

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXVI NO. III

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FALL 2014

First Act 98 bridge project completed, opened

By Bob Kudelka

A steady downpour, thunder and lightning did not dampen enthusiasm for the small but determined crowd attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Cherokee County this summer.

"This is really a great day for South Carolina," said Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley**, who joined Commissioners, Legislators, local officials and SCDOT maintenance workers at the brief ceremony on the Jumping Branch Road bridge before the rest of the ceremony was moved indoors.

The gloomy weather did not overshadow the significance of the ceremony, however.

The new bridge was not only good news for the Blacksburg community - it was the first of many bridges to be built with Act 98 funding.

"This bridge today is just the beginning of what you'll see throughout the state," Oakley said. "Thank you to Governor Haley."

Oakley also thanked members of the General Assembly. In attendance were Senator Harvey Peeler, Representative Dennis Moss and Representative Steve Moss.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SC Transportation Secretary Janet P. Oakley, center, and Deputy Secretary for Engineering Christy Hall gathered with commissioners, engineers and maintenance workers under a tent to officially cut the ribbon on the first Act 98 project, the Jumping Branch Road bridge.

The Jumping Branch Road bridge in Blacksburg is the first bridge completed using a special non-recurring appropriation of \$50 million to repair closed or load-restricted bridges in South Carolina.

What's more, Act 98 funding has meant not only new bridges, but the kick start of major interstate projects and millions of dollars for resurfacing.

"If it wasn't for Act 98, we wouldn't have a secondary resurfacing program right now due to funding shortfalls," said Director of Maintenance **Jim Feda**.

Director of Preconstruction **Mitchell Metts** said since the passage of Act 98, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes as SCDOT engineers work to put the funds to use.

"We're very thankful for the money and hope to make a real positive dent in some of the problems we have," Metts said. "This is the first time we've gotten any new money from the state level since 1987 so we want

to be good stewards and get projects moving as quickly as we can.

"We're getting some of our top priority interstate widenings accomplished, our worst bridges addressed and improving our pavement surface," Metts said. "It's a significant impact."

New Bridges

Act 98 was signed into law by Governor Nikki Haley on June 24, 2013, after the legislation was passed by the General Assembly. Act 98 provided SCDOT with additional millions of dollars for bridge, resurfacing and mainline interstate projects.

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Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Christy Hall** said SCDOT received a non-recurring appropriation of \$50 million to be used as the state match requirement for the federal-aid bridge program. State funds originally planned for the state match requirement for federal-aid bridges will be shifted to repair bridges that are closed or load-restricted. This will enable SCDOT to address approximately 20 percent of the state's load-restricted bridges.

Hall said the state owns 8,418 bridges. Of those, 1,600 are substandard; 397 are load restricted; and nine are closed, as of Oct. 1.

By late summer, SCDOT had \$6 million of work under contract for new bridges. More bridges will be let each month over the next 6 to 9 months.

"It'll make a pretty good dent in lowering the number of posted and closed bridges," Feda said.

Resurfacing

Another part of Act 98 provided funds for maintenance of non-federally aided secondary roads.

"For the past couple of years, we did not have a resurfacing program," Feda said. "Last year we had \$15 million for preservation only but no resurfacing."

In fiscal year 2014, the amount was \$41 million. That increased to approximately \$60 million for the current fiscal year, Feda said.

There are more than 20,000 miles of non-federal aid secondary roads in South Carolina. These are primarily two-lane roads, and most of these roads are in poor condition that would eventually need reconstruction.

Resurfacing the roads means high costs of reconstruction can be avoided. There is a safety element as well.

"Anytime you improve a pavement where they're not dodging potholes, you're going to improve safety," Feda said.

Interstate Improvements

Act 98 provided an annual appropriation of \$50 million to SCDOT, which in turn will transfer an equivalent amount to the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SCTIB) to finance an estimated \$550 million on existing main-line interstates. The Act required SCDOT to submit a list of projects to the SCTIB for approval, and required approval by the Joint Bond Review Committee. Approval of the following projects in the amount of \$549,402,000 occurred in December 2013 for funds not to exceed:

- \$80 million for the I-85/385 interchange upgrade project in Greenville

County

- \$154,701,000 for the I-20 widening project in Lexington County (10 miles)
- \$38,701,000 for the I-77 widening project in Richland County (2.6 miles)
- \$262 million for Phases I & II of the I-85 widening project in Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties (16 miles); funds not to exceed \$4 million for preliminary engineering for Phase III of the I-85 widening project in Cherokee County
- \$10 million for preliminary engineering for I-26/20/126 in Richland and Lexington counties.

Ceremony in Cherokee County concludes

The rainy ribbon-cutting ceremony offered a glimpse of similar work that will be repeated dozens of times as badly needed bridge replacements are done across the state.

In this case, the original structure on Jumping Branch Road was a culvert constructed prior to 1948. It was originally only 15 feet in length with no more than 20 feet of roadway width. It was constructed of two concrete abutments with metal decking supporting the roadway surface. It was

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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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Janet P. Oakley is the South Carolina Secretary of Transportation.



South Carolina Press Association Associate Member

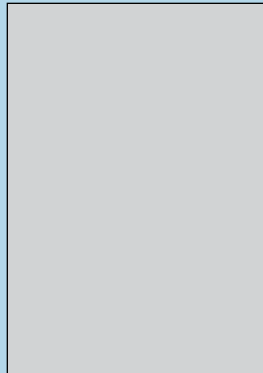
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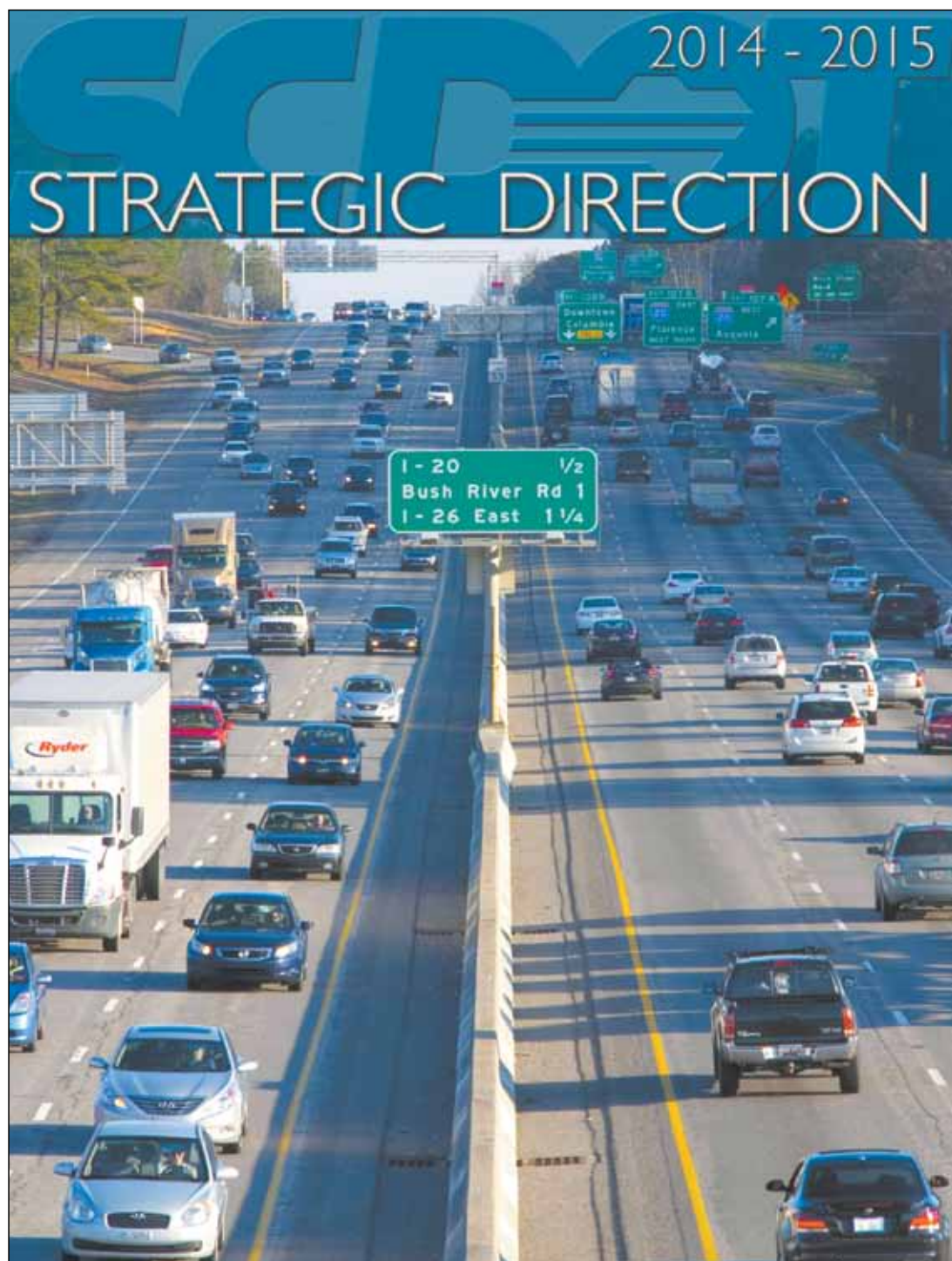
Clifton Parker
Commissioner At-Large

Strategic Direction

On Nov. 4, Secretary **Janet P. Oakley** and the Deputy Secretaries unveiled the new Strategic Direction for SCDOT for 2014-2015. Secretary Oakley said the Strategic Direction is intended to serve as the agency's

roadmap for the challenges that are before us now and in the future.

In her introduction to the Strategic Direction, Oakley highlights those challenges and presents four vital goals for SCDOT and its employees.



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY BONNIE CRAMER/THE CONNECTOR

“South Carolina continues to experience steady population and economic growth, outpacing the south as a region. This growth is essential to a continuing improvement to the quality of life of the citizens of the Palmetto State, but brings the twin challenges of our transportation system being able to accommodate increasing demand while we struggle to maintain our current system in good condition.

SCDOT understands that preservation and modernization of our transportation system is essential to the economic health of our State. We will tackle our infrastructure challenges with performance-based management tools, data-driven investment strategies, innovations in project delivery from conception through construction, and smart stewardship of all available resources.

The SCDOT Strategic Direction is our roadmap to respond to the transportation challenges we face today and in the foreseeable future. This Strategic Direction defines the vision to which we aspire; it responds to four vital goals; it defines the core values that are the principles which govern our actions; and it describes four key emphasis areas on which we will focus our management and operations over the next year. This is the roadmap which will enable SCDOT to work with and engage our employees and public and private partners in fulfilling the vision of delivering a world-class 21st century transportation system for the fastest growing state in the fastest growing region of the country.”

Secretary Janet P. Oakley

SCDOT's Strategic Direction is available online at: www.scdot.org/inside/smp.aspx

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closed down after inspections by SCDOT's Resident Maintenance Engineer and Bridge Inspection team.

The new bridge was constructed of one 70-foot cored slab structure with 33 feet of roadway width. It has a load capacity of 40 tons. It took 16 weeks to complete the construction process. To save time and money, the job

was done by SCDOT's Maintenance forces. The cost was approximately \$330,000.

Hall read out the names of SCDOT employees who each had a role in building the new bridge: District 4 Engineering Administrator **John McCarter**, District Maintenance Engineer **Todd Cook**, Assistant District Maintenance Engineer **Perry Crocker** and Cherokee County Maintenance Engineer **Stephen Ellis**. The District Bridge Crew includes **William "Ike" McBrayer**, **Steven Gainey**, **Rich-**

ard Hunter, **Amanda Molina**, **Elliott Sellers** and **William Stuart**. The Bridge Approach Work Crew (Cherokee Ditching/Shoulder Crew) includes **Tim Mullinax**, **Tim Smith**, **Dennis Gibson**, **Tracy Hebert**, **Roger Pennington**, **Gary Medley**, **Don Blackwell** and **Neal Peeler**.

Commission Chairman W.B. Cook acknowledged fellow Commissioners in attendance including John H. Hardee, Woodrow "Woody" W. Willard Jr. and Mike Wooten.

