

Ryan Cole is Statewide Risk Manager in SCDOT Legal Office

Ryan Cole has been promoted to serve as the Statewide Risk Manager, a new position created in the Legal Office, in addition to his oversight management role in SCDOT's Customer Service Center.

As the new Statewide Risk Manager, Cole will direct and manage the damage claims program for SCDOT. Included in this responsibility will be establishing damage claim program objectives to ensure compatibility with SCDOT's mission, developing and implementing policies and procedures for statewide claims management, including statewide training to ensure milestone accountability. As part of this position, the Statewide Risk Manager will be responsible for damage claim trend analysis, claim risk management reporting, and working with the Insurance Reserve Fund on claims issue resolution. Cole will continue to provide oversight management to SCDOT's Customer Service Center, with day to day operation being performed by his staff.

Cole attended the University of South Carolina, earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a



Ryan Cole

minor in Business Administration. He then spent five years in the Rights of Way Office assisting with property acquisitions before moving to his current position as manager of the Customer Service Center. He has been instrumental in streamlining customer service calls and emergency call services over the past ten years.

Cole is a native of Irmo with his wife, Maria, and two children, Charles (15) and Lily (13). He and his family are members of Salem United Methodist Church. He enjoys fishing, golf, gardening, and spending time with his family.

Cole started his new position on May 17, 2022.

Yelena Kalashnikova is Director of Road Data Services

Yelena Kalashnikova will serve in the position of Director of Road Data Services. She assumed the director position on July 2, 2022.

Kalashnikova has more than 12 years of experience within the agency most recently serving as Program Manager for the SCDOT GIS/Mapping Department. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Geography in 1997 from Moscow State Pedagogical University and a master's degree in Public Management/Urban and Regional Planning from East

Tennessee State University as well as a master's degree in GIS and Remote Sensing from the University of South Carolina.

Kalashnikova is a Certified Public Manager and a LEAD Program Graduate.

Kalashnikova was born in Moscow, Russia. She is married to Allen Bowers of Columbia. They live in Elgin and have a daughter, Sophia, and a son, Nikita.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, baking, traveling and spending time with her family.



Yelena Kalashnikova

Joseph Sturm named Chief of Regional Mobility Program in Planning Division

Joseph "Joe" Sturm has been offered and accepted the position as Chief of the Regional Mobility Program in the Planning division. He assumed the Chief position on May 17, 2022.

Sturm has more than 13 years of experience within the agency most recently serving as "C" Program Administrator training and coaching County Transportation Committees (CTC) and local government recipients on best prac-

tics for the program.

Sturm earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Civil Engineering from Clemson University. He is a registered Professional Engineer and a recent LEAD Program Graduate. He and his wife, Danielle, have two children, Henry (7) and Edith (5), whom they also homeschool. In his free time, Joe enjoys making memories with his family and serving in his local church.



Joe Sturm

Main Road on John's Island named for Buck Limehouse

SCDOT held a dedication ceremony on Aug. 24, 2022, for the "Harry Bancroft 'Buck' Limehouse Jr. Memorial Highway" on Johns Island.

The ceremony was held at the Berkeley Electric Cooperative's Community Room at 1135 Main Road, Johns Island.

Limehouse died on Feb. 3, 2022.

On Feb. 23, 2022, the SCDOT Commission approved a resolution to name Main Road on Johns Island between U.S. 17 and S.C. 700 as the "Harry Bancroft 'Buck' Limehouse Jr. Memorial Highway" citing his extraordinary accomplishments

and service to the State of South Carolina.

A native and lifelong resident of Charleston, Limehouse served as South Carolina's first Secretary of Transportation from 2007 to 2011; and served as Chairman of the SCDOT Commission from 1994 to 1999. During his tenure as SCDOT Commission Chairman, he was instrumental in the creation of the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) in 1997 and served as a member of the SIB's board from 1997 to 1999 where he was involved in the initiation of several major transportation projects totaling in the billions of dollars in value. Those

projects included the Cross Island Parkway, the Conway Bypass (S.C. 22), the Carolina Bays Parkway (S.C. 31) and the U.S. 17 Ace Basin project.

Limehouse, who held a lifelong appreciation for the natural beauty of South Carolina, championed the effort for SCDOT to acquire Sandy Island in Georgetown County. This preservation purchase permitted SCDOT to create a mitigation bank of 9,000 acres and allowed key coastal projects to move forward at an accelerated rate. This action also protected Sandy Island from further development.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

H.B. 'Buck' Limehouse Jr. Memorial Highway runs between U.S. 17 and S.C. 700 on Johns Island.