there. They connect. They unite. Bridges are taken seriously everywhere, not just in District 1. Their failure is at best a great inconvenience, at worst a loss of life. One cannot have an efficient road system without a bridge. Manhattan would not exist, we would be stuck east of the Mississippi, and Columbia would be even tougher to get out of at 5 p.m.-- if that were possible. There are special connections between bridges and those who work with them. These are some of our connections in District 1.

Long ago, RME Tom Hammond and Kershaw Maintenance started their connection with bridges by casting

their own bridge deck panels. The process was outlined in a presentation by Bridge Foreman Chris Team and Foreman Dewey Bass at this year's Maintenance Foremen's Conference in Columbia. The crew follows standard drawings to form and cast panels for anything from a single-span to a full bridge with multiple spans on a site-specific and customizable basis. The biggest benefits to this endeavor are lower costs, fast timeframe, and the ability to customize per site to account for parapet walls and variations in deck thickness. Using this process the crew can handle maintenance-style bridges from H-10 to H-20 loading styles.

The District 1 Bridge Construction crew is at the core of the bridge program for the District. Led by Duane Gamm, under guidance from DME Robert Dickinson, the crew often meets and sometimes exceeds their goal of 12 spans per year, or eight to 10 bridges depending on the number of spans per bridge. These achievements would not be possible without

the permit and process coordination from the District Office, the dedication of the crew, and most definitely the support work from each county maintenance yard in which the crew is working at the time.

To tie it all together, the spine of the program is bridge inspection. How do we know what needs to be done to a bridge and when? Will Pointer leads the District 1 Bridge Inspection crew. He and his crew are responsible for systematically inspecting bridges throughout the District. Many issues with a bridge cannot be seen from above, and access to the underside is limited. Pointer and his crew have their "big gun" for times like these -- the snooper truck. The snooper is a specially-designed heavy truck with a fully-articulating self-leveling boom that can place up to three inspectors within arm's reach of nearly any point under a bridge...all while setting on the topside within a standard lane closure. In the hands of such a skilled crew, it is a remarkable machine!



Members of the District 1 Bridge crew in Sumter include, from left: Johnnie Koon, Duane Gamm, Travis Matthews, William Bailey II, Ronald Simpson and Ricky Boatwright.

Got news?

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

Alan Kozusko



From left to right: Thomas Nesbitt, Chris Napper, Benji Catoe, and Robert Oliver (retired) put the finishing touches on a series of bridge panels that together make one span. The panels are cast together so when split apart for transport they will fit perfectly back together.



Brian Cobb looks on as Will Pointer goes "over the edge and under the deck" to inspect a newly-constructed bridge on U.S. 601 in Richland County.



The District 1 Bridge Inspection team, from left to right, is: Brandon Bozard, Brian Cobb and Will Pointer.

District 2 News

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

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

New bridge complete on U.S. 176 in Newberry



ABOVE: The new bridge replaces a bridge damaged by the October flooding.

LEFT: Students from nearby Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School came to the opening on March 11 to see the new bridge and ask engineers questions about it.

RIGHT: Students sign their names in chalk as the first members of the public to cross the new bridge.

Got news?

Contact Steve Coleman at 864-889-8024 or email him at ColemanWS@scdot.org.



Steve Coleman



Some of the workers involved with the new bridge pose for a photo on opening day. From left: Lindy Hallman - UIG; Mike Goldinger, Michael Baker, Aaron Livingston - ICE; Lee Neighbors - SCDOT District Two; Perry McCoy - UIG; Doyle Waites, Richard Cates, Patrick Meetze, Matthew Shealy - SCDOT Newberry Construction; Myra Slack, Kenny Sizemore, Phillip Robertson - Evergreen Landscaping.



Meet Kay Smith



Kay Smith

Name: Kay S. Smith
Title: Administrative Assistant
Unit: Newberry

Kay S. Smith started working at SCDOT in 1992. She has been in Newberry Maintenance for 23 years.

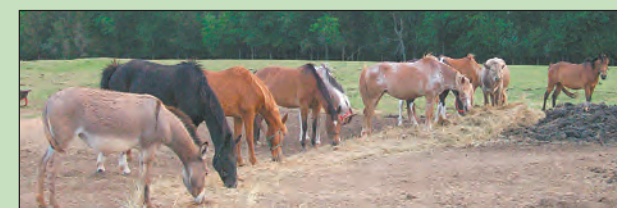
Smith loves her job and her fellow workers. She serves in many roles: Administrative Assistant, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator, Health Coordinator, and most importantly a friend to all Newberry employees.

Her interests are many and varied. She loves the beach, the mountains and the zoo. Each year she does sand sculpture

while on vacation at the beach. She has a membership to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia and keeps her own collection of animals at home.

She teaches Sunday School in her church and has for more than 30 years. She also volunteers her time to help at the Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School.

Smith and her husband have five children and nine grandchildren. One son, **Steven R. Perry**, works for the Help Desk at SCDOT Headquarters in Columbia.



District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

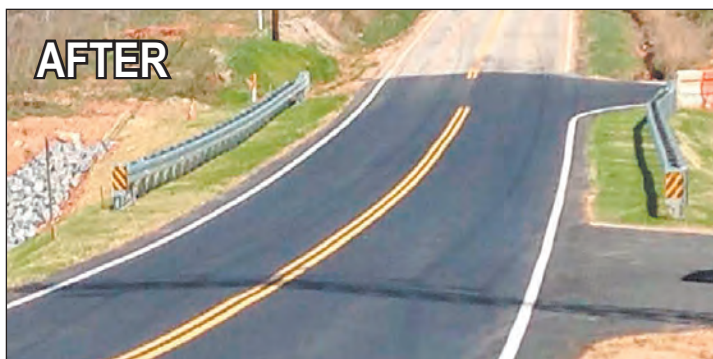
Hayne Street culvert washed out, repaired

SCDOT crews completed repairs to a Hayne Street culvert that had washed out in October as a result of heavy rainfall in the state.

The area of Hayne Street near Ethel Road had been closed and under construction for more than five months. The collapse was the only case of major flood damage in Spartanburg County while the Midlands and Low-country experienced numerous dam and bridge collapses.

On Oct. 1, 2015, the culvert washed out, and the roadway above it collapsed, causing a man driving on Hayne Street to fall into the ravine below. The man was carried away by rushing waters before first responders got to him and he was brought to safety.

The culvert collapse was adjacent to a small pocket of about six homes. Those living nearby had to detour to get to the other side of the road. A portion of the funding for the Hayne Street repairs came from emergency relief funds that were made available to South Carolina after experiencing historic rainfall totals.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM YARBOROUGH/SPARTANBURG CONSTRUCTION

SCDOT removes big boulder from U.S. 276



KARUIAM BOOKER/GREENVILLE CONSTRUCTION

Greenville Maintenance crews increased their emergency response skills in February when flash floods moved over northern Greenville County and caused an enormous rock to slide off the banks on U.S. 276 near Caesars Head.

This estimated 150-ton granite rock received a lot of attention from the surrounding citizens and local park officials. It took a full day for SCDOT crews to remove the enormous rock. No injuries resulted from this incident, and the road was cleared and reopened the following day.

Got news?

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

**Karuiam
Booker**



Meet Frank Fleming



**Name: Frank Fleming
Title: Senior Geodetic Technician
Office: Greenville Construction B**

Frank Fleming is a 15-year veteran at SCDOT. He is an upstate native from Spartanburg. He has had an extensive career in the engineering and design world that spans more than 30 years.

Fleming is a graduate of Spartanburg High School and attended Spartanburg Technical School (now known as Spartanburg Community College).

He and his wife of 46 years have two sons and four grandchildren. His hobbies include family activities, college sports, and travel in which he has accumulated an extensive collection of Mickey Mouse watches from his trips to Disney World.

Congratulations to Frank Fleming for his 15 years of service and dedication to the SCDOT family!

District 4 News

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

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

Service Awards



PHOTOGRAPHS BY EDWARD MOORE/DISTRICT 4

District 4 Engineering Administrator John McCarter presents a 10-Year Service Award to Ken Caldwell (left photo) and a 30-Year Service Award to Rusty Snider (right photo) for their years of dedicated service to SCDOT.



KIM DEROSIERS/DISTRICT 4

Union RME Phil Hinson presents a 20-Year Service Award to Mechanic Aaron Martin.

Got news?

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

(Special thanks this issue to Kim Desrosiers for her assistance!)



Edward Moore

Meet Don Grogan

Name: Don Grogan
Title: Trades Specialist III

Don Grogan began his SCDOT career at Chester Maintenance in September 2003 and is now a member of the District 4 Herbicide Team. He is responsible for herbicide application in both Chester and Union Counties.

Originally hailing from New York, Grogan moved to Florida and finally settled in South Carolina. He enjoys playing golf and spoiling his newest granddaughter, Leigha, who was born July 29, 2015.

He and his wife, Margie, have two sons, T.J. and Patrick, and two granddaughters, Breanna and Leigha.

