

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXX NO. II

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WINTER 2020

SCDOT ahead of schedule after year three

Strategic 10-Year Plan to improve the state's roads and bridges is surpassing goals

By Ted Creech

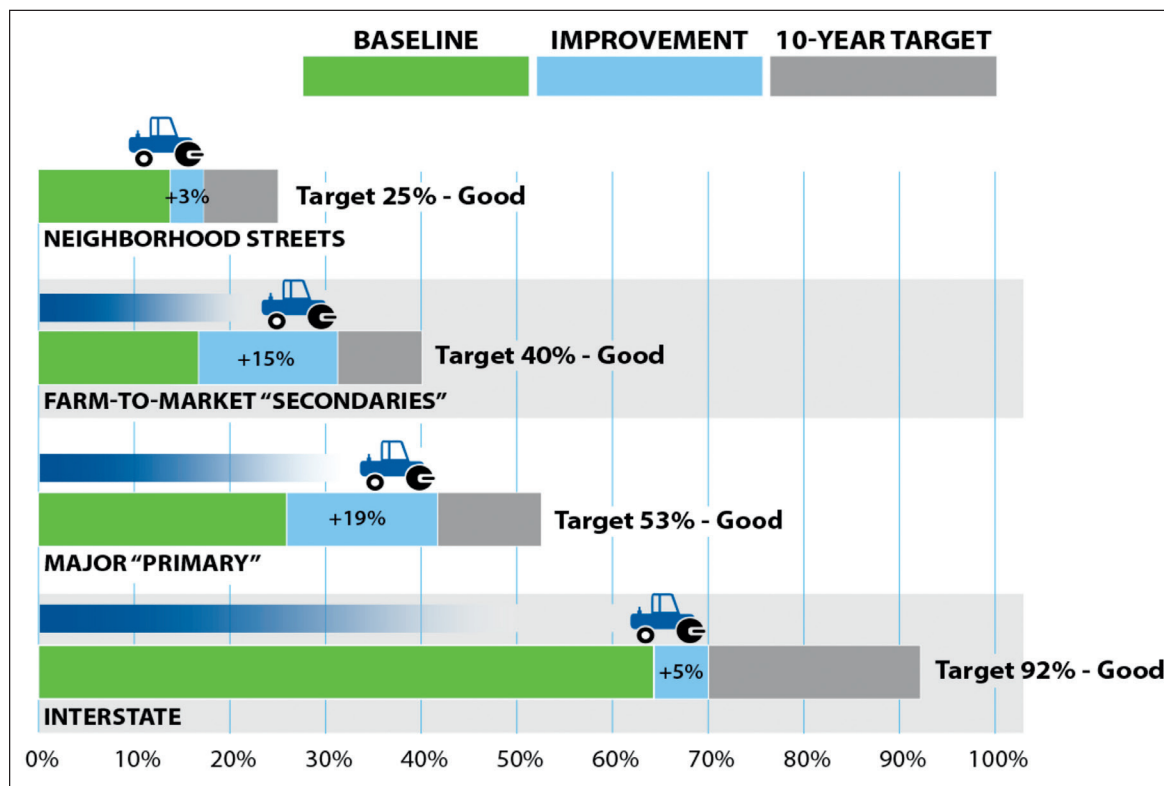
After the third year of its 10-Year road and bridge improvement plan, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is on target or ahead of schedule in each of the plan's four major programs to improve the quality of the state's transportation network.

SCDOT launched the plan when the S.C. General Assembly enacted the gas tax increase in July 2017. The increase, phased in at two cents per year over six years, is enabling the agency to improve the safety of rural roads, pave aging roads and corridors, repair or replace deteriorating bridges, and improve key portions of South Carolina's interstates.

"We have had a very successful start on the long journey to repair and improve our state's 42,000-mile highway system with sustainable funding we didn't have for 30 years," Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall** said. "We thank the SCDOT team and our industry partners for their unwavering commitment to the effort and for the progress we've made."

"State leadership realized the need to invest more in our transportation network, and we have put that investment to work with historic levels of construction, including projects in all 46 of the state's counties," Hall said.

SCDOT has tripled the amount of road and bridge construction during the past few years to a record \$3.3 billion today. The agency and its transportation industry partners have also been completing \$1.7 billion of projects annually, compared to completing \$500 million annually in previous years. To date under the plan, SCDOT



SCDOT GRAPHICS

The 10-year goal is to make significant progress at bringing the state highway system up to a state of good repair. Eighty percent of the state's 42,000 miles of roads needed resurfacing or rebuilding. The 10-year goal is to bring half of those roads up to a 'good' rating from 'poor' or 'very poor.' SCDOT is using a performance-based approach to drive the recovery of South Carolina's roads by repairing existing pavement (preservation), resurfacing roads (rehabilitating) or completely rebuilding roads (reconstruction).

has completed work on or advanced to construction:

- Improvements to 465 miles of the most dangerous rural roads. The plan's 10 year goal is 1,000 miles.
- Replacements or repair of 161 bridges, compared to the 10-year target of 465 bridges.
- Paving of 3,000-plus miles of roadway. SCDOT has increased the percentage of roads in "good"

condition for all categories of roads.

- 80 miles of interstate highway improvements, compared to the 140-mile 10-year target.

Since the enactment of the new gas tax and the trust fund desig-

See 10-YEAR PLAN page 18



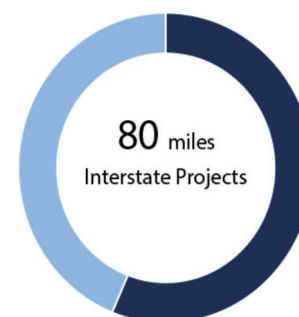
10-Year Target: 1000 miles

South Carolina has the deadliest rural roads in the nation. SCDOT is addressing the 'worst-of-the-worst' roads in the state by improving 1,000 miles of non-interstate rural roads with tailored safety solutions.



10-Year Target: 465 bridges

Approximately half of SCDOT's 750 structurally deficient bridges are being replaced. SCDOT is specifically targeting two types of bridges: 1) load-restricted bridges, 2) structurally Deficient bridges. In 2016 there were 348 load-restricted bridges across South Carolina, which impacted the movement of goods, school bus routing, and emergency response times. There were also 51 structurally deficient bridges not yet programmed for replacement or repair that could hinder the ability to move freight across the state's major routes.



10-Year Target: 140 miles

SCDOT is planning or implementing at least 11 interstate widening projects. This will improve mobility and capacity by widening more than 100 centerline miles of interstate and address major freight 'pinch points' at interstate-to-interstate interchanges.

New commissioners join SCDOT team

By Ted Creech

The SCDOT Commission welcomed two new members in October.

Pamela L. Christopher, of Anderson, has been sworn in as the new SCDOT Commissioner representing the 3rd Congressional District. She replaces Ben Davis, who served as Commissioner before retiring in September 2020.

Christopher has been the President and CEO of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce since 2014 and oversees the day-to-day operations of the 800-plus business member organization.

Before that, Christopher worked as a Chamber and economic development executive supporting local, regional and state economic development efforts in South Carolina, Georgia and Wisconsin.

During her career, Christopher has managed 825 successful economic development projects totaling nearly \$3.7 billion in capital investment and more than 17,000 new jobs.

She is a 2004 graduate of Economic Development Institute, University of Oklahoma, a 2005 graduate of the Institute for Organizational Management, University of Georgia, and holds a certificate from UNC-Charlotte in both Industry Location Factors and Strategic Planning. Christopher earned her Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) credentials in 2016, becoming one of fewer than 300 executives in the nation



Tony K. Cox
Commission Chairman

to have received this designation as a Chamber of Commerce professional. In 2015, she was named to the top 100 Most Influential Leaders in the Upstate by GSA Business, and she was recognized earlier this year as one of 25 Women of Influence for the Upstate by GSA Business.

Nancy P. Whitworth, of Greenville, has been sworn in as the new SCDOT Commissioner as a Governor's At-Large Appointee. She replaces Kristen Blanchard who resigned from the Commission in February 2020.

Whitworth was the deputy city manager and director of economic development for the City of Greenville before retiring in 2020. Her responsibilities included commercial and neighborhood revitalization, downtown development, business recruitment and retention, planning and building codes.

Whitworth was instrumental in establishing public-private partnerships resulting in Green-



Barnwell Fishburne
Commission Vice Chairman

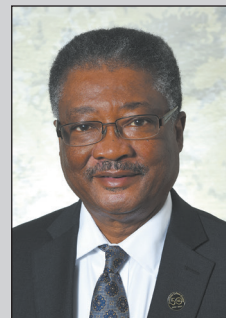
ville's successful downtown and city-wide redevelopment. She has been an expert panelist and presenter throughout the country advising communities on entrepreneurial and collaborative approaches to economic development. She is currently an advisor with OneSpartanburg, Inc., an organization dedicated to the business, economic and tourism development of Spartanburg.

She is a member of Commercial Real Estate Women Network and Urban Land Institute.

Whitworth is a member of the boards of the Community Foundation of Greenville, Clemson University Advancement Board for Real Estate Development and Clemson University Rutland Institute for Ethics.

Whitworth grew up in Calhoun Falls and received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from Clemson University. She currently resides in Greenville, which has been her home for more than 40 years.

SCDOT Commission



J.T. McLawhorn
Commissioner
At-Large



Nancy Whitworth
Commissioner
At-Large



Robert D. Robbins
1st Congressional
District



John H. Burriss
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

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.



COVID-19 How SCDOT prepared for coronavirus

By Pete Poore

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States on Jan. 25, 2020. A Seattle man in his 30s traveled in the city of Wuhan in China and began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms after returning home.

On March 9, 2020, the CDC confirmed the first two cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina; a Charleston woman in her 30s and a woman in her 80s in Kershaw County. More cases were expected.

SCDOT’s leadership team began planning for an outbreak of the virus in the state and how SCDOT would continue its core functions. A general guidance was issued to employees about staying informed, staying home if an employee was sick or had symptoms of COVID-19. Exercise good hygiene and frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces were highly recommended.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency that closed public schools.

Secretary Hall stepped up measures on March 16, 2020, to maintain the health and well-being of the workforce while maintaining agency operations.

All out-of-state travel was suspended. In-state travel for non-critical missions and training was suspended. Instead, web-based or teleconference meetings were encouraged. Public hearings, information meetings and stakeholder meetings were postponed. Safety precautions were taken across all SCDOT facilities in the state. All offices and maintenance yards were open, but access was limited.

In addition to the measures taken internally, SCDOT stepped up personal safety plans with our industry partners to maintain the



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees entering headquarters are screened before entering the building. Monitoring temperatures and keeping track of Covid-19 symptoms was necessary to keep our workforce safe and to keep working through the pandemic.

pace of the agency’s construction program. (*See Highway Construction during pandemic story on Page 6*).

The Director of Maintenance’s Office found private businesses that would produce large quantities of hand sanitizer for SCDOT’s workforce and to share with other agencies. (*See SCDOT/Hand Sanitizer story on Page 7*).

SCDOT also instituted rigorous cleaning procedures at all interstate rest areas. The workers use a detailed check list to clean and sanitize the restrooms from morn-

ing until night. That process is still in place. Further, tolls were temporarily lifted on Hilton Head’s Cross Island Parkway at the rise of the pandemic in the state to protect toll workers and the traveling public. Toll collections were resumed in June as traffic volumes returned to normal.

Among the many “State of Emergency Orders” declared by the Governor, the “Stay at Home or Work Order” was issued on April 6, 2020. SCDOT workers could then be considered for telecommuting from home, working

a staggered shift or taking leave. Those who were able to telecommute continued their work, or used the time for on-line training opportunities.

A number of efforts were made throughout the summer to increase social distancing and keep critical operations of the agency functioning. Workers were assigned to teams that rotated between telecommuting and reporting to their workplaces each week.

All employees reported back to work after the Labor Day weekend. Strict rules concerning wear-

ing masks, temperature checks and social distancing were put in place.

Recognizing that COVID-19 is unprecedented and presents rapidly changing situations for South Carolina, Secretary Hall commended the SCDOT workforce. “I would like to thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the state and SCDOT. I would ask that we all remain agile in this rapidly evolving situation. I will work to ensure that we protect our workforce to the maximum extent possible.”

SCDOT keeps project planning on schedule with Online Public Meetings -----Page 4
SCDOT Financial outlook during Covid-19 -----Page 5
Lighter traffic during Covid-19 shutdown opens highways up for work -----Page 6
SCDOT distributes sanitizer made by South Carolina distilleries -----Page 7

COVID-19 Community outreach goes online

SCDOT keeps project planning on schedule with Online Public Meetings

By Ted Creech

Connecting with communities to gain public input on planned road and bridge projects is a cornerstone of SCDOT's business.

But holding large, in-person gatherings to discuss road projects has become more difficult during these times of COVID-19. When the pandemic hit, SCDOT needed to quickly change how it approached public involvement in order to keep its planning for road and bridge construction on schedule.

The agency started developing more online, or virtual, public meetings and hearings instead of relying solely on in-person gatherings. SCDOT is now hosting multiple online meetings for proposed road and bridge projects. They feature websites dedicated to providing citizens with information, maps and presentations that they would have received had in-person meetings been held.

"Projects that impact the environment or communities of interest or that involve federal funding require planning steps that include proactive, documented public outreach," according to **Chad Long**, Director of SCDOT's Environmental Services division. "These projects don't move forward without educating citizens on alternative project designs and getting their comments. Public input is critical to our planning efforts."

A public meeting or public hearing online enables SCDOT to request formal comments from the public that are submitted through the meeting's website, by email, or by phone or U.S. Mail. These comments can have a significant bearing on project plans and which designs are eventually selected.

Flexibility is Key

In today's COVID environment where concern for people's health is paramount, SCDOT uses virtual community outreach methods, but it also makes accommodations for safe, socially-distanced in-person meetings when people request them

or don't have ready access to the Internet. The key is flexibility, providing information about projects in multiple ways to accommodate people with language or technology barriers or who would rather meet with someone in person.

Traditional public meetings and hearings were usually held on specific dates and times that featured crowds of people engaging directly with SCDOT staff and consultants. In contrast, virtual web-based meetings last 30 days or more, enabling citizens to access project information and make comments at times that suit their schedules.

"Before the Pandemic, we used online meetings as an addition to in-person meetings in order to reach more people. With the help of the Federal Highway Administration and other partners, these online meetings have now become a primary and effective way to gain citizens input."

Chad Long
Environmental Services
Director

In this digital age, the transportation industry's use of online public involvement will continue beyond coronavirus concerns. So, SCDOT is working to establish new, long-term agency policies that recognize the importance of virtual meetings.

"It's important for us to meet South Carolina's citizens where they are and in the ways they want to be engaged," Long said. "We're working now to develop policies that are flexible, recognizing the importance of both virtual and in-person outreach for the future."



SCDOT Program Manager Casey Lucas introduces local Greenville media to the public hearing online for the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project on July 7, 2020.

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

COVID-19 Good financial management keeps work on track

By Ted Creech

We all heard the comments at the beginning of the Pandemic, “Fix the roads while there’s no traffic!”

In fact, because of lower traffic volumes SCDOT was able to extend lane closures so the agency and its contractors could get more work done on some projects. But with the reduced amount of travel related to school closings and other COVID-19 emergency orders, gas tax collections dropped dramatically in the Spring of 2020.

SCDOT and other transportation departments across the nation found themselves balancing construction and maintenance plans with declining revenues.

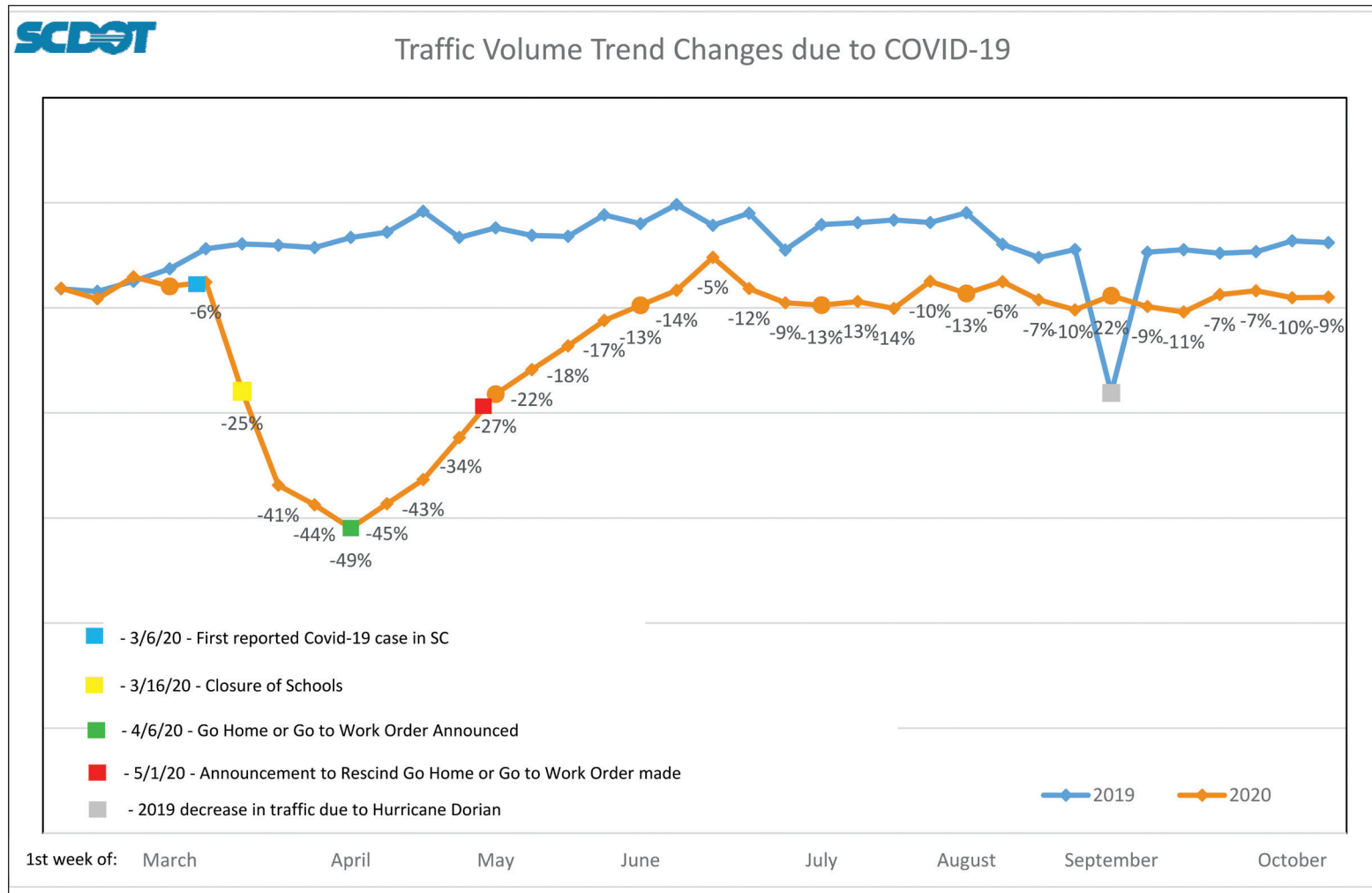
“Our top priorities in managing the impacts of COVID-19 quickly became helping our employees and contractors stay well while continuing our work, and managing the agency’s finances through an unforeseen revenue shortfall,” said Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration **Justin Powell**. “As a result of our efforts, our employees and partners continued construction and maintenance uninterrupted, and we were able to absorb reductions in gas tax receipts through conservative financial management.”

The pandemic’s revenue impact on SCDOT was tied directly to traffic volumes and an emergency declaration allowing the transportation industry to defer remitting fuel taxes to the State for two months.

Traffic dropped significantly from the first reported COVID-19 case in South Carolina on March 6 to the Governor’s “Home or Work” order on April 7. Traffic reached its lowest levels in early April, 49 percent below 2019 volumes. Beginning in late April, however, traffic began increasing steadily and is currently between 5 and 15 percent below pre-COVID levels.

While gas tax collections dropped, car sales taxes, another revenue stream for SCDOT, increased. The net effect was a \$34.2 million loss from April through August of 2020.

To offset the reduction, SCDOT



SCDOT GRAPHIC

This chart shows the impact of COVID-19 on South Carolina’s statewide traffic volumes compared to 2019 volumes. Traffic reached its lowest levels in early April as schools closed and the “Home or Work” emergency order was announced. Traffic has been increasing steadily since mid-April.

cut its internal operating budget by 11 percent during the last quarter of fiscal year 2019-2020 and has reduced the 2020-2021 budget by 12 percent. The agency has also enhanced budget and procurement controls to prioritize critical expenditures, and it is pacing the start of new projects to match cash received instead of relying on anticipated future cash flows. These measures are mitigating the agency’s financial risk.

“We addressed the issue head-on and quickly. All considered, we are able to manage through this disruption,” said Powell. “We have not stopped or delayed any of our projects due to COVID-19, and while we have reduced our operating expenses, we have not furloughed any employees. Main-

taining our core operations, continuing our strong road and bridge construction program, and protecting our liquidity amidst the uncertainty associated with the virus are our financial principles.”

SCDOT saw a sharp drop in gas tax revenues during March through June due to reduced traffic during the pandemic ‘stay at home’ orders. Fortunately, with SCDOT’s financial management, work was able to continue to take advantage of lighter traffic. Here, crews make improvements to the intersection of U.S. 301 and S.C. 267 in Orangeburg County.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

COVID-19 Highway construction adapts in pandemic

Lighter traffic during Covid-19 shutdown opens highways up for work

By Bob Kudelka

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic upended the country seemingly overnight and people in most walks of life suddenly were being sent home, SCDOT leadership took a proactive approach to keep highway work on track.

There was much at stake.

The state's \$3 billion construction program is a key part of South Carolina's economic engine.

Back in March, there were many uncertainties about the virus, except perhaps that a vaccine was not going to be available anytime soon.

"The primary concern was the industry could potentially get shut down," SCDOT Director of Construction **Robbie Isgett** said. "The economic impact would have been far reaching, not only to DOT personnel, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers...It would have shut down concrete plants, quarries, aggregate producers. It would have had a cascading impact."

With so much on the line, top leaders from SCDOT began a whirlwind week of around the clock meetings beginning internally with the agency and soon including partners in the public and private sectors. The goal was to come up with a plan to keep employees safe and still continue with construction.

"We got input from District Construction engineers and a mix of employees out in the field," Isgett said. "We got buy-in by group participation and they understood what we were trying to accomplish – keep the construction program going and keep making progress on the 10-year Strategic Plan. We wanted to keep moving our construction projects forward as long as sup-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

During the pandemic, SCDOT and contractors were able to continue their work using a joint workplace safety plan to deal with COVID-19. The plan was put together to keep crews working to take advantage of lighter traffic during the pandemic. Here, widening work continues on I-85 through Cherokee County.

ply chains, materials and personnel could keep working safely. We felt like this gave us a tool to do that."

The result was a four-page "Joint Workforce Safety Plan: Covid-19" with detailed precautions for highway workers on the job site as well as in the office.

The plan also required all parties to abide by guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The groundbreaking report was signed off on by Carolinas AGC, FHWA, SCDOT, the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association (SCAPA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina (ACEC). "Everybody was more than willing to comply with it," Isgett said.

To say the report is detailed may be an understatement.

Wellness, hygiene, cleaning/disinfecting and social distancing are spelled out from the type of hand sanitizer to "no communal coolers or drink stations are allowed."

It was a document that would have been unheard of before the pandemic.

"We've never gotten into the nitty-gritty of how a contractor's personnel are assembled and interact," Isgett said. "It took things to the next level. We never experienced anything like this before, of course."

The Joint Workforce Safety Plan was issued on March 22, culminating a busy week of meetings.

The guidelines have "become standard practice that none of us would bat an eye at nowadays," Isgett said in an October interview, adding that new terms like "social distancing" quickly became part of everyday conversation.

The safety plan had teeth as well. Violations of the plan would result in "the violating entity not being allowed to continue to work or all work ceasing as determined by the SCDOT RCE and prime contractor."

"We were the first DOT in the nation to develop this type of plan that we are aware of," Isgett said. "Other states reached out to us and requested copies of the plan. Several used it as a template to develop their own plan."

With the safety plan in place, SCDOT and its partners worked through a spring when much of the general workforce was staying home. There was even a silver lining: Traffic was way down.

"We took advantage of reduced traffic volumes to accelerate projects," Isgett said. "As for the overall construction program, most projects have been able to stay on schedule."



Repaving work is being completed on South Cashua Drive from 2nd Loop Road to Floyd Circle in Florence.

Distilleries revamp operations during COVID-19 pandemic

SCDOT works with distilleries to make, distribute hand sanitizer

By Lauren Roeder

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Carolina Department of Transportation distributed hand sanitizer to state agencies and SCDOT offices. When the need for hand sanitizer was recognized in mid-March, SCDOT stepped forward to take the lead in this effort for the state as a whole.

SCDOT contacted several distilleries throughout the state, including Six & Twenty in Pow-

dersville, Hollow Creek Distillery in Leesville, and Palmetto Distillery in Anderson. SCDOT also worked with Jain Chem, a chemical company based in Taylors. To date, SCDOT has collected more than 40,000 gallons of hand sanitizer.

State Maintenance Engineer **Jeff Terry** organized the project. "All of this work is in an effort to assist all of South Carolina in stopping the spread of the COVID-19 virus," said Terry.

Though this isn't in their normal wheelhouse, Hollow Creek

Distillery owners Craig and Meredith Amick quickly agreed to take on the task of creating sanitizer in accordance with FDA regulations.

"This has given us a new business opportunity since we have been unable to do tours and tastings. This gives us a chance to switch it up by making hand sanitizer and helping the state while keeping business going," Craig Amick said. During the first two weeks of production, he says the distillery produced more than 2000 gallons of 80% alco-

hol hand sanitizer.

This was a joint effort to keep the state of South Carolina moving. Six & Twenty Distillery even hired staff who were laid off from restaurants and bars to keep them employed.

Palmetto Distillery Owner Trey Boggs said, "The last thing we ever thought we'd be doing was making hand sanitizer. We are honored to be a part of this effort, and we are thankful that it is helping keep our staff employed. We are happy to help be a part of the effort to save lives."

SCDOT is proud to be part of TEAM South Carolina to support this critical mission to help keep the state's workforce safe.

SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** said, "The South Carolina Department of Transportation was able to secure hand sanitizer early on during the COVID-19 pandemic via South Carolina distilleries to help meet a great need that has limited supplies."

For the latest information on COVID-19, go to [scdhec.gov/COVID19](https://www.scdhec.gov/COVID19).

How distilleries make sanitizer

Distilleries across South Carolina switched from spirits to hand sanitizer as the coronavirus sparked supply shortages. SCDOT helped distribute the sanitizer.



1 The Six & Twenty Distillery in Powdersville is one of several distilleries that made sanitizer for South Carolina state agencies. They walked us through the steps of hand sanitizer production.



4 Then it is put into a batch and blended together.



5 The mixture is then fed into a bottler that pours individual gallons.



2 The process starts by making ethanol from mash in large 250-gallon vats or 'totes.'



3 The ethanol is then diluted with water, glycerin, and hydrogen peroxide.



6 Once the bottle has been properly labeled, it goes into a box for shipping. The boxes are then placed on pallets and shipped. SCDOT's Supply Depot served as a central warehouse for the sanitizer.



7 State agencies, schools and other organizations picked up the sanitizer from SCDOT's Shop Road warehouse.

WATCH THE VIDEOS ONLINE

SCDOT distributing locally made hand sanitizer:
<https://youtu.be/TyZaNkdErrY>

How hand sanitizer is made at SC liquor distilleries:
<https://youtu.be/lArw6DjkrM>

RETIREMENTS

Samuel Aiken, retired from Colleton Maintenance after 9 years of service.

Melvin Alexander, retired from Oconee Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Dixie L. Anderson, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 20 years of service.

Arther R. Ard, retired from D5 Incident Response after 18 years of service.

Robin E. Austin, retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Anthony L. Bagwell, retired from Pickens Maintenance after 25 years of service.

Donald R. Baker, retired from Oconee Maintenance after 30 years of service.

Debra S. Baker, retired from Budget after 2 years of service.

Lewis D. Bass, retired from Kershaw Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Holman Bookhart, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Doris E. Breland, retired from Charleston Maintenance after 25 years of service.

Frankie E. Brock, retired from Chesterfield Maintenance after 15 years of service.

Jonas L. Brooks, retired from Florence Maintenance after 29 years of service.

William C. Brown, retired from SHEP Columbia after 15 years of service.

Lamar Brunson, retired from Marlboro Maintenance after 9 years of service.

James J. Burns, retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 12 years of service.

Beckwith H. Carlos, retired from District 1 Office after 37 years of service.

Clayton E. Cevis, retired from Beaufort Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Danny L. Coleman, retired from Darlington Maintenance after 36 years of service.

Jackie E. Cook, retired from Richland Maintenance after 21 years of service.

Jeffery L. Cook, retired from Marion Maintenance after 25 years of service.

Omega Cooper, retired from Darlington Construction after 21 years of service.

James W. Cox, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Brentley D. Crocker, retired from York Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Felicia K. Croom, retired from IT Services after 30 years of service.

James D. Davison, retired from Safety after 5 years of service.

Kimberly C. Desrosiers, retired from District 4 Office after 27 years of service.

Irene K. Disher, retired from Williamsburg Maintenance after 25 years of service.

Jackie S. Dowey, retired from Kershaw Maintenance after 26 years of service.

Ronald K. Dunaway, retired from Laurens Maintenance after 11 years of service.

William R. Earhart, retired from Materials and Research after 23 years of service.

William P. Elkins, retired from District 4 Pavement after 28 years of service.

Marion L. Estes, retired from District 4 Bridge Inspection after 31 years of service.

Arthur Felder, retired from Clarendon Maintenance after 12 years of service.

Robert A. Foster, retired from Greenville Surveys after 29 years of service.

Terry R. Fowler, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 32 years of service.

Gaddis E. Franklin, retired from Equipment Service Depot after 14 years of service.

Richard B. Gadsden, retired from RPG 4 - Upstate after 26 years of service.

Ramon Garza, retired from Kershaw Maintenance after 18 years of service.

James A. Godbold, retired from Marion Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Charlie M. Grate, retired from District 5 Traffic Signals after 28 years of service.

Brenda G. Gravely, retired from Greenville Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Beverly G. Hamlin, retired from Darlington Maintenance after 15 years of service.

John H. Harden, retired from Sumter Construction after 10 years of service.

Douglas S. Harper, retired from IT Services after 32 years of service.

Darryl B. Harrelson, retired from Traffic Engineering after 30 years of service.

Charles F. Harris, retired from Lancaster Maintenance after 12 years

of service.

Robbie J. Harris, retired from Equipment Service Depot after 26 years of service.

Reginald N. Haynes, retired from Richland Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Amos N. Henry, retired from Clarendon Maintenance after 13 years of service.

David E. Herrington, retired from Marion Maintenance after 8 years of service.

Michael K. Hiers, retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 31 years of service.

Donald W. Hilton, retired from Jasper Construction after 25 years of service.

Andrew L. Hodges, retired from York Maintenance after 9 years of service.

Michael C. Holden, retired from District 3 Office after 27 years of service.

Donald A. Hughes, retired from SHEP Upstate I-85 after 25 years of service.

Aly A. Hussein, retired from Materials and Research after 31 years of service.

James L. Isreal, retired from Marion Maintenance after 9 years of service.

Stephanie A. Jackson-Amell, retired from District 3 Office after 25 years of service.

Mae A. Johnson-Young, retired from Public Relations after 33 years of service.

Don Johnston, retired from SHEP Charleston after 14 years of service.

Virginia C. Jones, retired from Traffic Engineering after 25 years of service.

Jeffrey B. Jordan, retired from Saluda Maintenance after 21 years of service.

Allen W. King, retired from Dillon Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Margaret P. Kizer, retired from Richland Construction after 28 years of service.

Ervin P. Koone, retired from Greenwood Construction after 17 years of service.

Timothy Langston, retired from Laurens Maintenance after 24 years of service.

Kenny W. Larimore, retired from Planning after 23 years of service.

Jinru Li, retired from Pre-Construction Support after 16 years of service.

Wendy S. Liberator, retired from Greenville Maintenance after 5 years of service.

Vickie L. Lindsey, retired from Dorchester Construction after 28 years of service.

Timothy G. Lisenby, retired from Marlboro Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Rodney J. Livingston, retired from Lexington Maintenance after 10 years of service.

Robert D. Lorick, retired from Lexington Maintenance after 25 years of service.

Charles W. Lucas, retired from SHEP Charleston after 13 years of service.

Larry Martin, retired from Marion Maintenance after 30 years of service.

Michael T. McGee, retired from Office of Director Of Construction after 31 years of service.

Ronnie D. McGee, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance after 19 years of service.

William R. McKeown, retired from RPG 3 - Midlands after 33 years of service.

Steven M. Medlin, retired from Building Services after 21 years of service.

Carl E. Meetze, retired from Equipment Service Depot after 38 years of service.

Scott A. Meetze, retired from CADD Management after 25 years of service.

Elizabeth Mesa, retired from RPG 3 - Midlands after 12 years of service.

Edward S. Mitchell, retired from Saluda Maintenance after 19 years of service.

Levi S. Mizell, retired from Dorchester Maintenance after 12 years of service.

Stanley R. Mobley, retired from Bamberg Maintenance after 30 years of service.

Russell A. Moore, retired from Oconee Maintenance after 30 years of service.

Teresa S. Mozingo, retired from Traffic Engineering after 30 years of service.

Lilibet F. Muhaabwa, retired from Human Resources after 29 years of service.

George R. Mungo, retired from Pre-Construction Support after 31 years of service.

Jerry L. Murdaugh, retired from Bamberg Maintenance after 31 years of service.

Michael A. Murphy, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 12 years of service.

Binh T. Nguyen, retired from Design/Build Office after 5 years of service.

Calvin Nickerson, retired from Greenwood Maintenance after 22 years of service.

Larry Oliver, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 13 years of service.

J. Brian Parnell, retired from Office of Director Of Construction after 24 years of service.

Michael A. Peeler, retired from Greenwood Maintenance after 21 years of service.

John D. Pound, retired from Lexington Maintenance after 33 years of service.

Kirk R. Richards, retired from District 6 Office after 11 years of service.

Joe D. Richardson, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 32 years of service.

James E. Richardson, retired from Newberry Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Cynthia T. Ridgeway, retired from District 6 Office after 32 years of service.

Gene B. Robertson, retired from Newberry Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Jack E. Robertson, retired from District 3 Traffic Signals after 28 years of service.

David L. Rothrock, retired from Spartanburg Maintenance after 4 years of service.

Isaac L. Rucker, retired from Aiken Maintenance after 14 years of service.

Richard L. Sanders, retired from Barnwell Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Ernest F. Schurlknight, retired from Dorchester Maintenance after 13 years of service.

Jerome Seibles, retired from Richland Maintenance after 19 years of service.

Claude M. Sexton, retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 18 years of service.

Jo A. Sharpe, retired from Sumter Maintenance after 17 years of service.

Linda K. Shaw, retired from Dorchester Construction after 30 years of service.

Mark K. Sheetz, retired from Traffic Engineering after 25 years of service.

Bobby C. Shillinglaw, retired from Chester Maintenance after 6 years of service.

Richard E. Singletary, retired from Berkeley Maintenance after 15 years of service.

Philip G. Smith, retired from District 5 Office after 31 years of service.

Terry R. Smith, retired from Beaufort Maintenance after 2 years of service.

Steve P. Smith, retired from Minority and Small Business Affairs after 10 years of service.

Ervin L. Smith, retired from Abbeville Maintenance after 30 years of service.

David R. Snodgrass, retired from Edgefield Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Thomas R. Spivey, retired from District 3 Office after 15 years of service.

Charles A. Stillwell, retired from Oconee Construction after 18 years of service.

RETIREMENTS CONTINUED

Timmy L. Strickland, retired from District 5 Bridge Inspection after 30 years of service.

Kelly D. Taylor, retired from Lexington Maintenance after 32 years of service.

Richard H. Teigue, retired from Chester Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Dorothy Ann B. Thomas, retired from Barnwell Maintenance after 29 years of service.

Jerry R. Thompson, retired from Holly Hill Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Samuel A. Tidwell, retired from Lee Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Paul E. Todd, retired from Marion Maintenance after 11 years of service.

Janet M. Tucker, retired from Legal Services after 9 years of service.

Joseph A. Turner, retired from Florence Maintenance after 28 years of service.

Jose' L. Valdivieso, retired from IT Services after 22 years of service.

Eddie D. Varnadoe, retired from Dorchester Maintenance after 4 years of service.

Karl H. Wallace, retired from IT Services after 23 years of service.

Brian D. Ward, retired from Materials and Research after 30 years of service.

Lauren P. Ward, retired from Horry 1 Maintenance after 31 years of service.

Ronald P. West, retired from Lexington Maintenance after 2 years of service.

Frederick J. Wewers, retired from Anderson Maintenance after 19 years of service.

Tamara H. Whitmire, retired from Call Center after 11 years of service.

Janet J. Wilbanks, retired from Pickens Maintenance after 19 years of service.

Valree W. Wooten, retired from Human Resources after 23 years of service.

Steven C. Wright, retired from District 4 Herbicide after 14 years of service.

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

Work Zone Awareness Week celebrates 20 years

By **Brittany Harriot**

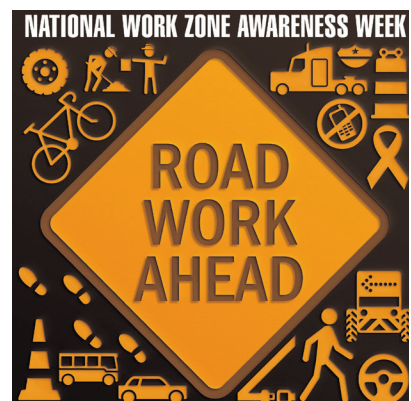
National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) celebrated 20 years this past spring by continuing to encourage safe driving practices through highway work zones. SCDOT helped commemorate the event through a series of videos on social media.

From reminding drivers of how important speed limits are to explaining how truck mounted attenuators work to keep employees and the motoring public safe, SCDOT was able to drive home the message that the NWZAW mission is to create safe work zones for all.

Not only were videos used to deliver the message, pictures of SCDOT

employees were posted during the week of a major cleanup effort happening in Seneca, SC. Just the week before, a devastating storm produced tornadoes that impacted many areas in the Upstate. Seneca in Oconee County was one of the hardest hit areas.

SCDOT initiated a statewide effort to clean up the Upstate by sending cleanup crews from other districts to help clear the roadways and the debris. Pictures of the cleanup crews were posted to social media during the duration of the cleanup project. While the weather proved to be disastrous to the communities involved, the effort was a reminder that SCDOT work crews know how to get the job done quickly and safely.



Deputy Secretary of Intermodal Planning Jim Feda retires

James "Jim" J. Feda Jr joined SCDOT in June 1983 as a Civil Engineer Associate I with District 1 in Columbia. In 1984, he became Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer with Aiken Maintenance.

Later that year, he joined Richland Maintenance as Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer. From 1986 to 1992, Feda was Resident Maintenance Engineer at Sumter Maintenance. He was Assistant District Maintenance Engineer in District 1 from 1992 to 1995, and District Maintenance Engineer from 1995 to 2000. He was District Engineering Administrator at District 1 from August 2000 to October 2001, and was Director of Maintenance from 2001 to 2017. Feda served as Acting Deputy Secretary for Intermodal



Jim Feda

Planning from July 2017 to January 2018, and was Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning from January 2018 until his final day at SCDOT on Dec. 31, 2019.



Stephanie Jackson-Amell

D3 DEA Stephanie Jackson-Amell retires

Stephanie Jackson-Amell, retired as District Engineering Administrator for District 3 on March 2, 2020. She joined SCDOT in 1995 as an Associate Engineer I.

In 1998, Jackson-Amell was promoted to Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in Greenville and then Resident Construction Engineer in 2003. Jackson-Amell became Assistant District 3 Construction Engineer in 2006, District Construction Engineer in 2010 and was named DEA for District 3 in 2015.

She received certifications as an Asphalt Roadway Technician, Foundation Inspector, Professional Engineer and was recognized as the SCDOT Unit Employee of the Year in 1999. She is a 1995 graduate of Clemson University.

Barbara Wessinger is now Chief Counsel in Legal Office

Barbara M. Wessinger is SCDOT's new Chief Counsel, effective October 2, 2020. Wessinger has a wealth of experience with SCDOT, is well respected as a knowledgeable and sharp attorney and has a keen ability to effectively navigate complex legal issues.

She replaces Linda McDonald who has retired from the position, but is still working part time to aid with the transition.

The Chief Counsel directs and manages the Legal Office, including supervision of staff attorneys and management of support staff, provides legal advice and counsel to the Secretary of Transportation and other SCDOT staff on SCDOT matters, assists in formulation of SCDOT policy and regulations, and directs, reviews and provides approval for the development and submission of an annual operating budget for Legal Office.

Wessinger started her career under contract with SCDOT in 1991. She became full-time in the Legal Division as an Attorney III in 1993.

She was born in San Diego, CA, and graduated from the University of San Diego in 1985. She graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1989.

She was married to Terry Michael Wessinger for 32 years before he passed away



Barbara Wessinger

in May 2019. They have three sons Myles, Trenton and Sterlyn.

Wessinger is a member of Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Cayce.

SCDOT is thankful for Wessinger's willingness to serve as Chief Counsel and looks forward to her tenure and continued advancement of the legal division.

Maggie Hendry is named Chief of Financial Planning

Madeleine "Maggie" Hendry has accepted the position as Chief of Financial Planning. In May 2019, several existing units were combined into the Financial Planning office within the Finance and Administration division. These changes were designed as part of the efforts to align the agency to the 10-year plan and institute effective controls over our financials. The Chief of Financial Planning acts as the designated owner of the 10-year plan financials.

Hendry has successfully served as Acting Chief since the creation of the new office. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and holds a Master of Business Administration from Winthrop University. She has an extensive career in the private sector and state government with a background in project and financial management, strategic planning, and procurement services.

During her five years of employment with SCDOT, she has worked as the Project Fund Manager in the Program Controls



Maggie Hendry

Division and as Director of the Professional Services Contracting Office.

Machael Peterson named Director of Planning

Machael M. Peterson has been named Director of Planning. She replaces Brent Rewis who was promoted to Deputy Secretary of Intermodal Planning.

The position is responsible for direction over the units: Statewide Regional Planners, System Performance Management, Feasibility Review Office, Transportation Asset Management and Public Involvement.

Peterson is originally from Hartsville and started with SCDOT in 1992 as a bridge design engineer. She was promoted to assistant program manager in 2000, local public agency administrator in 2008, federal grants administrator in 2018 and statewide planning chief in 2019.

Peterson graduated from Hartsville High School in 1983 and graduated from South Carolina State University in 1992.

She has two sons, Kenneth and Christian, and a daughter, Michaela.

Peterson is a member of First Northeast Baptist Church. She is a Community



Machael Peterson

Member with the Richland Northeast High School Improvement Council, a member of the National Society of Black Engineers - Midlands Chapter, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

George Kinard is Chief Information Officer in I.T.

George Kinard has been offered and accepted the Chief Information Officer position. Kinard served as the Interim Chief Information Officer since March 14, 2020, and has effectively led the IT Team as it responds to the continuing information technology demands brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Newberry County native, Kinard is a 30-year SCDOT employee with 23 years of experience in the Systems and Network division of Information Technology Services.

Prior to joining IT Services, he served as the CADD Coordinator in the ROW unit and as a cartographer when manual mapping was converted to CADD.

Kinard has had significant involvement managing IT operational and equipment budgets, establishing spending plans, researching new technologies, and the planning and scheduling of staff resources. As the manager of the IT Network Services, he has been responsible for scheduling all network projects, managing the extensive DOT network and overseeing network upgrade and maintenance plans. During his tenure as interim CIO, he worked with



George Kinard

the IT Services staff to form and implement IT policy, procedures and standardization. He has also worked jointly with the State Auditor's Office and SCDOT staff members to develop and implement DIS-200 compliance measures.

Kinard holds a degree from Piedmont Technical College and numerous IT-related certifications that he has gained over his extensive career at SCDOT.

Robert Isgett named SCDOT Director of Construction

Robert Isgett has been selected as the new Director of Construction at the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). His appointment was effective July 2, 2019.

Isgett has more than 19 years of service with SCDOT. He currently serves as the District Construction Engineer for District 1.

Isgett began his career at SCDOT in 1999 as an Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in the West Columbia Construction Office. He was promoted to Resident Construction Engineer and later became the Assistant District Construction Engineer in District 1. Isgett is also a Lieutenant with the U.S. Naval Reserve.

He received his Bachelors' Degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1996 and is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina. Originally from Darlington, Isgett is married with two children and resides in Lexington.



Robbie Isgett

Shirley Johnson is Freedom of Information Act officer

Shirley E. Johnson has been selected to serve as the Freedom of Information Act Officer in the Office of the Chief Counsel.

Johnson is originally from London, United Kingdom. She moved to the United States in 2000. She attended the University of North London and Midlands Technical College.

She started at SCDOT in 2003 as an administrative specialist in the State Highway Engineer's Office for five years. She was an administrative assistant in the Federal Grant's Administration/Local Public Agency Office for nine years. She is also a 2007 graduate of the STEP-21 class.

Johnson was Engineering Employee of the Year in 2018.

She is the proud parent of a daughter, Aliyah, and she is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

In her spare time, she enjoys working out, reading, keeping up with current affairs and overseas travel. She enjoys opera, theatre and old black and white movies.



Shirley Johnson

Wayne Eargle is IT Manager of Regional Consultants

Wayne Eargle has been promoted into the vacant Information Technology Manager II position in IT Services. He began this new position on July 17, 2019.

This position manages a team of Regional IT Consultants who are responsible for deploying personal computers and tablets statewide as well as providing level two problem resolution.

His experience spans more than 14 years at SCDOT. He currently serves as a System Programmer III managing the infrastructure for the Internet and Intranet Web servers, migration of all Microsoft-based end points from Windows 7 to Windows 10, and managing Bitlocker drive encryption for Windows 10.

Eargle began his career at SCDOT in 2005 as a Systems Programmer I.

Eargle graduated from Brookland-Cayce High School and from USC-Spartanburg. He is married to Sheila Fulmer Eargle and they two sons, Connor and Hayden.

He is a lifelong member of Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church.



Wayne Eargle

SCDOT is hiring

Some of our employees explain why they chose to work at SCDOT

Sydney Holliday is a Road Data Services Engineer.

"I really enjoy working at SCDOT for a lot of reasons. The people I work with are really great. I get along with everyone. I would definitely say there is room to grow!"

Cruz Wheeler is SCDOT's Assistant State Highway Engineer.

"This is a great place to work because we get to interact directly with the public and come up with solutions to their highway and bridge maintenance needs."

Elizabeth Thebo is a GIS Manager with SCDOT.

"I like working at SCDOT because I get to do interesting work with great people. Specifically, I enjoy creating maps to help the public understand what is going on at the agency. This is an important job not only day-to-day, but also in emergency situations."

For job listings, go to:

<https://www.scdot.org/inside/employment-careers.aspx>

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www.twitter.com/SCDOTPRESS

PROMOTIONS

Grant E. Adams - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Richland Maintenance.

Kenneth I. Adams - Engineering Technician II in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Almondo R. Aiken - Trades Specialist III in District 6 Bridge Inspection.

John P. Aiken - Trades Specialist III in Pickens Maintenance.

Freddie S. Alston - Trades Specialist III in Beaufort Maintenance.

Steven L. Altman - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Saluda Maintenance.

Eric W. Anderson - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Bamberg Maintenance.

Michelle C. Anthony - Administrative Assistant in Cherokee Maintenance.

Trampes L. Arledge - Mechanic III in Lee Maintenance.

Zachary D. Arnold - Mechanic III in Pickens Maintenance.

Nikki K. Arrants - Trades Specialist III in Lexington Maintenance.

Ronald D. Aubert - Trades Specialist III in Oconee Maintenance.

Micheal T. Austin - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Fairfield Maintenance.

Joseph C. Avery - Trades Specialist III in Laurens Maintenance.

Michael S. Backman - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Charleston Maintenance.

Crystal E. Bailey - Program Coordinator II in Supply and Equipment.

Randy J. Bailey - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Spartanburg Maintenance.

Larry C. Barlow - Mechanic III in Lancaster Maintenance.

Jean C. Barnes - Program Manager I in Rights of Way.

Bernard Barr - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Greenwood Maintenance.

Anthony Belton - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Richland Maintenance.

Suquan D. Benjamin - Incident Responder I in SHEP Columbia.

Brian M. Bernier - Incident Responder I in SHEP Charleston.

Lamar S. Berry - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Saluda Maintenance.

John C. Blackwell - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Kenny Bodie - Trades Specialist IV in Newberry Maintenance.

Mark E. Bouknight - Trades Specialist III in Lexington Maintenance.

James L. Boulware - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Newberry Maintenance.

Nathan W. Bowie - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Greenwood

Maintenance.

LaCruz L. Boyd - Trades Specialist III in Dorchester Maintenance.

David R. Boykin - Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance.

Robert M. Bracey - Electronics Technician II in District 6 Traffic Signals.

Kristy B. Bradley - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Spartanburg Construction A.

William B. Branham - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Director of Construction.

Branford I. Breland - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in RPG 1 – Lowcountry.

Joseph D. Brewer - Highway Maintenance Worker II in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Christopher D. Brown - Trades Specialist III in Williamsburg Maintenance.

Justin C. Brown - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Cherokee Maintenance.

Rickey M. Brown - Trades Specialist III in Charleston Maintenance.

William T. Brown - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 4 – Upstate.

Erica V. Buchanan - Engineering Associate I in Bamberg Construction.

Angie D. Buckmon - Trades Specialist III in Bamberg Maintenance.

Dennis Buckmon - Trades Specialist V in Barnwell Maintenance.

Ryan A. Bunton - Trades Specialist III in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Zachary B. Bunton - Trades Specialist III in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Britt S. Burford - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Jasper Maintenance.

Kenneth A. Burgess - Bridge Inspector in District 6 Bridge Inspection.

Brandon R. Burke - Trades Specialist III in Newberry Maintenance.

James A. Burns - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Aiken Maintenance.

George R. Busbee - Engineering Technician III in Spartanburg Construction B.

Bret C. Bush - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Newberry Maintenance.

David C. Bykalo - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in RPG 3 – Midlands.

Deshawn R. Byrd - Engineering Technician II in Director of Maintenance.

Cassandra D. Cabbagestalk - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Kershaw Maintenance.

Jamison K. Canaday - Trades Specialist V in Holly Hill Maintenance.

Jacob D. Cannon - Engineering Technician III in Lexington Construc-

tion.

Jayson K. Cantey - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Florence Construction.

Robert Cartier - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Aiken Maintenance.

James N. Cason - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Elijah C. Casselton - Engineering Technician I in Abbeville Construction.

Darren D. Catoe - Trades Specialist III in Kershaw Maintenance.

Bryan J. Cavanagh - Mechanic III in Beaufort Maintenance.

Domenica T. Cesare - Engineering Technician I in Laurens Construction.

Teiyanna-Chea Chandler - Engineering Associate I in RPG 4 – Upstate.

Alphonso Chestnut - Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance.

Bryan F. Childers - Trades Specialist IV in Greenville Maintenance.

Jim H. Christopher - Highway Maintenance Worker IV in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Brian C. Clack - Trades Specialist IV in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Rodney F. Clay - Systems Programmer/Developer III in IT Services.

Brian A. Cobb - Bridge Inspector in District 1 Bridge Inspection.

Bryan C. Coburn - Trades Specialist III in Newberry Maintenance.

Matthew E. Cockrell - Trades Specialist III in Lexington Maintenance.

James E. Cohen - Trades Specialist IV in Union Maintenance.

Carroll E. Collins - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Greenville Maintenance.

Paul T. Collins - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Patrick J. Conyers - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Florence Maintenance.

James M. Cooper - Program Manager I in Minority and Small Business Affairs.

Christopher A. Corley - Program Coordinator II in Director of Construction.

Eric K. Corley - Trades Specialist IV in Saluda Maintenance.

James H. Coste - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Berkeley Maintenance.

Daniel L. Cox - Trades Specialist III in Colleton Maintenance.

Duane A. Cox - Trades Specialist III in Lexington Maintenance.

Alexander S. Crawford - Engineering Technician II in Charleston Construction.

Stephen R. Crowell - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Don L. Crowley - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Greenwood Maintenance.

Ryan D. Cunningham - Engineering Associate I in Greenville Maintenance.

Dwight N. Curlee - Trades Specialist III in Fairfield Maintenance.

Frederick S. Cutlip - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Dorchester Construction.

Jeffrey S. Dalton - Trades Specialist IV in Laurens Maintenance.

Hollon C. Daly - Trades Specialist III in District 6 Bridge Inspection.

Michael C. Danielsen - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 4 – Upstate.

Darnell G. Davis - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Dillon Maintenance.

Otis L. Davis - Incident Responder II in District 5 SHEP.

Andrew J. Day - Engineering Technician II in Spartanburg Construction A.

Todd E. Deloach - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering.

Natalie S. Diaz - Administrative Coordinator II in Minority and Small Business Affairs.

Michael J. Dixon - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Lancaster Maintenance.

Robbie E. Dodd - Mechanic III in Spartanburg Maintenance.

Kalli W. Dove - Administrative Assistant in Marion Maintenance.

Darrell J. Driver - Trades Specialist III in Abbeville Maintenance.

Alonzo C. Drumblings - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Aiken Maintenance.

Jason R. Eaddy - Trades Specialist III in Florence Maintenance.

Larry Eaddy - Trades Specialist IV in Darlington Maintenance.

Brian W. Eargle - IT Manager II in IT Services.

Cedric J. Elmore - Trades Specialist III in Allendale Maintenance.

James L. Ennis - Trades Specialist IV in Aiken Maintenance.

Dustin E. Fail - Trades Specialist IV in Barnwell Maintenance.

Scott T. Faulkenberry - Trades Specialist V in Lancaster Maintenance.

Marcus A. Feaster - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Chester Maintenance.

Cody W. Fields - Trades Specialist III in Abbeville Maintenance.

Julia A. Fischera - Engineering Technician II in York Maintenance.

Albert Fleming - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Bamberg Maintenance.

James G. Floyd - Trades Specialist III in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Bryan W. Fox - Trades Specialist III in Hampton Maintenance.

Jason S. Fulmer - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in District 1 Office.

Steffeny S. Gardner - Administrative Assistant in Safety.

Edward J. Gathers - Trades Specialist IV in Charleston Maintenance.

Ivana Gearheart - Program Manager I in C-Program Administration.

Amy L. Giammona - Right of Way Agent II in Rights of Way.

Douglas M. Gilchrist - Trades Specialist III in McCormick Maintenance.

Angelo M. Giovanni - Electronics Technician II in District 6 Traffic Signals.

Arthur L. Godbolt - Engineering Technician I in Marion Maintenance.

Juthika Golder - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering.

Derrick A. Goodman - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 1 – Lowcountry.

Jeremy K. Goodwin - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 3 – Midlands.

Steven E. Goodwin - Trades Specialist IV in Charleston Maintenance.

Harold L. Gordon - Trades Specialist IV in Beaufort Maintenance.

Loree Green - Trades Specialist III in Calhoun Maintenance.

Antawn D. Griffin - Trades Specialist III in Colleton Maintenance.

James I. Griffin - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Holly Hill Maintenance.

Megan E. Groves - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 1 – Lowcountry.

Jeffrey A. Gulish - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Sumter Construction.

John D. Gunter - Mechanic III in Union Maintenance.

James R. Hall - Trades Specialist V in Newberry Maintenance.

Ronnie E. Hall - Mechanic III in Colleton Maintenance.

Helen J. Hand - Right of Way Agent II in Rights of Way – St. George.

Justin D. Harris - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Laurens Maintenance.

Devin B. Hayes - Highway Maintenance Worker III in York Maintenance.

Matthew S. Hayes - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Director of Maintenance.

Michael P. Healy - Engineering Technician III in Jasper Construction.

Tracey M. Henderson - Procurement Specialist I in Kershaw Maintenance.

William J. Herring - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in York Construction.

Zachary K. Herron - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Anderson Construction.

Reggie D. Hickmon - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Sumter Maintenance.

Travis A. Hightower - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Aiken Maintenance.

PROMOTIONS CONTINUED

Clyde H. Hill - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Charleston Maintenance.

Timothy D. Hill - Trades Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance.

Wesley J. Hilton - Incident Responder I in SHEP Columbia.

Dajon B. Hodge - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Charleston Maintenance.

Andrea S. Hodges - Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III in Accounting.

John H. Holley - Trades Specialist IV in Abbeville Maintenance.

Marion H. Hood - OSHA Officer II in Sumter Maintenance.

John W. Hook - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Aiken Maintenance.

Danny E. Hornsby - OSHA Officer III in Safety.

Floyd W. Hucks - Incident Responder I in District 5 SHEP.

Earl P. Hudgens - Mechanic II in Greenville Maintenance.

David M. Huskey - Trades Specialist III in Cherokee Maintenance.

Thomas M. Ingram - Trades Specialist III in Jasper Maintenance.

Robert E. Isgett - Director of Construction.

Connor J. Jackson - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Dorchester Maintenance.

Justin D. Jackson - Engineering Technician II in Darlington Maintenance.

Vanetta J. Jackson - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Rights of Way.

Pamela G. Jeffers - Engineering Technician IV in Materials and Research.

Torrence Jeter - Trades Specialist III in Union Maintenance.

Cynthia M. Johnson - Human Resources Director I in Human Resources.

Ivory Johnson - Trades Specialist III in Richland Maintenance.

Melinda Y. Johnson - Trades Specialist IV in Sumter Maintenance.

Shirley E. Johnson - Program Coordinator I in Legal Services.

Caleb W. Jones - Engineering Technician II in Lexington Construction.

Tyrone Jones - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Aiken Maintenance.

Gregory T. Joye - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Lexington Construction.

Kendal C. Jumper - Engineering Associate I in RPG 3 – Midlands.

Ramee S. Jurdi - Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II in Accounting.

Joel F. Kaufman - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Union Maintenance.

Christopher B. Keaton - Engineering Technician II in Lexington

Construction.

Kody R. Keisler - Trades Specialist III in Saluda Maintenance.

Ryan J. Keitt - Highway Maintenance Worker IV in Holly Hill Maintenance.

John C. Kelly - Engineering Technician II in Kershaw Maintenance.

Joshua S. Kelly - Trades Specialist IV in Sumter Maintenance.

Troy L. Kennison - Trades Specialist IV in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Dahae Kim - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Materials and Research.

George C. Kinard - IT Manager IV in IT Services.

Michael L. King - Engineering Technician II in Anderson Maintenance.

James C. Kirkland - Trades Specialist IV in Colleton Maintenance.

James R. Knight - Engineering Technician II in Laurens Construction.

Thomas P. Knight - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support.

Justin K. Lance - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Pickens Maintenance.

Brandi A. Lane - Administrative Assistant in Marion Construction.

Lance M. Langdale - Highway Maintenance Worker IV in Colleton Maintenance.

Lindsay A. Larose - Program Coordinator I in Call Center.

Timothy J. Lecroy - Trades Specialist III in Oconee Maintenance.

Darren L. Ledbetter - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 3 – Midlands.

Douglass E. Ledwell - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Sumter Maintenance.

Byron Z. Leopard - Trades Specialist III in Greenwood Maintenance.

George C. Long - Trades Specialist V in Saluda Maintenance.

Arthur C. Lott - Trades Specialist IV in Berkeley Maintenance.

Gary S. Lott - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Edgefield Maintenance.

Robert W. Luhrs - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Florence Construction.

Curtis E. Mack - Mechanic III in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Robert Mack - Trades Specialist III in Orangeburg Maintenance.

David F. Maggenti - Mechanic III in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Ashley M. Maggio - Administrative Assistant in Charleston Maintenance.

Kenneth E. Martin - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Jesus Martinez - Engineering Technician I in Greenville Maintenance.

Rose M. Martinez-Vazquez - Program Manager I in Contract Program Resource Service.

Mary Ann Matheny - Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III in Accounting.

Joseph O. McBreairty - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Richland Maintenance.

Vincent J. McCarron - Program Coordinator II in Environmental.

Richard B. McCarter - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Richland Construction.

Keith A. McCray - Trades Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance.

Darren L. McCrea - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Williamsburg Maintenance.

David B. McCully - Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III in Accounting.

Crystal K. McCutcheon - Program Manager I in Planning.

Joseph M. McWatters - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Chester Maintenance.

Jonathan E. Melton - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Jasper Construction.

Jennifer Messex - Right of Way Agent II in Rights of Way – St. George.

Ashley D. Miller - Trades Specialist IV in Greenwood Maintenance.

Aaron M. Milstead - Trades Specialist III in District 1 Bridge Maintenance.

Jermaine T. Moody - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Thomas M. Morey - Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II in Accounting.

Stephen D. Mothena - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 4 – Upstate.

James R. Moultrie - Trades Specialist IV in Jasper Maintenance.

Christopher A. Muir - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Sumter Maintenance.

Paige A. Musselman - Engineering Technician III in Minority and Small Business Affairs.

Farshid Namiranian - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Edgefield Maintenance.

Ivey A. Neal - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Cherokee Maintenance.

Kyler A. Neely - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Fairfield Maintenance.

Marc A. Nelson - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Union Maintenance.

John R. Nivens - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Colleton Maintenance.

Amy D. Norton - Engineering Technician II in Spartanburg Maintenance.

Homer L. Oliver - OSHA Officer

III in District 4 Office.

William H. Oliver - Highway Maintenance Worker IV in Chester Maintenance.

William T. Owens - Trades Specialist III in Florence Maintenance.

Kent D. Pack - Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance.

Massimo Parmisani - Engineering Technician II in Richland Construction.

George M. Paul - Engineering Technician III in Marion Construction.

Javier H. Pauling - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Lexington Maintenance.

William T. Peeler - Engineering Technician II in York Maintenance.

Timothy Pelzer - Engineering Technician III in Materials and Research.

William L. Perdue - Trades Specialist III in Chesterfield Maintenance.

James R. Perrigan - Highway Maintenance Worker II in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Machael M. Peterson - Program Manager III in Planning.

Shamika E. Peterson - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Clark G. Phillips - Trades Specialist V in Oconee Maintenance.

Cery L. Pittman - Trades Specialist III in Beaufort Maintenance.

Nicholas C. Pizzuti - Program Manager II in Contract Program Resource Service.

Edward A. Poore - Trades Specialist III in Oconee Maintenance.

Alex D. Powers - Engineering Technician I in District 5 Bridge Inspection.

Adriane L. Radeker - Executive Assistant I in Finance and Administration.

Bruce E. Raffield - Trades Specialist IV in Barnwell Maintenance.

Justin R. Ramey - Trades Specialist III in Oconee Maintenance.

William L. Randall - Trades Specialist III in Barnwell Maintenance.

Lawanda Q. Raymond - Administrative Specialist II in Jasper Maintenance.

Brent L. Rewis - Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning.

Cody G. Reynolds - Trades Specialist III in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Shamar J. Rice - Trades Specialist III in Lexington Maintenance.

John O. Richardson - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Laurens Construction.

David S. Riddle - Engineering Associate I in Greenville Surveys.

Matthew J. Riddle - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Saluda Maintenance.

Donald W. Riedel - Engineering Technician IV in Berkeley Maintenance.

Ronald S. Riley - Highway Main-

tenance Worker IV in Beaufort Maintenance.

Jason D. Rinehart - Trades Specialist III in Greenwood Maintenance.

Matthew D. Robinson - Mechanic III in Union Maintenance.

Mark D. Roddy - Systems Programmer/Developer III in IT Services.

Ryan P. Ross - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Charleston Construction.

William C. Rouse - Trades Specialist III in Dillon Maintenance.

Joseph C. Royals - Highway Maintenance Worker IV in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Brandon D. Sanders - Trades Specialist III in Florence Maintenance.

Robert J. Sanders - Trades Specialist III in Barnwell Maintenance.

Jerry C. Sapp - Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance.

Treasure D. Scarborough - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Darlington Maintenance.

Rachel C. Schilling - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

Jason M. Schumacher - Accounting/Fiscal Manager I in Budget.

Daniel Scott - Trades Specialist III in Allendale Maintenance.

Kenneth W. Scott - Incident Responder II in SHEP Charleston.

Edwin D. Sharpe - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in RPG 2 – PeeDee.

James M. Sharpe - Trades Specialist V in McCormick Maintenance.

William S. Shehan - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Laurens Maintenance.

Jennifer A. Shensky - Engineering Technician II in Berkeley Maintenance.

Jeffrey T. Shields - Trades Specialist V in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Rusty C. Shinault - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Lancaster Maintenance.

Jason A. Shroyer - Trades Specialist III in Lancaster Maintenance.

Darence L. Shuler - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Holly Hill Maintenance.

Helena Siegel - Administrative Assistant in Calhoun Maintenance.

Jerome Simmons - Trades Specialist III in Charleston Maintenance.

Matthew C. Simpson - Trades Specialist IV in Oconee Maintenance.

Angela M. Sims - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Lancaster Construction.

Jerome E. Sinclair - Trades Manager in District 4 Capital Improvements.

Thomas A. Singer - Bridge Inspector in District 6 Bridge Inspection.

Scott K. Sisco - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Holly Hill Maintenance.

PROMOTIONS CONTINUED

Michelle C. Skeen - Accounting/Fiscal Manager I in Accounting.

Patrick J. Slater - Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance.

Adam C. Smith - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Lexington Construction.

Emily D. Smith - Program Manager I in Contract Program Resource Service.

Jacob Smith - Engineering Technician II in Bamberg Construction.

Johnny R. Smith - Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance.

Joshua M. Smith - Trades Specialist III in District 4 Pavement Repair.

Arthur H. Snelling - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in RPG 1 - Lowcountry.

Philip C. Snyder - Trades Specialist III in Charleston Maintenance.

Sherman A. Solomon - Trades Specialist III in Darlington Maintenance.

Ezra A. Sova - Engineering Technician III in Richland Construction.

Travis R. Springs - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in District 5 Office.

Daniel A. Stachewicz - Mechanic III in Colleton Maintenance.

Christopher D. Staples - Trades Specialist V in District 6 Traffic Signals.

Preston C. Steedley - Trades Specialist III in Bamberg Maintenance.

Christopher R. Stillwell - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Fairfield Maintenance.

Andrew B. Stokes - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in Traffic Engineering.

Dewey G. Stokes - Engineering Technician IV in Materials and Research.

Guy L. Stone - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Greenwood Maintenance.

Curtis L. Suber - Highway Maintenance Worker II in York Maintenance.

Noel C. Subero - Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance.

Angelo N. Tager - Trades Specialist IV in Richland Maintenance.

Amy H. Taylor - Trades Specialist IV in Bamberg Maintenance.

Susan M. Theriot - Procurement Specialist I in Lexington Maintenance.

Patricia L. Thew - Engineering Technician IV in Materials and Research.

Brian E. Thompson - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Horry 1 Maintenance.

Charles B. Turner - Engineering Technician II in Greenville Maintenance.

Patrick Turner - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Orangeburg Maintenance.

Brian S. Vancamp - Trades Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance.

Vicky L. Vanden Broecke - Administrative Assistant in York Maintenance.

Robert J. Vanrynn - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Materials and Research.

Brandon T. Varnadore - Highway

Maintenance Worker III in York Maintenance.

Harold A. Walker - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Barnwell Maintenance.

Tavaris L. Wallace - Trades Specialist III in Aiken Maintenance.

Tracy L. Walters - Trades Specialist V in District 4 Capital Improvements.

Leah J. Ward - Engineering Technician II in Anderson Maintenance.

Tyler E. Ward - Engineering Associate I in Beaufort Maintenance.

Randy C. Ware - Highway Maintenance Worker III in Newberry Maintenance.

Marla N. Watson - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in RPG 2 - PeeDee.

Brian M. Watts - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Traffic Engineering.

Jeffrey M. Watts - Engineering Technician IV in Chester Construction.

Anthony C. Webster - Engineering Technician II in Darlington Construction.

Barbara M. Wessinger - Attorney VI in Legal Services.

Louie W. Whitaker - Mechanic III in Lexington Maintenance.

Jamario C. White - Engineer/Associate Engineer II in Dorchester Construction.

Mark E. Whitehead - Engineering Technician IV in Lexington Construction.

Heath D. Whitfield - Engineering Technician II in Greenville Maintenance.

Eric A. Whitman - Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance.

Charles D. Wilbanks - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Pickens Maintenance.

Stacy L. Willetts - Engineering Technician II in Richland Construction.

Christopher L. Williams - Engineer/Associate Engineer III in District 7 Office.

Darius D. Williams - Trades Specialist III in Greenville Maintenance.

Joshua A. Williams - Trades Specialist IV in Calhoun Maintenance.

Margaret C. Williams - Trades Specialist III in Kershaw Maintenance.

Robert L. Williams - Trades Specialist III in Sumter Maintenance.

Tony B. Williams - OSHA Officer II in McCormick Maintenance.

William S. Williams - Trades Specialist IV in Greenville Maintenance.

Brandon E. Wilson - Engineer/Associate Engineer IV in District 3 Office.

Althea M. Wright - Trades Specialist III in Spartanburg Maintenance.

David E. Wyatt - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Cherokee Maintenance.

Roger D. Wynn - Highway Maintenance Worker II in Union Maintenance.

Brandon J. Yaw - Trades Specialist III in Beaufort Maintenance.

Manuel J. Zambrana-Brooks - IT Consultant I in IT Services.

Camden Truck Route opens



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday August 6, 2020, in Kershaw County for the Camden Truck Route. The \$35 million project is a bypass around Camden that diverts truck traffic away from the downtown area. The bypass is intended to reduce delays, improve safety and encourage truckers to use the improved route instead of traveling on Broad Street in downtown Camden. In September, Camden City Council gave final approval to an ordinance that creates 'no truck zones' with specific directions for truckers. The City will work with SCDOT on installing signage to guide truck drivers.

I-20 Savannah River Bridges to be replaced



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

By Brittany Harriot

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are working together to replace and widen the existing I-20 bridges over the Augusta Canal and Savannah River. This project expands over Augusta and Richmond County in Georgia, and the city of North Augusta in Aiken County in South Carolina.

As part of SCDOT's Strategic 10-Year Plan to replace our state's roads and bridges, the purpose of the \$84 million project is to replace the existing bridges with new structures to improve safety and travel operations along I-20.

The bridge replacement project was one of

the first identified projects that needed repairs to increase its capacity. Thanks to additional funds provided from the new Gas Tax, many other interstates around South Carolina will be improved to meet the needs of the traveling public as well.

"Currently, crews on the South Carolina side are doing grading work as well as drainage improvements in the median of the interstate. In the spring of 2021, we expect traffic to shift toward the median of the interstate," said Program Manager Adam Humphries.

Crews are also working diligently on the Martintown Road ramp to have a new traffic signal installed by the end of 2020. Right now, the current expected completion date for the project will be spring of 2022.

SCDOT paving more than 600 additional miles in 2020-2021

Resurfacing is a hallmark of SCDOT's work to improve South Carolina highways

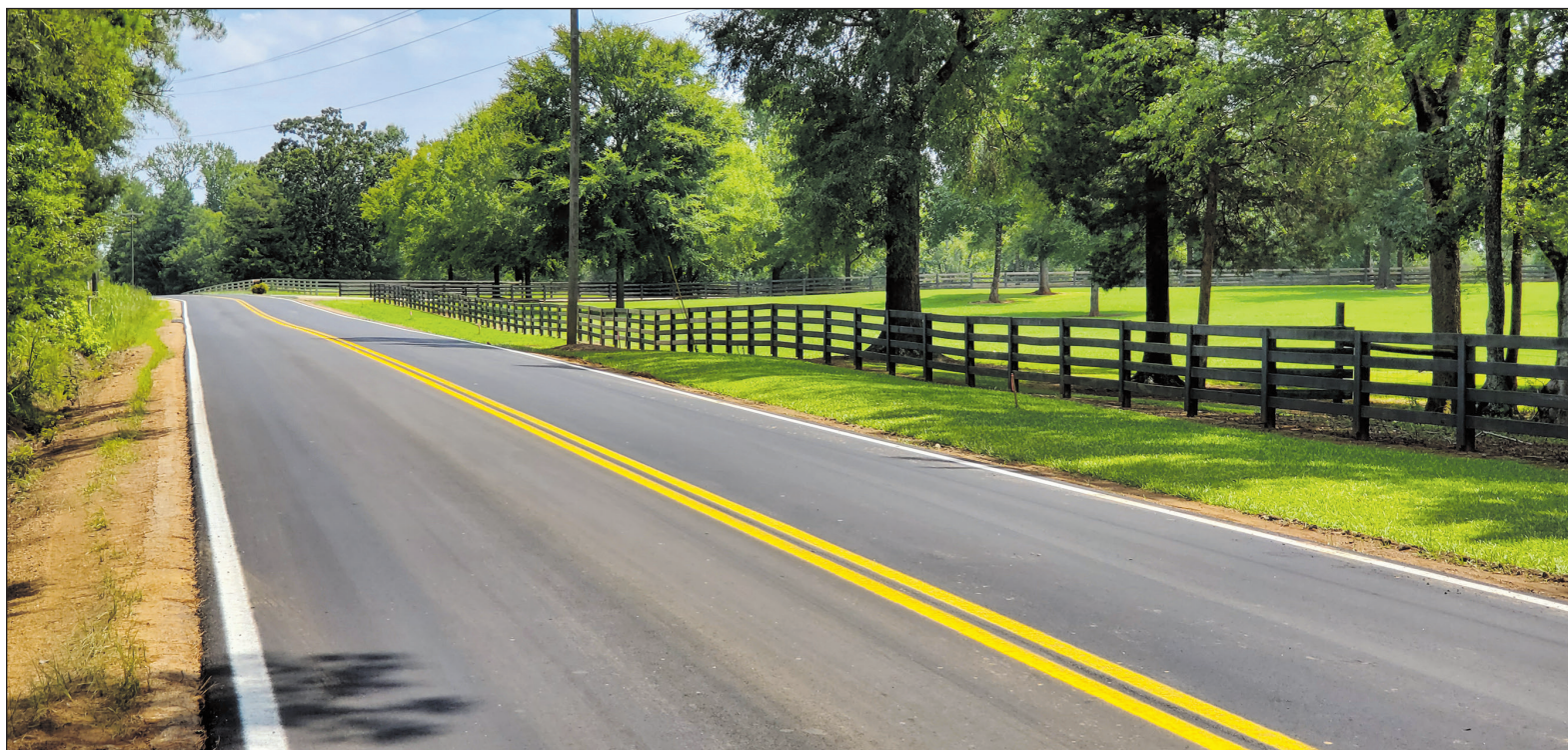
By Ted Creech

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is implementing an aggressive new \$562 million road pavement and resurfacing program during 2020-2021, the fourth year of its 10-Year Plan to rebuild the state's roads.

A hallmark of the 10-Year Plan, the paving program focuses on resurfacing 661 miles of the state's roads, which includes projects in all of South Carolina's 46 counties. The Transportation Commission approved the plan during its June 18, 2020 meeting.

"This year's paving program is in addition to the previously approved 3,348 miles of paving projects SCDOT has launched since the enactment of the state gas tax increase in July 2017," said SCDOT Commission Chairman Tony Cox.

Paving the state's roads is the largest of the 10-Year Plan's four programs, which include making our rural roads safer, replacing or repairing deteriorating bridges, and widening key portions of our interstates. As a part of the paving program SCDOT will resurface



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Johns Creek Road in Greenwood County is just one of the roads that benefited from SCDOT's expanded paving program.

primary roads, farm-to-market roads, and neighborhood streets with the objective of improving the overall quality of the transpor-

tation system.

"SCDOT has prioritized the paving projects in the same manner it ranks all of its projects,

based on safety and crash data, the condition and age of roads and bridges, and traffic information," said Deputy Secretary for Engi-

neering **Leland Colvin**. "We are committed to full transparency in how projects are selected and constructed."

SCDOT completes final ramp of I-85/I-385 Gateway Project

By Lauren Roeder

The South Carolina Department of Transportation held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Greenville on Dec. 6, 2019, to celebrate the installation of the final, new ramp of the I-85/I-385 Gateway Project. The project includes a \$300 million reconfiguration of two interstates and the construction of a dozen new bridges.

"We are excited to deliver the final configuration of this new, modern interchange to the more than 220,000 vehicles that currently use it daily," said Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall**. "We now have six lanes on I-385 all the way from Simpsonville to Downtown Greenville. I-85 has been widened all the way to Pelham Road and several new ramps have been added or modified."

The 85/385 Gateway Project is the first of three high priority interchanges that SCDOT has identified across the state for strategic investment. The other two are the Carolina Crossroads project in Columbia and the 526/26 project in Charleston.

"Bringing relief to the motoring public at these three pinch points in our interstate network is essential and our duty in meeting our mission to operate a safe and reliable transportation network for our citizens and businesses," Hall said.

The Gateway Project required a large team. Hall thanked SCDOT's partners: the Legislature, local governments, federal government, State Infrastructure Bank, contractor Flatiron-Zachary, CECS, the Project Managers on the SCDOT Team, and the support of the SCDOT Commission.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Dignitaries cut the ribbon on the Gateway Project in Greenville on Dec. 6, 2019.

Twenty-three tornadoes strike SC on April 13

By Lauren Roeder

South Carolina was struck by 23 confirmed tornadoes on April 13 causing nine deaths and damaging roads throughout the state.

Most county maintenance units were able to clear roads in their local areas, but the damage in Oconee (Seneca), Hampton and Colleton counties was overwhelming. SCDOT activated the assistance plan and pooled resources to step up the recovery as

quickly as possible.

SCDOT crews removed almost 2,000 fallen trees across the state.

More than a quarter-million (266,000 cubic yards) of debris was removed from the roads. That figure equates approximately to 30,000 dump truck loads

The three severely-damaged counties accounted for 84% of the total debris removed.

All work was performed by SCDOT, with the exception of contractors that perform vegetative debris grinding and recycling.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews and volunteers clean up debris on Ploma Dr. in Seneca after tornadoes devastated the community.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Debris from the Seneca area is gathered and stored at a disposal site on Wells Hwy. to later be mulched and repurposed.

TORNADOES AND HURRICANES

SCDOT's 'Masters of Disaster' weather the storms



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews clean up downed trees and debris from destroyed homes in Hampton County after tornadoes ravaged the area.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews remove trees from the roadway where a deadly tornado took several lives in Orangeburg County on April 13.



ALAN KOZUSKO/DISTRICT 1

Crews and equipment from Districts One and Two in Hampton County worked for days to clear storm debris from the tornadoes. Here, on the final day of cleanup, the team did a 'mechanical high five' at the completion of a job well done.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT crews removed sand that washed up on Garden City roads during Hurricane Isaias. Here crews haul away sand that was later replaced on the beach from where it came.

SCDOT battles Hurricanes Sally, Isaias in 2020

By Lauren Roeder

2020 brought many challenges for SCDOT. One of those was a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season. Crews around the state rallied together to tackle the aftermath left behind. Two storms had a strong impact on South Carolina this hurricane season.

Hurricane Isaias was a destructive Category 1 hurricane that caused extensive damage across the Caribbean and the East Coast of the United States. The storm was first identified by the National Hurricane Center on July 23, 2020. Hurricane Isaias left behind downed trees and power lines. Storm surge also left sand and debris covering South Waccamaw Drive in Garden City.

While Hurricane Sally didn't make as much of an impact on South Carolina, it was a destructive Atlantic hurricane. Sally, the eighteenth named storm of the season, was first monitored over the Bahamas on September 10, 2020. Numerous watches and warnings were issued in anticipation of the imminent approach of Sally. Heavy rain led to some localized flash flooding. The National Weather Service confirmed that several tornadoes touched down in South Carolina. Storm surge left sand and debris covering Springs Avenue in Pawleys Island.

For SCDOT, preparation for the hurricane season is always ongoing. Each year, lane reversal drills are held to train new employees and solidify the skills of all employees. Lane reversals are a coordinated effort between SCDOT and SC-DPS, along with several other state and local partners. Fortunately, it was determined that lane reversals were not necessary for this year's hurricanes.