Cook also thanked the fol-

lowing: SC Alliance to Fix Our Roads; Concrete Pavement Association of SC; SC Forestry Association; State Transportation Infrastructure Bank; SC Farm Bureau; Palmetto Agribusiness Council; SC Manufacturers Alliance; Jones, McAden & Associates; SC Chamber of Commerce; SC Trucking Association; Carolinas AGC; SC Asphalt Pavement Association; Broad River Electric Co-op (Doug Wilson); and the Federal Highway Administration.

Representative Steve Moss,

who lives in the Blacksburg area, spoke of the historical significance of the area, noting that there are three Revolutionary War military parks in the region.

“We're getting a lot of historical tourism traffic,” Moss said. “Those people will be crossing that bridge, too.”

Moss thanked the SCDOT maintenance workers, saying “I appreciate the job you all are doing. I see them working in all kinds of weather. We are real proud to have them and all of our crew here.”

Public gets chance to comment, examine future of transportation in South Carolina

By Pete Poore

The SCDOT Commission gave staff approval to initiate a 90 day public comment period for the draft of the 2014 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP) on Aug. 21.

SCDOT is in the process of updating the SMTP in partnership with the SC Department of Commerce; SC State Ports Authority; Federal Highway Administration; Federal Transit Administration, and other key stakeholders. The SMTP is titled, "Charting a Course to 2040"

The SMTP is updated every five years to reflect the latest information on travel and growth trends, goals and objectives, infrastructure conditions, future deficiencies, estimated funding, and strategies to move South Carolina forward. The SMTP includes the following documents which are available in detail on the SCDOT web site: www.scdot.org.

- Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (Summary);
- Statewide Interstate Plan to evaluate current and future congestion specific to each interstate corridor;
- Statewide Strategic Corridors Plan to develop a priority non-Interstate network with a focus on interregional connectivity for the traveling public and freight movement and includes an evaluation of current and future congestion on the network;
- Statewide Transit Plan to identify existing public transportation services, current and projected needs, and long-range transit strategies;
- Statewide Rail Plan to establish priorities and implementation strategies to enhance passenger and



freight rail service in South Carolina, and serve as the basis for Federal and State rail investment.

- Statewide Freight Plan developed for the first time in South Carolina to identify a Strategic Freight Network necessary for the efficient movement of goods in South Carolina, and focused strategies to address the state's current and projected freight needs;
- The Draft Statewide Strategic Safety Plan to identify emphasis areas and strategies aimed at eliminating highway fatalities and severe injuries.

Seven public information meetings were held across the state in September to engage the public and provide citizens an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft 2014 MTP.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A public meeting on the future of transportation was held in Columbia on Sept. 8 at Colonial Life Arena. Here, SCDOT's Doug Frate, left, discusses mass transit issues with Charles Gossett.

Tweet tweet:

SCDOT's Twitter growing fast



By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT's use of Twitter hit two milestones recently when the agency gained its 500th follower and sent out its 500th tweet.

The fast-growing social media platform has become an effective way to provide information to the public and media, said Director of Communications **Pete Poore**.

In addition to sending or "tweeting" agency press releases and advisories, the Office of Communications also uses Twitter to help the public answer agency-related questions. Our "followers" include citizens, government agencies, organizations, businesses and media.

On Aug. 21, the number of followers reached 500. As of Oct. 17 that number had increased to 521.

"Twitter is now a key tool in the Communications Office toolbox," Poore said.

Poore said that during a weather emergency, Twitter is used to get information out quickly and directly to the public and media. Twitter has been effective in directing users to the SCDOT website, where road conditions are updated around the clock, Poore said.

Another advantage of Twitter is the opportunity to address concerns from the public.

"We can respond in a timely fashion to help the public learn more about our agency's programs," Poore said. "We've received a lot of positive feedback."

The agency uses Twitter to distribute photographs and has begun to provide links to in-house videos.

"From 'live Tweeting' at a recent groundbreaking ceremony in Orangeburg to providing safety related videos, our office is set up to take full advantage of this social media tool as another way to communicate with the public," Poore said.

Here are a few examples of comments about SCDOT on Twitter:

• "Fact: If I call the @SCDOTPress about potholes? They take care of it. Jasper county and the SC DOT rocks!!"

• "Great hustle @SCDOTPress View cleared on SB I-85 off ramp at Exit 6 in less than a day. Well done!"

• "YAAASSSSS RT @SCDOTPress 3 lanes of I-20 WB in NE #RichlandCounty all open today! Widening project looking good! #sctweets"

The agency's official Twitter account is @SCDOTPress.

"We hope our employees help spread the word about our Twitter account to family and friends," Poore said. "It's a great way to follow SCDOT activities."



@SCDOTPress

Jeff Jordan's 'Ride To Remember' helps others



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employee Jeff Jordan, front right, rides through Laurens County along S.C. Highway 39 on the "A Ride To Remember," a 3-day, 252-mile bike ride across South Carolina to raise money to benefit the S.C. chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

By Pete Poore

The Connector continues its look at SCDOT employees who could be considered "extreme athletes." In this edition, we'll introduce you to Jeff Jordan, an engineer who is the Construction Scheduler for District 3

During an average year, he participates in four to five triathlons, a handful of 5k races, one or two 10k races, a half marathon

and three to four cycling time trial races. Jordan racks up more than 2,000 miles per year on the bike. This year he logged in 10 miles as of July 2

Some might ask the Clemson graduate, "Why?" The answer is based in Charleston. "I got talked into running the Cooper River Bridge Run 14 years ago," said Jordan. "That's where it all started and the more I ran the better and faster I got, so I stuck with the training," he added.

Anyone with a full-time job and a family has to exercise good time management to train consistently. However, the District 3 engineer has one distinct advantage. "The District Headquarters building is one mile from the local YMCA, and it's possible to run to the Y where you can connect with their running trails for a lunchtime run," he said.

The YMCA also provides opportunities for cross-training where Jordan can swim, play bas-

ketball or bike for 15-to-20 miles.

Jordan is a member of a group of athletes called "Finish Strong." "Finish Strong" is a Christian non-profit ministry that partners with other groups and athletes to support charitable causes. The group's cycling teams either participate in athletic events or sponsor their own events.

In July 2014, Jordan and some of his teammates took part in the "Ride to Remember." Over 100 cyclists gathered in Simpsonville on July 18 to begin a 32-mile, three-day ride from Simpsonville to Mount Pleasant. The event was a fund-raiser for the S.C. Alzheimer's Association.

Cyclists could ride portions of the cross-state journey from the Upstate to the Lowcountry, or travel the entire way. Jordan chose all three days and 252 miles. He said the ride was a little tough at first. "We went the first 45 miles too fast, but we made the adjustment. The last 10 miles from Orangeburg to Mount Pleasant went better than expected," said Jordan. The SCDOT engineer and all the cyclists who participated raised just a few dollars shy of \$10,000 for the three-day ride.

Jordan is pleased that his fitness program can also help others as well as benefit his own health and well-being. He says he



records his workout and competition data. How much? "Everything," said the multi-sport athlete. His records show that since he began his fitness program 14 years ago, he's lost about 10 lbs. over the years.

What's next for him following the "Ride to Remember?" Jordan has focused his training on triathlons and a Half-Ironman triathlon next year.

By Pete Poore

SCDOT's extreme athletes continue quests



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Spring 2014 issue of The Connector introduced you to three SCDOT employees accomplishing remarkable athletic challenges. Here's an update on their accomplishments since then:

- **Mike Barbee** – Competed in the Grandfather Mountain Marathon on July 12 in Boone, NC. Also in July he competed in the Landsford Canal 50 (3.1 miles) in Landsford State Park in York County. Preparing for a 10-mile event in February 2015.

- **Charlie Brown** (Shown left) – Participated in the open water "12-Mile Swim Around Charleston" on Sept. 21. He finished 19th among 28 starters with a time of 5 hours, 42 minutes and 12 seconds.

- **Mark Pleasant** did not run the 2014 New York City Marathon on Nov. 2 but he was there. Mark supported a friend who has entered the race. This same friend came to support Mark when he ran the 2013 NYC Marathon.

Annual drill readies SC in case of hurricane



SCDOT employees Julian Robinson, left, and Christopher Bloome place barricades near the entrance of I-26 to simulate closing the entrance ramp during the hurricane lane-reversal drill.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees Harriett Caldwell-Moore, left, and Clarence Blakely look over lane reversal plans as SCDOT employees put out cones and barricades to simulate closing exits from interstates as part of a hurricane lane-reversal drill on June 3.



South Carolina Department of Public Safety Director Leroy Smith, left, S.C. Secretary of Transportation Janet P. Oakley, center, and SCDOT Deputy Director for Engineering Christy A. Hall discuss the operations of the hurricane lane-reversal drill at the intersection of Interstates 26 and 77.



ABOVE: SCDOT employees Terry Poole, left, and Milton Hill put out cones to simulate closing an exit on I-26 as part of the hurricane lane-reversal drill.



SCDOT employees assist with the hurricane drill at the S.C. Emergency Management Division headquarters.



LEFT: Kenny Eargle, left, and Brad Latham listen and respond to radio communications in the Central Command Center at SCDOT Headquarters during the June 3 hurricane evacuation drill.

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Taller, wider: S.C. 41 bridge over the Wando River replacement update



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The swing span on S.C. 41 was built over the Wando River in 1939. It will be replaced with a new bridge with a 55-foot vertical clearance.

By Pete Poore

SCDOT is moving forward with a project to replace the aging S.C. 41 Bridge over the Wando River in Berkeley County. The existing structure is a swing span bridge built in 1939 and must now be opened manually for boat traffic. This bridge is both structurally deficient and functionally obsolete and is nearing the end of its useful life. The new bridge will have a 55-foot vertical clearance to accommodate nautical traffic.

After concern over the proposed 55-foot vertical clearance of the bridge was voiced by

elected officials and other local stakeholders, SCDOT was asked to re-visit the vertical clearance requirements prior to beginning construction. SCDOT had been coordinating and consulting with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and other stakeholders for nearly the last 10 years developing this important infrastructure project.

In addition, SCDOT sent out more than 650 questionnaires to property/dock owners, marinas and other marine facilities upstream and downstream and to those who attended the public meeting held in December 2012. The results of the survey were

compiled and transmitted to the USCG for their review and vertical clearance determination.

After a thorough review, the USCG has determined that a 55-foot vertical clearance best meets the “reasonable needs of navigation” for this waterway. SCDOT has directed its contractor, PCL Civil Constructors to proceed with design and construction of a 55-foot vertical clearance, fixed span structure.

The design-build contract with PCL is for \$30.4 million. The construction schedule calls for completion in the fall of 2016. Traffic will be maintained on the existing bridge while the new bridge is under construction.



This sign will have to go once the new bridge is finished. The new bridge will be 67 feet, 11 inches wide and will be able to accommodate four 12-foot travel lanes with a 15-foot flush median with wide shoulders for bikes and pedestrians.



International Walk To School Day

Students from Pine Ridge Middle School tread along Fish Hatchery Road as they participate in the International Walk To School Day on Oct. 8.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT agents train, learn at annual Rights of Way symposium



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The annual meeting is a training opportunity for the Rights of Way staff, and is the only time all the employees gather together during the year.

By **Bob Kudelka**

The 2014 Rights of Way Symposium drew a much larger than expected crowd of SCDOT partners who joined employees for the training sessions in September.

In all, nearly 200 people attended the symposium, said SCDOT Director of Rights of Way **Brian Keys**.

"I think it's been tremendous," Keys said as the two-day symposium neared an end. "I've had overwhelmingly positive comments from the staff and our partners in business, appraisers, FHWA, our Local Public Agencies and consultants."

Keys, who took over as ROW director in August 2013, wanted to continue training for the ROW employees and build on a symposium held in 2011. Having the partners in business and local governments at-

tend this year was a natural fit.

"We're making sure everybody has the same focus and understanding of the new rules and guidelines that have come out," Keys said.

Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley** provided opening remarks, calling the ROW office "one of the least understood in many departments and frequently overlooked."

