

# Meet the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs

By Lis Bleasdale  
Division of Minority and  
Small Business Affairs

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs (MSBA) is to enhance equal opportunities through small business development, contracting, monitoring, and workforce development. Several programs are implemented in this division to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations governing Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), External Equal Opportunity (EO), External On-the-Job Training (OJT), and Title VI. The office builds and maintains relationships to facilitate the development of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses and individuals.

SCDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) programs assist prime contractors in their efforts to identify and utilize DBEs that are participating in the Agency's DBE Program. Certification is granted through the Division as verification that a business is bona-fide in its claim to be a disadvantaged/small business enterprise. Certified firms are used to meet goals on federally assisted projects and certain state contracts. They also have a Business Development Center (BDC) which provides programs and



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**The Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs office is made up of: Front Row, from left: Division Director Greg Davis, Gary Linn, Alexander Burton, Anthony Cromartie and James Cooper. Middle Row, from left: Syrees Oliver, Steve Smith, Zaria Brown, LaChandra Walker, Rebecca Blue, Amber Eldridge; Arlene Prince and Colette Swann. Back Row, from left: Tammie Greene, Carolyn Burton, Delicia Wingard, Paula Hollis, Barbara Beagles, Lis Bleasdale, Christina Johnson, Betty Richardson, Luevertia Moore, Mary Spence Juanita Campbell and Renee Miller-Cotton.**

services to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, as well as small businesses that have been certified through the South Carolina Unified Certification Program (SCUCP). This is

accomplished through the offering of various services for firms seeking to participate in SCDOT pre-construction and construction related projects, as well as other procurement opportunities.

The Division also offers special programs such as the Mentor Protégé Program.

In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Division's major

program objective is to assist firms in becoming more competitive entities in the transportation industry.

For more information, please go to [www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org).

## SCDOT collects 49 pints for American Red Cross

The American Red Cross sets up blood collection stations in SCDOT headquarters every few months.

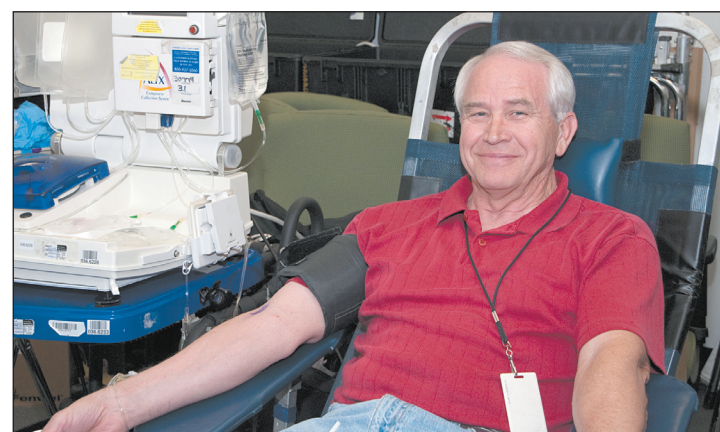
The two most recent collection events nearly reached their goals of 30 collected units of blood. The May 5 drive collected 28 units with 29 employees registered to donate. On the July 22 drive, 21 units of blood were collected with 25 employees registered to donate.

Donating can save lives and blood is always in demand.

For more information on Red Cross Blood Drives visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> or call the Safety office at 803-737-1161.



**Collection Specialist Bernice Smith prepares to draw blood from Chris Williams of Traffic Engineering during the May 5 blood drive.**



**Donnie Cason of Safety donates a pint. Cason retired from SCDOT on Aug. 31 after 42 years of service.**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR