

2021 State of SCDOT presented to Commission, State Senate Transportation Committee

'No slow downs or delays' from COVID-19

Agency tightened belts, balanced deficit to keep up road, bridge projects

By Bob Kudelka

South Carolina Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** delivered the 2021 "State of SCDOT" presentation to the SCDOT Commission on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Hall's presentation included an update on accomplishments by SCDOT since the Roads Bill passed by the South Carolina General Assembly went into effect on July 1, 2017, and how SCDOT responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are well on our way to getting to a state of good repair," Hall said. "Paving conditions across the state have improved in every county across the state." She said traffic congestion remains a challenge, noting that South Carolina has the nation's 4th largest state highway system and the 6th fastest growing population.

SCDOT Commission Chairman J. Barnwell Fishburne said it's a historic time for both the agency and the Commission.

"We are overseeing the large infrastructure expansion since the interstate program was put in and it's being done in an excellent fashion," Fishburne said. "I commend all of you for that. I like to recognize excellence when I see it."

Hall also delivered the State of the SCDOT presentation to the State Senate Transportation Committee on March 17, 2021, where she also received positive feedback.

"What we need is to clone Secretary Hall," said Senator Harvey S. Peeler Jr. of Gaffney. "That's about the best compliment I can give you. Thank you for the job you're doing."

Looking back at the past year, SCDOT was able to maintain a robust highway construction program despite the COVID-19 pandemic causing a reduction in travel and gas tax revenues, Hall said.

"We tightened our belt and cut our inter-



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

United Infrastructure Group Inc. CEO Jim Triplett and S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall discuss the last concrete pour work being done on the southbound I-77 bridge over the Catawba River in York County on May 17. (Read more about this project on page 13.)

nal operating costs by 12 percent to balance that deficit," Hall said. "We did not cut, slow down or delay any road or bridge project in South Carolina (due to COVID-19)."

SCDOT is in the fourth-year of a 10-Year Plan to rebuild South Carolina's roads after a 30-year backlog of deferred maintenance due to lack of funding. July 1, 2020, marked the start of year 4 of the phased in 12-cent gas tax increase.

The current state gas tax in South Carolina is 24.75 cents per gallon. In Georgia, the state gas tax is 32.20 cents per gallon and in

North Carolina, 36.35 cents per gallon.

Over the past several years, SCDOT has tripled its road work program with more than \$3 billion in construction contracts.

The new gas tax trust fund is invested in four key areas:

- Road Paving - SCDOT is using 50 percent of the new revenues to resurface the state's highways as 80 percent of the state's 42,000 miles need resurfacing or rebuilding. The 10-year goal is to bring half of those roads up to a "good" rating.
- Highway Safety - SCDOT is address-

ing the "worst-of-the worst" rural roads in terms of highway safety by improving 100 miles per year with a customized plan to make these roads safer in ten-mile segments.

- Structurally Deficient Bridges - Approximately half of SCDOT's 750 structurally deficient bridges are being replaced.
- Interstate Widening - SCDOT has begun an aggressive interstate widening plan targeting bottlenecks in urban areas and improving key rural sections of interstate needed for freight movement.

New Chairman, Vice-Chairman selected



The SCDOT Commission elected J. Barnwell Fishburne, left, as the new Commission Chairman and Gene Branham, right, as the new Commission Vice-Chairman during the Jan. 21, 2021, SCDOT Commission meeting in Columbia.

Commissioner Burriss resigns

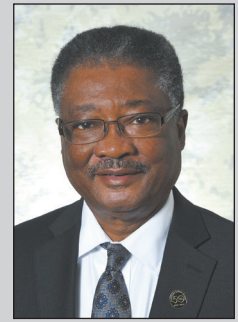
In April, 2nd Congressional District Highway Commissioner John Burriss resigned from the Commission due to family health reasons.

The 2nd Congressional District covers all or part of Aiken, Barnwell, Lexington, Orangeburg and Richland counties.



John H. Burriss

SCDOT Commission



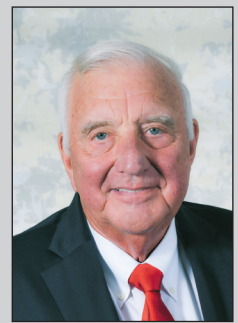
J.T. McLawhorn
Commissioner
At-Large



Nancy Whitworth
Commissioner
At-Large



Robert D. Robbins
1st Congressional
District



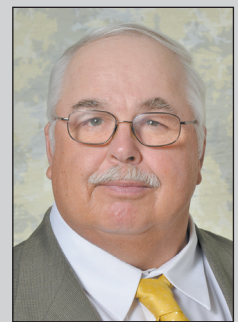
William B. Dukes
2nd Congressional
District



Pamela Christopher
3rd Congressional
District



Woodrow W. Willard
4th Congressional
District



Gene Branham
5th Congressional
District



Barnwell Fishburne
6th Congressional
District



Tony K. Cox
7th Congressional
District

William B. Dukes selected to serve 2nd Congressional District

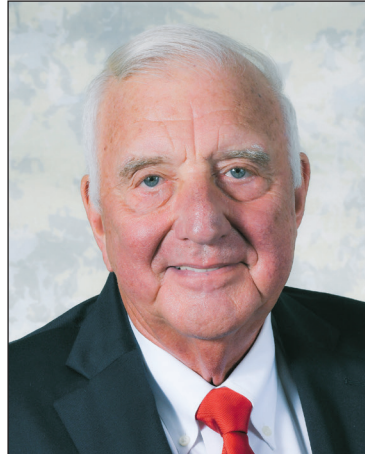
William B. Dukes, of Chapin, was sworn in as the SCDOT Commission from the 2nd Congressional District on Aug. 10, 2021.

Dukes is owner of Blue Marlin Restaurant and Signature Catering.

A graduate from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, Dukes received an ROTC commission in the US Air Force. A Vietnam veteran, Dukes served in the US Air Force for four years and attained the rank of Captain.

In 1981, Dukes cofounded and developed the Longhorn Steakhouse chain in the Carolinas.

Dukes is founder and Chairman of Honor Flight of SC, with more than 2,000 World War II and Kore-



William B. Dukes
2nd Congressional District

an War veterans honored. He was appointed by the Secretary of the Army to be the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army representing

South Carolina and served in this capacity from 2014-2018.

Dukes is a member of the Lexington-Richland Airport Commission, where he first began serving in 2002; served as member of the Newberry College Board of Trustees; is a former Director of the Columbia and Charlotte Chambers of Commerce; a former advisor to the SC Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging; past member of the USC Educational Foundation; past chairman of the Columbia Convention Center Authority; and chairman of the SC Synod-ELCA Tanzania Safe Water Task Force.

Dukes received The Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor, from the Governor of South Carolina. He and his wife, JoAnn, have two sons.

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 A. Hall is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



New 'Complete Streets' policy to add access to more users

By Pete Poore

SCDOT has adopted a wide-ranging "Complete Streets" Policy for the state-owned highway system. Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** signed the document in Columbia on Feb. 4, 2021.

The "Complete Streets" policy requires SCDOT to work with the state's regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Councils of Governments (COGs) and regional transit providers to include walking, bicycling and transit needs on targeted routes as part of their regional plans. These plans will serve as a guide for project planning and design, construction, maintenance and operations. The Policy is a "living document" that will call for reviews in rapidly changing areas that occur in a state where rapid growth is occurring in all regions.

Hall said, "The goal of the Policy is to make our highway system accessible to all users; drivers, passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and those who

use highway facilities for fitness activities. In addition, the Policy can increase safety and reduce crashes among all users.

Key components of the Policy include:

- Funding for these accommodations is to be included in the budget for each project.

- SCDOT engineers will continue to use many sources to study the design of accommodations for various users, including federal, state and research institutions.

- SCDOT will establish a council to facilitate ongoing communication to seek continuous improvement opportunities and initiatives.

Secretary Hall thanked all the parties involved for their efforts to formulate the "Complete Streets" Policy. "I appreciate the time and effort the various advocacy groups put into the new Policy. They have worked side-by-side with us from the beginning and we count on their input as we begin to make South Carolina's highway system more efficient and safer for all of our citizens," said Hall.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The 'Complete Streets' policy works with local officials to incorporate bicycling, walking and other transit needs during the design, construction, maintenance and operations in areas of rapid growth. Contractors marked bike paths on the Isle of Palms Connector (S.C. 517) in Charleston County on April 13, 2021.

SCDOT improves, increases public beach parking at IOP

By Pete Poore

After a number of meetings between Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** and local officials representing the City of Isle of Palms, all entities agreed to SCDOT's plan to improve public parking on Palm Boulevard and its access to the beach.

The land side of Palm Boulevard has a suitable amount of SCDOT right of way and shoulders. SCDOT engineers redesigned the parallel parking configuration to a diagonal parking situation.

The new design added up to 80 more spaces to the existing 190 parking spaces. SCDOT crews began installing concrete blocks and painting lines on Monday, April 19, 2021. The work was completed by the morning of April 21, 2021.

In addition to the new land side parking spaces, parallel parking on the beach side of Palm Boulevard is still available. All parking on the SCDOT right of way on Palm Boulevard is free of charge. The speed limit on this road has been reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph. No palmetto trees were removed during the installation.

While on-site during the parking design installation, Secretary Hall told the media that the issue of beach parking and access affects the state as a whole. "South Carolina's beaches are a beautiful destination and should be available for all to enjoy. I am thankful that SCDOT has been able to help restore the public's right to have equitable access to state-owned assets," said Hall.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews place concrete curb stops and paint lines on the right of way along the 'land' side of Palm Boulevard at the Isle of Palms. The change increases the number of beach parking spaces by changing parallel parking to diagonal parking on one side of the roadway.

Phase I of Port Access Road opens in North Charleston

By Lauren Roeder

SCDOT opened phase I of the Port Access Road Project on Feb. 23, 2021.

This marked the completion of the road work necessary to accommodate truck and other port-related traffic associated with the future opening of the new Hugh K. Leatherman port terminal at exit 218 on I-26 in North Charleston. Phase I also includes an improved I-26/ North Meeting Street access ramp at exit 217.

The 4-mile project replaces an old partial interchange with a new, fully directional modern interchange. The Port Access Road connects I-26 to the new Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal with two inbound and two outbound lanes for all port-related traffic. Other associated roadway improvements are also being made to balance the needs of moving traffic in and out of the new terminal.

Phase II of the project will serve local and commercial vehicles with a Bainbridge Avenue connector road, an extension of Stromboli Avenue, and associated improvements to local streets.

The Port Access Road construction project is managed by SCDOT and the Port Access Road Project Construction Engineering and Inspection team for the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA).



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The new Port Access Road runs four miles from I-26 in North Charleston to the new Hugh K. Leatherman port terminal.

Resident Construction Engineer for Design/Build and Special Projects **Sarah Gaffney** in District 6

worked on the project.

The \$220 million project is funded by the federal government

through a 2006 Federal Earmark, the SC State Legislature through allocations with interest to the SC-

DOT, SCPA and the Contingency Reserve Fund by the South Carolina General Assembly.

Employee Appreciation Week 2021



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees mingle and gather in lines outside the headquarters building on May 4, 2021, to take part in SCDOT's yearly food truck event during Employee Appreciation Week.

SCDOT discontinues toll collections on Hilton Head's Cross Island Parkway

By Ted Creech

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) stopped collecting tolls on Hilton Head Island's Cross Island Parkway at 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021. The agency is now preparing to convert the corridor to a non-tolled road.

"SCDOT's commitment to the public was to sunset the toll once the bonds are paid off. We take this commitment seriously and are pleased to make the road free to use," said Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**.

"The Cross Island Parkway has been serving Hilton Head residents, visitors and businesses as an important alternate travel route for more than 20 years, and we're pleased to convert it to a non-tolled roadway permanently," said SCDOT Deputy Secretary of Finance and Administration **Justin Powell**.