"You're the lynchpin in the middle of the project delivery process," Oakley said. "You're the point of public engagement that frequently has the greatest impact on the public. It's critical what you do to project delivery."

In a typical highway project, the task of rights of way employees falls in the middle of the design and construction process, Keys said. Rights of way cannot be purchased until designs are completed.

Oakley noted that Mary Peters began

her career in right of way and later headed up Arizona DOT and the U.S. Department of Transportation. "She came from your ranks," Oakley said. "That's a testimony to the vital role you all play and what you deliver to and for the Department."

"You are really a focal point for customer service and public engagement for the department. Without you, quite honestly, we would not be able to build the trust and have that positive public engagement. You really are the point of contact, in so many ways, for the Department."

Kicking off the symposium were informative and inspirational remarks by **Alex Nelson** and **Rob Manning**.

Then it was time for breakout sessions on topics such as Acquisition and Appraisal processes; utilities, railroads and rights of way; real estate acquisition under the Uniform Act; time management; billboards and outdoor advertising; ROW data man-

agement system; and Local Public Agency real estate acquisition. There were also general sessions on the Freedom of Information Act, Map 21 and communication.

Presenters included: **Alex Nelson, Tammy Quick, Doug Timmons, Robert Manning, Holly Moody, Evelyn Turner, Robbie Giddens, Cedric Keitt, Daryl Hardwick, Barbara Wessinger, Mark Anthony, Mark Walker, Keith Melvin, Willie Johnson, Mark Attaway, Beach Brooker, Sherri Devereaux, Polly McCutcheon**; and Marshall Wainright and Jessica Hekter, both of FHWA.

Keys thanked the following for helping make the symposium a success: Chair **Annette McCrorey**; and co-chair **Conshelda Nelson; Tina White; Tina Kennedy**; and Shaun Gaines of Clemson University/T3S. Keys also gave special thanks to attorney Paul D. de Holczer and SCDHHS employee Bobby George.

Rights of Way Symposium

Some of the topics covered at the symposium included:

- Plans Reading
- Real Estate Acquisition under the Uniform Act
- Utilities/Railroads
- R/W Data Management
- Billboards/Outdoor Advertising
- Preventing the Boiling Point
- How to Manage Priorities and Time
- Local Public Agency Real Estate Acquisition
- Freedom of Information Act
- Map Communication
- Title VI
- The Importance of Documentation

HOW MANY OF THESE SPEAKERS CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

See the answers on page 10.



RIGHTS OF WAY

Service Awards

presented by Director of Rights of Way Brian Keys



Kimberly Caraway - 15 years



Patricia Finch - 20 years



Holly Moody - 15 years



Shirley Cotterell - 20 years

Kathryn Copeland
10 years

Reginald Elliott
10 years

Janet P.
Oakley

HOW MANY OF THESE SPEAKERS CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

Here are the answers from
page 9.



Tim Cosh - 20 years



David McDougal - 30 years

Brian
Keys

Holly
Moody

Beach
Booker

Jessica
Hekter

Evelyn
Turner

Mark
Attaway

Willie
Johnson

Alex
Nelson

Bobby
George

Daryl
Hardwick

Polly
McCutcheon

Doug
Timmons

Tammy
Quick

Paul de Holczer

Mark
Walker

Rob
Manning

Barbara
Wessinger

Marshall
Wainright

Keith Melvin

Karin Hill

Cedric
Keitt

Sherri
Devereaux

SCDOT traffic camera now streaming online

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT this fall began providing online streaming video of traffic as part of its 511 Traveler Information System.

The streaming video from SCDOT's traffic cameras replaces still images that were updated online every few seconds.

"Streaming video was always a top requested item from the public," said Director of Traffic Engineering **Tony Sheppard**. "From day one, when we put any image on the web, people wanted streaming video. They

wanted those up to date, live images. Technological advances now provide us a chance to do it."

Sheppard thanked the following employees in Traffic Engineering for helping make the project a success: **Dan Campbell, Tisha Dickerson, Charlie Shirley and Shaun Stargel**.

Reaction to the new technology was positive, according to feedback from both social

media and mainstream media.

tic cables had made it impossible to connect to SCDOT's streaming video in the past.

"In places where they didn't have the IT (Information Technology) infrastructure, now these first responders can receive it over the internet," Sheppard said.

SCDOT has 336 cameras placed along interstates and other major highways. The cameras are linked to the agency's Traffic Management Centers where employees communicate with first responders, including SCDOT SHEP trucks, to help manage traffic. The

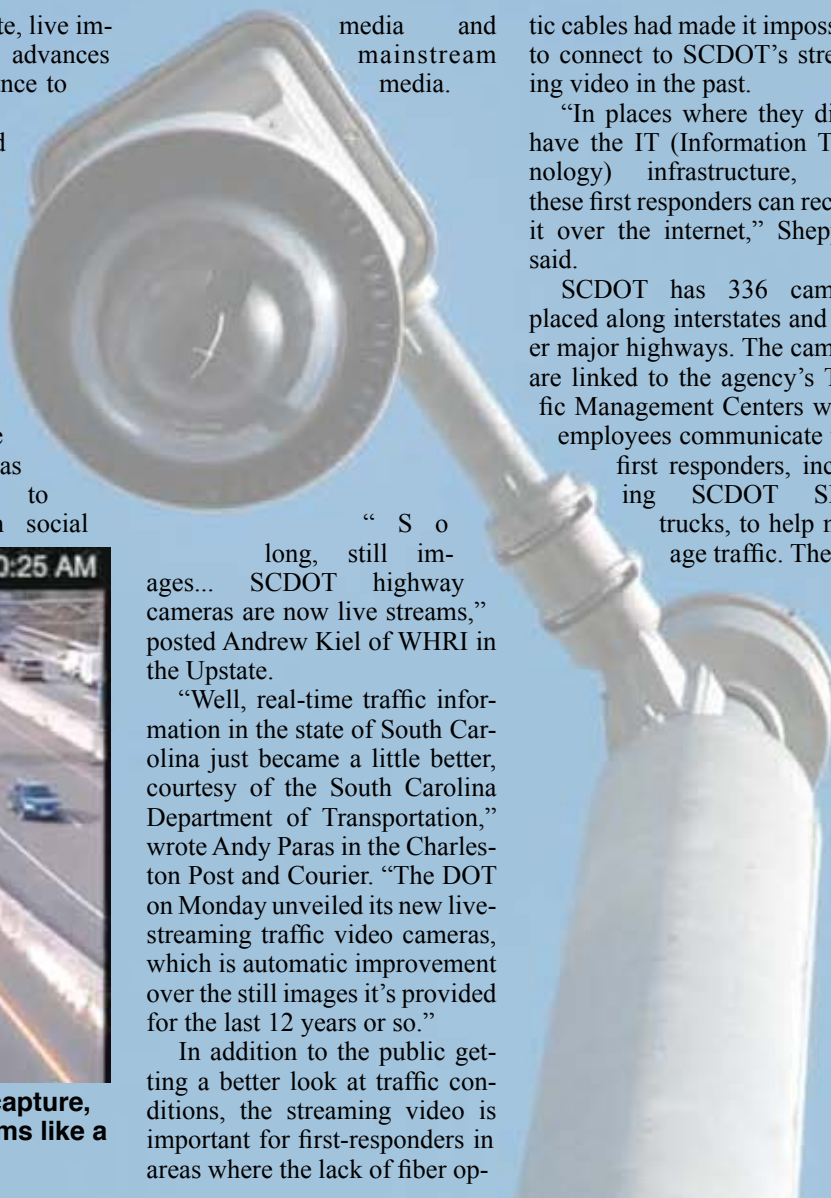
cameras do not record video.

The web address for the 511 Traveler Information System is www.511sc.org, which can also be accessed from SCDOT's home page, www.scdot.org. There are free apps available for cell phones and tablets that operate on the iPhone and Android platforms. Links to download the applications are on the 511 website under "Extras" and "511 Tools." Do not use these applications while you are driving. Be safe and either pull over or have a passenger access them while in a motor vehicle.

SCDOT's 511 system provides information on construction projects, lane closures, crashes, congestion and severe weather affecting traffic. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be accessed by computer, telephone, smartphone or tablet.

In addition, the system includes a telephone service through an interactive, voice-activated roadway and traffic information system accessed by calling 511 from your home, office, or cell phone.

Earlier this year, the online 511 system began a new mapping function called "Reach the Beach," which uses beach ball icons to provide distances and times to routes to popular SC coastal destinations.



"So long, still images... SCDOT highway cameras are now live streams," posted Andrew Kiel of WHRI in the Upstate.

"Well, real-time traffic information in the state of South Carolina just became a little better, courtesy of the South Carolina Department of Transportation," wrote Andy Paras in the Charleston Post and Courier. "The DOT on Monday unveiled its new live-streaming traffic video cameras, which is automatic improvement over the still images it's provided for the last 12 years or so."

In addition to the public getting a better look at traffic conditions, the streaming video is important for first-responders in areas where the lack of fiber op-



Live streaming video, shown above in a screen capture, displays current traffic flow and potential problems like a disabled vehicle.

I-26 Safety Corridor Project: *Clearing, grubbing, guardrail installation*

By Pete Poore

The SCDOT Commission approved the awarding of a contract for the first of two projects intended to improve safety on the I-26 corridor between Summerville and I-95.

SCDOT is moving forward with a project that calls for the clearing, grubbing, regrading and installation of standard cable guardrails between the following mile markers:

- 182-183
- 187-191
- 193-189.5

The plan calls for work to start at the beginning of 2015 and to complete the project before Labor Day 2015, approximately a 270-day period. The contract was awarded to Cherokee Construction in the amount of \$5,016,659. Cherokee's bid included completing the project in 240 days once the work begins. A second project to install high tension cable is still in the design phase.



The corridor along I-26 between I-95 and Summerville has a history of single-vehicle crashes.

- 170-171
- 175-176

Interstate 95, U.S. 301 interchange project

Project to make intersection improvements, extend U.S. 301 to S.C. 6



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Dignitaries break ground on the intersection improvement and connector project in Orangeburg County near Santee.

By Bob Kudelka

The economic impact for Orangeburg County and all of South Carolina was a popular theme among speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony for the I-95/U.S. 301 Interchange and S.C. 6 Connector Project.

“To simply label this as an interchange project does not do it justice in terms of its importance to the economy of Orangeburg County and South Carolina,” said Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley**. “The improvements that we will see at this interchange represent a new asset that will greatly strengthen South Carolina’s position in the global economy.”

Joining Oakley at the groundbreaking were a host of federal, state and local leaders. They included Santee Mayor Donnie Hilliard; Orangeburg County

Development Commission Chair Kenneth Middleton; Orangeburg County Development Commission Board Member Kenneth Ott; SCDOT Commissioner Sam Glover; Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright; Orangeburg County Councilmember Johnny Ravenell; and 6th District Congressman James E. Clyburn.

The I-95/U.S. 301 Interchange and S.C. 6 Connector Project represents a collaborative effort between federal, state, local and private entities to provide a full access interchange and connector road to help service the current and future infrastructure needs of the areas near I-95 and Santee. The goal is to improve economic development for Orangeburg County by providing full interstate access for proposed commercial developments.

Former SC State football

coach Willie Jeffries, now Commissioner of the SC Ports Authority, officiated the ceremony.

Oakley said the Global Logistics Triangle paves the way for industrial sites that are rated as “Premier Mega Sites” by the Department of Commerce. These are sites that offer 1,000 acres or more to companies and industries interested in locating in South Carolina.

Commissioner Glover said the project is going to be a major economic stimulus for South Carolina, and especially for Orangeburg County. The largest rural county in our state, Orangeburg County is one of 12 counties in South Carolina nationally designated as a “persistent poverty county.”

Glover gave a detailed description of the project, which will be designed as a “Partial Cloverleaf Interchange.” This type of design has become one of the most

popular freeway-to-arterial interchange designs in North America.

Highlights of the project include:

- Full access to I-95
- Continuous traffic flow from U.S. 301
- There will be a Connector Road over to S.C. 6. This will have a 5-lane section and a 3-lane ditch section.
- There will be a new intersection at the proposed development; a new bridge over CSX railroad; new turn lanes on S.C. 6; and reconnection of LTD Rd. (County Rd.) to S.C. 6 Connector.

Glover said vital support was given by Congressional and State Legislators, Orangeburg County and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG: including LSCOG identifying \$17.2 million dollars in guide-share funds, \$11 million in earmarks and Orangeburg County

receiving a TIGER III grant of \$12 million dollars. With over \$40 million total funds allocated to this project and the support of FHWA, SCDOT has procured McCarthy Construction through a design-build process to build the interchange and connector roadway. Its schedule has been accelerated to be completed in the fall of 2015.

Oakley said the site is ideally situated near the midway point along I-95 between New York City and Miami. Two major interstates; I-95 and I-26 intersect just nine miles from the interchange. This provides quick access to both national and regional markets.

“It’s a brand new day in Santee,” Santee Mayor Donnie Hilliard said.

“Nothing can produce a winner like a little teamwork,” said Jeffries, wrapping up the ceremony.

PROMOTIONS

Christopher Madden, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Greenville Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Daniel Burton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 6 Special Projects Construction on Aug. 17.

Neal Anderson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Pickens Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Cynthia Myers, promoted to trades specialist IV at Hampton Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Joe Herrin, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Jeremy Hodges, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Laurens Construction on Aug. 17.

Mark Felder, promoted to trades specialist V at Calhoun Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Wesley Hedden, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Laurens Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Derrick Tindal, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at District 5 Office on Aug. 17.

Joseph Stokes, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Bamberg Construction on Aug. 17.

Paul Miller, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Richland Construction on Aug. 17.

Michael Cooper, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Dorchester Construction on Aug. 17.

Hugh Boyd, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Aiken Construction on Aug. 17.

Freddie Young, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Aug. 17.

James Johnson, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Richland Construction on Aug. 17.

Jimmy Payton, promoted to trades specialist V at Anderson Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Johnathan Greer, promoted to mechanic III at Anderson Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Carl Smith, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Aiken Construction on Aug. 17.

Michael Bolin, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Joseph Butchko, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on Aug. 17.

Daniel Black, promoted to associate geodetic technician at York Construction on Aug. 17.

Matthew Coker, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Robert Hall, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Richland Construction on Aug. 17.

John Chandler, promoted to information technology manager II in IT

Services on Aug. 17.

Isaac Bentley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Director of Maintenance on Aug. 17.

Jon Upson, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Marcena Reppenhagen, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Lexington Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Jacob Robinson, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Andrew Miller, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Maintenance Operations on Aug. 2.

Kenneth Barwick, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Marquise Witherspoon, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Jamie Gambrell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Spartanburg Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Samuel Wickenhoefer, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Jasper Construction on Aug. 2.

Frederick Thompson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Spartanburg Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Jason Kirby, promoted to osha officer II at Florence Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Doyle Waites, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Newberry Construction on Aug. 2.

Lauren Bollinger, promoted to right of way agent II at Right of Way - Greenville on Aug. 2.

Melvin Alexander, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Robert Patterson, promoted to communications manager at District 3 Office on Aug. 2.

Jimmie Jones, promoted to mechanic II at Aiken Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Charles Cook, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Cory Simmons, promoted to trades specialist III at District 3 Maintenance Operations on Aug. 2.

Joel Smith, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

Justin Welch, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Sumter Construction on Aug. 2.

Krysztyn Niemira, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Aug. 2.

James Fender, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Traffic Signals on Aug. 2.

Cayleigh Snodgrass, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Jasper Construction on Aug. 2.

Roger Sears, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1

Lowcountry on Aug. 2.

Calvin Turnage, promoted to printing manager III in Preconstruction Support on Aug. 2.

Janice Dixon, promoted to procurement manager I in Procurement on Aug. 2.

Donald Rogers, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Director of Construction Office on Aug. 2.

Patricia Bradley, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on July 17.

Lance Langdale, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on July 17.

Joseph Wheeler, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Materials and Research on July 17.

Derrick Avant, promoted to associate geodetic technician at District 3 Bridge Inspection on July 17.

Jovaldis Bonnette, promoted to trades specialist III at Equipment Service Depot on July 17.

Kelvin Davis, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on July 17.

Jerry Creed, promoted to trades specialist IV at Kershaw Maintenance on July 17.

Christopher Singleton, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Horry Construction on July 17.

Rolando Pe'rez, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on July 17.

Leonard Hendrix, promoted to trades specialist III at District 3 Maintenance Operations on July 17.

Patricia Langland, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Traffic Engineering on July 17.

Joy Shealy, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 1 Lowcountry on July 17.

Amy Shepherd, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 Midlands on July 17.

Brian Dix, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 2 Pee Dee on July 17.

Nicholas Harman, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Preconstruction Support on July 17.

Barbara Sharpe, promoted to accountant/fiscal analyst III in Program Controls on July 17.

Lokesh Patel, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 Lowcountry on July 17.

Monica Meares, promoted to administrative assistant at Florence Maintenance on July 2.

Chad Greene, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on July 2.

Iksha Jennings, promoted to program manager I at Materials and Research on July 2.

Patricia Kannegieser, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort

Maintenance on July 2.

Charlie Green, promoted to trades specialist IV at Dorchester Maintenance on July 2.

Terry Johnson, promoted to trades specialist III at Clarendon Maintenance on July 2.

Norman Adams, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on July 2.

Benjamin Harvey, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on July 2.

William Black, promoted to trades specialist III at District 3 Maintenance Operations on July 2.

Chad Elledge, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 Lowcountry on July 2.

Jack Vaughn, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Anderson Maintenance on June 17.

Billy Grant, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on June 17.

Michael Wade, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on June 17.

Brian Holt, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 6 Office on June 17.

Zonni Holmes, promoted to senior geodetic technician at District 6 Office on June 17.

Vincent Wade, promoted to senior geodetic technician at District 3 Bridge Inspection on June 17.

Johnny Freeman, promoted to trades specialist IV at McCormick Maintenance on June 17.

Leonardo Glover, promoted to trades specialist III at Fairfield Maintenance on June 17.

Henry Shumpert, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Lexington Surveys on June 17.

Wanda Pontoo, promoted to program coordinator I in Business Development and Special Programs on June 17.

Mary Andrews, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Traffic Engineering on June 17.

Larry Lucas, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Traffic Engineering on June 17.

Jon Greer, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Materials and Research on June 2.

Delicia Wingard, promoted to program coordinator II at Vacancy Pool on June 2.

Charles Seigler, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on June 2.

Thomas Bostic, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Marion Construction on June 2.

Elliott Sellers, promoted to trades specialist III at District 4 Bridge Maintenance on June 2.

Fredie McAlister, promoted to

trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on June 2.

Alvin Nidiffer, promoted to supply manager I at Equipment Service Depot on June 2.

Juan Torres, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on June 2.

Anthony Burgess, promoted to senior geodetic technician at District 3 Office on June 2.

Tandy West, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Lexington Construction on June 2.

Vitaliy Bobik, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on June 2.

Oscar Aldrete, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on June 2.

Paul Grier, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Traffic Signals on June 2.

Tiffany Jones, promoted to human resource manager II in Human Resources on June 2.

Dwayne Jeffcoat, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on May 17.

Jason Sharpe, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on May 17.

Edward Burgess, promoted to trades specialist IV at Laurens Maintenance on May 17.

Ebony Middleton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Spartanburg Maintenance on May 17.

Christopher Couch, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Greenville Construction on May 17.

Spencer Cox, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at District 5 Bridge Inspection on May 17.

Michael Rowland, promoted to trades specialist IV at Laurens Maintenance on May 17.

Allen Oxendine, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Aiken Construction on May 17.

Jesse Thompson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at Materials and Research on May 17.

Timothy Harbin, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on May 17.

Jeremiah Harmon, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 1 Lowcountry on May 17.

Nathalia Chandler, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 2 Pee Dee on May 17.

Sara Stone, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 3 Midlands on May 17.

Nickolas Waites, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Director of Construction Office on May 17.

See PROMOTIONS
on page 14.

PROMOTIONS continued from page 13

Michael Humphries, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RRP 4 Upstate on May 17.

Jonathan Hall, promoted to incident responder I at SHEP - Upstate on May 19.

Rodney Davis, promoted to trades specialist III at Marion Maintenance on May 2.

Scottie Owens, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on May 2.

Rodney Parker, promoted to trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance on May 2.

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

Robert Isgett, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV at District 1 Office on May 2.

Bradley Dingey, promoted to incident responder II at SHEP - Rock Hill on May 2.

James Ulmer, promoted to trades specialist IV at Colleton Maintenance on May 2.

Jake Pagels, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on May 2.

David Woodard, promoted to trades specialist IV at Fairfield Maintenance on May 2.

Michael Gibson, promoted to trades specialist III at Oconee Maintenance on May 2.

Columbus Buggs, promoted to trades specialist III at District 1 Bridge Maintenance on May 2.

Jeffrey Cochran, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Spartanburg Construction on May 2.

Charles Gadson, promoted to trades specialist III at Fairfield Maintenance on May 2.

Stephen Edmunds, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance on May 2.

Alan Adams, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Pickens Construction on May 2.

Brian Gray, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Horry 1 Maintenance on May 2.

Christopher Turner, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on May 2.

Charlie Crockett, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on May 2.

David Johnson, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on May 2.

Harry Davis, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on May 2.

Timothy Gemensky, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Traffic Engineering on May 2.

Lorinda Simmons, promoted to

program coordinator II in Call Center on May 2.

Joseph Bennett, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I in RPG 4 Upstate on May 2.

Christy Hall, promoted to Deputy Secretary for Engineering on May 28.

James Warren, promoted to Deputy Secretary for Finance and Procurement on May 28.

William Hodge, promoted to trades specialist IV at Clarendon Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Kevin Spivey, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Florence Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Preston Rogers, promoted to incident responder II at SHEP - Myrtle Beach on Oct. 17.

Jennifer Messex, promoted to right of way agent I at Right of Way - St. George on Oct. 17.

Timothy Britt, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Georgetown Construction on Oct. 17.

Frederick Devine, promoted to mechanic II at Aiken Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Michael Healy, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Mark Pleasant, promoted to program manager III in Office of Planning on Oct. 17.

Kathy Kyzer, promoted to printing manager II in Preconstruction Support on Oct. 17.

Thomas Knight, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Preconstruction Support on Oct. 17.

Chad McMillan, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Robert Redding, promoted to trades specialist V at Greenville Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Joshua Durham, promoted to trades specialist IV at Oconee Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Jack Robertson, promoted to trades specialist V at District 3 Traffic Signals on Oct. 2.

Robert Coker, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Lexington Construction on Oct. 2.

John Welborn, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at District 1 Office on Oct. 2.

Nina Wessinger, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Oct. 2.

Christopher Lybarker, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Materials and Research on Oct. 2.

Charlene Smith, promoted to program coordinator II at Materials and Research on Oct. 2.

Christopher Wilson, promoted to trades specialist IV at District 3 Maintenance Operations on Oct. 2.

Becky Kuhn, promoted to administrative assistant at Chesterfield Construction on Oct. 2.

Jerry Crisp, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance

on Oct. 2.

Russell Renau, promoted to mechanic III at Charleston Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Claude Keeton, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Brian Hodges, promoted to trades specialist IV at York Maintenance on Oct. 2.

Darlene Broughton, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 Midlands on Oct. 2.

Brooks Bickley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 Lowcountry on Oct. 2.

Casey Lucas, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 3 Midlands on Oct. 2.

Jennifer Necker, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Oct. 2.

Danielle Lester, promoted to human resource manager I in Human Resources on Oct. 6.

Laquann Mitchell, promoted to trades specialist III at Jasper Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Sugar Sugar, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Tammy Rogers, promoted to administrative specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Joshua McDowell, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on Sept. 17.

Lester Parris, promoted to trades specialist V at Cherokee Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Ernest Sanders, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Roy Brown, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Ryan Martin, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Materials and Research on Sept. 17.

David Sage, promoted to incident responder II at SHEP - Upstate on Sept. 17.

Robert Branham, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Materials and Research on Sept. 17.

Jeffery Lewis, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Thomas Bond, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Sept. 17.