His son Patrick Grogan is also an employee of SCDOT at Chester Maintenance.



Retirements



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM DEROSIERS/DISTRICT 4

Union Resident Maintenance Engineer Phil Hinson, left, presented Chris Copeland and Terry Youngblood with plaques for their retirement from SCDOT.

Jackson retires after 34 years of service

Chester Resident Maintenance Engineer J. F. "Freddie" Jackson retired on April 1, with 34 years of service at SCDOT.

In 1982, Jackson began his career with SCDOT at York Maintenance as what was then known as a Highway Maintenance Worker I. His dedication, determination, and strong work ethic were all vital to his success. After climbing the ranks and becoming a Foreman, he was promoted to Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer at York Maintenance. He was promoted to Resident Maintenance Engineer for Chester Maintenance in 2009 and continued to hold the position until his retirement.

Jackson and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of two grown sons, Jeremy and Jacob, and have five grandchildren. He plans to spend time during his retirement enjoying his family, hunting, fishing and riding his Harley-Davidson.



J.F. "Freddie" Jackson

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



Meet Marlboro Shop Employees



Marlboro shop employees, from left, are: Billy Quick, David Burr, James Taylor and Shop Foreman Jamie Edens. Not Pictured: Cynthia Locklear.

Beautiful day to be outside working



Kingstree Maintenance employee Jessie Mack operating the Lee Boy unit as Mosel Wilson follows along with the dump truck, as the crew takes advantage of the beautiful spring weather to clean shoulders in the county.

D5 Bridge Inspection



District 5 Bridge Inspection employee Mitch Elmore trains new employee Jeffrey Matthews on the operation of the snooper truck as they go under a bridge on U.S. 1 in Marlboro County to inspect repairs.

District 6 News

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

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

Adopt-A-Highway + PalmettoPride

Working together to keep South Carolina beautiful



By Debra J. Jerideau

Adopt-A-Highway has been around since 1988. Since its inception volunteers have been cleaning up litter along South Carolina highways. PalmettoPride has brought Adopt-A-Highway into their pickup program.

PalmettoPride is a legislative initiative created to combat litter and help keep South Carolina beautiful. Our state legislators created PalmettoPride in response to South Carolina citizen’s concerns regarding the amount of litter in South Carolina. PalmettoPride is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. It is made up of state agencies, concerned citizens, corporate sponsors, community and civic organizations with the stated goal of encouraging “behavioral

change” about litter in the citizens of South Carolina. Changing this type of behavior will not happen overnight. Eighty percent of people who litter do it intentionally. Eradicating litter and promoting beautification in South Carolina is a constant fight to change people’s behavior but some still insist on littering. Progress has been made with a 62 percent reduction in litter over the past 10 years.

This reduction is due to these four avenues:

- Education – educating the citizens of South Carolina with anti-litter campaigns (include school-aged children).
- Enforcement – working close with local law enforcement to prosecute littering and illegal dumping.
- Awareness – educating citizens that litter is not just about

beautification but it’s also about the economy.

- Pickups – working with hundreds of groups and thousands of volunteers to pick up litter.

In 2014, 1.06 million pounds of litter was removed from 4,707 miles of South Carolina highways. This was reached with help from 24,751 volunteers and 1,904 groups. This number increases yearly.

State and local government do not have the resources readily available to clean up litter on our roadways. Clean communities are safe, good for tourism, economic development and make everyone who calls South Carolina home proud.

If you are interested in adopting a section of roadway, please call 1-877-725-7733 or email Sterling McMillan at SMcMillan@palmettopride.org.

Got news?

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



Debra Jerideau

Meet Molly Gromlovits

Molly Gromlovits is the District 6 IT Consultant I for the South Carolina Department of Transportation. She is responsible for District 6’s computer upgrades, help desk support, software and hardware assistance, computer moves, cell phones and IT-related equipment requests.

She has worked with computers since 1983 and has earned a bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems from DeVry and an associate’s degree in Computer Science Programming from Columbus State Community College.

Gromlovits is from a large family of five brothers and five sisters. She has a daughter Meghan that lives in Florida. She lives with her pets Tibby, Cosmo and Sunny. She enjoys repurposing items, collecting antiques and selling them in her spare time. She also enjoys helping others with computer problems.



Meet Jeremy Still

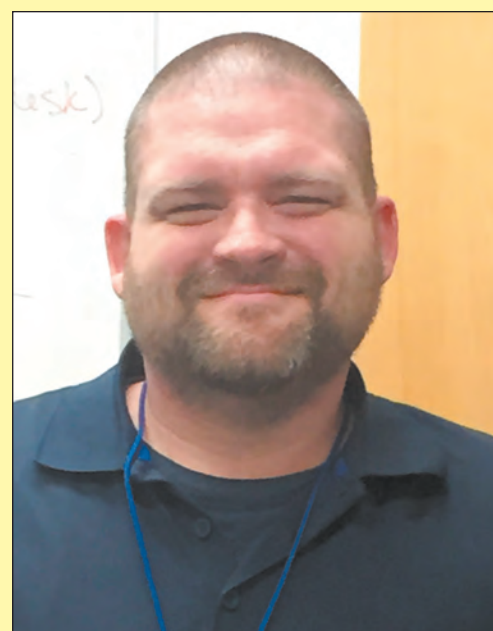
Jeremy Still is an IT Services Specialist III in District 6. He is originally from Alabama.

He started working with computers while employed by Comcast in Tallahassee, Fla. After he moved to South Carolina, he decided to go back to school for a degree in IT.

Still graduated from Trident Tech in October 2014 and was employed by a small energy management startup company from 2012 until joining SCDOT in February.

He will be married for 10 years in June and has a 7-year-old daughter.

His hobbies include drawing, playing bass and collecting comics.



District 7 News

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

*District Engineer Bryan Jones: (803) 531-6850
FAX: (803) 531-6854*

Calhoun Maintenance installs new brine generation system

Calhoun Maintenance recently completed installation of a new brine generation system. They produced the first batch on Dec. 29, 2015. The new system consists of four 5,500-gallon tanks and has a batch production capacity of 22,000 gallons. The system capabilities allow for the production of approximately 40,000 gallons

in a 24 hour period.

Resident Maintenance Engineer **Lyle Davis** states that the system is a continuous operation and as long as we have salt and water we can make brine. Our only possible limitation could be loss of electricity, however, the building is tied to a generator and we also have gasoline operated pumps as back up. ARME **Rich-**

ard Gregory and Shop Foreman **Mark Felder**, along with unit maintenance staff, plumbed and constructed the delivery system.

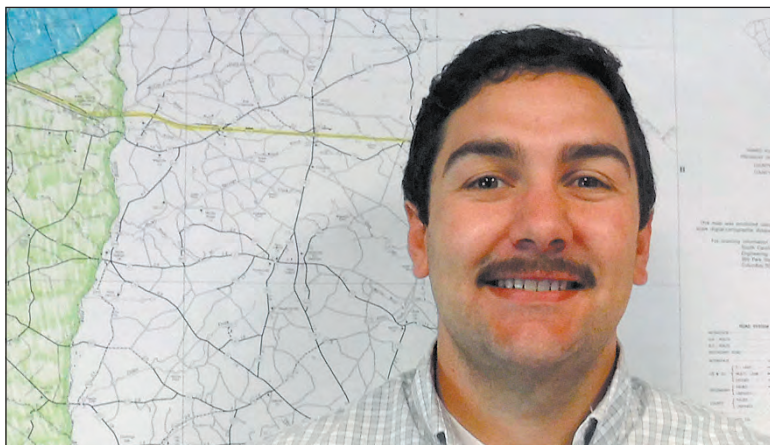
District Mechanical Engineer **Charles Jones** states that the system, by design, has built in functionality, ease of use and portability and was designed with efficiency and safety in mind.



Meet Joe Winfield

Joe Winfield started his career at SCDOT in 2006 in Charleston. He moved to Aiken Construction in 2012 and was recently promoted to Resident Maintenance Engineer at Aiken Maintenance.

He is a graduate of The Citadel and attends Grace United Methodist Church. His hobbies include fishing, and he is active in the F3nation organization, which stands for fitness, fellowship and faith.



Got news?

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

**Danny
Simmons**



In Memoriam



Gregory Todd Lyons

1962-2016

Gregory Todd Lyons Sr., 53, of Smoaks, died March 27 at the Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Funeral services were held March 30 at 3 p.m. at the Brice W. Herndon and Sons Funeral Home, Ehrhardt – Bamberg Chapel. Interment followed in Hagan Cemetery.

Lyons was born July 6, 1962, in Bamberg County and was a son of Buddy and Sara Strickland Lyons.

He was a trade specialist at SCDOT's Bamberg Maintenance unit where he worked for 28 years with many special co-workers and friends.

He was a member of the Brea Advent Christian Church.

He sincerely loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and family.