Opened in 1998, The Cross Island Parkway is a 7.5-mile limited access route that connects the William Hilton Parkway (Business U.S. 278) at the north end of Hilton Head Island with Palmetto Bay Road and the Sea Pines Circle at the south end of the island. The toll was \$1.25 per cash customer and \$.75 per Palmetto Pass customer based on a two-axle vehicle. The toll was collected to repay bonds that were issued to build the road, pay for toll collection operations, and maintain the roadway and fa-



CODY GROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The tollbooths on the Cross Island Parkway will eventually be demolished now that toll collecting has stopped.

ilities.

SCDOT continues to maintain the Parkway as a part of its statewide road system.

Motorists who used the Palmetto Pass, an account that enabled them to pay toll charges with a pre-paid balance instead of stopping

at the toll booths to pay in cash, will need to close their accounts now that the toll is discontinued. SCDOT has discontinued the sale of new Palmetto Pass accounts for the Cross Island Parkway.

SCDOT has been communicating with all Palmetto Pass custom-

ers about closing their accounts, returning their transponders, and how to receive refunds of their deposits.

Go to www.crossislandparkway.org for more information. Answers to frequently asked questions about Palmetto Pass accounts

can be found on the website at www.crossislandparkway.org/scvector/static/faq/Discontinuing.shtml.

The public may also call the Palmetto Pass customer service center at 843-342-6718.

SCDOT engineer recognized by University of South Carolina for volunteer work helping future engineering graduates

By Rob Thompson

SCDOT Program Manager **Casey B. Lucas** in the Upstate Regional Production Group (RPG-4) was recently recognized by her alma mater for her impact on young engineers in the Palmetto State.

The University of South Carolina College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) featured the SCDOT engineer

on their website stating that her post-graduate career helps keep South Carolina moving forward.

Lucas worked at SCDOT as an intern while she was still a college student. The intern program gave her a chance to learn about SCDOT career opportunities.

She graduated from USC's Engineering College with a bachelor's degree in civil en-

gineering in 2010 and began working again at SCDOT as a road design engineer. She was promoted to assistant program manager, and then to her current position, program manager, in June 2018. She was recognized as SCDOT Preconstruction Employee of the Year in 2019.

As an alumna, Lucas has reached back to the college community to participate in

programs to help engineering students. She volunteers with engineering students and helped put together a women's luncheon for alumni.

Inclusive Programs Coordinator at the CEC Brian McCaster said "We appreciate people like Casey who show up for our undergraduate students and help them find their place in engineering and computing."



Casey Lucas

SCDOT receives ‘Clean Audit’ of the agency’s finances

By Pete Poore

SCDOT was presented with an unmodified, or “clean audit” for the fiscal year 2019-2020. This report marks the second consecutive year the agency’s financial operations have received an “unmodified” review. The audit was conducted by the independent

firm of Mauldin & Jenkins, a southeastern regional firm.

The firm noted that one key to SCDOT’s successful administration of its finances was the internal controls that consistently worked properly. In addition, the firm pointed to the strength of SCDOT’s financial management team. The team was cited for providing the auditors with full cooperation.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** said, “This audit is a reflection of SCDOT’s ongoing efforts to be completely accountable and transparent and to be as efficient as possible in our mission to provide the best possible transportation system for our

state.” The firm conducted individual audits of SCDOT’s federal programs as part of the overall review. Each of those programs rated “clean audits” as well. Additionally, the auditors reported that the increased revenues from the gas tax were not creating an increase in overhead costs for the agency

SCDOT is in the 4th year of the 10-Year road improvement program with funding provided by the 2017 Roads Bill. The agency is implementing projects in all of the state’s 46 counties.

The annual audit was presented at a meeting of the SCDOT Commission Audit Committee held in Columbia on Jan. 21, 2021.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



Tim Lyons with the accounting firm Mauldin & Jenkins announces the clean audit SCDOT received to the SCDOT Commission on Jan. 21, 2021, after their company reviewed the agency’s finances.



SCDOT employees donate to Adopt-A-Family/SC Cares

By Brittany Harriot

When it’s time for the holiday season, it’s also the time of year for the South Carolina Department of Transportation to sponsor the annual “SCDOT Holiday Adopt-A-Family” program.

Each year employees at Headquarters and districts around the state sponsor a local family to provide for. It’s a way for employees to give back and donate to those in need.

SCDOT also helps raise money through SC Cares. Like the Adopt-a-Family program, SC Cares is a fundraiser that benefits SCDOT employees in times of crisis. Agency logo items are available to

employees each spring and fall.

During this fall’s SC Cares campaign, 883 items were purchased by employees, which in turn raised just over \$2,800. The 2020 Adopt-A-Family program also proved to be a great success! Through cash and gift donations, every wish list item was granted to 22 families from 4 different districts. There was even enough in monetary donations to provide each of the families with a \$100 gift card.

In addition to those two fundraising campaigns, SCDOT also hosts an annual yard sale during Employee Appreciation Day and accepts donations all throughout the year to help benefit the SC Cares program.



Here are some of the donations SCDOT employees gave to sponsored families this past holiday season as part of the Adopt-A-Family program.

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

'An exciting time to be at DOT'

An interview with Deputy Secretary of Finance and Administration

By Bob Kudelka

Justin Powell had been with SCDOT less than a year when the COVID-19 pandemic struck in early 2020.

As Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration, Powell would have a key role navigating the choppy waters of an uncertain gas tax revenue stream as the virus spread around the globe and travel dropped in the Palmetto State.

On April 23, 2021, more than a year after the pandemic began, Powell sat down with The Connector for an update on where the agency stands as well as the outlook for the future.

Overall, from a financial point of view, how has SCDOT fared under COVID?

"Because of our proactive actions last spring and summer, the DOT has weathered it very well and is well-positioned to keep

moving forward because of what we did early on. We're faring very well.

We appreciate the creativity of the DOT team to tighten the belt and find creative ways to keep our business moving forward. Very early on, we cut our internal operating budget by 12 percent. Our construction program and our 10-year Strategic Plan never stopped or had to be deferred because of the outbreak. That is a huge point of pride, and it positions DOT well as we get out of the COVID situation."

How are the latest revenue trends looking for SCDOT?

"In the past few weeks, traffic has gotten close to 2019 volumes as vaccine availability has become more prevalent. By comparison, after COVID-19 hit we experienced a 40-45 percent drop in traffic during the first wave that eventually leveled off to a 5-10 percent drop."

There seems to be a lot of tourism activity in South Carolina and it's only April. Is this a good sign, and what does it mean for SCDOT?

"Certainly we have a large portion of our gas tax that comes from out of state. So the more people traveling should be a positive for gas tax receipts. The spring break season is just ending and it takes a few weeks for us to see the results so we're waiting to see how this pans out."

What is your outlook, from a financial standpoint, for the future at DOT?

"We've done what we needed to keep moving forward. We've got lots of discussion underway about infrastructure investment on the national level, so that could mean new opportunities for the agency."

"I think it's an exciting time to be at DOT."



Justin Powell
Deputy Secretary
for Finance and Administration

SCDOT and GDOT work together on I-20 bridge widening

By Brittany Harriot

The South Carolina Department of Transportation, along with the Georgia Department of Transportation, are currently working to replace and widen the existing I-20 bridges over the Augusta Canal and Savannah River.

The project spans within the city of Augusta, Georgia and the city of North Augusta in Aiken County. The purpose of the roughly \$84 million project is to replace the existing bridges with new structures to improve safety and operations along I-20. The area will also see widening from four to six lanes to increase capacity.

This is one of the main goals of SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to improve our state's roads and bridges.

"The interstate through here was one of many interstates around South Carolina that needed additional capacity. It was one of the first interstates identified with the new gas tax and additional funds coming from state legislature that had that additional capacity," said **Adam Humphries** who is the project manager for the I-20 Widening and Bridge Replacement Project.

Construction is currently ongoing with crews working with SCDOT to complete grading work and drainage improvements in the median of the interstate.

Beginning in the Spring of 2021, traffic changes are expected to take place with drivers needing to shift towards the median to assist with the completion of the project.

The expected completion date for this project is in the Spring of 2022.



Work is ongoing at I-20 at Martintown Rd. (Exit 1) in Aiken County on Sept. 24, 2020.

SCDOT begins widening of U.S. 17 in Jasper County

Project will improve safety, boost regional growth and economic development

By Ted Creech

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has begun construction to widen nearly 4.2 miles of U.S. 17 from the Georgia border to the intersection of S.C. 315 near Hardeeville, SC. SCDOT will widen the roadway from two to four lanes and make other improvements to enhance its safety and accommodate increasing traffic associated with residential growth and economic development in the region.

The \$41.9 million project is made possible by South Carolina's gas tax increase, enacted by the General Assembly in 2017, and the agency's 10-Year Plan to improve the state's roads and bridges. Improvements to U.S. 17 include a divided grass median between the new four lanes, wider shoulders and safety rumble strips. SCDOT will also install bike lanes and intersection improvements, including the installation of new traffic signaling at the S.C. 315 and U.S. 17 intersection. A second phase of the project is being designed by Georgia DOT to construct a second bridge over Back River near the Savannah River.

"The Highway 17 widening project accomplishes several goals. It updates the road infrastructure and improves the safety of our citizens as they travel the corridor," said J. Barnwell Fishburne, Chairman of the SCDOT Commission representing the 6th Congressional District. "It also supports the region's growth and economic development efforts now and for the future."

"Better safety and quality and a stronger economy for South Carolinians are what SCDOT's mission is all about," he said.

Concrete construction barriers are now in place along the corridor. SCDOT's contractor, R.B. Baker Construction, has been installing erosion control measures and clearing brush and trees along the sides of the existing road to make way for a widened road bed. Except for some temporary lane closures, two-way traffic on U.S.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY R. B. BAKER CONSTRUCTION

Construction barriers have been put into place as SCDOT prepares for construction on nearly 4.2 miles of U.S. 17 in Jasper County from the Georgia border to the intersection of S.C. 315 near Hardeeville.

17 will be maintained. Motorists can expect some delays.

"We're going to experience some delays during the Highway 17 construction, but in the end it's going to be a much-improved and much safer highway," said Andrew Fulghum, Jasper County Administrator. The Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) and the Lowcountry Council of Governments rate the project as a top road infrastructure priority for the region.

Significant ground improvements, such as specialized work on the new roadway embankments and compacting the soil to support the new highway, will add time to construction. SCDOT expects the construction work to be completed by late 2025.

SCDOT is concluding year four of its 10-Year Plan to repave South Carolina's aging corridors, rebuild or replace deteriorating bridges, make our rural roads safer, and improve key portions of our interstates. SCDOT has tripled its road work to \$3.4 billion in recent years.



The intersection of U.S. 17 and S.C. 315 in Jasper County will be upgraded to improve safety and traffic flow. The roadway will be widened to four lanes with shoulders, a grass median and bike lanes.

RETIREMENTS

William H. Ballenger retired from Oconee Maintenance after 16 years of service.

William D. Beckham retired from Richland Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Mary B. Blackwood retired from Allendale Maintenance after 34 years of service.

Gail Bogan retired from Bamberg Construction after 9 years of service.

Heyward F. Booker retired from Edgefield Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Christy L. Brasington retired from Road Data Services after 11 years of service.

Melvin A. Brown retired from D4-Pavement Repair & Preservation after 14 years of service.

Sherry D. Brown retired from Intermodal Planning after 14 years of service.

Craig R. Brown retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 24 years of service.

Daniel B. Calkins retired from Aiken Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Samuel Carson retired from Dorchester Maintenance after 8 years of service.

Michael P. Cox retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 24 years of service.

Roger D. Daley retired from Office of Planning after 31 years of service.

David L. Dickson retired from Oconee Construction after 13 years of service.

Janice Y. Dixon retired from Director of Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Thomas W. Dodd retired from Beaufort Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Alan K. Faulk retired from Director of Traffic Engineering after 32 years of service.

Ronny M. Funderburk retired from Fairfield Maintenance after 9 years of service.

Richard J. Griffith retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 12 years of service.

Curtis Hammett retired from Sumter Maintenance after 17 years of service.