James Buckner, promoted to trades specialist IV at Laurens Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Randy Hill, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Densel Pennington, promoted to trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Michael Collins, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Tina Price, promoted to supply specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance

Davis named Director of Minority and Small Business Affairs

Greg Davis has been named the SCDOT Director of Minority and Small Business Affairs. The Office of Business Development and Special Programs has transferred from the Division of Support Services into the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs.

Davis has more than 20 years experience with small business development and minority relations, including serving as the Director of the South Carolina Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Development Manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

Davis has degrees and certifications from the University of South Carolina and Dartmouth College. He has served as a board member of more than 15 organizations that support Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) efforts, including the Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance, the Carolinas Minor-

nance on Sept. 17.

Joseph Marcus, promoted to mechanic II at Lexington Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Jeffrey Shields, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Sept. 17.

David Felt, promoted to trades specialist V at Charleston Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Christopher Jones, promoted to trades specialist III at District 1 Bridge Maintenance on Sept. 17.

Jennifer Rhoades, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Traffic Engineering on Sept. 17.

Renee Gardner, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 Midlands on Sept. 17.

Branford Breland, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 1 Lowcountry on Sept. 17.

Marcus Moore, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Willis Dobison, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Dorchester Construction on Sept. 2.

Kevin Mitchell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Charleston Construction on Sept. 2.

Luther Simmons, promoted to trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Troy Seigler, promoted to trades specialist III at McCormick Maintenance on Sept. 2.



Gregory Davis

ity Supplier Development Council – Midlands Advisory Committee, and the South Carolina Chamber Small Business Task Force. Davis is a member of the Harvest Church in Lexington. He has three adult children and one energetic grandson.

In his spare time Davis volunteers with several youth leadership groups and spends two weeks a year at a school he has adopted in Kenya.

Joseph McIntyre, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Lexington Construction on Sept. 2.

Mack Motley, promoted to mechanic II at Kershaw Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Amoretta Smith, promoted to right of way agent II at Right of Way - Florence on Sept. 2.

David Miles, promoted to trades specialist III at District 4 Bridge Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Victor Ajide, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Charleston Construction on Sept. 2.

Bobby Easler, promoted to trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Gene Penninger, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on Sept. 2.

Maria Devito, promoted to program coordinator I in Director of Construction Office on Sept. 2.

Adam Humphries, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in RPG 3 Midlands on Sept. 2.

Janet Jones, promoted to program manager I in Intermodal and Freight Programs on Sept. 2.

Hiram Sipes, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in Preconstruction Support on Sept. 2.

Alexander Burton, promoted to program coordinator I in Business Development and Special Programs on Sept. 2.

RETIREMENTS

Catherine Acquisto retired April 4 from the Office of Materials and Research.

Caleb Welch retired July 3 from Vacancy Pool.

Toby Alston retired May 29 from Procurement.

Richard Corley retired June 30 from Preconstruction Support.

Charles Smoak retired June 30 from Preconstruction Support.

Leland Worley retired Oct. 1 from Greenville Surveys.

Homer Randolph retired May 29 from District 1 Office.

Samuel McDowell retired May 29 from District 2 Office.

Harold Fleming retired May 7 from District 3 Office.

Bonita Davenport retired June 17 from District 3 Office.

Gwendolyn Johnson retired Sept. 30 from District 3 Office.

Dale Massey retired Oct. 2 from District 3 Office.

Robert Barfield retired Sept.

16 from District 6 Office.

Morris Gunter retired May 28 from Lexington Maintenance.

Eddie Spears retired July 3 from Lexington Maintenance.

Vernelle Alston retired May 16 from Richland Maintenance.

Anthony Brown retired May 22 from Richland Maintenance.

Timothy Stone retired June 16 from Richland Maintenance.

Trina Taylor retired June 20 from Richland Maintenance.

David Campbell retired July 22 from Laurens Maintenance.

Wallace Witten retired Sept. 1 from Saluda Maintenance.

David Brownlee retired Aug. 27 from Laurens Construction.

Sammy Kiser retired June 30 from Greenville Maintenance.

James Harvey retired Aug. 29 from Oconee Maintenance.

Charles Simmons retired June 16 from Pickens Maintenance.

Carlos Sams retired June 30 from Pickens Maintenance.

James Esuary retired Oct. 16 from Pickens Maintenance.

Charlie Jackson retired June 2 from Spartanburg Maintenance.

Steven Weathers retired July 30 from Spartanburg Maintenance.

Gary Ramsey retired Sept. 1 from Cherokee Maintenance.

Jeffrey Gardner retired June 3 from Lancaster Maintenance.

Darlene Wright retired June 30 from Chesterfield Maintenance.

Gonzie Hudson retired Sept. 1 from Darlington Maintenance.

Preston Vereen retired June 30 from Georgetown Maintenance.

Eddie Hughes retired May 16 from Horry 1 Maintenance.

Lewis Soles retired May 30 from Horry 1 Maintenance.

William Bellamy retired Sept. 30 from Horry 1 Maintenance.

Willie Wilson retired May 27 from Williamsburg Maintenance.

Phyllis Wilson retired May 31 from Williamsburg Maintenance.

Rudolph Gerald retired June 30 from Horry Construction.

Stephen Berry retired June 30 from SHEP – Myrtle Beach.

Marlene Litchfield retired June 30 from Berkeley Maintenance.

Genesis McDowell retired Sept. 5 from Berkeley Maintenance.

David Carder retired June 10 from Charleston Maintenance.

Dequelyn Grant retired June 2 from Charleston Maintenance.

Richard Singleton retired May 30 from Colleton Maintenance.

Ruth Carr retired May 30 from District 6 – Bridge Inspec-

tion.

James Howard retired Sept. 24 from District 6 – Bridge Inspection.

Antonio Ragos retired Aug. 31 from Colleton Construction.

Nathaniel Johnson retired June 2 from Barnwell Maintenance.

Jeffrey Livingston retired June 2 from Calhoun Maintenance.

Charlton Carter retired June 30 from Calhoun Maintenance.

James Esaw retired July 3 from Calhoun Maintenance.

Horney Mitchell retired June 30 from Hampton Maintenance.

Ralph Langford retired June 30 from Aiken Construction.

Fate Jennings retired May 1 from McCormick Maintenance.

Richard Goff retired May 1 from McCormick Maintenance.

Eddie Terry retired Sept. 9 from McCormick Maintenance.

PROMOTIONS

Pleasant named Director of Planning

Mark D. Pleasant, of Columbia, has been named Director of Planning, succeeding Mark Lester. He previously was Chief of Statewide Planning.

He will manage and provide direction of the Office of Planning to implement an ongoing statewide transportation planning process, programs, and coordination consistent with MAP-21 requirements.

A native of Miami, Fla., Pleasant joined SCDOT in 1998 as Ur-

ban Planning Manager. He is a 1985 graduate of Palmetto Senior High. He attended Newberry College and is a 1991 graduate of Clemson University.

He is married to the former Geraldine Sherwood of Charleston, and they have a daughter, Megan, 14. He is a member of Trenholm Road Methodist Church and enjoys boating, tennis and running.

Employees take on 'grand' hike



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Susan Johnson, above left, completed a "Rim-to-Rim-to-Rim" Grand Canyon hike. She covered 44 miles in 48 hours with a 26,000-foot change in elevation on her hike in June. **Allen Frierson**, above right, of Lexington Construction, completed 21 miles of the hike in one day. They did a year of training hikes before completing this challenge.

DEATHS

Terry Arrants, of Lee Maintenance, died Aug. 27.

◆ ● ◆

Denise Biggers, of York Maintenance, died June 17.

◆ ● ◆



Philip Brooks, 66, of Irmo, former employee in the SCDOT Safety Office, died on Aug. 8.

◆ ● ◆

Dora Ruth Marchant, of Dorchester Construction, died Aug. 12.

◆ ● ◆

Milton F. "Jay" McElveen, 69, former SCDHPT and SCDPS employee, died Oct. 31.

◆ ● ◆

Myrtis Elizabeth Owens, 83, of West Columbia, former SCDOT Office Supply employee, died Aug. 22.

◆ ● ◆

Cleo Robinson, of Saluda Maintenance, died Sept. 3.

◆ ● ◆

Rayfield Singleton, of Jasper Maintenance, died June 22.

◆ ● ◆

John William Stroke, 77, of Chapin, former SCDOT Road Design employee died Aug. 17.

◆ ● ◆



Ella Ann Miles Parnell, 60, of Timmons ville, former employee at District 5 Office, died on July 3.

◆ ● ◆

Charles Wells, of Sumter Maintenance, died Oct. 2.

Summer internships bring future engineers to SCDOT

By Kimberly Corley Communications

Each summer, dozens of college students across the state participate in the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) internship program. Internships are especially important for those individuals aspiring to a career in the engineering field. These internships provide students with a platform to gain practical experience not found in textbooks or learned in college lecture halls.

Stephen Tosco, a senior at the University of South Carolina majoring in civil engineering, was assigned to SCDOT headquarters and interned with Regional Production Group 3

Tosco first became interested in engineering at an early age; born into a family of residential home builders. He said, "I began to want to know more about the construction of bigger projects such as highways and bridges." It was this desire that led him to pursue the study of civil engineering and, most recently, traffic engineering and project management.

He believes that this internship will be an important stepping stone in his future career. "I have been working on various engineering tasks, attending County transportation committee and public meetings and estimating enhancement and c-projects, reading plans, and scoping different jobs in the field," he said. He is certain that the experience he has gained here at SCDOT has provided him with insights and familiarity with his chosen profession.

Despite being offered other opportunities with private firms, Tosco chose internship with SCDOT. When asked what motivated him to choose SCDOT, he said, "A few of my professors last semester worked with SCDOT on different projects and had the greatest things to say about the work environment and employees." Stephen stated a career in public service is one of his goals.

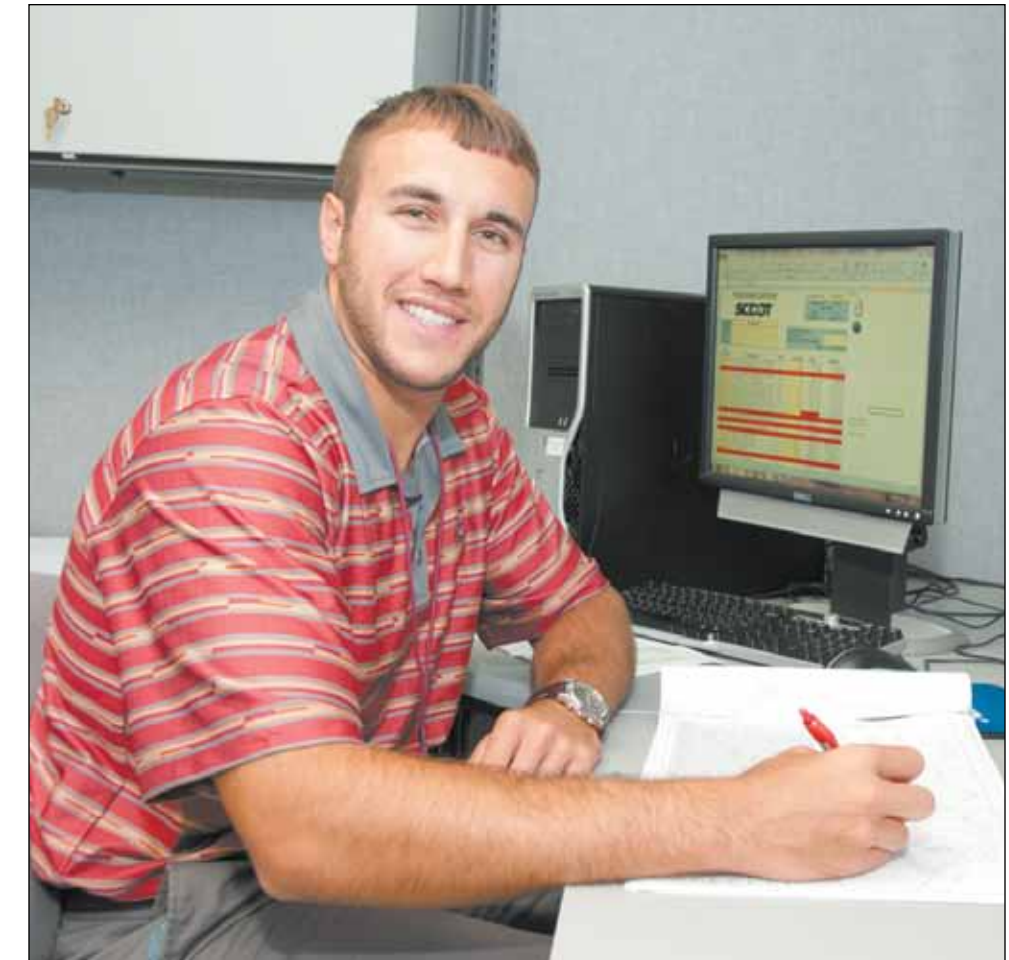
In September, he came back as a temporary employee. After graduating in December, he hopes to become a full-time engineer with SCDOT in Columbia or Charleston. He also aspires to obtain his PE license.

Morgan Cook, a rising senior at Clemson University also chose civil engineering



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Morgan Cook uses a traffic counter at an intersection in Charleston. She is a senior at Clemson studying civil engineering.



Stephen Tosco, above and at right, does his internship in the Regional Production Group 3 Office at SCDOT headquarters. Tosco is a senior civil engineering student at the University of South Carolina.



Trelvonta Peoples checks out the plans where new reflective pavement markers are being installed in Bamberg. Peoples is a junior at Clemson majoring in civil engineering.



as her major. She received an assignment to Traffic Engineering in District 6.

Her strong desire to help people drew her to a career in engineering. "I can sit in the office with the engineers here and analyze different scenarios for a problem, and in a matter of time, the solution that we decide on is shown and I'll know that I had some part in helping that area and those people," she said.

Cook applied for a summer internship because she gravitates toward the transportation aspect of civil engineering. "I also knew that if I was able to intern with SCDOT, I would be able to see the technical side and standards for transportation systems in South Carolina, which would give me a good foundation to build off of no matter where I go," she said. However, she intends on a career in public service. "I will definitely be applying to come back and work with the traffic department in District 6," she said.

In the field, Cook demonstrated how she executed studies. She performed traffic and speed studies and collision analyses. "Most of the projects I work with are studies based on roads where people request certain things to be done," she said. "For example, left-turn phases at intersections, lower speed limits and traffic lights installed at intersections." The data collected from these stud-



Morgan Cook



Trelvonta Peoples

ies is entered in various computer programs used by SCDOT engineers. She believes this internship has given her the opportunity to familiarize herself with programs such as ITMS, MicroStation and Petra.

Trelvonta Peoples is a rising junior also

at Clemson University majoring in civil engineering and interned with the Bamberg Maintenance Office.

Peoples decided on his career path during his junior year of high school. "I knew I liked working outside, working with my hands," he said. "I took a few engineering classes in high school and they started to interest me so I decided that when I went to Clemson I would major in civil engineering."

This summer gave him a wealth of practical experience that will help him in his future career. "Honestly, I think you are better off learning in the field. You see it in the textbook, but out here you can actually see it being made and it's easier to grasp the concepts," he said. Although he has worked on numerous projects, he particularly enjoyed laying asphalt because he "was able to see something from start to finish."

Peoples would recommend interning with SCDOT because students can "get a good head start on learning different things you can do in the field of engineering."

He has not decided if he will pursue a career in public service or a position at a private firm. However, he does know that he will specialize in structural engineering.

When asked what the most important thing was that he would be taking away from his internship with SCDOT, he answered, "Practical field knowledge. The stuff I wouldn't be able to learn in the classroom."

Students interested in applying for internship opportunities or to learn more about SCDOT's internship program may visit www.scdot.gov for more information.

The complete interviews with Tosco, Cook and Peoples are available on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/SCDOTconnectoronline>

Regional Equipment Operators Safety and Training Conference

Highway workers show off skills, learn safest ways to do their work

SCDOT participated in the 2014 Regional Equipment Operators Safety and Training Conference held in Roanoke, Va., on Sept. 2-5. SCDOT was one of 10 southeastern region DOTs attending the conference, which provided specialized training in work site safety and equipment

operation. SCDOT was represented by our 12 state equipment operator winners who attended training modules and participated in the equipment operation competition. SCDOT maintenance employees who participated SCDOT were:

Name	County	Event
Joe Dwinnell	Anderson	Single Axle Truck
Kenneth Eaddy	Florence	Single Axle Truck
David Ramey	Oconee	Tandem Axle Truck
Curtis Trimble	Anderson	Tandem Axle Truck
J. W. Austin	York	Lowboy Truck
Freddie Brown	Florence	Lowboy Truck
Scott Burgess	Lexington	Motorgrader
James Catoe	Kershaw	Motorgrader
William Dingle	Clarendon	Tractor-Mower
Melvin Brown	York	Tractor-Mower
Trey Schmuck	Anderson	Backhoe
Brian Hodges	York	Backhoe

Each of these employees competed in individual equipment operation events and two employees placed in the respective categories: **James Catoe** placed 2nd in the Motorgrader competition and **Joe Dwinnell** placed 3rd in Single Axle Truck competition.

As a team, SCDOT finished 5th out of the 10 states participating. SCDOT will be hosting the 2015 Regional Equipment Operators Safety and Training Conference in late-September or early-October of next year in Myrtle Beach.



Could you pick up a golf ball using a backhoe bucket and drop it into a small container?

ABOVE: On May 14-15, the county winners across the state participated in SCDOT's Equipment Operators Safety and Training Conference. They competed in six different equipment categories.



RIGHT: Joe Dwinnell, left, placed third in the regional Single Axle Truck competition, and James Catoe, right, placed second in the regional Motorgrader competition.

ANDY LEAPHART/SUPPORT SERVICES



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The SCDOT Commission and Secretary Janet P. Oakley recognized the SCDOT equipment operators at the Sept. 18 commission meeting for the job they did representing the agency in the regional competition.



Scenes from the competition

Competitors, their family, judges and SCDOT staff watch the event on April 15 in Columbia.



SEE THE CONTESTANTS
on pages 20-21.

The Contestants

Equipment Operators' Safety and Training Conference



Mike Armstrong
Greenville



J.W. Austin
York



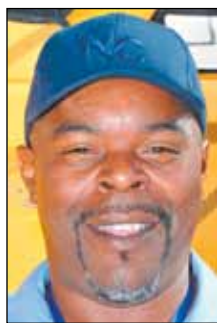
Anthony Bagwell
Pickens



Brian Bernier
Dorchester



Louie Brazell
York



Freddie Brown
Florence



Melvin Brown
York



Ric Buckner
Greenwood



Scott Burgess
Lexington



William Burgess
Florence



John Cathcart
Fairfield



James Catoe
Kershaw



Charles Cleveland
Anderson



Michael Collins
Georgetown



Shawn Commander
Darlington



Jacob Courtney
Saluda



Paul Cox
Chesterfield



Robbie Craigo
Greenville



Jerome Cunningham
Richland



Justin Davis
Greenville



William Dingle
Clarendon



Joe Dwinell
Anderson



Kenneth Eaddy
Florence



Leroy Elmore
Florence



Luke Erwin
Colleton



Dominic Ford
Horry



John Gaither
Lancaster



Richard Gilliard
Berkeley



Alfonzo Green
Orangeburg



Anthony Green
Lexington



Robert Green
Sumter



Gerome Haynes
Dorchester



Allen Heyward
Lexington



Brian Hodges
York



Kenneth Hunt
Oconee



Dwayne Jeffcoat
Richland



Jeff Kelly
Oconee



Darius Lee
York



Charles Long
Saluda



Beverly Lowery
Lee



Bernard Lucas
Florence



Kenneth Manke
Edgefield



Celina McFadden
Calhoun



Chad McMillan
Colleton



Terrell Mingo
Lancaster



Jack Miracle
Greenville



Dallas Mullinax
Greenville



Michael Murphy
Horry



Brent Nelson
Colleton



Michael O'Cain
Orangeburg



Joseph Padgett
Greenwood



Robert Perkins
Marlboro



Tyrone Peterson
Lee



William Rabon
Horry



William Ramey
Oconee



Matthew Sanford
Colleton



Trey Schmuck
Anderson



Charles Seigler
Aiken



Jeff Setzer
McCormick



Marion Shecut
Colleton



Jeremy Shrewsbury
York



Luther Shuler
Darlington



Perry Smith
Colleton



Charles Stachewicz
Colleton



Chad Stevens
Union



Joe Still
Barnwell



Richard Stroble
Charleston



Gene Taylor
Kershaw



Curtis Trimble
Anderson



Tavious Tucker
Richland



James Wannamaker
Calhoun



Corey Watkins
Lexington



Cliff Weaver
Spartanburg



Jayhue Weisner
Laurens



Jimmy Wheelin
Edgefield



Joey Whitt
Bamberg



John Williams
Bamberg



Joshua Williams
Calhoun

Families remember loved ones with state issued roadside memorials

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) allows immediate family members to apply for a new standard roadside memorial sign to honor loved ones who were lost in traffic crashes on the state's highways.

The 30" x 24" main sign will read "DRIVE SAFELY." A 24" x 12" memorial plaque will include the phrase "IN MEMORY OF" followed by the victim's name. An anonymous identification such as "A LOVED ONE" can also be used.

Immediate family members (parents, children, spouse, siblings, grandparents or grandchildren) may request a memorial by filling out the Memorial Signs Application. The application must include a copy of the accident report issued by the investigating law enforcement agency. Information on how to obtain an accident report is available on the SC Department of Motor Vehicles website.

Completed applications should be mailed to the following address:

SCDOT
Attn: Roadside Memorials
Room 205
PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191



More info at: http://www.scdot.org/getting/community_roadside_memorials.aspx

SCDOT updates agency's status for new legislative committee

By Pete Poore

Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley** and the three Deputy Secretaries provided a complete update on the status of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for the newly-created Transportation & Management Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee held its first meeting in Columbia on Sept. 16. Secretary Oakley presented the SCDOT Strategic Direction, mission and values. She cited four key goals the agency works toward achieving.

- Reduce fatalities on the SC transportation system to zero and reduce workplace accidents at SCDOT to zero.
- Preserve the transportation infrastructure before major repairs are needed.
- Optimize mobility.
- Enhance a strengthened economy.

Deputy Secretary for Engineering, **Christy A. Hall** presented a report on the condition and performance of the state system. The major points highlighted were:

- Safety. An analysis of crash, injury and fatality data and how that data is being used to develop countermeasures.
- The status of the state's 8,419 bridges which

included statistics that show that increased funding provided since 2007 has reduced the number of structurally deficient bridges.

- A report on the pavement condition of SC's 41,414 highway miles. A figure that represents the 4th largest maintained system in the nation.

The Committee was given an update on the state of public transit in South Carolina. Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning **Mark Lester** also discussed:

- Act 114 prioritization requirements as enacted by the General Assembly in 2007.
- Long range plans, including the 20-Year Transportation Plan for South Carolina which is in the draft phase of the required five-year update.

Deputy Secretary for Finance and Procurement **Jim Warren** reviewed SCDOT's financial resources and a breakdown of how the agency's revenues are received. This review demonstrated SCDOT's major dependence on federal funding. Warren also presented the agency's budgeting process.

The 13-member, bi-partisan committee was formed to study ways to meet South Carolina's highway funding needs and bring proposals to the General Assembly when it begins its 2015 session in January.

Information from the entire presentation can be found on the SCDOT web site: www.scdot.org



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

One goal of the agency is to preserve the transportation infrastructure before major repairs are needed.

Engineering News

I-85 I-85 interchange project underway

By Bob Kudelka

Growth in the Greenville area has led to one of the most congested interchanges in South Carolina.

Each day, approximately 190,000 vehicles use the I-85/I-85 interchange in downtown Greenville. The interchange was not built to handle such heavy traffic, especially at rush hour.

“Right now, it’s a parking lot during those periods,” said Design Build Engineer **Claude Ipock**, of the Construction Office. Help is on the way.

In August, SCDOT awarded its largest contract since the Cooper River Bridges replacement project in 2007 to improve capacity and safety of the I-85/I-85 interchange.

Upstate Regional Production Engineer **Tony Fallaw** said the \$31.1 million contract was awarded to a joint venture of Flatiron Constructors, Inc., of Firestone, Colorado, and Zachry Construction Corporation, of San Antonio, Texas.

Both firms have done major projects in South Carolina. Flatiron was a partner in the joint venture that built the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge; Zachary was the lead contractor on the I-95 widening in Richland County.

Secretary of Transportation **Anthony P. Oakley** said, “This is the first item on the list of Act 98 interstate projects that has advanced to construction. Once completed,



Auxiliary lanes will also be added to north- and south-bound I-85 lanes between Salters and Pelham roads.

The improvements will make this section of interstate safer and more efficient. Both of those elements greatly contribute to economic development and growth in our state.”

The I-85/I-85 project will replace existing two loop ramps with directional ramps and provide auxiliary lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions along Interstate 85 between Salters Road (S.C. 92) and Pelham Road (S.C. 92). An additional through lane and auxiliary lanes will be provided along Interstate 85 from Roper Mountain Road (S.C. 18) to Smith Hines Road.

In addition, rehabilitation will be done on the northbound lanes of I-85 for approximately 2 miles in each direction of the interchange work. Various improvements will be made to Roper



Mountain Road, Chrome Drive, Garlington Road and Woodruff

Road that will further improve mobility and safety through the interchange area

Fallow said removing the loop ramps along such a busy stretch and replacing them with ramps and collector lanes will increase safety.

“You will have a longer decision time to merge into traffic so it’s a lot more forgiving to drivers,” Fallow said. “It increases both capacity and safety.”

Ipock said, “Motorists should experience more free-flow conditions as opposed to delays at the interchange.”

The Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on Oct. 3, which will begin the period of environmental permitting, right of way acquisition, and utility coordination. Full construction should begin during fall 2015, but some activity along Woodruff

Got news?

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



Dede Elmore

Road and the I-85 rehabilitation could begin as soon as late spring or early summer 2015.

The schedule calls for completion in the fall of 2018.

A lot of work will be done at night. The contract calls for no daytime lane closures on I-85 or I-85.

“Obviously, the challenges during construction are the numbers of vehicles using the road day to day,” Ipock said. “Traffic staging and traffic control; minimum impacts to current traffic are a big challenge.”

Greenville County Resident Construction Engineer **David Hebert** will be in charge of day-to-day supervision on site.

Hebert said the community is looking forward to the project.

“I think everybody’s happy to see it coming,” Hebert said. “It’s a welcomed project.”

The I-85/I-85 interchange is the third busiest in the state behind the I-85/I-17 interchange in the Columbia area (250,000 vehicles per day) and the I-85/I-58 interchange in the Charleston area (195,000 vehicles per day).



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A contract has been awarded to improve the capacity and safety of the I-85 and I-385 interchange in Greenville. The interchange is one of the state’s busiest, with approximately 194,000 vehicles traveling through the area daily.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

*District Engineer: Thad Brunson (803) 737-6660
FAX (803) 737-0057*

D1's new resident construction engineers

Jason Fulmer is a 2009 graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Fulmer began employment with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) in June 09 in the Pee Dee Road Design Group. In February 03, Fulmer transferred to the Lexington Construction B office. In July 03 Fulmer moved to the Richland Construction A office. In October 04 he was promoted to Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in the Richland Construction A office.

Paul Miller is a 0 graduate of Clemson University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Miller joined SCDOT following graduation, working in the Office of Materials and Research until 0. From 05-0 Miller worked in the private sector. Miller returned to SCDOT in 0 as a project manager in the Anderson Construction office. Miller transferred to Richland Construction B in 0, and was promoted to assistant



Jason Fulmer
Assistant Resident
Construction Engineer
Richland A Construction

resident construction engineer for Richland Construction A in 02. Miller is a registered professional engineer in South Carolina.

Miller and his wife, Alana, live in Lexington and are the parents of two young children, Jonah and Caleb.

Derek Frick is a 00 Civil



Paul Miller
Resident Construction
Engineer
Richland A Construction

Engineering graduate from Clemson University and has worked for SCDOT for three years. Frick is a third generation employee of the Department and also worked five summers in various departments while attending Clemson. Frick resides in Little Mountain with his wife

Got news?

Contact Teresa Jackson at:
803-737-6715 or email her at
JacksonT@scdot.org

**Teresa
Jackson**



Derek Frick
Assistant Resident
Construction Engineer
Richland B Construction

of two years. When he's not at work, Frick enjoys hunting, fishing, playing guitar, and spending time with his family and friends.

Joey McIntyre is a graduate of the University of South Carolina College of Engineering. Since



Joey McIntyre
Resident Construction
Engineer
Lexington B Construction

graduating in 2001, McIntyre has worked for SCDOT for more than eight years and in the private sector for approximately four years. McIntyre lives in Lexington with his wife Chris, son Luke, 7 daughter Reagan, 4 and dog, Ella, 13



District 1 Office goes

PINK

for breast cancer awareness

The District One Office wore pink in October in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This made for a flashy Boss's Day photo on Oct. 16.

And yes, guys do wear pink!

District 2 News

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

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

Got news?

Contact Sarah
McKinney at
864-227-6971
or email her at
McKinneySB@scdot.
org.



Sarah McKinney

Inspirational women of District 2



Brooke Andrews



Jan Chapman



Sonja Crenshaw



Evelyn Hughes



Patti Thew

Brooke Andrews, a Human Resource Specialist, began working at SCDOT in 2008. What began as a two-week temporary job to answer phones, has turned into 9 years at the District 2 Office.

Andrews also works part-time at Belk while going to school at Piedmont Technical College for Administrative Office Technology. She lives in Greenwood with her son, Jalen. She enjoys riding her motorcycle, playing softball, and modeling. She is a member of the SC Employee Association, McAbbwood Chapter, and enjoys meeting other state employees.

Jan Chapman began working for SCDOT Saluda Construction in June 1993. She serves SCDOT as an administrative specialist II. She resides in Saluda with her husband, Gary, and their four children,

Danilyn, 9, Mya, 7, Daniel, 7, and Jonathan, 4. Chapman has traveled to China four times, three of those trips to adopt. She hopes to return to China again one day to take her children on a heritage trip. Her family story of adoption is an inspiration to others. Her lifetime prayer is that one day, there is no such thing as an orphan. In her spare time, she loves to create memories for her kids, scrapbooking and journaling.

Sonja Crenshaw has worked with SCDOT for 10 years. She began as a supply specialist II in Greenwood Maintenance and currently works in the District 2 Office as a procurement specialist. Crenshaw lives in Greenwood with her husband, Ray, and son, David. Her other son, Dennis, lives in Durham, N.C., with his wife, Karen.

Crenshaw earned a Masters of Music, and is an Adjunct Professor at Lander University and Anderson University. She is the Principal Horn Player with Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium. She also plays in the Lander Wind Ensemble, Greenwood Winds, Lander Faculty Brass and for the Greenwood Community Theater.

Crenshaw was diagnosed with breast cancer Sept. 9, 2013 and is a 1-year survivor. She recently participated as a model in the Pretty In Pink 4th Annual Dinner & Fashion Show to benefit Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Breast Cancer Fund. She encourages others to "Get those Mammograms!"

Evelyn Hughes has worked for the state of South Carolina for 50 years! She worked 23 years at the Department of Vocational Education Office in Anderson. When

her job position was transferred to Columbia in 1988, Hughes began working for SCDOT. She worked in Anderson Construction for 2 years, then transferred to Anderson Maintenance where she remains today.

Fondly referred to as "Ms. Evelyn" by her coworkers, they describe her as a dedicated public servant. She treats everyone the same and has earned a lot of respect from her co-workers. She has lived in Honea Path her entire life and is very involved with her church, Chiquola Baptist Church.

Patti Thew, a geodetic technician III in McCormick Maintenance has worked at SCDOT for 21 years. She started on the mowing crew in McCormick Maintenance, worked in Abbeville Construction as an inspector, and foreman of the Bridge Rehabilitation crew in Saluda Maintenance,

before returning to McCormick Maintenance.

Thew is currently enrolled in the Bridge Program with Piedmont Technical College and the University of South Carolina. She is working on a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. She recently received a scholarship from Capsugel and is a recipient of the SCDOT Jim Cagney Scholarship to help further her studies.

Prior to employment at SCDOT, she worked in the restaurant business after earning a culinary degree from Johnson & Wales in Providence, R.I.

She currently resides in Plum Branch with her husband, Echols Latham, also employed with SCDOT.

Her son, Timothy, is a Staff Sergeant in the US Army, stationed at Ft. Bragg. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, travel and baking.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

District Engineer: Steve Gwinn (864) 241-1010

FAX (864) 241-1115

D3 Maintenance recognized for service

SCDOT District 3 Maintenance has some fine, hard-working individuals. Included in this distinguished group are not only the individuals who work in the field but the office staff as well.

These men and women devote countless hours to all aspects of their jobs. The everyday tasks range from the cutting and removing of trees that block roadways after a major storm, to the individuals who work in the county shops performing routine maintenance or those who prepare equipment for an upcoming storm. These men and women often go unnoticed in day-to-day operations.

In September, these maintenance divisions were recognized for their hard work and devotion to the residents of and visitors to South Carolina. Rep-

resentative Mike Burns honored District 3 Maintenance for their dedication and exemplary service to the State of South Carolina.

Senator Tom Corbin also presented Resident Maintenance Engineer **Tony Thompson** and the employees at Greenville Maintenance with one of South Carolina's highest honors for their hard work and dedication to their jobs. These employees are always ready and willing get the job done. Whether it is getting a tree out of the road, cleaning out a ditch, removing snow and ice or servicing a state vehicle they have never shied away from what needed to be done. While humbled by these awards, the men and women of District 3 Maintenance believe what they do is just part of a regular day's work.



Representative Mike Burns, left, and Senator Tom Corbin, right, present Greenville Resident Maintenance Engineer Tony Thompson with resolutions from the South Carolina House and Senate for the service Greenville Maintenance employees give to the people of South Carolina.

Got news?

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

**Brian
Harris**



Meet Jonathan Michael Hall

Name: Jonathan Michael Hall
Title: Incident Responder

Welcome Jonathan Michael Hall to the SCDOT District 3 family.

Born in Greenville, he is the newest member of the incident response team for the SHEP program in District 3.

Hall was a Geodetic Tech for Spartanburg Maintenance prior to joining the SHEP program on May 17.

He enjoys SHEP because it gives him the ability to help people and potentially save lives.

Let's give him a warm welcome and wish him the best of luck with his new position.



Herb Fedder of the Right of Way Western Division was recently honored for 25 years of service.

District 4 News

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

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

District 4 celebrates 100 years of safety

Several long-time employees were recently recognized for not having an injury or an at-fault accident. Together their awards add up to 10 years of safety. **Marshall Bogan** has 3 years at Union Maintenance, **Rick Horne** has 3 years at Cherokee Maintenance and **Charles Wilson** has 3 years at Cherokee Maintenance.



Marshall Bogan



Rick Horne



Charles Wilson

Employees in District 4 who have not had an injury resulting in any type of medical treatment or an at-fault injury have been recognized with Safety Awards for the 1st Quarter of 2014-2015.

July 2014:

Danny Hodge 5 Years
Jason Stafford 5 Years
Ricky Boyd 5 Years
Holly Roof 12 Years
John Watson 13 Years
Todd Cook 13 Years
Tommy Clayton 27 Years
Cecil Matthews 27 Years

August 2014:

Leon Jordan 12 Years
Jason Johnston 13 Years
Lee Garner 15 Years
John Huskins 16 Years
Charles Wilson 31 Years
Rick Horne 32 Years
Marshall Bogan 37 Years

September 2014:

Deana Eubanks 5 Years
Robert Hancock 5 Years
Timothy Bowers 5 Years
Greg Dingler 5 Years
Brian Clack 10 Years
Dennis Moore 15 Years
Rale Flinchum 15 Years
Roger Roscoe 16 Years
Charles Harbaugh 19 Years

Got news?

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



Edward Moore

Ted Barnes: 35 Years of Service



District 7 Engineering Administrator John McCarter, left, presents Ted Barnes with his Certificate for 35 Years of Service.

Equipment Operators recognized

On April 3 equipment operators met at the York Maintenance Complex for the District 4 Equipment Operators competition. Winners advanced to the State Competition in Columbia.

District 4 had winners in two categories at the State Level. **J.W. Austin** won 1st place in the Lowboy competition and **Melvin Brown** won 1st place in the Mowing competition, both are employed at York Maintenance.

The following employees won the District 4 competition:

- J.W. Austin** – York Maintenance
- Louie Brazell** – York Maintenance
- Darius Lee** – York Maintenance
- Paul Cox** – Chesterfield Maintenance
- Chad Stephens** – Union Maintenance
- Brian Hodges** – York Maintenance
- Jeremy Shrewsberry** – York Maintenance
- Melvin Brown** – York Maintenance
- Terrell Mingo** – Lancaster Maintenance
- John Gaither** – Lancaster Maintenance
- John Cathcart** – Fairfield Maintenance



2014 Equipment Operators District Winners

Front Row: Chad Stephens, Terrell Mingo. Back Row: J.W. Austin, Darius Lee, Paul Cox, Brian Hodges, Louie Brazell, Jeremy Shrewsberry, Melvin Brown, John Gaither, John Cathcart.

District 5 News

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

*District Engineer: Dennis Townsend (843) 661-4710
FAX (843) 661-4704*

Got news?

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

Michael Miller



Darlington gets its first roundabout intersection



ABOVE: The new roundabout at Highway 401 and Hoffmeyer Road in Darlington county should make the interchange safer. **LEFT:** Google map image of the project.

Darlington Construction recently completed the first roundabout intersection at the junction of Highway 401 and Hoffmeyer Road. The original intersection

was the location for numerous vehicle collisions.

Roundabouts are a safer and more efficient means of getting the motoring public through intersections.

1,000 horsepower: *Employee proud of his Barracuda*

Chip Owens, senior geodetic technician in District 5, is the proud owner of this monster machine.

Owens has owned the 'Cuda for 18 years after restoring it with his father. This Plymouth Barracuda has a 572 cubic engine that put out 800+ horsepower before he added the nitrous!

The car is impressive enough that it earned a four-page spread in the December 2014 Mopar Action Magazine. It also served as his wedding limo (complete with the required smokey burnout leaving the church of course).

He is currently trying to work out the logistics of mounting the infant seat for his new daughter in the car.



Meet Gloria Carter



Gloria Carter is the Darlington County building and grounds specialist II. She is the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator for Darlington and also maintains supplies for the crews. In May, she received a certificate for 20 years of service with SCDOT. Congratulations, Gloria!

District 6 News

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

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

D6 equipment operators demonstrate skills



Got news?

Contact Michelle Benton at : 843-538-8031 or by emailing her at BentonMP@scdot.org



Michelle Benton

District 6 had their Equipment Operator's Rodeo for employee's to show off their talents. There were lots of skilled participants, and these were the top winners:

Backhoe – 1st Place: **Luke Erwin**, Colleton Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Perry Smith**, Colleton Maintenance. **Motor-grader** – 1st Place: **Matthew Sanford**, Charleston Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Richard Gilliard**, Berkeley Maintenance. **Tractor/Mower** – 1st Place:

Richard Stroble, Charleston Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Gerome Haynes**, Dorchester Maintenance. **Single Axle** – 1st Place: **Brent Nelson**, Colleton Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Chad McMillan**, Colleton Maintenance. **Tandem Axle** – 1st Place: **Brian Bernier**, Dorchester Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Marion She-cut**, Colleton Maintenance. **Lowboy** – 1st Place: **Matthew Sanford**, Charleston Maintenance; 2nd Place: **Richard Stroble**, Charleston Maintenance.

Also in D6

During the week of May 19-23, 17 District 6 SCDOT employees participated in the Great American Clean Up. 17 bags of litter were picked up from U.S. 2 (Beaufort County), U.S. 52 (Berkeley County), U.S. 17 (Charleston and Jasper Counties), I-95 and U.S. 17 Alternate (Colleton County) and U.S. 8 (Dorchester County).

Robert Barfield from District 6 retired on Sept. 16. Barfield has been our trusted carpenter in District 6 for 19 years. His handiwork is evidence throughout District 6 and we will enjoy it for many years to come. He and his wife, Bonnie, of 45 years retired on the same day. They are looking forward to fishing, traveling and spending time with their four grandchildren.

District 7 News

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

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

Calhoun Maintenance: Excellent QMT

Calhoun Maintenance received an EXCELLENT rating by the Quality Maintenance Team during their inspection on March 5.

Resident Maintenance Engineer Lyle Davis contributes their success to the

hard work of the employees in the unit. It is a constant struggle to keep the roads maintained and requires the entire team to do it. This unit has set a good example of how teamwork can produce EXCELLENT results.



Resident Maintenance Engineer Lyle Davis and Assistant Resident Maintenance Engineer Richard Gregory pose with the sign that will be displayed at the Calhoun Maintenance Office.

Meet Cynthia Myers

Name: Cynthia Myers
Title: Trades Specialist IV
Location: Hampton Maintenance
Service: 16 ½ years

Cynthia Myers started as a trade specialist II in Hampton Maintenance on April 21, 1998. In 2006 she became a lead person and was recently promoted to a trades specialist IV. Myers is the first female foreman in Hampton Maintenance. On top of her regular duties as a foreman she is in charge of Flagger Training for this unit. Myers enjoys spending time with her 5-year-old son, Charles, and loves to travel. They are members of the First Thankful Filly Branch Baptist Church in Hampton.



Got news?

Contact Aleksandra Endsley at: 803-531-6850 or by emailing her at EndsleyA@scdot.org

Aleksandra Endsley



Allendale tries out teamwork exercise



During the May 8 Employee Appreciation Lunch at Allendale Maintenance, employees participated in a team-building exercise that teaches leadership, communication, teamwork, humility and a little competitive fun. Jeffrey Jackson made the 'trolleys' that employees stood on (with ropes to 'lift' them) in a race against other employees.

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CAUGHT DOING GOOD!



Wanda Day
2014 Outstanding
Female
State Employee
of the Year

Wanda Day, District 2 Human Resources Manager has been named the 2014

Outstanding Female State Employee of the Year by the S.C. State Employees Association (SCSEA).

Day was recognized for Exemplary Service to the SCSEA and the State of South Carolina, both as an employee and as a citizen. In addition, her exemplary service to her community was also cited.

She has been part of the SCDOT family for 18 years. She is very active in the SCSEA and serves on the Association's Board of Directors.

During the holidays, she organizes a "Secret Santa Program" to assist less fortunate families.

She also teaches a teen Sunday school class at her church.

Jeremy Harmon of the Preconstruction RPG (Lowcountry) Geotechnical Design Team has been named 2013-2014 S.C. Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) South Carolina Section. Harmon was selected for:

- Developing an exemplary understanding of the SCDOT Geotechnical Design Manual (GDM).

- Development and execution of cost effective geotechnical designs on 14 bridge replacement projects.

- Meeting or exceeding the objectives and initiatives set forth in the GDM.

- Significant cost savings on numerous bridge replacement projects with his experience in deep foundation design and testing.

- Significant cost savings on any given bridge replacement project in the Lowcountry because of his knowledge of



Jeremy Harmon, named the 2013-2014 S.C. Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year, poses with Governor Nikki Haley at dinner in June.

Earthquake Drain design and its applicability to approach embankment performance.

SCDOT employee dances his way to stardom in Kershaw County

On Sept. 8, Tyke Redfearn was the technical award winner of the second annual Dancing With the Stars of Kershaw County.

Three judges from Columbia evaluated each "star's" performance, and the criteria were footwork, stage presence and overall performance. He competed against seven other "stars" that were nominated by the Fine Arts Center (FAC) of Kershaw County's Board and were randomly assigned to a professional dance instructor/partner.

Redfearn was actually a second choice because his friend, who declined, recommended him. The professionals had a little over a month to whip the "stars" into shape, and Redfearn's partner, Ginny Marshall at Dancin' on Broad in Camden, had her work cut out for her. He has always liked dancing, but he's never had any training beyond taking tap dancing when he was 6 years-old. (Mom made him do it!)

His experience is mostly in shag and freestyle (i.e. whatever makes you look crazy). They performed a swing routine which was new for both of them. It was a challenge to be facing the crowd at the right times and to stay synchronized, but

many hours of practice and soreness paid off in the end. The "stars" included Redfearn, the Mayor of Camden, two school principals, a gym owner, and a few others.

The event was the kick-off for the FAC's 10th Anniversary season, and the "stars" raised money for the FAC through ticket and ad sales as well as donations. Each dollar counted for one vote towards the People's Choice Award. Redfearn came in second place for that award. The event raised over \$50. The FAC's mission is "to create an environment that promotes artistic and cultural experiences and provides superior educational, instructional and entertainment opportunities that elevate and enrich the community for all residents of Kershaw County and beyond."

The FAC hosts many events throughout the year with both local and visiting talent including plays, concerts, and variety acts. Redfearn's daughter and several other co-workers' children attend dance and other classes and summer camps (such as art, clay, and music) at the FAC.

The FAC also produces the Finally Friday Free Concert Series and the Carolina Downhome Blues Festival in Camden.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOHNNY DEAL

Tyke Redfearn poses with his dancing partner, Ginny Marshall, after they won the technical award during "Dancing With The Stars of Kershaw County."

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXVI NO. III

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FALL 2014

VIEWPOINTS

By **Ann P. Oakley**
Secretary of Transportation

I am excited to become a member of the SCDOT family of dedicated transportation professionals at Headquarters and in the field.

After 35 years in transportation at the federal, state and local levels in both the public and private sectors, this is the capstone to my career.

I have had the opportunity to spend time with some of you directly and I thank you for your warm welcome. Our staff is our greatest asset and I intend to focus on that by continuing to meet with you, hear your ideas, listen to your concerns and advance our mission as a team.

This summer's survey was a first step, we have put in place some changes in response, and we will continue to listen to you.

Over the last few months, the SCDOT leadership and I have formulated a new Strategic Direction for the department. I believe that we need to reaffirm our shared values, which are those characteristics that we all believe in, that tie us together and by which we will be known and remembered.

The new Strategic Direction focuses our mission and targets emphasis areas for delivering projects, services and activities. These values and actions are not new to you. Every day you dem-



onstrate professionalism and commitment to our customers – South Carolina's citizens, businesses and tourists. Our transportation system and services exist only to support the quality of life that we can make possible with the mobility that transportation provides.

But, all of this effort to define a new Strategic Direction will be mere words without your commitment, cooperation and buy-in. Simply put, we must walk the walk, and we must do it arm in arm as a team.

Each of you is important to the mission and each of you is a valued member of the team. As we enter 2015, we know there will be challenges, some expected and

some not. You already demonstrated in 2014 that you are ready to take on whatever Mother Nature throws at us, and according to the Farmers' Almanac we may have another challenging winter. I know that you will be just as successful in 2015 as you were last year.

I am honored that Governor Haley appointed me as Secretary of SCDOT. I believe in servant leadership and look forward to serving you over the next four years. My door is open to all of you.

SCDOT stewardship, oversight agreement approved

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved SCDOT's Stewardship and Oversight Agreement for the state's Federal Aid Program in late September.

The added significance of this approval is that SCDOT is the first state DOT in the nation to receive approval of the agreement that manages federally-funded

programs since the enactment of "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21) in July 2012. MAP-21 is the current federal transportation funding act.

The agreement is required by law under Section 106 of Title 23 and replaces a previous version executed in November 2007.

The Stewardship and Over-

sight Agreement documents the roles and responsibilities of the FHWA's South Carolina Division Office and SCDOT concerning project approvals and oversight responsibilities to efficiently and effectively deliver federally funded highway projects that represent approximately 60% of SCDOT's annual program.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Assembly Street project in Columbia is completed with improved crosswalks and medians, bus stops, sidewalks and landscaping.

SCDOT

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