In preparation for Isaias, SCDOT locked down the Ben Sawyer Bridge in Charleston County

to watercraft traffic on Aug. 3. The swing bridge connects Mount Pleasant to Sullivan's Island. The bridge remained open to vehicles.

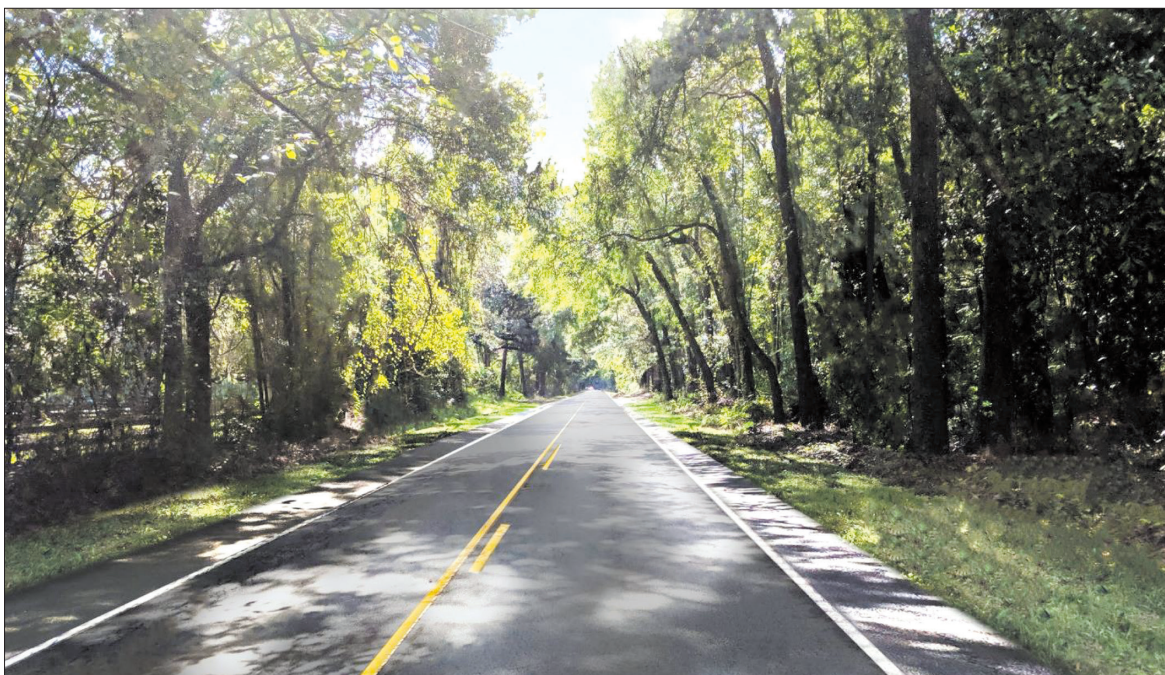
The SCDOT Communications office sent storm warnings to the public throughout each of these two hurricanes. Messages included flood safety warnings, preparations for potential impacts and informational videos about work completed.

Between July 31 and August 6, 2020, more than 35 messages were posted on SCDOT's Twitter account regarding Hurricane Isaias. The SCDOT Customer Service Center worked around the clock to provide communication with the public during this important time. Many SCDOT employees pitched in to help by volunteering their time in the call center.

For real-time traffic information on all South Carolina interstate highways and some of the highways along the coast, customer service representatives encouraged drivers to use SCDOT's 511 system. Users are encouraged to call 511, check the app or access 511sc.org.

A critical part of SCDOT's mission is responding to disasters and urgent calls for transportation help. SCDOT's SHEP (State Emergency Highway Program) crews were deployed to Interstate 95 and Interstate 26 toward the coast. They worked extended hours to help with traffic flow. Vehicles broken down on the side of the interstate can quickly cause traffic to back up for miles. SHEP responders help motorists by changing tires, performing basic repairs, and providing small amounts of gasoline. For SHEP assistance, call *HP (*47).

During Hurricane Isaias, crews traveled from the Midlands and Upstate to help those along the coast with storm preparation and cleanup. The teamwork displayed by SCDOT crews resulted in quick response and recovery operations for each of these storms.



SCDOT RENDERING

This rendering shows what S.C. Highway 61 in Dorchester County will look like after paved shoulders are added.

Live oak trees, scenic beauty remain Safety improvements add wider shoulders to S.C. 61

By Ted Creech

What began as a controversial road project involving centuries-old trees and a region's historic beauty will conclude with a much safer roadway and scenic character preserved.

SCDOT has completed the first of two phases of safety improvements and new pavement for a 14.75-mile portion of Highway 61 in Dorchester County. After the community expressed great interest during a public meeting in keeping the live oak trees and scenic beauty along the corridor, SCDOT refined its project design to accomplish road safety goals while keeping the natural beauty intact.

"Our design for Highway 61's improvements preserves the cor-

ridor's live oak trees that are hundreds of years old and improves citizens' safety as they drive along the scenic route," said Director of Traffic Engineering **Rob Perry**. "Based on a detailed analysis of seven years of crash data and significant input from the community, we were able to work with Governor Henry McMaster and other stakeholders to alter our plans to maintain the area's historic beauty while fulfilling our commitment to make our roads safer."

Construction has been completed on the scenic 6.5-mile portion of Highway 61 from the intersection of Highway 165 to the Charleston County line. Improvements include a new road bed and pavement, two 11-foot wide lanes with three-foot paved shoulders, safety rumble strips on the centerline and edgelines, higher-visibility paint and reflectors, and warning signs

at curves.

Another 8.25-mile section of the highway from the Colleton County line to the intersection of US Highway 17-A will be repaved, receive new four-foot shoulders and rumble strips, and better paint and reflectors will be added.

The improvements to Highway 61 are part of SCDOT's Rural Road Safety Program made possible by the state gas tax increase enacted in July 2017. The increase is funding the agency's 10-Year Plan to improve the quality of the state's roads and bridges after 30 years of underfunded maintenance.

"The Highway 61 project shows we can accomplish our safety goals with a multifaceted approach while being sensitive to additional needs of communities," said SCDOT Commissioner Robby Robbins.

with other increased fees and other funds redirected to the new trust fund, the total revenue deposited into the account since July 1, 2017 is \$1.2 billion.

In turn, SCDOT has pushed out to contract more than \$1.3 billion in additional work. SCDOT does not pay its contractors for work up

front, but instead pays them as the work is completed and inspected.

"We encourage every citizen of the state to visit our gas tax transparency web page and view the accountability reports outlining the use of the new funding as well as the project lists by county," said Hall.

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Office engages community on project

By Brittany Harriot

Located conveniently in North Charleston near the I-26/526 interchange, the S.C. Department of Transportation's I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office has been a place to go since November 2019 for citizens with questions about the proposed I-526 Corridor project.

The office at 5627 Rivers Avenue enables the public to meet with SCDOT project staff to discuss all facets of the proposed project, including its design, environmental and community mitigation plans, and right-of-way acquisition.

The Lowcountry Corridor project includes one of three high priority interchanges, or traffic congestion "pinch points," SCDOT has identified across the state. The other two are Carolina Crossroads in Columbia and the I-85/385 Gateway Project in Greenville.

The project is broken down into two sections: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West and East. The West portion extends along I-526 from Virginia Avenue west to Paul Cantrell Blvd. The East

section which would extend east to Mount Pleasant is still in the early planning stages.

SCDOT's project team has organized a group of community outreach specialists at the office to help anyone with questions about the project.

"We provide a place where our community members can get current information and have one-on-one talks with our project team," said SCDOT Project Manager **Joy Riley**.

Once guests sign into the office, they can review project information, ask questions, and take printed materials with them. Maps adorning the walls show project design alternatives that would increase capacity and improve traffic flow along I-526.

Feedback from guests helps the project team understand how the proposed alternatives may affect their communities.

The I-526 Project Team has also created a Community Advisory Council which meets once a month at the Community Office. The council members are residents who live in the impacted communities of Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park and Russelldale.

The public can also visit the
I-526 Lowcountry Corridor website at:

<https://www.526lowcountrycorridor.com>



DISTRICT 6 PHOTO

The I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office is located at 5627 Rivers Avenue in North Charleston.

10-YEAR PLAN
from page 1

nated solely for the purpose of improving roads and bridges, the gas tax has generated an additional \$372 million in revenues. Coupled

Gateway Interchange wins regional SASHTO award



The I-85/I-385 Gateway project was named SASHTO's award winner in the category of 'Operations Excellence in a Major Highway Project.' The \$300 million interchange opened to traffic on Dec. 6, 2019. The updated configuration includes 10 new bridges, the rehabilitation of three others, incorporates operational improvements such as eliminating the tight loop ramps and replacing them with flyovers to provide free-flowing movement through the interchange. The projects design, engineering and construction was recognized for excellence in delivering a 'more reliable, well-functioning and safer transportation system.'

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Safety improvements made to busy Orangeburg intersection

SCDOT completed improvements at the intersection of Magnolia (US 601) and Zan streets in Orangeburg. The location is adjacent to Claflin University's main entrance. A railroad crossing was eliminated with a new route to this intersection, which now has new traffic signals, turn lanes and sidewalks. The community celebrated the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 24, 2020. Cutting the ribbon, from left, are: Orangeburg County Councilman Heyward Livingston, Orangeburg County Councilman Willie Owens, Claflin University President Dr. Dwaun Warmack, City of Orangeburg Mayor Michael Butler, U.S. Representative James Clyburn, SCDOT 6th Congressional District Commissioner Barnwell Fishburne, Allendale County Councilman Dr. Bill Robinson and SCDOT District 7 Engineering Administrator Kevin Gantt.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Tracking every dollar SCDOT wins national award for gas tax transparency

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT won an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) President's award for its transparency and accountability measures for the public to follow the collection and progress of gas tax funds.

The award, which recognizes excel-

lence in the transportation industry, was announced during the 2020 annual meeting AASHTO on Nov. 12, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"SCDOT's New Gas Tax Transparency and Accountability measures provide the public the opportunity to follow the monthly collection of new revenues, through the completion of the projects they fund while tracking every dollar of every expenditure along the way," said Deputy Secretary for

Finance and Administration **Justin Powell**. "We are proud to be honored on the national stage for implementing these transparency measures."

On July 1, 2017, the "Roads Bill" enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly became law. The legislation raised the state gas tax by 12 cents by phasing in the increase at two cents per year for six years. The first increase from 16.7 cents per gallon to 18.7 cents per gallon took place on July 1, 2017. The funds are deposited into a new trust fund called the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund (IMTF)

These new funds were vital to the quality of South Carolina's Highway system. This plan to raise the gas tax was the first sustainable increased revenue stream for road maintenance – in three decades (1987).

The new revenue was important. The IMTF was important to ensure the funds

would be used for road and bridge improvements only. SCDOT had a third priority that was equally important. That goal was to provide transparency and accountability to the public for the financial aspects of all the programs in the IMTF. The agency wanted to take every step to show the taxpayers where their money was being spent.

"SCDOT places a high priority on public trust and believes in providing the best return on their investment in the state highway system, including an open and full accounting of their tax dollars," Secretary Hall said.

AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It represents all transportation modes including: air, highways, public transportation, active transportation, rail, and water.

Gas Tax Transparency

SCDOT's website has links that include the following information:

The Monthly Account Statement provides an easy-to-read accounting of how much revenue comes in each month, a running total of funds received in that fiscal year and how much revenue has been collected since 7/1/2017.

<https://www.scdot.org/inside/pdf/trustfund/IMTF-Statement-May-2020.pdf>

The Monthly Statement Archive is available to review previous statements.

<https://www.scdot.org/inside/new-gastax-statement-archive.aspx>

Contractor and Vendor Payments show a line-by-line list of payments by name to vendors and contractors, the amounts, the dates, the projects and the work done.

<https://www.scdot.org/inside/pdf/trustfund/IMTF-Expenditure-Detail-May-2020.pdf>

County Project List is a monthly, county-by-county breakdown of all the projects in the four programs and the status of each project.

<https://www.scdot.org/inside/pdf/trustfund/IMTF-Project-List-May-2020.pdf>

SCDOT receives a 'Clean Audit' of the agency's finances

By Pete Poore

The SCDOT Commission was presented with an unmodified, or "clean financial audit" of its annual review for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The audit was conducted by the independent firm of Mauldin & Jenkins, a southeastern regional firm. The audit report was presented at the January 2020 Commission meeting.

Representatives of the firm noted this was the first year Mauldin & Jenkins had reviewed SCDOT's

financial operations. They noted that an agency earning a "clean audit" conducted by a new firm is a rare occurrence.

Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration **Justin Powell** said, "This audit is a reflection of SCDOT's on-going 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 four major areas: Highway Planning Construction, the Rural Transit Program, the Na-

tional Infrastructure Investment Program and FEMA Disaster Grants. All four reviews were given a "clean rating." In summary, the audit reported that SCDOT was not required to implement any further accounting standards.

SCDOT spent more than \$2.02 billion improving state roads during 2018-2019 as part of the 10-Year road improvement program. 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. 16, 2020.

SPEAK UP



PRESERVE OUR CULTURE OF INTEGRITY



To report potential wrongdoing or unethical activity, you may call toll free at **1-855-723-7283** or complete the online complaint form by visiting the website below.

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

The form may be completed anonymously.

SCDOT

SCDOT receives U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for Carolina Crossroads construction

Construction expected to begin on Phases 1, 2 in 2021

By Ted Creech

The US Army Corps of Engineers has granted to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) the permit that will enable SCDOT to construct all phases of the Carolina Crossroads project. The estimated \$1.6 billion project, the largest in SCDOT history, will reconstruct and improve 14 miles of the I-20, I-26, and I-126 interstate corridor in Columbia, including the area commonly called “Malfunction Junction.”

The Corps’ District Engineer Lt. Colonel Rachel Honderd and Transportation Secretary **Christy Hall** held a signing ceremony virtually on September 21, 2020 for the 15-year permit, the last major federal approval for the project’s construction. Phases 1 and 2 of the five construction phases are scheduled to begin in 2021. SCDOT expects the entire project to be completed in 2029.

“We appreciate the US Army Corps of Engineers’ thorough and expert work on this project and its commitment to working with all stakeholders involved to significantly improve the mobility and safety of our state’s citizens,” said Transportation Secretary Christy Hall. “Our ability to obtain the permit in just nine months is a testament to the Corps’ dedicated staff members and the strong working relationship we have with them.”

Upon project completion, the corridor will have seven reconstructed interchanges, including the replacement of cloverleaf loops with smoothly flowing directional ramps; additional lanes in each direction on I-26; 12-foot inside shoulders for emergency vehicles; and longer, separated exits. The project will accommodate future population growth through 2040 projections and beyond and will create a safer, more mobile Columbia.