Joe D. Herrin retired from Edgefield Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Doyle H. Hill retired from Clarendon Maintenance after 19 years of service.

James J. Hodge retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Karl Hoffman retired from District 2 Office after 31 years of service.

James A. Howington retired from York Maintenance after 6 years of service.

Robert W. Hoyle retired from Director of Traffic Engineering after 30 years of service.

Shirley A. Hunter retired from Abbeville Construction after 24 years of service.

Randy E. Jordan retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 24 years of service.

Michael L. Kelly retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 21 years of service.

Sallie C. Koon retired from Pavement Management-Secondary Roads after 34 years of service.

Linda C. McDonald retired from Legal Services after 30 years of service.

Randall G. Miller retired from Oconee Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Mary A. Moore retired from Williamsburg Maintenance after 23 years of service.

James K. Moore retired from Saluda Maintenance after 29 years of service.

James R. Moultrie retired from Jasper Maintenance after 7 years of service.

Dianne Myers retired from Orangeburg Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Farshid Namirani retired from Edgefield Maintenance after 4 years of service.

Fran K. Nelson retired from Colleton Construction after 31 years of service.

Elizabeth M. Ott retired from Design Build after 23 years of service.

Howard B. Parker retired from Oconee Maintenance after 32 years of service.

John K. Pearson retired from D4-Bridge Inspection after 28 years of service.

Susan P. "Penny" Phillips retired from RPG 4 - Upstate after

28 years of service.

Timothy Pinckney retired from D6-Bridge Inspection after 16 years of service.

Jason S. Powell retired from SHEP - Charleston after 10 years of service.

David R. Prescott retired from Lexington Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Freddie Richburg retired from Clarendon Maintenance after 10 years of service.

Jeffrey S. Riley retired from Beaufort Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Clarence H. Rivers retired from Orangeburg Maintenance after 23 years of service.

Dean H. Robinson retired from York Maintenance after 6 years of service.

Crystal D. Ross retired from Right of Way - Greenville after 26 years of service.

Gary A. Schneider retired from Contract Program Resource Service after 9 years of service.

Thomas J. Schwieters retired from Equip Service Depot after 8 years of service.

Alva L. Sellers retired from Orangeburg Maintenance after 5 years of service.

Jeffrey Shields retired from York Maintenance after 9 years of service.

Brian Smith retired from Newberry Maintenance after 32 years of service.

Abha C. Thakore retired from Greenville Construction after 13 years of service.

Branson A. Tisdale retired from Williamsburg Maintenance after 22 years of service.

Raymond B. Tisdale retired from Williamsburg Maintenance after 30 years of service.

Teresa L. Tucker retired from Lexington Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Patricia S. Waters retired from Accounting after 7 years of service.

Larry D. Whisenhunt retired from Bamberg Maintenance after 22 years of service.

Orine Y. Wilson retired from Georgetown Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Julie G. Young retired from IT Services after 11 years of service.

Chief Counsel Linda McDonald retires after 30 years of service

Chief Counsel Linda C. McDonald retired from SCDOT after 30 years of service.

McDonald earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1979 and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar the same year.

She began her legal career at the law firm of McKenzie, Fuller, Rubin, and Miller in the primary areas of real estate and probate law.

Her professionalism and diligence in handling a large and multi-layered caseload for the Agency led to being reclassified as Attorney IV in March 1992. While serving in this role, she was responsible for litigation involving constitutional issues and statutory law interpretation, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and complex procurement matters.

She was named Deputy Chief Counsel in August 1998 which allowed her to utilize her extensive skills in both trial work and in the legal administration of the Agency. As legal counsel to the DBE Committee, McDonald assisted in drafting the Agency's new DBE Regulations to conform to updated federal standards.

She was appointed Chief Counsel in January 2001. As Chief Counsel, she led the Legal Office with tremendous spirit



Linda McDonald

and integrity. McDonald is recognized by the entire Agency as the person to go to with a difficult legal question and she considers each one thoughtfully, whether big or small.

She is a member of Shandon Presbyterian Church, a member of the Board of Governors of the SC Academy of Authors, and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Home of SC.

On Dec. 10, 2020, the SCDOT Commission presented her with a resolution thanking her for esteemed public service and valuable contributions in achieving the mission of the Department and in meeting the motoring public's needs for the State of South Carolina.



District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt retires

Kevin Gantt, District Seven Engineering Administrator overseeing Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties, has retired from SCDOT.

Gantt first officially began as District Engineering Administrator on Feb 6, 2017.

Gantt is a 1993 graduate of Clemson University, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer with more than 28 years of experience at the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

He started his career with eight years of service in Greenville Construction, Gantt then worked in Greenville Maintenance for seven years, and eventually became the Resident Maintenance Engineer at Green-

ville Maintenance. In November of 2008, Gantt was promoted to Program Manager and worked in the Midlands Regional Production Group where he managed projects for the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and The Augusta Regional Transportation Study.

In April 2014, Gantt took a position in the Planning Office as an Asset Management Engineer and was very instrumental in the development of SCDOT's first Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

While at District 7, DEA Gantt managed and served with distinction and guided District 7 through several natural disasters including floods, tornadoes and a snow and ice event. Also, among many other accomplishments and successes, DEA Gantt's commitment to safety lead him to create several multi-county

safety officer positions in an effort to better serve our SCDOT employee's.

District 7 has greatly benefited from his leadership, professionalism, guidance and humanity.

We congratulate DEA Gantt on his retirement and thank him for his service to The South Carolina Department of Transportation, District 7 and the people of South Carolina.



Kevin Gantt

safety officer positions in an effort to better serve our SCDOT employee's.

District 7 has greatly benefited from his leadership, professionalism, guidance and humanity.

We congratulate DEA Gantt on his retirement and thank him for his service to The South Carolina Department of Transportation, District 7 and the people of South Carolina.

Internal Audits Services Director Wayne Sams to retire

Internal Audit Services (IAS) Director **Wayne Sams** has announced his retirement beginning July 1. Sams, a certified public accountant, began his time at SCDOT in September 2016.

Sams joined the agency at a time of transition for the internal audit office. Previously, the office reported to the SCDOT Commission. During the summer of 2016, Act 275 transferred the office to the State Auditor George Kennedy. With his support and the championing of internal audit by Secretary **Christy A. Hall**, Sams began reconstructing the internal audit function.

The new office, IAS, is built on Sams' philosophy that internal audit is a partner with the agency to help it achieve its mission and strategic goals more efficiently and effectively. This move away from "audit police" revitalized the energy and morale of the IAS team and restored the confidence of the SCDOT Commission, management, and staff. This transformed IAS into a trusted adviser for its stakeholders.

Sams assembled a high-performing team that encompasses expertise in assurance, risk, efficiency assessments, investigations, and information technology. This functional diversity provides IAS the capability to address all facets of the agency.

Using a risk-based audit approach, assurance engagements are designed to provide management with assurance that risks are effectively managed with well-designed internal controls. Other engagements are designed to assess whether agency resources are used efficiently. This latter type of engagement underscores Secretary Hall's message, and a quote by Mark Twain, that "continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."



Wayne Sams

Audits completed by Sams and his team generally result in action plans, developed in partnership with agency management, that contribute to the continuous improvement of SCDOT.

A few of the key improvements made during Sams' tenure include: better design of internal controls after identified cases of employee fraud; enhancements to cash management processes and procedures to ensure that cash is available to pay bills on time; reduction of the number of days to hire an employee; formal succession plans to address loss of key staff; and shortened time between ordering and delivering equipment.

Through these and other achievements, IAS has become a respected leader – not only by SCDOT – but also by other State agency and peer state DOT internal audit functions for advice and ideas.

"I will miss my SCDOT family. Your commitment to serving the citizens of South Carolina – especially in responding to disasters – is truly inspiring," said Sams.

In retirement, Sams and his wife, Lisa, plan to travel full time in an RV to see the country and do rehab projects with a Christian RV group for those in need. Sams enjoys street and landscape photography when he travels and plans to learn bird and wildlife photography.

Governmental Affairs Director Allen Hutto leaves SCDOT

Allen Hutto, Director of Governmental Affairs for SCDOT since 2014, resigned to become Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina, effective June 1, 2021.

As Director of Governmental Affairs, Hutto represented SCDOT in state and federal legislative matters and worked closely with legislative leadership during the passage of the "Roads Bill" in 2017.

He grew up in Orangeburg

and attended Orangeburg Prep. From there he graduated from the College of Charleston with a BA in History and then earned a law degree from USC Law School and a Master of Human Resources degree from USC's Darla Moore School of Business. Hutto lives in Lexington with his wife, Alicia, and their daughter, Laura.

Prior to working at SCDOT, Hutto held position at the Nelson Mullins law firm, the Manufactured Housing Institute of SC, the South Carolina Administra-



Allen Hutto

tive Law Court and the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation.

David Hebert named District 3 Engineering Administrator

David L. Hebert has been selected as the new District 3 Engineering Administrator. He has been serving as Acting District 3 Engineering Administrator since March 2020.

Hebert earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1993. He began his career with SCDOT in December 1994 as a Civil Engineer I in Spartanburg Construction. He has worked in District 3 since then serving in several different positions including Resident Construction Engineer and District Construction Engineer.

Hebert is a registered professional engineer.

He and his wife, Nicola, live in Greer. They have three sons ranging in age from 18 to 30.

In his spare time, Hebert enjoys watching Gamecock baseball and football, works on cars and projects around the house.



David L. Hebert

Mark LaBruyere is new Director of Internal Audits

Mark A. LaBruyere will assume the role as Director of Internal Audits on July 2, 2021, upon the retirement of the current director, Wayne Sams.

LaBruyere is a Certified Public Accountant and started his career at SCDOT in 2017. He previously worked at the University of South Carolina, Greystar and Deloitte.

He graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2007 with a double major in Accounting and Finance. He grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, and moved to South Carolina to attend USC.

He and his wife, Kelly, have two young children, Bryce and Lily.

In his spare time, he enjoys hiking and



Mark A. Labruyere

is planning a 28-mile hike to raise funds for Make-A-Wish SC.

Jeff Terry named District 7 Engineering Administrator



Jeff Terry

Jeffrey S. Terry has been selected as the new District 7 Engineering Administrator effective on July 17, 2021.

He is originally from Seneca. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is a registered Professional Engineer.

He began his career with SCDOT more than 20 years ago and has held several different positions including Resident Construction Engineer in Aiken, Resident Maintenance Engineer in Aiken and Assistant District 7 Construction Engineer. For the past four years, he has served as the State Maintenance Engineer at headquarters.

Terry and his wife, Katya, have been married for 28 years and live in Edgefield. They have two sons, Jack and Alec.

In his spare time, Terry enjoys watching Clemson football, spending time with his family and listening to podcasts as he drives to and from work.

John Ted Creech is Director of Governmental Affairs

John Ted Creech has been selected to be the new Director of Governmental Affairs. In this position, he is the agency's legislative liaison dealing with state and federal matters involving SCDOT. He assumed his new duties on June 1, replacing Allen Hutto.

Creech graduated from the University of South Carolina's College of Journalism with honors. He worked in television and radio news early in his career, winning state and national reporting awards. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Central SC Alliance Board and Chairman of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance Board. He is committed to education, economic development, and diversity. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Claffin University, a nationally ranked HBCU, and has served on the Boards of the Columbia Urban League and Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Rosa, live in Columbia and have three sons and two grandchildren. Creech is a die-hard UofSC



Ted Creech

Gamecock and Green Bay Packers fan and enjoys golf, beekeeping and hiking.

PROMOTIONS

Adrian Adame promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Beaufort Maintenance.

Joe W. Alewine promoted to Bridge Inspection Supervisor in D2-Bridge Inspection.

Laura B. Alexander promoted to Program Coordinator I in Legal Services.

James R. Allen promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Richland Maintenance.

Kennedy L. Alston promoted to Crew Foreman in Williamsburg Maintenance.

Madison W. Anderson promoted to Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer in Lexington Maintenance.