Bamberg Resident Maintenance Engineer **Bobby Crider** said he was an exceptional and truly dependable employee who will be sorely missed. He was a true asset to the team here at Bamberg Maintenance.

Surviving, in addition to his parents of Smoaks are: three children, Jennifer Martin (Jason Etheridge), Todd Lyons Jr. (Mandy Bishop) and Sara Elizabeth Craven (Dallas Craven); grandchildren Victoria Martin, Aubrey Martin, Russell Bowen, Katie Craven, Blake Craven, Emily Lyons and Briar Lyons, as well as, a granddaughter due in August.



On March 25, S.C. Highway Patrol and the Saluda County Sheriff's Department held a traffic safety check near the roundabout at the intersection of U.S. 378 and S.C. 391 to showcase their continued involvement in keeping the traveling citizens of Saluda County safe.

Saluda County proud of highway safety record

By Pete Poore and Drew Stewart

No one, not one person has died on the highways in Saluda County since November 2014. This accomplishment can be credited to stepped-up law enforcement and the coordinated team effort by the S.C. Highway Patrol, the Saluda County Sheriff's Department and the Saluda City Police Department.

All three agencies have conducted hundreds of traffic stops

going back to 2014 aimed at reducing speeding, DUI and other violations. The work has paid off.

S.C. Highway Patrol Captain D.W. Youngue said the cooperation has been exceptional. "Something like this could not have been accomplished without the Saluda County Sheriff's Department and the Saluda City Police," said Youngue.

Saluda County Sheriff John Perry has lived his entire life in the county. Sheriff Perry said the spotless record means a lot to him. "It means I can carry on a

pleasant conversation with a citizen about highway safety in our county instead of the other way around," said Perry.

Saluda Police Chief Kes Holmes noted the reaction from the public. "I've received more positive feedback about this effort in the last six months than I have in all my years in law enforcement," said Holmes.

Neighboring Edgefield County has also been successful in preventing highway deaths. Edgefield County recorded 445 days without a traffic-related fatality between 2013 and 2015.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Saluda County had zero traffic-related fatalities in the year 2015.

Family honors father in 5K race



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GIBSON FAMILY

Timothy Gibson Jr. pushes his sister, Rachel, across the finish line during the annual 'Be a Fan' 5K race on Jan. 30. Their father, an SCDOT employee who died on the job in October 2015, had always helped Rachel finish the race.

By Pete Poore

Dutch Fork High School in Irmo held its annual "Be a Fan" 5k race on Jan. 30 to raise funds for special education programs including the Special Olympics. The 2016 edition of the event was more than a race. The 5k was run in memory of SCDOT's **Timothy Gibson**, the Richland Maintenance worker who lost his life at the height of the October flooding on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015.

The Gibson family had always participated in the "Be a Fan" race. Timothy and Allison Gibson's daughter Rachel is a student in the special needs program at Dutch Fork. Part of the fam-

ily's tradition included daughter Rachel being taken around the course by her father.

This year, 187 runners and walkers crossed the finish line on the 50-yard line in the Dutch Fork football stadium. Timothy Gibson Jr. crossed the line with a time of 18:57 to win his 20-24 age-group. But he wasn't done quite yet.

He went back out on the course to take over from family members who were wheeling Rachel around the campus just as her dad used to do. Timothy Jr. and Rachel crossed the line together. Those who were gathered at the event had little doubt that Timothy Sr. was looking down on his family and smiling.

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2016

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
South Carolina
Secretary of Transportation

I am so proud of the accomplishments of the men and women of SCDOT.

This Connector is filled with many pages of great awards, recognitions and multiple examples of a dedicated, professional team. I have no doubt that SCDOT is a strong organization poised to continue to lead the way in our industry.

The recent release of the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) review of the agency confirms that SCDOT has been good stewards of the taxpayer's funds and has struggled for years to maintain the nation's fourth-largest state maintained highway system with declining resources.

This finding in the LAC review is

evident to anyone who travels our roadways. The businesses in the state need a reliable transportation network for the movement of their goods.

I am hopeful that the case has been effectively made that we simply cannot afford to wait any longer to address the need for long-term, sustainable funding for our roads and bridges.

Our job will be to continue to use our existing resources wisely and put any new funding to good use. We will embrace the LAC review as an opportunity to advance some additional improvements to our processes, procedures and transparency.

Over the next several months, the agency will adopt many of the recommendations in the LAC review and we will proceed through our implementation plan. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance as we begin our journey together.



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ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

This section of I-20 in Lexington County has been recognized for its asphalt quality with a Perpetual Pavement Award. See the story inside on page 22.

SCDOT