The I-20, I-26, I-126 corridor is one of the three primary traffic

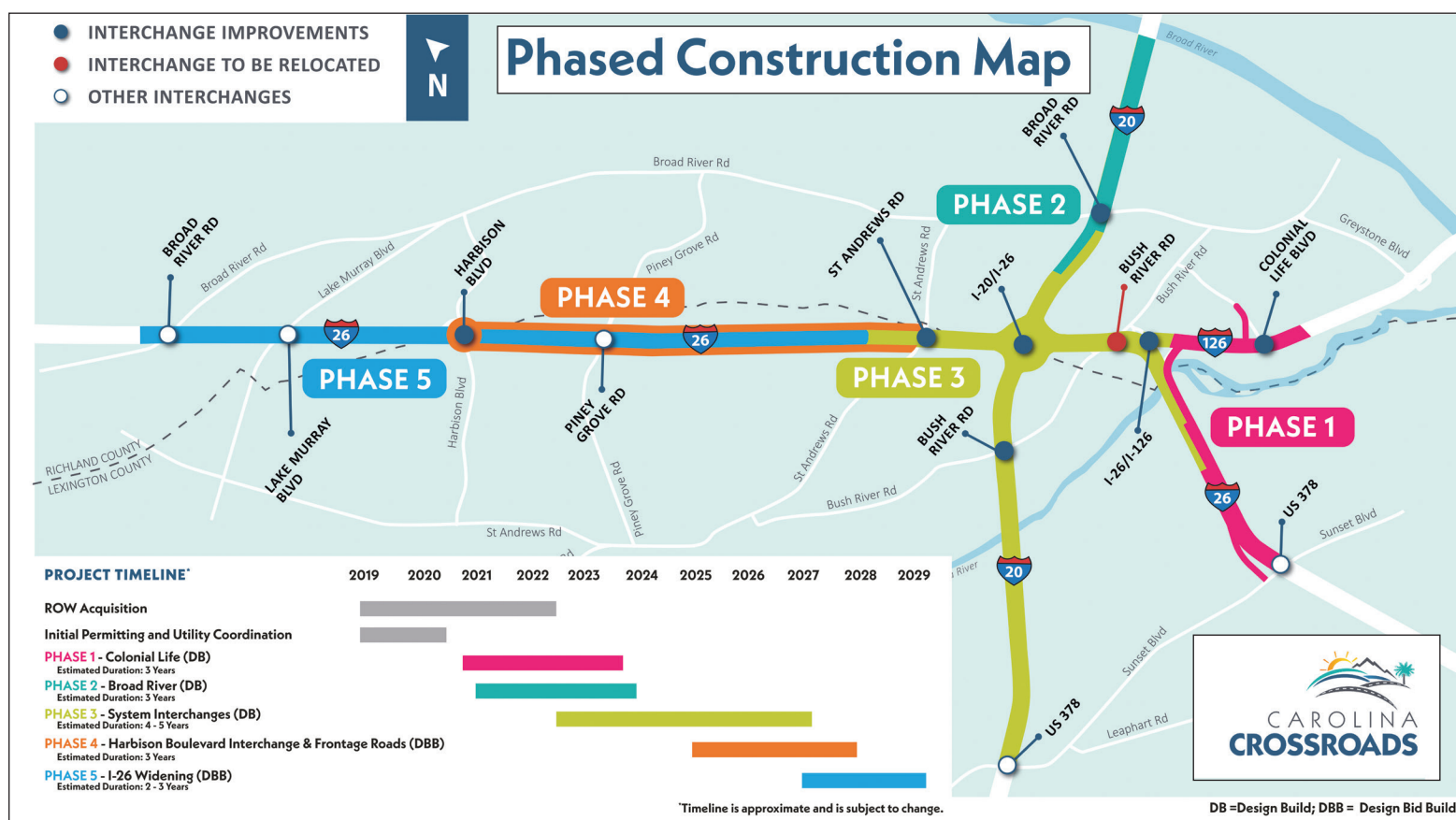
congestion “pinch points” in South Carolina being addressed by SCDOT’s 10-Year Plan to improve the quality of the state’s roads after 30 years of deferred maintenance due to lack of funding. The other two interchanges are the newly reconstructed I-85, I-385 interchange in Greenville, which was open to traffic in December 2019, and the I-26, I-526 interchange in Charleston which is in the planning phase. SCDOT launched its 10-Year Plan when the state’s gas tax increase was enacted in 2017.

“Carolina Crossroads is the second of the major interstate interchange projects being made possible by the General Assembly’s decision to commit more needed resources to rebuilding the state’s roads and bridges,” said Hall. “We’re putting those resources to good and quick use to ensure easy movement of goods for our businesses and the safety and mobility of our citizens.”



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

SC Transportation Secretary Christy Hall and US Army Corps of Engineers’ District Engineer Lt. Colonel Rachel Honderd hold a virtual ceremony to sign the permit granted to SCDOT by the Corps for the construction of the Carolina Crossroads project in Columbia.



Safety and Health News

COVID-19

By **Kenny Eargle**
Director of Safety and Health

We are experiencing a growing number of positive cases in the South Carolina and across the nation.

Continue taking steps to stop the spread.

WEAR A MASK.

Sanitize workspace often. Cover your cough or sneeze.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Social distance.

If sick, STAY HOME.

If exposed to an infected person, you are required to stay out of work for 14 consecutive days. If you travel out of the country, you must quarantine for 14 days before returning to work.

See the document at right regarding steps to stop the spread.

PINCH POINTS

By **Kenny Eargle**
Director of Safety and Health

We have had a number of pinch point injuries at SCDOT.

Just through October of 2020, there have been eight injuries this year while adjusting tailgates on dump trucks.

In 2019, there were nine tailgate related injuries and one shoulder injury.

Don't put your fingers near pinch points. Don't take a chance with your hands and

fingers – they won't grow back!

A committee made up of employees from each district that deal with tailgate operations is chaired by D4 Assistant District Maintenance Engineer **Brad Trout** along with assistance from D2 District Maintenance Engineer **Dusty Turner** and D3 District Maintenance Engineer **Jamie Gambrell**.

The Committee is developing best practices for tailgate operations including required annual training for all field employees.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Several employees have lost fingers due to a pinch point injury.

COVID-19: Stop the spread of germs

Practice Personal Hygiene:

Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands, coughing/sneezing into sleeve or tissue and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Clean hands often by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used

Clean frequently touched surfaces, objects with disinfectants:

- Office/buildings: (door knobs, light switches, phones, computers/keyboards, copy machines, elevator buttons, toilets, faucets, sinks, countertops, paper towel dispensers, desktops, handrails, folders, coffee pot handles, vending machines, counters, tables, cabinets/knobs, etc.)
- Shop Yard/Jobsite: (vehicle/equipment door handles, keys, gear shifts, steering wheel/operator controls and levers, fuel pump dispensers, etc.)

How to Clean and Disinfect Surfaces:

If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Disinfection:

- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing five 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water.
- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
- If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
- Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims that are suitable for porous surfaces.
- Use disinfectant/cleaning wipes.

Cleaning Staff:

- Should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash removal/disposal.
- Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
- Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
- Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.

Cleaning and Disinfection after Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility:

- It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area if possible. Wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection if possible.
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

(CUT OUT THIS GUIDE AND SAVE IT FOR REFERENCE.)

Minority & Small Business News

Transportation Careers Training Program helps unemployed, underemployed minorities

The Transportation Careers Training Program (TCTP) is designed to prepare unemployed, underemployed, minorities, females, and other economically disadvantaged individuals for meaningful employment opportunities in the transportation industry. This program includes Pre-Employment Training, Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training (Permit only), and Heavy Equipment Operator Training.

The TCTP will assist in lowering the state's unemployment rate by increasing the number of participants that may become gainfully employed after successful completion of this program. It will also assist contractors

by creating a pool of applicants from which they may recruit individuals to participate in the On-the-Job Training Program in fulfillment of the Training Special Provision Requirements.

Residents of Fairfield and Richland Counties were eligible to participate in the program. Eight (8) participants were enrolled in the training program. After successfully completing the training requirements, three (3) participants became employed in the highway construction industry.

The TCTP continues to serve as a mechanism for preparing individuals for career opportunities in the transportation industry. The 2020 TCTP will be implemented in Cherokee County.

Participants get a firsthand look at job opportunities in the transportation industry. The program also helps individuals with commercial driver's license training and heavy equipment operator training.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MINORITY & SMALL BUSINESS OFFICE

Bridging the Gap Web meeting links DBEs, agency leaders



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



The Minority & Small Business Office held a web meeting with Deputy Secretary of Engineering Leland Colvin (left), Greg Davis (above) and other SCDOT senior staff to discuss upcoming construction projects and opportunities.

SCDOT's "Bridging the Gap" forum was hosted by the Minority and Small Business Affairs (MSBA) Division virtually via WebEx at SCDOT Headquarters on Thursday, Oct. 29.

This was the first forum where DBEs and SBEs were invited to virtually interact with the Secretary of

Transportation **Christy Hall**, and other Agency leaders. It provided insights on upcoming construction projects, suggestions on taking advantage of procurement and professional services opportunities, and SCDOT leadership addressing pertinent DBE issues and concerns.

Based on the feedback provided by

some of the 160 firms that attended, the most anticipated moment of the forum was the question and answer session.

Firms were invited to submit questions prior to the virtual meeting and Agency heads were able to categorize and answer each question. MSBA, led by Division Director **Greg Davis**, will plan another session in January 2021.



District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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

D1's bridge program evolving

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

District 1 has enjoyed a robust level of accomplishment in replacing bridges that were requiring significant maintenance. The Construction Crew is now undertaking the higher-level bridge deficiencies throughout the District, such as deck patching, slab stabilization, saddle installation, and bearing replacements. At right, the District Bridge Crew teamed up with Richland Maintenance to drive a pair of steel piles to stop the movement of a bridge slab on I-77.

The counties throughout the District are now taking a more focused approach on bridge deficiencies, including Old Charleston Road which crosses over I-20 in southwestern Lexington County. The surface of one entire span of the bridge was in terrible shape with potholes and had been asphalt-patched for years.

Once District Bridge Inspector Wil Pointer determined the deficiencies were not full-depth and could be repaired with in-house crews, Lexington Maintenance went to work repairing the entire span by chipping out the old concrete, re-tying the rebar, and placing the new concrete. It may sound simple, but there are many complexities that require significant experience. Lexing-



District Bridge and Richland Maintenance crews use a hydraulic hammer to drive a 50-ft steel pile into the ground to stop movement of a bridge slab on I-77.

ton called in some much-needed assistance from Kershaw Maintenance, and together the teams completed the repair within the two-week deadline.

Rapid Response

Emergencies happen. That's when the District brings all of its resources to bear: Maintenance, Construction, and Traffic. Twice this summer, interstate bridges were se-

verely damaged by tractor-trailer collisions.

On May 28, an over-height tractor-trailer struck the Koon Road overpass on I-26 in Richland County, located in the I-26 widening construction area. It shut down the interstate and closed Koon Road for the duration of the repairs. The contractor, Archer-United Joint Venture, with assistance from SCDOT Maintenance, Construction, Traffic and SHEP, completed the repair within 30 days of the collision.

Then on Sept. 20, a tractor-trailer ran into a bridge column of the Cedarcrest Road overpass on I-20 in Lexington County. That incident sparked the same urgent response as Koon Road. This was also in a construction project area. Again, with the help of bridge contractor United and the same OneSCDOT team, all 3 columns and the cap were repaired and traffic was restored to normal in less than 4 weeks.

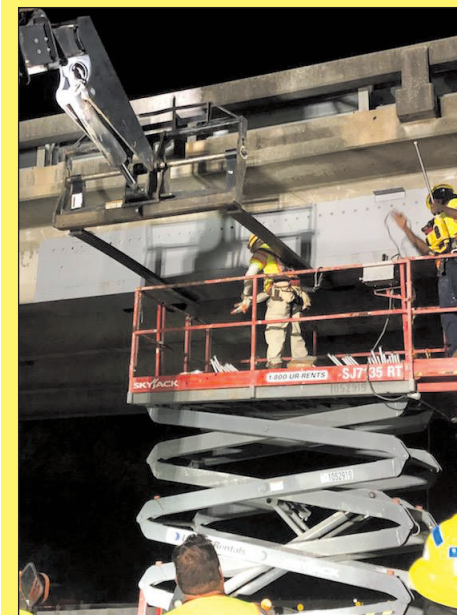


A truck hit and damaged the Cedarcrest Road bridge on I-26.

Got news?

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

**Alan
Kozusko**



Crews make repairs after a truck hit and damaged the I-26 Koon Road overpass in Richland County.



Crews made similar repairs to the Cedarcrest Road overpass in Lexington County.



Lexington and Kershaw Maintenance Crews chip away deteriorated asphalt and concrete layers from the Old Charleston Road bridge over I-20 in Lexington County.



Kershaw Foreman Chris Team, and District Inspector Wil Pointer survey the work on the Old Charleston Bridge.



The final product after two weeks of hard work.

District 2 News

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

District Engineer:

Kevin McLaughlin

(864) 227-6971

FAX:

(864) 227-6567

D2 crews travel to help tornado cleanup

During the Tornado outbreak in April 2020, District 2 sent crews to assist with storm cleanup in both Hampton and Oconee counties.

Crews from Edgefield and McCormick went to Hampton and crews from Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry and Saluda went to Seneca.

The crews alternated each week and were involved in

assisting the affected areas for about a month with storm cleanup. Operations consisted of clearing debris from the roadway and right of way and then hauling the vegetative debris to a designated dump site to be chipped. These crews also removed construction and demolition debris from the right of way as well, which was hauled to the local landfill.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL ANDERS/ANDERSON MAINTENANCE

Crews traveled to Hampton and Oconee counties to help remove debris from the April 2020 tornadoes.



Chrissy Brown

Christina Brown

Christina “Chrissy” Brown of the Anderson Construction office died unexpectedly on June 26, 2020.

Brown joined the SCDOT as an Engineering Technician II in August 2019.

Anderson Resident Construction Engineer **Zach Herron** said, “This has been one of the more difficult years Anderson Construction has faced with all that is going on in cur-

rent events. The most tragic being the loss of one of our teammates Chrissy Brown. She was a very vibrant and lively person always willing help with anything. She tried her absolute best in everything she did and never complained when asked to do something difficult. She is the type of individual every employer wants as part of their team. She will be greatly missed.”

Got news?

Contact Jennifer Pickens at 864-716-2380 or email her at PickensJH@scdot.org.



Jennifer Pickens

Meet Karl Hoffman before he retires

By Jennifer Pickens

Karl Hoffman, District 2 HMMS Coordinator, will be retiring in December 2020.

A graduate of Ninety Six High School and Piedmont Technical College, Hoffman started his career with the SCDOT in Abbeville Construction as an Engineering Technician in May 1989. Hoffman transferred to Greenwood Construction in August 1989. He has held many positions including Survey Party Chief, District Bridge Inspection Crew, Outdoor Advertising Program for



Karl Hoffman

District 2. In 2010, he moved to the Maintenance side assisting ADME **Dusty Turner** with “working up” contracts until his promotion in 2013 to his current position.

Hoffman has been married to his wife, Deborah, since November 1998. They have one son, Jason, and two grandchildren, Adai and Devin.

His hobbies include gardening, working in the yard, fishing, and spending time with his family. He enjoys home-cooked meals and traveling to the mountains or beach. Hoffman is a fan of the TV series NCIS, the movie Blues Brothers, and Southern Gospel music.

The Hoffmans are active members of their church. When I asked him what he would do if he won \$1,000,000.00, he said “Try to help others. Try to reach the needy people in our country.”

DEA **Kevin McLaughlin** said “If I was asked to describe Karl Hoffman, I would easily and quickly reply that he is a God fearing Christian man and also a tremendously capable and dependable servant to the citizens of South Carolina.”

Karl and I have always joked about being cousins since my maiden name is Hoffman. Sadly, we are not related, but if we were I would consider it quite an honor. I don’t believe that I have ever been in the D2 office and have not been greeted with “Hey Cuz!” as I walked past his office. I have always looked forward to those chats and his friendly smile. Thanks Karl! You’ll be missed! Happy Retirement, Cuz!

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

D3 installs roundabout in Travelers Rest

District 3 recently converted the intersection of Little Texas Road and Krieger Drive/Benton Road into a roundabout.

The project was spearheaded by District Traffic Engineer **Bran-don Wilson** who worked closely with District Maintenance Engineer **Tony Thompson** and the City of Travelers Rest.

The project fixed a troublesome intersection into a roundabout within the existing roadway footprint while using in-house forces.

District 3 Maintenance operations laid out the traffic pattern while the District 3 signal shop arranged the installation of street lighting.



District 3 Maintenance workers, from left, Charlie Orsborne, Chris Wilson and Randy O'Connor lay out the traffic pattern for a new roundabout in Travelers Rest.

SCDOT crews clean up after Oconee tornado

On April 13, 2020, an EF-3 tornado touched down in the Westminster area around 3:20 a.m. The tornado reached up to 160 mph and traveled approximately eight miles within Oconee County. Significant damage was reported in the downtown Seneca and Utica areas.

SCDOT responded with more than 18 crews and more than 150 team members to tackle the massive cleanup. Crews utilized an unloading site located off Wells Highway at Garrison Road and collected vegetation that was ground into mulch and repurposed. In total, crews collected more than 149,000 cubic yards of debris and responded to calls about more than 140 downed trees.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

District 3 crews, with assistance from District 4, clear debris on West Quincy St. in Seneca on April 15, 2020. Confirmed tornadoes tore through the City of Seneca on April 13.

Got news?

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

**Karuam
 Booker**



Pickens County completes Five Forks paving project

Pickens Resident Construction Engineer **Joe Laws** reports the completion of S-64 Five Forks Road in Pickens County.

The 1.68-mile project was from Clemson Street to the

Calhoun Memorial Highway Overpass.

The project included 12 inches of cement modified recycles base, shoulder widening, hot mix asphalt and new pavement markings.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE LAWS/PICKENS CONSTRUCTION

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 Edward Moore with your ideas at 803-377-8101 or by emailing him at OliverHL@scdot.org



Lee Oliver

Lockhart S.C. 9 Bridge replacement complete



Four new bridges were built on a new alignment on S.C. 9 through the town of Lockhart.



The project also included the replacement of two stone retaining walls.

The Lockhart S.C. 9 Bridge Replacement project was completed in September 2020.

This project was awarded to Crowder Construction Company in December 2016.

The purpose of the project was to replace four aging structures on S.C. 9/ S.C. 49 in the Town of Lockhart on the Chester and Union County line. The structures were over the Broad River, the Broad River Canal, Canal Drive and Lockhart Drive. Due to the lack of a reasonable detour, the new structures were built on a new alignment.

Several unique features were either incorporated into the project, or implemented during its construction. Three bridges were built parallel to the existing roadway. A temporary alignment was utilized

so that the remaining bridge could be built in stages, eliminating the need for road closures. Two bridges feature arch elements, which were prevalent in the structures they replaced. A 265-foot ADA compliant access ramp with hand railing was included to promote pedestrian connectivity through the residential areas. Two existing stone retaining walls were replaced, and the new walls feature precast stone patterns stained to

match other walls in the vicinity.

Certain locations within the project limits were monitored for construction related vibrations due to their historical or environmental significance. Given its vicinity to low-lying residential areas, numerous design and construction safeguards were successful in maintaining the integrity of the Broad River Canal and its embankments while construction activities occurred adjacent to it.



RIGHT: The project included a new bridge over the Broad River Canal.

Trees close to I-77 removed for safety

South Carolina currently has the highest traffic fatality rate in the country with nearly 60% of fatal crashes occurring

on the State's rural roadways.

SCDOT safety engineers have identified the most common factor in these crashes is vehicles depart-

ing the roadway, which occurred in nearly 50% of all the fatal and serious injury crashes.

The clearing of mature trees on I-77 in York and Chester Counties is part of a larger interstate safety project aimed at reducing severity of crashes involving road departures by providing unobstructed area beyond the edge of the travel lane that allows a driver of an errant vehicle to safely stop or regain control.

All trees and underbrush within a certain distance of the travel lane will be cleared between along a



30+ mile section of I-77 in northern Chester County and York County. Additionally, the gore areas will be cleared of all non-decorative trees. While not as noticeable, this project also includes

new installations of cable barrier in the medians and upgrades to the existing installations of guardrail throughout. This work will continue along the interstate into the Spring/Summer of 2021.



District 5 News

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

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

Repairs made to rain-damaged highway

Due to the heavy rains experienced in the Pee Dee this summer, Highway 34 between Darlington County and Bennettsville experienced an unusually high incidence of washouts along the 15-20 foot raised roadway portions.

With the assistance of multiple SCDOT Maintenance units, Marlboro Maintenance coordinated repairs to the roadway that included hauling more than 14,000 cubic yards of fill material in about three and half weeks.

The washouts combined would have been nearly a mile in length.

RIGHT: Heavy rains washed out large portions of S.C. 34 in Darlington and Marlboro counties.



LEFT: SCDOT foremen inspect the repairs made to the washed-out shoulders.

BELOW: More than 14,000 cubic yards of fill material was used for the repairs.



Got news?

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

Michael Miller



A LETTER WE LIKED

Marlboro Maintenance received this message from the SCDOT Customer Service Center from a very pleased member of the public concerning the clearing of the right of way:

clearing the right of way along Hamlet Highway from Thomas Street to the traffic circle and North Kinney Street at Thomas Street. BIG THANK YOU!

Good Job to Marlboro!

You all did a wonderful job on

Thanks to all the DOT workers and all the work they do every day!

Crews repair intersection

The District 5 Paving Crew and Williamsburg Maintenance made repairs to a badly damaged intersection in Kingstree this summer at the intersection of Eastland Avenue and Highway 261.

The intersection sees a high volume of large truck traffic, and the asphalt was breaking down under the continuous stress. There were several thank you calls to the Maintenance Office after it was completed.



Crews level the asphalt at the intersection.



The crew finishes up the last bit of work.

District 6 News

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

District Engineer:

Tim Henderson

(843) 740-1665

FAX:

(843) 740-1663

Got
news?

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



Debra Jerideau

Meet Ashley Maggio

Name: Ashley Maggio

Title: Human Resources Manager I
District 6

Ashley Maggio is from Charleston, but also grew up in the Upstate area of South Carolina during her high school years.

She has a bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston, where she double majored in English literature and Gender Studies.

She has previous experience working in the customer service field within an insurance agency.

She started working for

SCDOT in January 2019 as an Administrative Specialist at Charleston Maintenance. From there, she went on to be promoted to an Administrative Assistant at Charleston Maintenance in July 2019.

Now, she has accepted the Human Resources Manager I position in District 6, assisting **Marie Starks**.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and hanging out with her husband and their three cats.



Ashley Maggio

Rural Road Safety Program

Improvements being made along S.C. 61

Charleston Construction is managing a contract for safety improvements to SC Highway 61 under the SCDOT Rural Road Safety Program. Safety improvements under this contract include widening lanes and adding a three foot paved shoulder on both sides, and improved signage, road markings, and rumble strips. The contract was awarded on June 30, 2020, with work beginning on Oct. 12. The scheduled completion date is Nov. 30, 2021.

There are two portions to the project: the southern portion, which is 6.2 miles in length beginning at the Charleston/Dorchester county line and ending at Bacon's Bridge Road; and

the northern portion, which runs from the Colleton/Dorchester county line for 8.25 miles to just north of the S.C. 61/U.S. 17 intersection.

The contract includes an interim completion date of Nov. 20, 2020, for the southern 6.2 mile section. A change order was recently issued to extend that date to Dec. 31, 2020.

Most of the road in this contract will be milled 2" with the millings placed on the shoulder for widening. The existing road and widened section will then be reclaimed by the cement modified recycled base (CMRB) process, and then receive intermediate and surface courses. The remainder will simply be milled

and paved with a surface course. The right-of-way in the northern portion of the project only will be cleared of tree limbs and other vegetation.

The contractor is currently working on the southern portion of the project. They working to complete the CMRB and place the intermediate course of asphalt.

Once that is completed, the contractor will then complete remaining work on the southern portion, to include paving the surface course, installing rumble strips, applying permanent paint, and adding reflective surfaces to signs. Work will move to the northern portion once the southern portion is completed.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Rural Road Safety improvements on the scenic S.C. 61 preserves the 'tree canopy' while making the route safer for motorists.

District 7 News

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

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

Got news?

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

**Danny
 Simmons**



D7 completes Rural Road Safety Project

District 7 recently completed a Rural Road Safety Project on U.S. 1.

This is progress toward SCDOT's Strategic Plan goal to improve safety and preserve our transportation infrastructure.

The project comprises 12.97 miles of U.S. 1 and was completed at a cost of approximately \$3.9 million dollars.

The project is located in both Aiken and Saluda counties and according to District Construction Engineer **Brian Heape**, includes shoulder widening and paving, new guardrail locations as well as upgrades to ex-

isting guardrail, and both centerline and edge-line rumble strips.

Additional safety enhancements include selective clearing to improve clear zone, wider and brighter pavement markings, and the installation of beveled driveway pipe.

All of these measures are aimed at reducing crashes resulting from roadway departures.

Similar projects in District 7 nearing completion or recently completed include S.C. 6, S.C. 4 and U.S. 301 in Orangeburg County.

Wanda Michelle Lambright

Orangeburg Resident Maintenance Engineer **Wanda Michelle Lambright** died on Sept. 30, 2020 after a brief illness. Lambright joined SCDOT in 2006 after 13 years at the Georgia Department of Transportation. Prior to becoming RME, she worked at Orangeburg Construction, and in permits for Orangeburg Maintenance. She is survived by her husband, Reginald Lambright; three children Nigel, Nalani and Nia; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Stokes; several siblings; and her SCDOT family.



BOBBY USRY/AIKEN CONSTRUCTION

Almost 13 miles of U.S. 1 through Aiken and Saluda counties have been improved through SCDOT's Rural Road Safety Program. The improvements include shoulder widening, paving, rumble strips and guardrail where needed.

DEATHS

Eddie O. Aiton, 70, of York Maintenance died Aug. 17, 2019.



Ron Althoff

Ronald David Althoff, 78, former Assistant Director of Planning, died Oct. 12, 2019.



Terrell Baxley

Terrell Hampton Baxley, 55, Shop Foreman at Allendale Maintenance, died May 11, 2020.



Enoch Boozer

Enoch Joel Boozer, 80, former SCDOT Contracts Administrator, died Oct. 2, 2020.



Debra Bradham

Debra Hartley Bradham, 57, former Right of Way employee, died Oct. 28, 2020.



Gayle Brazell

Gayle Tallon Brazell, 71, former SCDOT Human Resources Training Director, died July 3, 2020.

Christina M. Brown, 47, of Anderson Construction, died July 26, 2020.

Robert L. Bryant, 53, of Colleton Maintenance, died April 1, 2020.

Jammie Lucille Cribb, 41, of Jasper Maintenance, died May 22, 2019.

Charles "Chuck" Edwin Davis Jr., 75, former print shop employee, died Sept. 6, 2020.

Joseph Dustin Evans, 28, of Orangeburg Maintenance, died Oct. 7, 2019.

Ralph Evans, 89, former Highway Patrolman and license examiner with SCDPHT, died Feb. 2020.

Luther "Luke" Fant, 86, former SCDOT traffic engineer, died April 11, 2020.



Dan Fanning

Daniel Patrick Fanning, 82, former SCDOT Executive Director, died Sept. 20, 2019.

Travelus "Travis" Alexander Floyd, 50, of Aiken Maintenance, died Aug. 8, 2020.



Michelle Lambright

Michelle Lambright, 49, Orangeburg Resident Maintenance Engineer, died Sept. 29, 2020.

Dallas Charles Mullinax, 47, of District 3 Maintenance Operations, died June 23, 2019.

Levon Dena Nelson, 49, of Charleston Maintenance, died May 5, 2020.



Billy Pound

Billy Ray Pound, 56, of Lexington Maintenance, died July 5, 2020.



Kevin Preston

Kevin L. Preston, 52, of Orangeburg Maintenance, died Dec. 16, 2019.

Ed Shuler, 95, former SCDOT engineer in Pre-construction, died Aug. 12, 2020.



Terry Stokes

Theresa "Terry" Louise Stokes, 73, SCDOT retiree, died July 9, 2020.

A.W. "Will" Utsey, 83, former DMV director with SCDHPT, died July 11, 2020.

Tommy Joe Wessinger, 87, former SCDOT engineer, died June 10, 2020.



Ron Wertz

George Ronald Wertz, 76, former SCDOT Director of Maintenance, died Oct. 7, 2019.

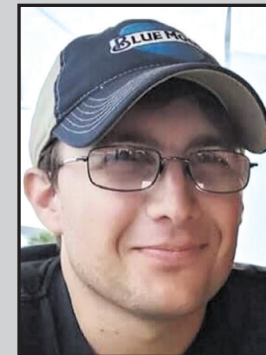
Both of these gentlemen were struck and killed while patching a pothole on U.S. 501 in July 2019.

Please join me in lifting up these two families and our Horry County Maintenance family as we pause to reflect on the life and legacy of these two young men.

Although we continue to search for answers as to why this tragic incident occurred, let it also be a sobering reminder to us to always be vigilant while we carry out our important work every day in an incredibly dangerous environment.

Let's continue to watch out for each other and have each other's back.

David Joseph Sibbick, 29, passed away on Thursday, July 25, 2019. He was born on April 16, 1990, in New Haven, CT to Scott David Sibbick and Jodi Lynn Rubino. He worked with the SCDOT. David's passions were music, motorcycles and shooting. He was a proud life member of the National Rifle Association.



Survivors include his father, Scott David Sibbick and wife, Wendy of Loris, SC; his mother, Jodi Lynn Rubino Walton and her husband, Gary of Meriden, CT; his sister, Brittney Bishop and her husband, Kevin of Meriden, CT; maternal grandparents, Joseph and Bette Rubino of North Haven, CT; step-brothers, Dylan Gonzalez of Loris, SC, Christopher Walton and his wife, Ashley of Meriden, CT, Ryan Walton of Wallingford, CT; step-sister, Angelica Gonzalez of Loris, SC and his nephew, Ethan Walton of Meriden, CT.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents.

Cecil Andrew Morgan, 35, passed away on Thursday, July 25, 2019. He was born on January 28, 1984, in Conway, SC, to Levern Alvin Morgan and Peggy Stevens Morgan. He was a longtime member of Bethany Baptist Church.



Survivors include his parents of Loris, SC; his wife, Stephanie Bridgman Morgan of the home; his step-son, Tristan R. Brown of Aynor, SC; his mother-in-law, Irma Bridgman; his father-in-law, Steve Bridgman and his wife, Vicki all of Marion, SC; and his brother, Joey Morgan of Loris, SC.

Source: Hardwick Funeral Home of Loris, SC

VIEWPOINTS

By Christy Hall
South Carolina Secretary
of Transportation

People who succeed against great challenges don't just see obstacles. They see solutions. And they have the resolve to successfully implement them.

That's how I characterize the response of SCDOT's employees and partners to the unprecedented circumstances of 2020. In spite of a global pandemic, deadly tornadoes, and the constant threat of bad weather, our people rose to the occasion.

We used creativity and teamwork to overcome operational roadblocks and financial uncertainty. Our problem-solving and innovation enabled us to keep our 10-Year Plan ahead of schedule and our roads and bridges open and in good condition for our state's citizens and the delivery of much-needed goods and supplies.

As the pandemic surged throughout the nation, we worked hard to keep our employees and contractors safe, while maintaining our core functions of maintenance, con-

struction, and planning. In fact, we exceeded the goals for year 3 of our 10-Year Plan pledge to South Carolina to make our rural roads safer, resurface thousands of miles of roadway, rebuild and replace deteriorating bridges, and improve our highways.

Especially amidst all of the challenges 2020 has presented, our people did a remarkable job ensuring that SCDOT's historic \$3.3 billion construction program moved forward uninterrupted. We also continued responding rapidly to road and bridge maintenance needs and

assisting motorists in distress.

While 2021 holds some uncertainty, I am very optimistic we will continue on the productive path we've established during the past three years. More people are noticing the significant progress we are making on road improvements, and I'm confident that our team will continue making a positive difference for South Carolina.

I am very proud to be a member of the dedicated SCDOT team, and I'm thankful for your commitment to serving South Carolina.

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I-77 to get new interchange near Panthers practice facility

The addition of an interchange on I-77 to support the development of the new Carolina Panthers practice facility in Rock Hill got a big boost on June 15, 2020.

SCDOT was awarded an Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant from the US Department of Transportation in the amount of \$34.5 million. This grant will become a part of the funding package for the construction of a new interchange on I-77 (Exit 81) that will enhance business development in the Rock Hill community, including access to the new 200 acre Carolina Panthers practice facility under construction.

In addition to the INFRA Grant, funding for the new interchange includes \$40 million from the SC Department of Commerce, \$1 million from the City

of Rock Hill and \$8 million from the Panthers. The total cost is expected to be in the \$80-90 million range, depending upon bids for the project. The grant has allowed SCDOT's project team to complete design plans and move to the construction phase. The agency expects to receive bids by the end of 2020.

In June, Transportation Secretary **Christy Hall** said, "We appreciate US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao providing federal grant funds for this interchange that will address traffic impacts associated with the Panthers development in Rock Hill." Hall added that the interchange project supports 12,000 new jobs and a capital investment in York County of \$465 million.

SCDOT expects to receive bids on the project by the end of 2020. The scheduled completion is May 2023.



The new interchange will be Exit 81 in Rock Hill.

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

10 Year Plan Update	1
COVID's impact on SCDOT	3-6
SCDOT distributes hand sanitizer	7

Retirements	8-9
Promotions	10-14
Gateway Project completed	15
Tornadoes and Hurricanes	16-17
Scenic Highway 61 project	18, 29

Carolina Crossroads Army Corp Permit	21
Safety and Health	22
Minority & Small Business	23
District Pages	24-30
Deaths	31