Jonathan A. Arnold promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Lancaster Maintenance.

Mark C. Atkinson promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in Richland Construction.

Sterling A. Babic promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate III in RPG 3 - Midlands.

Lorraine K. Beck promoted to Administrative Coordinator I in District 3 Office.

Robby P. Black promoted to Incident Responder II in SHEP - Upstate I-85.

Stayce D. Blackmon promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Lancaster Maintenance.

Jacob R. Blackmon promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in York Maintenance.

Michael L. Blake promoted to IT Manager III in IT Services.

William K. Boatwright promoted to Facilities Maintenance Manager I in Equip Service Depot.

Ilisha I. Bottomley promoted to Mechanic III in Kershaw Maintenance.

Steven D. Bouknight promoted to Resident Maintenance Foreman in Lexington Maintenance.

John A. Boulware promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Newberry Maintenance.

James L. Boulware promoted to Crew Foreman in Newberry Maintenance.

James B. Bozard promoted to Bridge Inspection Supervisor in D1-Bridge Inspection.

Jamel A. Brown promoted to Program Coordinator II in Procurement - Project Delivery.

Marquis D. Brown promoted

to Medium Equipment Operator in Chesterfield Maintenance.

Robert E. Browning promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in York Maintenance.

John M. Brucke promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Anderson Maintenance.

David S. Bryant promoted to Incident Responder II in SHEP - Upstate I-85.

Shawn E. Buchanan promoted to Resident Construction Engineer in Lexington Construction.

Bryant A. Burden promoted to Engineering Associate I in Greenville Construction.

Vanesstie R. Burroughs promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Florence Maintenance.

Reginald D. Butler promoted to Crew Foreman in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Craig L. Calhoun promoted to Mechanic III in Charleston Maintenance.

Jacob D. Cannon promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in Lexington Construction.

Douglas R. Caples promoted to Crew Foreman in Lee Maintenance.

Elmer G. Carrillo Rosales promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in Anderson Construction.

Robert M. Carroll promoted to Electronics Technician II in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Elijah C. Casselton promoted to Engineering Technician II in Abbeville Construction.

Darren D. Catoe promoted to Crew Foreman in Kershaw Maintenance.

Teiyanna-Chea Chandler promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in RPG 3 - Midlands.

Jerry A. Childers promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in York Maintenance.

Terence L. Cochran promoted to Crew Foreman in Colleton Maintenance.

Melvin T. Coleman promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Charleston Maintenance.

Jacob I. Conner promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Chester Maintenance.

David L. Cooper promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Cherokee Maintenance.

Ivan G. Corona promoted to

Medium Equipment Operator in Greenwood Maintenance.

Charles N. Craft promoted to Crew Foreman in Richland Maintenance.

Rodriques A. Crooks promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Anderson Maintenance.

Gregory L. Cunningham promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Laurens Maintenance.

Brian K. Davison promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate IV in RPG 4 - Upstate.

John W. Dix promoted to Crew Foreman in Marion Maintenance.

Jacob W. Ellsworth promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in RPG 3 - Midlands.

Reginald D. Fair promoted to Crew Leader in Richland Maintenance.

Randy P. Fender promoted to Shop Foreman in Colleton Maintenance.

James J. Frederick promoted to Crew Foreman in Berkeley Maintenance.

Richard A. Frierson promoted to Engineering Technician IV in Lexington Maintenance.

Jon M. Garrett promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate III in Pre-Construction Support.

Akeem A. Giles promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Charleston Maintenance.

Brian K. Gillian promoted to Engineering Technician III in Richland Construction.

Jamin H. Grandy promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Lexington Maintenance.

Brenda F. Green promoted to Administrative Assistant in Williamsburg Maintenance.

Durick J. Green promoted to Crew Foreman in Jasper Maintenance.

Matthew B. Gresham promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Aiken Maintenance.

Frank J. Groody promoted to Crew Leader in Union Maintenance.

Shannon J. Guerra promoted to HR Coordinator in Human Resources.

Kevin T. Harley promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in Dorchester Construction.

Michael A. Harmon promoted to Crew Leader in Richland Maintenance.

Derrick K. Harps promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Marion Maintenance.

Whitney T. Hayes promoted to Crew Foreman in Oconee Maintenance.

Amy B. Hearing promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate III in Pre-Construction Support.

David L. Hebert promoted to District Engineering Administrator in District 3 Office.

Walter L. Holladay promoted to Resident Maintenance Engineer in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Travis B. Hunt promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Richland Maintenance.

Matthew T. Hunter promoted to Crew Foreman in Chester Maintenance.

Crystal A. Hyatt promoted to Engineering Technician III in Office of Materials & Research.

Vinson D. Hyman promoted to Mechanic II in Sumter Maintenance.

Elijah D. Ingram promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Richland Maintenance.

Coley Jackson promoted to Crew Leader in Saluda Maintenance.

Calvin L. Jackson promoted to Crew Leader in Richland Maintenance.

Travis L. Jenkins promoted to Crew Foreman in Sumter Maintenance.

Clyde M. Jenkins promoted to Electronics Technician II in D6-Traffic Signals.

Torrence Jeter promoted to Crew Foreman in Union Maintenance.

Whitney T. Jones promoted to Engineering Associate I in Dorchester Construction.

Jessie C. Jordan promoted to Specialty Crew Foreman in Kershaw Maintenance.

Bobby R. Jordan promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Chesterfield Maintenance.

Melissa C. Justice promoted to Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II in Accounting.

Kevin L. Karlinsey promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Beaufort Maintenance.

Ahmed M. Khalil promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate II in Pre-Construction Support.

April D. Koon promoted to Executive Assistant I in Engineering.

Jessica A. Ladd promoted to Administrative Assistant in Pickens Construction.

Benjamin L. Leopard promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator

in Saluda Maintenance.

Meredith R. Long promoted to Shop Foreman in Newberry Maintenance.

Ashley M. Maggio promoted to Assistant HR Coordinator in Human Resources.

James A. Mauldin promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Pickens Maintenance.

Shelia McCorkle promoted to Crew Foreman in Aiken Maintenance.

Daniel T. McCormick promoted to Crew Foreman in Berkeley Maintenance.

Jonathan W. McCutcheon promoted to Crew Foreman in Chester Maintenance.

Levi W. McLeod promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate IV in Design Build.

Thadeus McQuilla promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Williamsburg Maintenance.

Joseph M. McWatters promoted to Mechanic III in Chester Maintenance.

Lester J. McWilliams promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Dorchester Maintenance.

Bradley A. Mitchell promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in York Maintenance.

Kelvin B. Mitchell promoted to Crew Foreman in Lexington Maintenance.

William Moody promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Marion Maintenance.

John R. Moore promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate III in Greenville Surveys.

Thomas M. Morey promoted to Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III in Accounting.

Jeffrey A. Muellenbach promoted to Crew Foreman in Beaufort Maintenance.

Alex D. Nelson promoted to Engineering Technician III in Sumter Maintenance.

Thomas D. Nesbitt promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Kershaw Maintenance.

William G. Nicholas promoted to Crew Foreman in Anderson Maintenance.

Jeremy P. Nichols promoted to Engineering Technician II in Jasper Maintenance.

James B. Norton promoted to Resident Maintenance Foreman in Aiken Maintenance.

Charles E. Parker promoted to Crew Foreman in York Maintenance.

PROMOTIONS CONTINUED

Tyler S. Paul promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in York Maintenance.

Danny E. Peace promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Cherokee Maintenance.

Trevor W. Perkins promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Laurens Maintenance.

Jared D. Powell promoted to Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer in Laurens Maintenance.

Colin W. Price promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Newberry Maintenance.

Marcena W. Reppenhagen promoted to Engineering Technician III in Lexington Maintenance.

Cody G. Reynolds promoted to Electronics Technician II in D5-Traffic Signals.

William E. Risher promoted to Engineering Associate I in Sumter Maintenance.

Jeffery D. Roberts promoted to Crew Leader in Greenwood Maintenance.

Lawrence Robinson promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Marion Maintenance.

Michael B. Robinson promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Barnwell Maintenance.

Steven G. Robinson promoted to Crew Foreman in Berkeley Maintenance.

Roberto C. Rosales Martinez promoted to Crew Leader in Richland Maintenance.

Zachary J. Ryerson promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Chester Maintenance.

Ashar Saeed promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate IV in Pre-Construction Support.

Robert J. Schoonover promoted to Engineering Technician II in Cherokee Maintenance.

Jeffery S. Setzer promoted to Crew Foreman in McCormick Maintenance.

Blake L. Shaffer promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Lexington Maintenance.

Jerome Simmons promoted to Crew Foreman in Charleston Maintenance.

Ronald O. Simmons promoted

to Crew Leader in Georgetown Maintenance.

Charles R. Skipper promoted to Shop Foreman in Marion Maintenance.

Willie J. Stokes promoted to Crew Foreman in Jasper Maintenance.

Jennifer L. Taylor promoted to Program Manager II in Director of Construction.

Olivia S. Taylor promoted to Supply Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance.

Quashawn E. Thompson promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Richland Maintenance.

Jonathan W. Traynham promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Greenwood Maintenance.

Jason E. Turner promoted to Crew Leader in Edgefield Maintenance.

Tavaris L. Wallace promoted to Crew Foreman in Aiken Maintenance.

Paul R. Wallace promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Charleston Maintenance.

Julia S. Wallace promoted to Administrative Assistant in Marlboro Maintenance.

Gloria J. Washington promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Holly Hill Maintenance.

Michael S. Whitmire promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Pickens Maintenance.

Marion H. Williams promoted to Crew Foreman in Aiken Maintenance.

Howard Williamson promoted to Engineer/Engineering Associate III in Reg Prod Group 3 - Midlands.

John V. Williamson promoted to Medium Equipment Operator in Aiken Maintenance.

Terrence A. Wilson promoted to Crew Foreman in Charleston Maintenance.

Brandon K. Wisher promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in Holly Hill Maintenance.

Kelly L. Wright promoted to Crew Foreman in Aiken Maintenance.

Michael Blake named Assistant Chief Information Officer in IT Services

Michael L. Blake has been promoted to Assistant Chief Information Officer in IT Services.

This position will lead the Applications and Projects group which includes Applications Development, Web Development, Engineering Technology and Research, Project Management and Data Governance unit.

This role will also assist the Chief Information Officer George Kinard with tasks and will act as the CIO in his absence. IT Services has several significant projects underway and has several very large projects coming up in the future.

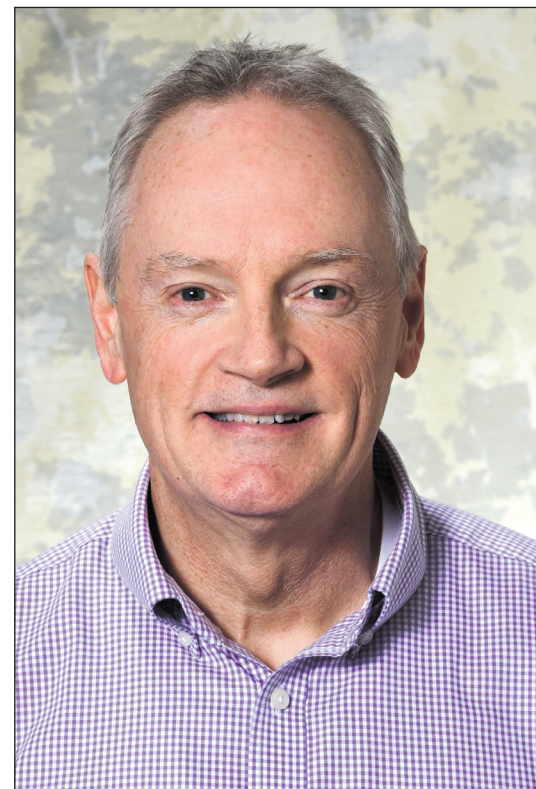
Blake started his career at SCDOT in 2019 as IT Project Management Office Director.

Prior to coming to SCDOT, Blake worked as Chief Information Officer at MetroConnects, a sewer collections agency in Greenville County. He also has 30 years of consulting experience in IT and geographic information systems.

Blake graduated from San Diego State University and is a certified Project Management Professional.

Blake is originally from the northeast married to Michele who is retiring from the U.S. Navy. They are both diehard Red Sox fans and have three grown children and a new grandson.

In his spare time, he enjoys running, hiking, working out and cooking.



Michael L. Blake

I-77 southbound bridge deck replaced over Catawba River ahead of schedule



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Drivers use all four lanes of the southbound I-77 Catawba River Bridge in York County on May 21, 2021.

The work to replace the concrete on the I-77 southbound lanes of the Catawba River Bridge began at 9 p.m. Thursday, May 6, 2021. Crews simultaneously worked to demolish the old bridge deck, while others placed down concrete forms for pouring the new deck.

SCDOT urged the public to drive with extra caution and obey the work zone speed limit of 45 mph.

Motorists were able to keep up with the accelerated project by using a new traffic camera installed by SCDOT. The camera kept a live view 24/7 of the work and traffic at the site of the southbound Interstate 77 Catawba River bridge repair project.

All four southbound lanes were opened on May 21, 2021, more than nearly three days ahead of schedule.



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S.C. 277 bridge completed over I-77

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT has put the finishing touches on a new bridge and roadway approaches on S.C. 277 northbound over Interstate 77 in Richland County. The two-year, \$24.9 million project was officially completed April 6, 2021, highlighted by new safety improvements on a highway used by an average of 56,000 vehicles per day.

The old, structurally deficient bridge was demolished in October 2020. Replacing deficient bridges is one of SCDOT's 10-Year Plan programs, which include repaving aging roads, making rural roads safer and improving key portions of interstates. SCDOT has tripled its road work during the past several years to improve South Carolina's roads after more than 30

years of deferred maintenance.

The new 463-foot-long bridge has increased clear zones, which provide reduced roadside obstructions and more room to recover if vehicles happen to leave the road.

Engineers also included thermoplastic pavement markings on lane lines to enhance visibility of lanes, especially at night and during wet conditions, and rumble strips along the bridge approaches to alert inattentive drivers.

The project used a total of 1,340 cubic yards of structural concrete; 398,841 pounds of reinforcing steel; 1.6 million pounds of structural steel; and nearly 17,000 tons of asphalt pavement.

Traffic was first allowed on the new bridge in fall 2020 under lane closures as crews finished final tasks. The new bridge was painted green in late March 2021, officially completing the project.

RIGHT: Contractors painted the bridge at night, shutting down one lane of traffic at a time, to complete the painting over several nights with reduced interference to traffic.

BELOW: The new 463-foot bridge replaces the structurally deficient bridge and is part of SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Before painting the steel bridge girders underneath, crews enclosed the area, including the roadway below it, with tarps to prevent overspray of green paint on the roadway and columns.



SCDOT remembers fallen employees during annual ceremony

By Bob Kudelka

A plaque on the SCDOT Workers Memorial Wall quotes Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**: “Our Prayer is that no more names will be added to this wall.”

Standing in front of the wall, Secretary Hall gave somber news to begin the April 28, 2021, SCDOT Workers Memorial Ceremony, held to honor the men and women who have given their lives in service to SCDOT and the state of South Carolina.

“The wall previously had 86 names on it,” Hall said. “It is with a very heavy heart that we will be adding three more names to this wall during this ceremony today.”

Vernon G. Kaminer, a Maintenance Foreman at the Swansea Maintenance Shed in Lexington County died on November 18, 1974, after his work vehicle was struck by another vehicle. His niece and nephew watched as his name was added to the wall.

Also added were the names of **David Sibbick** and **Cecil Morgan** of Horry Maintenance, who were

killed July 25, 2019. The two men were on their way back to Horry Maintenance when they decided to stop and patch a pothole they saw on U.S. 501 just outside of Conway.

“They did what hundreds of other DOT employees do every day,” Hall said, as the men’s families looked on. “They saw a problem and decided to fix it. Without warning and in a blink of an eye, everything changed. The depths of the tragedy of that day are immeasurable.”

This year’s ceremony began with Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** welcoming all to the ceremony, which was being streamed live on the SCDOT website and Facebook page. Colvin said he was “overwhelmed” by the show of support.

“Today is always a difficult day for all of us,” Colvin said. “There is no doubt that we will continue to grieve these losses. The deaths of these men and women left an indelible mark on our lives. But I am honored and delighted that we have a permanent place to remember them and a place we can

always visit.”

SCDOT Commission Chairman **J. Barnwell Fishburne** led the attendees in prayer and introduced Hall to give remarks.

Hall also thanked everyone for attending, including members of the SCDOT Commission “as it clearly shows just how much you care for the employees of this agency and your appreciation for the sacrifices that are made in the line of duty to our great state.”

Names of each fallen employee were read aloud by Chief Engineer for Operations **Andy Leaphart** and Chief Engineer for Project Delivery **Randy Young**, as a bell was rung once for each name by Director of Safety and Health **Kenny Eargle**.

It was an emotional day for families of the fallen.

“It means a lot to just know that SCDOT cares enough about their employees to do these types of things for us as family members,” said Julia Jones, whose husband, **Standra “Stan” Jones Sr.** of Lexington Maintenance died in 2007. “This means a lot.”

Like other surviving family

members, Julia Jones hoped coverage of the ceremony would also serve as a reminder for drivers on SC roads.

“Take your time, wherever you are going, don’t risk taking some else’s life,” Julia Jones said. “They have families too. These men and women are out on the roads every day out making the roads safe for us. Take time out to leave early for your destination be-

cause you don’t want the blood of somebody else’s...on your hands.”

On June 10, SCDOT employee **Chuck Kennedy** was killed on his way to a job site when the vehicle he was driving was struck by another vehicle on U.S. 178 near Scotts Ferry Road in Greenwood County. His name will be added to the wall during next year’s SCDOT Workers Memorial ceremony.

We Remember Them

by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Reimer

**“At the rising of the sun and at its going down,
We remember them.**

**At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of Spring,
We remember them.**

**At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of Summer,
We remember them.**

**At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of Autumn,
We remember them.**

**At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of Winter,
We remember them.**

**At the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We remember them.**

**As long as we live, they too will live;
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.**

**When we are weary and in need of strength,
We remember them.**

**When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.**

**When we have joys we yearn to share,
We remember them.**

**When we have decisions that are difficult to make,
We remember them.**

**When we have achievements that are based on theirs,
We remember them.**

**As long as we live,
they too shall live,
for they are a part of us,
as we remember them.”**

To conclude the ceremony, Secretary Hall read aloud a heartfelt poem to honor the fallen employees.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SC Secretary of Transportation and SCDOT Commissioners spoke with and consoled each family member at the conclusion of the ceremony.

See more photos from
the ceremony on next page

SCDOT Workers Memorial Ceremony

Agency remembers employees who died on the job



This year, coworkers unveiled the name of Cecil Andrew Morgan, David Joseph Sibbick and Vernon G. Kaminer during the ceremony. Morgan and Sibbick died in 2019, but SCDOT did not have a ceremony in 2020 due to the pandemic. Kaminer's death occurred in 1974 and was recently discovered to have been omitted from the memorial wall.



Employees representing each work unit that lost an employee were invited to participate in the ceremony. Here, they hold their hard hats over their hearts as the names were read.



Family members were invited to attend the ceremony where the name of every fallen employee was read. A ship bell was rung after every name was read during the solemn occasion.



A video of the entire ceremony can be seen on SCDOT's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SCDOT



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

"Our Prayer is that no more names will be added to this wall."
Secretary of Transportation
Christy Hall

"It is incredibly important that we take time to honor and remember the contributions and recognize the eighty-nine employees that we've lost over the history of this agency. [They were] just going about their business everyday and doing their job and the unthinkable happens. Today is an expression of our love and affection for those employees, their families, their coworkers, and their colleagues."
SC Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall



Jimmy Tyrone Harrison family members make a graphite rubbing of his name on the memorial wall after the ceremony.



SC Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall welcomes family members of fallen employees to the ceremony. Here, the family of Stan "Stan" Jones Sr. shows her a t-shirt honoring Jones.

SCDOT held a memorial ceremony on April 29, 2021, for employees who died in the line of duty.

RIGHT: SC Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall and SCDOT Commissioners spoke with each family before and after the ceremony. Here, she talks with the family of David Joseph Sibbick.



2021 National Work Zone Awareness Week

WORK ZONE
NEXT
5 MILES



TRUCKS
ENTERING
WHEN FLASHING



Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives.



www.nwzaw.org

National campaign hopes to slow traffic, crashes in work zones

By Lauren Roeder

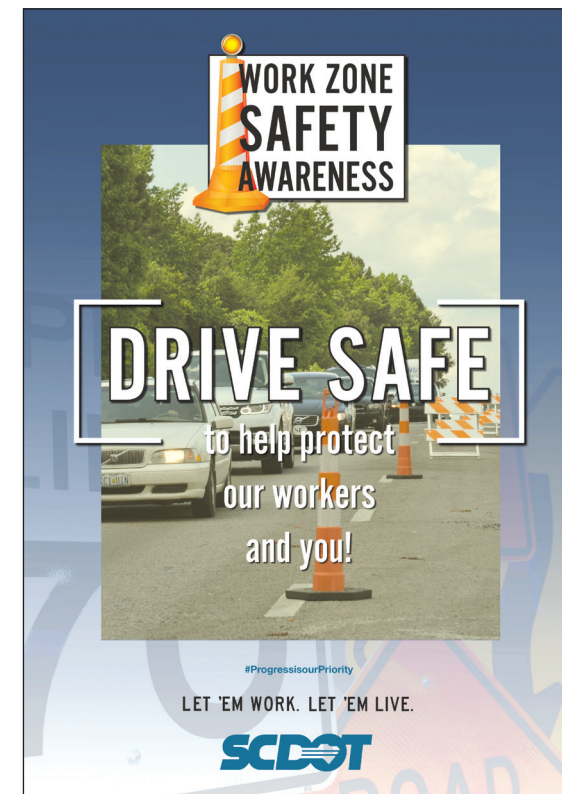
National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season. The campaign is designed to encourage safe driving through all work zones. National Work Zone Awareness Week was held April 26-30, 2021. The national theme for this year was “Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives.”

Work zones play a critical role in the enhancement of roadways. They separate construction activities from traffic, providing a safe route for all road users and a safe area for workers. However, work zone related changes in traffic patterns, combined with the presence of workers, can lead to crashes, injuries and deaths.

In 2019, there were 842 total work zone fatalities in the United States. 135 of those were worker fatalities at road construction sites.

National Work Zone Awareness Week is meant to bring attention to the critical issue of road user and worker safety in and around work zones.

It is important for everyone to do their part to be safe. Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives.



SCDOT Graphic Artists Bonnie Cramer and Zoe Cook also designed a series of Work Zone Safety posters. These posters can be seen on SCDOT's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SCDOT,

ABOVE: National Work Zone Awareness Week is held each year and sponsored by the highway organizations shown on this year's poster used in the campaign.

Employees clear roadways during Spring Spruce Up event

More than 15,000 bags of trash collected during Spring Spruce Up

By Bob Kudelka

Hundreds of SCDOT employees picked up 15,610 bags of roadside trash weighing 232,445 pounds during the 2021 statewide "Spring Spruce Up" cleanup.

More than 1,700 SCDOT employees, from headquarters to the county offices, were deployed across the state Tuesday, March 23, 2021. SCDOT supports Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette's "Grab A Bag SC" cleanup program with PalmettoPride.

SCDOT employees hold two statewide litter cleanup days each year; one in the fall and one in the spring.

In addition, SCDOT is ramping up efforts to combat roadside litter by hiring contractors for monthly littler pickups along interstate highways. These pickups were scheduled every other month, but were recently increased to monthly due to worsening litter conditions.

SCDOT employees are planning another statewide litter cleanup day in the fall of 2021.

In response to the increased litter problem, on Feb. 18, 2021, Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** implemented contracts to perform monthly litter pickups on interstate routes. Since implementation of this initiative, SCDOT contractors have removed 395,000 pounds of litter from 922 miles of interstate.



District 6 Engineering Administrator Tim Henderson picks up litter along U.S. 52 in Berkeley County.



A crew picks up litter along Piedmont Road in Lee County.



Fairfield Maintenance picks up trash along S.C. 215 in Fairfield County.



An SCDOT crew picks up litter along U.S. 302 in Lexington County.



Lexington Maintenance picks up litter along U.S. 321 north of Gaston in Lexington County.



Charles Craft of Richland Maintenance picks up litter along I-26 in Columbia near St. Andrews Road.



Spartanburg Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer Ed Hunt picks up litter in Spartanburg County.



Lexington Maintenance crew picks up litter along U.S. 378.

SCDOT transforms safety, quality of scenic highway

Partners with Dorchester community to retain S.C. 61's beauty

By Ted Creech

You can't help others or show them respect unless you truly listen to them.

That's that attitude the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) brought to the rehabilitation of SC 61, a scenic highway in Dorchester County.

The aging roadway was becoming more hazardous for motorists, requiring SCDOT to improve its quality and safety. The agency met with community members and initially proposed a plan to widen the road and its shoulders, but would have also required removal of more than 300 trees.

Residents objected. SCDOT, including Traffic Engineering and Project Management, met with more than 400 people in the Dorchester/Summerville area.

Through a weeks-long dialogue, SCDOT came to understand how citizens cherished the natural and historic beauty of SC 61. At the same time, the community developed a greater appreciation for the need to improve the safety and quality of the corridor, which was carrying a growing amount of traffic and had been the scene of multiple serious injury and fatal crashes.

As a result, SCDOT developed a plan to repave and install safety measures along the 6.5-mile southern portion of S.C. 61 while leaving all of the trees intact. The agency offered a solution unique to the environment in Dorchester County near the Charleston County line, and residents responded with support.

"Some people felt their voices wouldn't matter, but we encouraged them to participate in the process," said Rita Berry, CEO of the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce. "From that, SCDOT definitely listened, and we were able to come to an agreement on how to address the safety issue while keeping the integrity of the scenic corridor in place."

"You had those people in the



This project won a
**2021 AASHTO
AWARD**
for Operations Excellence.
To learn more, please visit YouTube channel
SCDOT CONNECTOR VIDEOS
and search for "AASHTO SC 61"

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Dorchester County's scenic beauty is showcased on S.C. 61, featuring live oak trees and significant historical sites. In collaboration with these historical sites and stakeholders, SCDOT revised the original S.C. 61 Phase 1 design in order to preserve the centuries old live oaks.

community who wanted to preserve the history of this place. You had a lot of people who wanted to preserve the beauty of the place, so the trees became very important," said Hank Taylor, Chairman of the Dorchester County Economic Development Corp. "Then, you had our business community and employees who connect with work opportunities in Charleston from our place here in Summerville, so this road is a very important artery."

All these factors came together to provide the community input needed and an appreciation for the results.

Another 8.25-mile section of

S.C. 61 from the Colleton County line to the intersection of US Highway 17-A will later be repaved, receive new four-foot shoulders and rumble strips, and better paint and reflectors will be added.

The S.C. 61 project is part of SCDOT's Rural Road Safety Program, one of the four 10-Year Plan initiatives to improve the quality of the state's roads and bridges.

Nearly 30 percent of South Carolina's fatal and serious-injury crashes in rural areas occur on five percent of the state's roads, which is why SCDOT is focusing on improving the safety of 1,000 miles of the state's more dangerous rural roads.



Featuring 11-foot wide lanes and 3-foot wide paved shoulders, center line and edge line rumble strips and updated guardrails and signage, this Rural Road Safety Program project makes this section of S.C. 61 much safer for the traveling public.

SCDOT goes live on Rock Hill radio station

Agency updates the public on progress



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Assistant Director of Public Relations Ted Creech appeared on WRHI Radio in Rock Hill on Jan. 26, 2021, to discuss progress on SCDOT's 10-Year Plan to fix the state's roads and bridges. WRHI host Manning Kimmel, left, interviewed Creech live during the 12:30pm show. The show was streamed on www.WRHI.com.

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<https://oig.sc.gov/file-complaint>

The form may be completed anonymously.



SCDOT contracts out litter pickup work



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Throughout 2021, contractors will be making monthly litter pickups on South Carolina interstate highways. The extra manpower is necessary due to the reduction of inmate labor doing litter pickups due to COVID-19. The contracts are for pickups along interstate highways statewide. Here, crews pickup litter along I-95 in Clarendon County near exit 119.

WORK ZONE
SAFETY
AWARENESS

STOP

SAVE LIVES

when you slow
down in a
work zone

#ProgressisOurPriority

LET 'EM WORK. LET 'EM LIVE.



Safety and Health News

Work zone driving tips

- Know the work zone signs. They are the orange signs that inform and warn you, but there are other devices and other indicators that tell you about the work underway, mark the path you should follow and help you navigate the work zone. Look for direction from cones, barrels, pavement markings and other devices designed to get you safely through the work zone.
- Pay attention to other drivers. It is never a good idea to ignore other drivers no matter where you're driving, but in work zones you need to be especially mindful of them. Roadway work zones are less forgiving than normal stretches of highways and streets. They often have narrower lanes and no shoulders to escape to in case you want to take evasive action.
- Stay focused. Avoid distractions. Losing focus on your driving is bad in any situation, but it can prove deadly in roadway work zones. Observing what the signs tell you, controlling your speed, steering carefully and keeping an eye on other drivers—all demand your full attention. Stop eating or

drinking. Put down your mobile device. Keep your focus on your driving.

- Expect the unexpected. When you drive in work zones, it's always best to prepare yourself for something unexpected, such as aggressive actions by other motorists, construction vehicles that slow down to leave the roadway and pull into the work area, dump trucks that emerge from the work area and enter your lane up ahead, workers operating scant inches from your path, uneven pavement lanes and loose gravel on the road surface to name just a few. When you anticipate problems, you are better able to react to them appropriately.
- Keep your cool. Be patient. Maintain calm. Don't get rattled by work zone situations. Always make sure your speed is appropriate to the situation; that could be slower than the posted limit. Finally, don't lose your patience or your temper. If you keep your cool, you and everyone else will make it through the work zone and arrive safely at their destinations.

Toolboxtalks

Taking care of your emotional health

Take the following steps to cope with a disaster:

- Take care of your body— Try to eat healthy well-balanced meals, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep. Avoid alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Connect with others— Share your concerns and how you are feeling with a friend or family member. Maintain healthy relationships and build a strong support system.
- Take breaks— Make time to unwind and remind yourself that strong feelings will fade. Try taking in deep breaths. Try to do activities you usually enjoy.
- Stay informed— When you feel that you are missing information, you may become

more stressed or nervous. Watch, listen to, or read the news for updates from officials. Be aware that there may be rumors during a crisis, especially on social media. Always check your sources and turn to reliable sources of information like your local government authorities.

- Avoid too much exposure to news— Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories. It can be upsetting to hear about the crisis and see images repeatedly. Try to do enjoyable activities and return to normal life as much as possible and check for updates between breaks. *cdc.gov*

COVID-19: Choosing safer activities

- If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing many things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic. The CDC has lifted the requirement for wearing face masks in most situations.
- When choosing safer activities, consider how COVID-19 is spreading in your community, the number of people participating in

the activity and the location of the activity.

- Outdoor visits and activities are safer than indoor activities and fully vaccinated people can participate in some indoor events safely, without much risk.
- If you haven't been vaccinated yet, find a vaccine. *cdc.gov*

Understanding Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)

AUD is a medical condition characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences. It encompasses the conditions that some people refer to as alcohol abuse, alcohol dependence, alcohol addiction and/or alcoholism. Considered a brain disorder, AUD can be mild, moderate, or severe.

What Increases AUD Risk? A person's risk for developing AUD depends, in part, on how much, how often and how quickly they consume alcohol. Drinking excessively, which includes binge drinking and heavy alcohol use. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 percent—or 0.08 grams of alcohol per deciliter—or higher. For a typical adult, this pattern corresponds to consuming 5 or more drinks (male), or 4 or more drinks (female), in about 2 hours. and NIAAA defines heavy alcohol use as consuming more than 4 drinks on any day for men or more than 3 drinks for women over time increases the risk of AUD. Other factors also increase the risk of AUD, such as:

Early Age Drinking: A recent national survey ... among people ages 26 and older, those who began drinking before age 15 were more than 5 times as likely to report having AUD in the past year as those who waited until age 21 or later to begin drinking. The risk for females in this group is higher than that of males.

Genetics/Family History: Genetics play a role with heritability approx. 60% ; however, like other chronic health conditions, AUD risk is influenced by the interplay between a person's genes and their environment. Parents' drinking patterns may also influence the likelihood that a child will one day develop AUD.

Mental Health and History of Trauma: A wide range of psychiatric conditions including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are comorbid with AUD and are associated with an increased risk of AUD. People with a history of childhood trauma are also vulnerable to AUD.

Types of Treatment? Treatment can be outpatient and/or inpatient and be provided by specialty programs, therapists and doctors.

Medications: There are medications currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help people stop or reduce their drinking and prevent relapse.

Behavioral Treatments: Behavioral treatments/talk therapy provided by licensed therapists are aimed at changing drinking behavior. (Example: brief interventions and reinforcement approaches, treatments that build motivation and teach skills for coping and preventing relapse and mindfulness-based therapies.)

Mutual-Support Groups: provide peer support for stopping or reducing drinking. Group meetings are available in most communities, at low or no cost, at convenient times and locations including an increasing presence online. They can be especially helpful to individuals at risk for relapse to drinking. Mutual-support groups can offer a valuable added layer of support. *nih.gov*

Safety 1st - Live It!
SCDOT

Minority & Small Business News

DBE goal methodology set for upcoming 3 years



S.C. Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall addresses participants at the General Session of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Consultation Meetings regarding Title 49 §26.45 of the Code of Federal Regulations in Columbia on Feb. 12, 2021. Business Development Center Director Anthony Cromartie looks on after opening the first of three sessions held in Columbia, North Charleston and Spartanburg in February 2021.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs (MSBA), held its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Consultation Meetings regarding 49 Code of Federal Register (CFR) §26.45. This code determines how the overall DBE goals are set for the upcoming three years. SCDOT held public consultation meetings in Columbia, North Charleston and Spartanburg. SCDOT launched a website to market and accept registrations electronically and reached out to a variety of media vendors throughout the state to obtain public service advertisement for the events.

More than 1,000 meeting notifications were disseminated to DBE firms and other interested stakeholders. The invitees included the current listings of all firms on the South Carolina Unified Certification Program (UCP) Directory, SCDOT's Pre-qualified contractors and SCDOT's consultants. Additionally, SCDOT invited UCP partners, for example, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Council of Governments (COGs) and transit provid-

ers. Invitations also included various minority and women's business organizations, professional organizations and business development centers. They were invited to provide feedback on the goal-setting process. Invitations were also extended to members of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, the Governor's Office - South Carolina Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification, National Action Network, SCDOT's Commissioners and local Federal Highway Administration representatives.

SCDOT conducted all three consultation meetings jointly with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Two DBE certified firms were contracted to serve as facilitators. DESA, Inc. was selected to conduct the highway breakout session and capture comments made during both the general session and highway breakout. S2 Engineering and Consulting, LLC was selected to conduct the transit breakout session and capture comments made during the transit breakout session.

Each meeting consisted of a general session followed by concurrent breakout sessions, one for highway and one for transit. At the conclusion of each meeting, participants were encouraged to complete and return comment cards to capture additional public input. Approximately 150 individuals attended the three meetings with a total of 57 DBE firms represented. These meetings and comments from the public were used as the justification in determining SCDOT DBE goals for the next three years.

SCDOT evaluated the public consultations to determine:

- DBE firms that are ready, willing and able to bid on SCDOT projects
- DBEs' capacity to perform work
- Potential opportunities for DBE participation
- Other factors

Based upon that evaluation, the agency has established its overall DBE goal for FHWA Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2021-2023 at 12 percent each year for Federal Highway contracts. The DBE goal for the transit program is set at 4 percent.

Gas tax increase has increased DBE goals, training, certifications

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Division of Minority Small Business Affairs (MSBA) have been able to accomplish several goals following the increase of our SC gas tax from 16 cents to 28 cents. In a recent report, SCDOT boasts that construction work has tripled and construction, engineering, and inspection (CE&I) work has quadrupled.

Therefore, over the last 18 months, SCDOT has been able to use the allotted funds to accomplish several Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goals. First, in order to meet the growing CE&I need, SCDOT moved their focus into providing professional DBE firms with technical training and certifications.

The agency has also appointed a new Director of DBE Mega Project Support, Compliance, and Technical Assistance to serve as a point-of-contact for current and upcoming mega projects. **Gary Linn** now leads the goal setting process, identifies potential set-

aside work, oversees the outreach events, and facilitates the Good Faith Effort review if necessary.

To further demonstrate support for the DBE community from senior leadership and provide an opportunity for DBE firms to speak to senior leadership, SCDOT's MSBA division organized a "Bridging the Gap" forum.

The forum included presentations from Secretary **Christy A. Hall**, Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin**, Deputy Director of Finance **Justin Powell**, Director of Pre-Construction **John Boylston**, and the Director of Construction **Robbie Isgett**.

The forum resulted in the following: six professional service DBE firms were invited to have one-on-one presentations to senior leadership similar to what is afforded to large prime contractors; a potential plan holders' list was developed to help give more opportunities to DBE firms, and a new quote policy was formed named the "MBE Quote Policy".

This policy requires all SCDOT personnel to secure three quotes for \$10 - \$25K commodities and services contracts and at least one of the three must be from a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE).

On the national level, SCDOT's Division Director of Minority and Small Business Affairs **Greg Davis** currently serves as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Committee on Civil Rights Chairman.

Under Davis' leadership, a letter was written to the AASHTO Board recommending courses of action that would result in the development of a more diverse, well-rounded and sustainable workforce, as well as the creation of systems and promotion of programs, policies and initiatives that would lead to short-term, long-term and recurring benefits to disenfranchised groups.

Some of the recommended courses of action included diversifying leadership roles and management, an enhancement in cross-disciplinary education and training of

Civil Rights aspects at regional and local levels, and to provide opportunities for DBE contractors to engage DOT leadership in a manner consistent with the opportunities afforded to organizations such as Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and other industry partners.

The board accepted the recommendations and ultimately adopted a policy resolution regarding strategies to address race, equity, diversity and inclusion in all state DOTs.

Secretary Hall also recently spoke on a national panel at AASHTO's virtual spring meeting to share what the SCDOT team has done concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) and shared the results of those efforts.

For more information on how to work with our Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs office, please visit our website at <https://www.scdot.org/business/bus-development-overview.aspx>.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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

D1 crews are repairing bridges...

**By Alan Kozusko,
Assistant District 1
Maintenance Engineer**

Last issue, District 1 showed the transition of the D1 Bridge Crew from strictly bridge construction to both construction and deficiency repair.

Under Foreman **William Bailey's** leadership, the Crew continues to progress and adapt to changing work environments and move forward with their newly-adopted mission. Several high-level deficiencies have been corrected throughout the District, most especially under Interstate 20 in Lee and Kershaw counties.

"Walking slabs" are prevalent on several I-20 bridges in Kershaw County: although VERY slow, the



Harold Ballard is in a tight spot under I-20 in Kershaw County making room for the crew to work on repairs of a bridge slab that moves under traffic loads.

movement is accumulative over time and neglecting the repair would be catastrophic. The repair

is to pin one end of the slab against the bridge pile cap and support the other end of the slab, while con-

Got news?

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

**Alan
Kozusko**



Each section of angle iron pinning the bridge slab to the bridge cap weighs in excess of 275 pounds. They are fastened to the bridge slab with many epoxy-set bolts in a designed pattern.



A further insurance to the slab-pinning, the opposite end of the "walking slab" has saddles epoxy-anchored to support any additional movement that should not occur after the repair is completed.

tinuing the strict monitoring of the bridge through the inspection program.

...and replacing pipes

Sumter Maintenance does not shy away from large projects. Spencer Road (S-43-1221) was built in 1981 and had a crossing made up of three lines of 36-inch galvanized pipe each 40-feet long.

In 2018-2019, Sumter Resident Maintenance Engineer (RME) **Sandra Riley** learned there was an issue with beavers building dams in the branch as well as in all three lines of pipes. The pipe ends were damaged from years of cleaning attempts and there was no safe or easy way to remove the debris from the pipes, so RME Riley moved forward with replacement.

Sumter Maintenance closed the road, detoured traffic and began working around March 6, 2020. One utility issue with a 6-inch water main on the downstream pipe ends required partnership with



BEFORE: The failure is shown here on Spencer Road in Sumter County.

High Hills Rural Water Co. who made adjustments immediately. Then the three 40-foot long lines of 36-inch high-density polyethylene pipe were installed to replace the old galvanized pipes, backfilled, and riprap was placed on the ends



Sumter Safety Officer Hugh Hood checking work in the trench as two workers from High Hills Rural Water assist with relocating their utility line around the new pipes.

of the pipes for stabilization. This allowed for widening of the shoulders and repaving the roadway—all with in-house forces. Sumter's plan included adding a cage built from rebar and old sign posts in hopes to prevent the beavers from entering the pipes.



AFTER: The finished project replaced pipes, moved utilities and put up barriers to prevent beaver damage.



Hayward Wilson Sr.

Sumter Maintenance Bridge Foreman **Hayward Wilson Sr.** passed away on March 3, 2021. He was one month away from 30 years serving SCDOT and the citizens of Sumter County.

He was Sumter Maintenance Employee of the Year in 1999 and inspired his crew.

Wilson was a good man and a great employee. He will be missed by many inside and outside SCDOT.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

District Engineer: David Hebert (864) 241-1010
FAX: (864) 241-1115

Culverts repaired in District 3 after heavy rains

A 'before and after' look at some work in Greenville County



BEFORE: Dug Hill Road



AFTER: Dug Hill Road



BEFORE: Few's Chapel Road



AFTER: Few's Chapel Road

S.C. 14 bridge opens in Landrum

SCDOT has opened a new two-lane bridge on S.C. Highway 14 over Green Creek in the Landrum area of Greenville County. The bridge was built to replace traffic over a culvert that was constructed in 1953 and impacted by recent years of flooding. Work began in November requiring a road closure. The new bridge opened to traffic on April 8.

Got news?

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

**Karuam
 Booker**



D3 participates in Spring Spruce Up



SCDOT employees Chad Rafferty and Mark Callaway pick up litter along U.S. 25 in Greenville County on March 23. SCDOT employees statewide participated in this year's Spring Spruce Up.

District 4 News

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

District Engineer: Jason Johnston (803) 377-4155
FAX: (803) 581-2088

Got news?

Contact Lee Oliver with your ideas at 803-377-8101 or by emailing him at OliverHL@scdot.org



Lee Oliver

Maintenance crews put their lives on the line

South Carolina currently has one of the highest traffic fatality rates in the country with nearly 60 percent of fatal crashes occurring on the state's rural roadways.

SCDOT safety engineers have identified the most common factor in these crashes is vehicles departing the roadway, which occurred in nearly 50 percent of all the fatal and serious injury crashes.

In the day-to-day operations to preserve and maintain our existing transportation infrastructure, maintenance employees work to provide safety features to help mitigate the potential hazards of roadway departures on roads throughout the state.

Road marking helps to decrease the risk of roadway departures by clearly defining lanes even at night.

Work activities, such as clipping and regrading shoulders, are performed to make departures more recoverable and to allow the road to drain.

Other types of maintenance work include preparing wider clear zones on the shoulder by controlling vegetation and removing hazards to prevent collisions and to increase sight distance.

Maintenance employees all have major parts to play in our SCDOT roles to maintain, repair and rebuild our transportation network into a more safe and reliable system.



Byron Crosby works to remove a fallen tree.

A skid steer with a forestry head waits as a buzz bar cuts limbs in the distance.



Crews do shoulder regrading in Chester County.

D4 announces Spring Spruce Up totals

District 4 County	Number of Employees	Number of Bags	Weight in lbs.
Cherokee	36	457	6,855
Chester	48	528	7,920
Chesterfield	32	321	4,815
Fairfield	33	229	3,435
Lancaster	39	443	6,645
Union	29	310	4,650
York	52	600	9,000
TOTAL	269	2,888	43,320



Meet the Paint Crew

The paint crew is a district-wide crew that travels to district counties for pavement markings and other projects. This group is a tight-knit team consisting of five members that make up a portion of District 4's Pavement and Preservation organization.

The paint crew is made up of Foreman Ronnie Byars, Christian Clack and Ricky Terry. Not pictured: Joe Brewer and Ricky Michau.

District 5 News

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

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

D5 participates in Spring Spruce Up



Louis Grooms worked with the rest of Darlington Maintenance to keep the roadside clean during the spring litter pickup.



Latoya Robinson, right, and Sylvester Redden from Florence Maintenance fill up two more bags of litter.



Damon Hanna and Devell Eaddy of Florence Maintenance team up to pick up trash.



Georgetown Maintenance Foreman Mark Duncan checks on his crew as they clear the roadside of debris and litter.

Got news?

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

Michael Miller



SCDOT employee rescues collision victim in pond

On Oct. 11, 2020, Darlington Maintenance employee **Louis Grooms Jr.** was driving in Florence County after work and came up on a vehicle collision.

A passenger car had run off the road and ended up in a deep pond. The driver had managed to get on the roof of the vehicle, but the passenger was still in the water and could not swim. Other witnesses to the collision had formed a human chain to reach the person in the water but she was too far out and the water was too deep. Grooms said "I didn't really think, I just jumped in and went to help her."

When he got to her, the panicked woman nearly drowned both of them, but he managed to backstroke toward the other rescuers. The end person on the chain of people finally managed to grab Grooms and pull both of them to shallow water. Grooms made it out of the water.

The fire department arrived and both passengers in the waterlogged car were being treated. Grooms saw that they were safe, and left for home. It was only a few days later that anyone even knew what he had done! In recognition for his actions the Florence County Council awarded him a plaque on Nov. 19 for his heroic efforts to rescue a fellow citizen.

Well done and thank you for being an example of all selfless SCDOT employees!



Louis Grooms receives a plaque from the Florence County Council for his heroic efforts to rescue a motorist who crashed into a pond.

District 6 News

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

District Engineer:

Tim Henderson

(843) 740-1665

FAX:

(843) 740-1663

Bridge crews evolve with changing needs

Over the past year, SCDOT has been assessing and load rating every bridge in the state.

This was accomplished quickly by consulting firms. While this was a tremendous victory for the overall bridge program, every District has been overwhelmed to some degree with the resulting load postings that impact traffic, local businesses and emergency response.

One bridge in Berkeley County was a particular challenge for District 6. A small H-15 maintenance bridge on Halfway Creek Road (S-100) was constructed in the 1960s. The load rating determined that the bridge should be restricted to 8 tons for a typical dump truck style vehicle and 7 tons for emergency vehicles. At these levels even unloaded dump trucks would be restricted and fire trucks would not be permitted to cross. The rating was given due to slabs with full depth cracks.

The route's average daily traffic is only 1,500 vehicles per day, but it has a lot of heavy trucks and serves as the primary access for local dirt pits. The detour around the bridge was 12 miles and added 15 minutes to fire and medical emergency responders. The detour routes would not stand up to the sustained trucking loads associated with local businesses. It was in SCDOT's best interest replace the bridge.

The bridge was rehabilitated numerous times in the past. The replacement



The work was done overnight on a Friday to be open early the next morning.

of a single cracked slab (a relatively simple fix) wasn't going to be a long term solution. Over the years, numerous pilings had been redriven and full spans had been replaced with in-kind H-15 components. In-fact, the failed span had previously been replaced less than a year before. The constant, heavy loading from the local dirt pit was just too great for this bridge type. For that reason, the District sought a better solution.

The result was a sturdier, more modern slab that could be placed interchangeable with the older maintenance slabs, but support current day design loads. This unique solution was a variation of a design previously utilized by the District Bridge Engineer at an entrance to a port facility. So this was a technique proven to be effective in supporting a large volume of heavy loads.

To minimize long term road closures that could have significant impacts to the public, the slabs were specifically detailed to be rigged and lifted by smaller equipment such as excavators that do not require the same set-up time as cranes. Since excavators do not have the same reach as cranes, the slabs were verified to have capacity to support not just the weight of the tracked

equipment, but also the forces induced by that equipment lifting, swinging, and walking slabs of the next span in line.

The result was a major repair that was able to take place from 7 p.m. on a Friday night to be completed by 6 a.m. Saturday morning with almost no impact to the public or local businesses. It also eliminated the need for a bridge posting in support of the Department's 10-Year Plan.

It was determined to be so successful that a similar effort is being organized for a higher volume route in Berkeley County (6,000 vehicles per day) that is also being load posted.

The success of this repair was due to a focused, coordinated effort of many individuals, units and outside organizations. The office of the Director of Maintenance provided slab designs and detailed drawings to make the District's concept compatible with the older standards. The District met with local concrete precasters to ensure that the slabs were easily constructible (and thus cost efficient) by using tilt-up wall forms

Got
news?

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



Debra Jerideau

they were already using for the vertical building industry.

Berkeley, Colleton and Jasper Maintenance units worked with traffic control, equipment and material transport. The District's Specialized Bridge Division did the repair. The local dirt pit agreed to not haul out of the pit on Saturday in case the repairs took longer than expected. This allowed work to be done on Friday instead of Saturday night, ensuring staff had the ability to go to Easter Sunday services with their families. The local fire departments were notified to preposition response equipment on each end of the road closure. Finally, the local County Government's public information officers supported the efforts by using their communication tools to educate the public on the impending work. Collaboration and detailed coordination governed every action.

As the state-wide bridge program continues to evolve, District 6 is committed to remaining flexible and agile to support the public's needs.

Meet Steven Diamond

Name: Steven Diamond
Title: Berkeley Resident
Construction
Engineer



Steven Diamond

Steven Diamond is the Resident Maintenance Engineer for Berkeley County. He was born in Myrtle Beach and grew up in Sumter.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Economics and Sociology, and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University.

He has previous work experience at Starbucks, Harris-Orkand, and Jacobs Engineering.

Diamond started his career with SCDOT in July 2016 at York Maintenance as an Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer. He was promoted to Resident Maintenance Engineer at York Maintenance in March 2019.

Diamond married his wife, Abby, in May 2007. They have a daughter, Olivia, and a son, Jack.

His hobbies include going to Clemson football games, supporting the Boston Bruins and Arsenal FC, and spending time with his family.



An excavator removes slabs from the interior spans.

District 7 News

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

Acting District Engineer: *Ashleigh Sandel* (803) 531-6850
FAX: (803) 531-6854

Got news?

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

Danny Simmons



Tailgate safety training teaches operators how to do job better, safer

One of SCDOT's goals is to provide a safe and productive work environment for SCDOT employees, along with a strategy to promote workforce safety throughout the state. Related to these objectives Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** outlined on Jan. 20, 2021, a memo called *SCDOT's Dump Truck Tailgate Safety Initiative*. The primary objective of this safety initiative is to train SCDOT employees in the safe handling, removal and re-installation of dump truck tailgates and to limit the potential for injury.

D-rings to facilitate safe removal and reinstallation of the tailgate. These D-rings are installed by certified welders and are welded to ASME D14.1 standards for lifting devices. Warning stickers are also applied to each tailgate identifying pinch points. A video presentation with commentary by SCDOT employees effectively details the process and illustrates the unfortunate consequences of tailgate-related injuries.

On April 7, 2021, Orangeburg Maintenance employees participated in a tailgate safety training session with a demonstration of these procedures. During this training session employees discussed a newly revised Job Hazard Analysis form with added emphasis on personal safety (pinch points) and equipment safety (tailgate chains).

As a part of this initiative, dump trucks are outfitted with



Orangeburg Maintenance employee Vincent Morris uses grade 80 chains to steady the tailgate while backhoe operator Randy Brunson lifts the tailgate.



Orangeburg Maintenance employee Patrick Turner carefully removes tailgate pins.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANNY SIMMONS/DISTRICT 7



Ashleigh Sandel

Special thanks to Ashleigh Sandel

District 7 Engineering Administrator **Kevin Gantt** retired from SCDOT in April. On April 17, **Ashleigh Sandel** was selected to serve as Acting District 7 Engineering Administrator for three months until **Jeffrey Terry** was selected to fill the position permanently.

Sandel has 17 years of experience at SCDOT and was mostly recently serving as Assistant to the Chief Engineer for Operations. Thanks to Sandel for stepping up and filling in at the District 7 Office!

See **Jeff Terry's** promotion on page 11.

View a tailgate safety video from SCDOT at:

<https://youtu.be/YqHGQilEzJs>

DEATHS

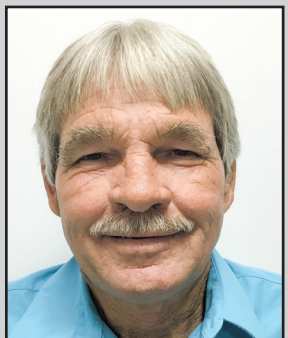
John F. Banks, 45, of Spartanburg Maintenance, died Dec. 26, 2020.

James R. Bazemore, 82, SCDOT retiree from Pelion, died Jan. 31, 2021.



George E. Ingalls

George E. Ingalls, 53, of Marlboro Maintenance, died Feb. 18, 2021.



Jerry Lane

Jerry Lane, 64, of Marion Construction, died Dec. 17, 2020.

Colonel Joseph “Red” Howard Lanier, 85, former Colonel of the S.C. Highway Patrol (SCDHPT), died March 21, 2021.

Ann Lybrand, 75, SCDOT retiree, died Feb. 24, 2021.

Clara Bozard McCullough, 91, SCDOT retiree, died on March 20, 2021.

Robert L. Williams, 51, of Sumter Maintenance, died Jan. 25, 2021.

Christopher S. Wilkie, 61, of McCormick Maintenance, died Apr. 10, 2021.



Sam McCuen

Sam. E. McCuen, 80, former SCDOT Public Relations Director, of Lexington, died on Dec. 29, 2020.



Roosevelt McFadden

Roosevelt McFadden Jr., 74, retired SCDOT Postal Services employee, died Dec. 8, 2020.

William B. Saxon, 60, of Greenwood Maintenance, died Nov. 17, 2020.



Bernie Shealy

Bernard B. ‘Bernie’ Shealy, 62, retired SCDOT engineer, died May 11, 2021.

Chinmay P. Thakore, 64, of Greenville Construction, died Dec. 8, 2020.



Ronald W. Sellers

Ronald W. Sellers, 52, of Chesterfield Construction, died Feb. 26, 2021.



Glen Ward

Glen B. Ward, 73, SCDOT retiree from West Columbia, died Jan. 12, 2021.



Hayward Wilson

Hayward O. Wilson, 65, of Sumter Maintenance, died March 3, 2021.



John M. Truluck

John Moultrie “Moot” Truluck III, 75, of Lake City, former SCDOT Commissioner from 1999 to 2006, died on May 30, 2021.



Ken Willingham

Kenneth “Ken” Rodney Willingham, 82, of Mount Pleasant, former SCDOT Commissioner from 2009 to 2010, died on May 27, 2021.



Charles B. Kennedy

Charles “Chuck” B. Kennedy, of Greenwood Maintenance, died June 10, 2021.

Three employees injured, one dies in head-on collision in Greenwood

SCDOT lost one of our team members in Greenwood County on Thursday, June 10, 2021. **Charles “Chuck” Kennedy** was killed on his way to the job site when the vehicle he was driving was struck by another vehicle on US-178 between Greenwood near Scotts Ferry Road.

Kennedy, 59, had worked with SCDOT since February 2020 and is survived by his wife, Mary, daughter, Krista (Terry) Williams; son, Jason (Allison) Kennedy; and five grandchildren, Gavin, Landon, Caroline, Clay and Jake.

Kennedy had a strong work ethic, a great sense of humor, and was willing to undertake any task. He was an avid fisherman, racing fan and enjoyed playing golf with his coworkers at the McCormick Country Club.

In addition, two other Greenwood County Maintenance employees were injured in the crash:

William Scott has worked with SCDOT Greenwood Maintenance since April 19, 2021, on the Reclamation Crew as a Medium Equipment Operator. He operates the sheep foot roller, and the chip spreader. He is married to Shelby Scott and has 3 daughters: Carlee – 6 years old; and a set of twins Caroline and Jolene – 1 year old. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, riding motorcycles, camping and spending time with family and friends.

Christopher Patrick McMahan has worked with SCDOT Greenwood Main-



Charles B. Kennedy

tenance since February 18, 2020 on the Reclamation Crew as a Highway Maintenance Worker I. He operates the steel wheel roller. He is married to McKenzie and has 3 children with one on the way. He has a 4 year old son – Brantley, 3 year old daughter – Addison, and a 2 year old daughter – Isabella. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, racing, and hunting.

Thankfully, both Scott and McMahan are expected to make a full recovery.

SCDOT employees donated money to the three families through the SCDOT SC Cares program.

We continue to mourn the loss of Chuck Kennedy who came to work expecting to do his job and go home to his family. Please continue to keep all three of these families in your thoughts and prayers.

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy A. Hall
South Carolina Secretary
of Transportation

The first half of 2021 has brought many challenges and opportunities to SCDOT. While our agency and families have continued to deal with the impacts and ramifications of the pandemic, our team has done an outstanding job of keeping our mission front and center. I am very proud of our team and greatly appreciate the

dedication not only to getting the job done, but also to each other. Unlike many states, we did not stop work, layoff folks or dramatically scale back our road and bridge programs. The pages of this Connector is full of success stories and demonstrates the can-do attitude of our Team. This positive attitude, dedication to service and commitment to each other is precisely why I elected to award performance increases across the board. I have told many of you that I know that I ask a lot

of you, including calling on you to work in extraordinary situations under extreme conditions. And you have all answered the call...every single time. And, I thank you for doing so.

We all still have much to work on together, both to make our agency better but also to make the state's infrastructure better. We have made tremendous strides over the past few years by delivering superb results with the funding allocated to SCDOT by the 2017 gas tax in-

crease. It appears that this may have only been just the beginning. Recent discussions at the state and federal level indicate a desire to continue to boost funding for infrastructure. This unprecedented environment is a reminder to me of how thankful I am to be part of a team that has built a reputation of getting the job done, with a clear vision and solid strategy. You have my pledge that I will continue to do my very best to advocate for what is best for the people of our state and our agency.

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Dignitaries cut the ribbon on the new Harbor River Bridge in Beaufort on April 26.

New Harbor River Bridge opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new, modern bridge on U.S. 21 (Sea Island Parkway) over the Harbor River in Beaufort County took place on April 26.

Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**, State Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III of District 43, and other community members spoke to commemorate the completion of the bridge.

The old Sea Island Parkway swing span

bridge was almost 80 years old and was at the end of its useful lifespan. It was expensive to maintain and required an operator all hours of the day to open and close the bridge for waterway traffic.

This \$77 million project was on-budget and completed ahead of schedule. The project also includes demolition of the old bridge. The old truss structure will be repurposed off shore and as an artificial reef.



The new bridge is 3,350 feet long and rises 75 feet above the river. It will replace the old Sea Island Parkway swing span.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR