

Oakley presents 'State of the SCDOT' to committee

By Bob Kudelka

Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley** delivered her first "State of the SCDOT" presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee in February, outlining events of the past year, the current state of transportation and the outlook for the future.

Much happened in 2014, from two severe winter storms, earthquakes, a train derailment that knocked out a bridge and early summer flooding.

"We proved that we're capable of really responding well in emergencies," Oakley said. "We had ice storms, snow, sleet, power outages, and an incredible amount of debris that we haven't seen since Hurricane Hugo."

Twenty-one counties were declared disaster areas by FEMA, making them eligible for federal assistance, Oakley said, noting the excellent response by Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Christy Hall**



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

LEFT: SC Secretary of Transportation Janet P. Oakley details SCDOT events of the past year including funding, storms and future plans during her first 'State of the SCDOT' report to members of the Senate Transportation Committee.

ABOVE: Senator Raymond Cleary, left, asks Oakley about the amount of funding SCDOT needs.

and the fastidious work by the SCDOT FEMA Recovery Team led by Chief Engineer for Operations **Leland Colvin**.

"We're still working with FEMA to get through the process," Oakley said. "We've already received back from FEMA approximately \$50 million (for debris cleanup)."

An emergency contract was needed

for the Cypress Gardens Bridge Replacement, in Berkeley County. The bridge reopened in October – more than three weeks ahead of schedule – after a

See SCDOT page 18



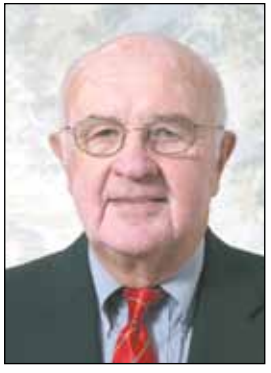
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Changes on the Commission



Jim Rozier
New Commission
Chairman

Mike Wooten
New Commission
Vice Chairman

Ben H. Davis Jr.
3rd Congressional
District Commissioner

By Bob Kudelka

The SCDOT Commission on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, elected **Jim Rozier** of the 1st Congressional District as the new Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

The Commission also elected **Mike Wooten** of the 7th Congressional District as the new Vice Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

In addition, the Legislative Delegation of the 3rd Congressional District elected a new member to the Commission. **Ben H. Davis Jr.**, of Greenwood, was elected Commissioner during a Legislative Delegation meeting Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015.

Rozier, a Berkeley County native, was elected in 1990 as Berkeley County Supervisor, and reelected in 1994, 1998 and 2002. Prior to 1990, he spent 30 years in corporate management and operation of small businesses. He now manages several businesses under The Rozier Group LLC. Rozier attended Clemson University; completed the Institute of Government at the University of South Carolina; and attended the civilian session of the United States War College.

Wooten, of Murrells Inlet, is the Founding Partner and the Principal Engineer of DDC Engineers, Inc., a Myrtle Beach based consulting engineering firm specializing in land planning, landscape architecture, environmental planning, land surveying and civil engineering. Prior to founding DDC Engineers, Inc., in 1986, Wooten was employed by Santee Cooper where he was responsible for the upkeep of 42 miles of dams. He also served as the liaison with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Congressional Delegation for the state owned utility. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Citadel in 1977.

Davis retired as President/CEO of Connie Maxwell Children's Home in September 2014. He has degrees from Furman University, Christian Bible College and North Greenville University. After graduating

from college, he owned and operated WFIS Radio in Fountain Inn and WCKM Radio in Winnsboro; and the Tribune-Times newspaper. Davis was a member of the Fountain Inn City Council for three years and was Mayor of Fountain Inn for 12 years; he was President of the Greenville County Mayor's Association and served on the board of the S.C. Municipal Association. He received the Order of the Palmetto in August 2014. He is married to Polly Davis, retired Director of Volunteer Services at Connie Maxwell; they have two married children and two grandsons.

THE CONNECTOR

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



South Carolina Press Association Associate Member

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Jim Rozier
1st Congressional District



John N. Hardee
2nd Congressional District



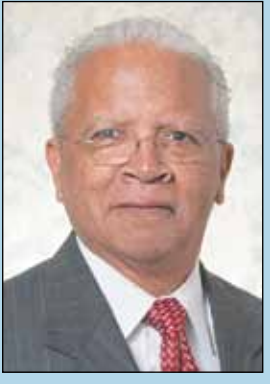
Ben H. Davis Jr.
3rd Congressional District



Woodrow W. Willard
4th Congressional District



W.B. Cook
5th Congressional District



Samuel B. Glover
6th Congressional District



Mike Wooten
7th Congressional District



Clifton Parker
Commissioner At-Large

OJT program helps participants get a J-O-B

By Kim Corley

One in six jobs in the United States is transportation related. A key challenge construction contractors face is finding candidates who have the skills needed to become employed in the highway construction trade.

The Transportation Careers Training Program (TCTP), sponsored by SCDOT and the South Carolina Division of the Federal Highway Administration, provides much needed trainees to the construction industry.

In April of last year, SCDOT awarded the TCTP contract to Construction Solutions Team, Inc. The program was open to individuals from Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties. A total of 12 participants completed the pre-employment training for highway construction workers. Of those, 3 earned their commercial drivers' license and 9 became certified heavy equipment operators.

Sandy Grant, President of Construction Solutions Team, Inc., administered the program. Grant commends SCDOT and FHWA for their unique approach to provide opportunities for employment to interested partici-

pants. "When you see a success story, that's the best feeling in the world," she said. One particular success story from the program is Chad Lyles. "He was one of the best students," she boasted.

Before applying for TCTP, Lyles worked in a mill for 10 years and was an assistant manager for 2 local fast food restaurants. Last year, he lost his job and had to apply for unemployment benefits. He learned about the program through his local unemployment office and was the first applicant.

Lyles says the TCTP program made a positive impact on his life. He successfully completed the Heavy Equipment Operator component of the program. "I finally found something I enjoy doing. Driving big toys is fun," he joked. Immediately after graduation, he was hired by LCI Lineberger Construction, Inc.

In addition to Lyles, Kim Lineberger, President of LCI Lineberger Construction, Inc., hired multiple TCTP graduates. Lineberger says the program gives participants "a 'taste' of the industry." She recommends other companies consider hiring graduates as well. "Those that complete the courses have been dedicated to continuing their training with us," she says. She noted that



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/SCDOT

Chad Lyles is one of the success stories from the Transportation Career Training Program. Through the program, he has earned a handful of certifications and a job with LCI Lineberger Construction in Lancaster.

having both CDL and HEO credentials makes an individual even more valuable and marketable in the industry. She addressed the need for employees with the ability to haul and operate heavy equipment at a job site.

Program participants may receive training in the following areas:

- Pre-employment training

for highway construction workers

- Commercial Drivers' License (CDL)
- Heavy Equipment Operator Training (HEO)

Those interested in learning more about SCDOT's Business Development & Special Programs may visit <http://www.scdot.org/doing/businessDevelop.aspx> for more information.



SCDOT expands its social media reach on Facebook



By Kim Corley

The New Year brought a new addition to SCDOT's social media campaign. Launched on Jan. 2, 2015, the Facebook page SCDOT replaced SCDOTPhotos

which was started by SCDOT Photographer Rob Thompson a few years ago. The goal was to broaden content to increase public accessibility to the agency.

The new page is already a great success. Since January, SCDOT gained more than 1,400 page "likes."

The new Facebook page proved to be a useful tool during this year's winter weather. Districts sent pictures and videos while they were hard at work clearing upstate roads. Citizens and fellow employees offered words of encouragement and gratitude. Jerodd Todd of Horry County Maintenance posted, "Thankful we didn't get any of that down here in Horry. Keep up the good work SCDOT brothers."

So many employees already joined our online community. We encourage everyone with Facebook accounts to "like" SCDOT's page: www.facebook.com/SCDOT.

www.facebook.com/SCDOT

SCDOT crews handle multiple snow storms across state

By Bob Kudelka

The day after Halloween, a surprise snowfall dumped more than 2 inches on western Lexington County, snarling traffic on I-20.

The snow, which caught everyone including forecasters off-guard, also fell in parts of Saluda, Edgefield, Greenwood and Greenville counties.

SCDOT Maintenance forces, who nine months earlier had battled two brutal snow and ice storms, were hardly amused at what newspaper headlines called "Snow-ember!"

"It came in with a roar," said State Highway Maintenance Engineer David Cook, of the season's first "winter" weather – more than six weeks before the official start of winter. "But fortunately we did not have any real significant events until February."

As it turned out, the 2014-15 winter was what most consider a typical season for SCDOT employees charged with keeping roads clear.

The February storms struck the Upstate counties that normally take the brunt of the winter weather. Those included Anderson, Oconee, Laurens, Spartanburg, Greenville, York, Cherokee and Lancaster, Cook said.

Districts 1, 6 and 7 sent a total of 44 crews to affected areas to help out –

which is a tradition at this agency.

"I would like to commend our employees for their dedication to ensuring that our priority roadway networks remained open during the multiple snow and ice events this past winter," said Deputy Secretary for Engineering Christy Hall. "I was especially pleased with the close coordination and spirit of cooperation between the Districts and the Director of Maintenance. Our team continues to rise to the occasion and their efforts have not gone unnoticed."

Cook said the last winter storm in February was predicted to be a large event, but fortunately "fizzled" out. Still, it gave employees much needed practice and experience in responding to storms.

"There are a lot of logistical challenges with the activation of the agency's assistance plan and there were a lot of benefits," Cook said. "It was a very valuable learning experience for the employees who went to help out."

SCDOT is already preparing for the 2015-16 winter - or whenever the first snow happens to arrive.

Construction on a 10,000-ton salt dome off I-85 in Spartanburg County is under way. Similar to our "megadome" off Shop Road in Columbia, this new salt dome will be used by Districts 2, 3 and 4, giving them a large repository to quickly replenish their local supplies.



PHOTO BY DISTRICT 3

District 3 shared a photo of the snow-covered rest area on I-26 in Landrum.



PHOTO BY NEWBERRY MAINTENANCE

ABOVE: Crews in Newberry get ready before the snow starts to fall. Johnny Lindler, on forklift, James Richardson, Chris Metts, Terry McCracken and Kenny Bodie hook up the last remaining spreaders for snow and ice preparation.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCCARTER/DISTRICT 4

LEFT: A backhoe loads salt onto trucks in York Maintenance as they prepare for the winter weather.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCCARTER/DISTRICT 4

Spreader trucks were loaded and ready for the storm at York Maintenance.



PHOTO BY DISTRICT 3

Crews in Spartanburg scraped snow off I-85 throughout the day and night during two separate February snowfalls.



PHOTO BY DISTRICT 2

After all the snow melted, there was still plenty of cleanup to do. Here, District 2 removes fallen trees, branches and debris.



PHOTO BY JAMES CATOE/KERSHAW MAINTENANCE

Doyle Lewis of Kershaw Maintenance clears trees and limbs from the roadway after the storm.

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Heathwood Hall honors former videographer Peter Tarpley



Heathwood Hall Chaplain Raven Tarpley, left, stands beside the bird bath/fountain named for her late husband, Peter Tarpley, with family friend Frannie Heizer.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The fifth-grade class at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School made a fountain in memory of former SCDOT videographer Peter H. Tarpley. The fountain was dedicated at a ceremony on Nov. 24, 2014, with the fifth grade, his widow Raven Tarpley, friends and faculty present. Tarpley died in October 2013.



LEFT: SCDOT Commissioner W. B. Cook, center, is presented a resolution by the SCDOT Commission thanking him for his service as SCDOT Commission Chairman during the March 19, 2015, Commission Meeting in Columbia. The resolution was presented by current SCDOT Commission Chairman Jim Rozier, left. At right is Commissioner Cook's wife, Teresa.



ABOVE: PalmettoPride Director Sarah Lyles, right, presents SCDOT a Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup Award during the March 19, 2015, Commission Meeting in Columbia. The award was given for exemplary contributions and support of Keep America Beautiful and its Great American Cleanup program. SCDOT Commission Chairman Jim Rozier, left, and S.C. Secretary of Transportation Janet P. Oakley, center, accepted the award.

Meet Drew Stewart

Over the past year, you may have noticed a man carrying a large video camera at your job sites.

His name is **Drew Stewart**. He joined SCDOT in April 2014 as the video producer in the Communications Office at SCDOT. Drew handles all things video from making training videos to covering bridge dedications and everything in between.

One of his biggest undertakings is managing the department's new YouTube channel, SCDOT Connector Online, including a story about the retirement of **Albert Groves Jr.** who served SCDOT in Anderson County for nearly 60 years. For history buffs, Stewart uploaded a film produced in the early 1960s about the interstate system in South Carolina. In that video, you'll see plenty of old cars and looks at South Carolina not seen in more than 50 years.

Stewart is no stranger to video production. He holds a bachelor degree in broadcast journalism from the University of South Carolina.

During his junior year at USC, he began covering high school football and minor news events for Columbia TV station WIS, in 1995. After graduating in 1997, Stewart got his first full-time job as a photojournalist at WCIV-TV, channel 4 in Charleston.

After spending a year in the Holy City, he returned to Columbia and WIS-TV, to work as a photojournalist at WIS-TV

(channel 10). During that time he worked as a photojournalist, sports reporter and anchor, and news reporter.

In 2011, he moved to WACH-TV Columbia's Fox affiliate, where he worked until April 2014 before joining SCDOT.

In May 2008, Drew was diagnosed with brain cancer. His drive and spirit helped him to overcome the disease. Stewart has been cancer free since successful surgery to remove the tumor. He gives back to the community by serving on the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina.

Stewart says he views his job is to tell stories of SCDOT. "To me, it's my mandate to find stories within our agency and tell them in a way that will interest the people we serve. I'm also here to serve the employees of our agency in spreading their message in a convenient and meaningful manner."

If you need a video produced for your section or district, you can reach Stewart at his office in room 338 in the Communications section at 803-737-2036, or via email at stewartda@scdot.org to discuss how your needs may best be served.

Stewart filled the position of the late **Peter Tarpley**, who died in October 2013.

"I'm not here to replace Peter, but I hope to earn the respect and continue to fulfill his legacy of storytelling at SCDOT," Stewart said.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Videographer Drew Stewart came to SCDOT in April 2014. After a bout with a cancerous brain tumor in 2008, he began serving on the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina.

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and FOLLOW
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YOUTUBE**



VIDEO SCREEN GRAB

Drew Stewart worked for WIS-TV from 1998 to 2011.



VIDEO SCREEN GRAB

He worked at WACH-FOX from 2011 until he joined SCDOT in April 2014.

<http://youtube.com/SCDOTCONNECTORONLINE>

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Seneca Transit makes history

By Pete Poore

Through a partnership with SCDOT, Clemson Area Transit, and a number of other stakeholders, Seneca, South Carolina has successfully deployed all-electric transit buses to become the nation's - if not world's - first city with an all-electric, zero emission, zero carbon footprint transit fleet.

SCDOT successfully applied for \$5.9 million in FTA competitive grants on behalf of Seneca for electric buses, charging equipment, and construction of an all-electric maintenance facility.

The facility, re-purposed from a former textile plant, provides space for future expansion for training and education opportunities. The project was also directly supported financially by SCDOT and Seneca.

The project's potential cost savings and environmental impacts are significant. While a typical diesel bus may get 4-5 miles per gallon, the operating cost of an electric bus is comparable to almost 20 miles per gallon, quadrupling the efficiency.

The buses are projected to offset added capital costs through reduction of fuel expenses in 12 years, with a life expectancy of 18 years. The buses have also reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 500,000

pounds since beginning service in September 2014.

The buses, made by Proterra in Greenville have been incorporated into fleets nationally and internationally. More than a dozen engineering graduates of Clemson University who work for Proterra and

First all-electric transit system in nation, maybe the world

staff from Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research played a major role in the design of the vehicles, further demonstrating the extensive partnership that helped make this project a reality.

The region served by Seneca is rural and is characterized by low income residents and high unemployment, as well as a large population of college students and retirees. Seneca's fare-free transit system provides essential transportation services to this population. This effort bridges transit needs with economic development and employment needs by addressing increasing transit demands with an innovative partnership.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE: A bus spends approximately nine minutes to charge at a charging station. The buses charge about once per hour after driving approximately 40 miles.

LEFT: When the bus drives under the docking station, computers automatically dock the charger to the bus.



ABOVE: The new buses in Seneca are clean and quiet.

LEFT: Passengers can switch between the residential and business loop at the downtown station.

SCDOT makes emergency repairs on I-77, I-26, I-95

By Bob Kudelka

From York County to Charleston, several SCDOT employees spent late nights and weekends this winter carrying out emergency repairs to deteriorating sections of key interstate highways.

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Christy Hall** commended employees for their work in challenging conditions including high traffic volumes and cold weather.

I-77 York County: Repairs were necessary due to a hole that formed in the right lane of the bridge deck over S.C. 901 near Rock Hill on Saturday, Dec. 6. SCDOT Maintenance crews were able to temporarily patch the damage to keep the bridge open at that time.

On early Friday morning, Dec. 12, after a lane closure of less than 48 hours, employees completed repairs to the I-77 southbound bridge deck. This happened despite working with concrete on a night when temperatures dropped to the low 20s. The job included 13 hours of demolishing the deteriorated portion of deck; 10 hours of sand blasting and other preparation work; 1 hour to pour concrete and 12 hours of cure time. The patched area was 366 square feet.

District 4 Engineering Administrator **John McCarter** said he appreciated the work of several employees who were involved, primarily from **York and Chester Maintenance** forces.

“Repairing this problem at this

time was done to avoid possible worsening conditions that could have led to disruption of upcoming holiday traffic,” Hall said. “While closing a lane is a last resort, this allowed crews to correct the areas to be patched and allow set time for the concrete during this time of colder temperatures.”

Despite working with concrete on a night when temperatures dropped to low 20s, crews completed the job and opened the lane to traffic at 7:20 a.m. Friday.

I-95 Florence County: Two days before Christmas, District 5 dealt with an emergency lane closure for the northbound right lane on I-95 at mile marker 175. This lane closure was necessary to repair additional holes in the bridge deck of the Great Pee Dee River Bridge. Four days after Christmas, crews had to repair additional holes in the bridge deck, resulting in another emergency lane closure.

In March, to follow up the temporary repairs, a contract was let for a contractor to replace the bridge deck on one span over the Great Pee Dee River Bridge.

District 5 Engineering Administrator **Kyle Berry** thanked **District Specialized Bridge Crews, Bridge Construction, Dillon Maintenance, Florence Maintenance**, and the **District TMC** for their work during the emergencies.

“They did a great job,” Berry said. “They came in during the holidays, after hours. One time they came in with highs only reaching the 20s and went out there and did what they had to do.



Crews on Interstate 26 in Charleston poured concrete and erected tenting with heaters to help protect it from overnight temperatures on Saturday, Jan. 31. The concrete used is a fast-curing material. All lanes opened the next afternoon.

They performed well. I was real proud of them.”

I-26 in Charleston: SCDOT was forced to close two lanes on a portion of eastbound Interstate 26 in Charleston County over three weekends this winter to repair the Baker Hospital Road Overpass.

Repairs were needed because of severe deterioration of an I-26 expansion joint, said District 6 Construction/Maintenance Engineer **Kevin Turner**.



DISTRICT 6 PHOTOS

Charleston Maintenance, Charleston Construction A and Specialized Bridge crews from District 6 were involved in the emergency repair work on Interstate 26 in Charleston.

“SCDOT crews worked weekends and some very cold nights to keep the road safe for weekday travel,” Turner said. “Initial efforts focused on installing steel plates to maintain travel. However, due to large truck volumes and heavy loads supporting the Port of Charleston, overnight maintenance efforts to keep the plates anchored into the bridge deck became routine.”

Once a contractor was secured, their crews worked hand in hand with SCDOT maintenance and construction forces to perform repairs over a series of 3 weekends.

“In each case 2 of the 3 travel lanes were closed, so the impact on traffic would have been severe if crews did not work around the clock to have the roadway se-

cured for the work week,” Turner said. “Each weekend, all lanes were open in 40 hours or less despite the extremely cold temperatures that lengthened concrete cure times.”

Considering the challenges — high traffic volumes on the interstate, staging to avoid impacting the Port of Charleston, the need to secure an outside contractor, and delays associated with a major downtown festival — the completion time was “quite impressive,” Turner said.

“All work was done with no employee injuries and minimal disruption to Charleston residents,” he said.

Turner thanked the work by **Charleston Maintenance, Charleston Construction A**, and the **Specialized Bridge** team.



DISTRICT 5 PHOTO

Crews made emergency repairs two days before Christmas on the I-95 bridge deck over the Great Pee Dee River.

I-85 / I-385 Interchange: *Gateway to the Upstate*

By Pete Poore

The interchange at I-85 and I-385 is often referred in economic development circles as the “Gateway to the Upstate.” The interchange where the two interstates converge is about to undergo dramatic changes that will improve the safety and traffic flow.

The \$231 million project, funded in part by Act 98, was awarded by SCDOT to the Flatiron-Zachry team in August of 2014. Flatiron-Zachry is a joint venture of Flatiron Constructors, Inc. and Zachry Construction. This interchange makeover is the second largest project in the nearly 100-year history of SCDOT. The largest undertaking was the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge connecting Charleston and Mount Pleasant on U.S. 17.

SCDOT has issued the first of two “Notice to Proceed” (NTP) orders to the Flatiron-Zachry team. The NTP order issued on Oct. 30, 2014, marks the beginning of the 410-day design phase. When the design phase is complete, a second NTP will be issued for the construction phase of the project. The Flatiron-Zachry team will have 1,035 days to complete the job. Following both the design and construction phases, the project is expected to be substantially complete in late 2018.

When the project is complete, both I-85 and I-385 will be widened in the area of the interchange and bridges will be replaced. These improvements are being made to accommodate the average daily traffic of nearly 200,000 vehicles per day.

Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley** said, “The goal of this project is to ease congestion, improve safety, allow interstate commerce to flow more smoothly, and increase the lifespan of our transportation network in the Upstate. In short, this project is intended to make a difference in the lives of the many people who live and work in the Upstate.”

The project is being developed through the “design-build” process. This means the design, environmental permitting, right-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/SCDOT

ABOVE: An aerial view looking north on I-85 at the I-85/I-385 interchange.

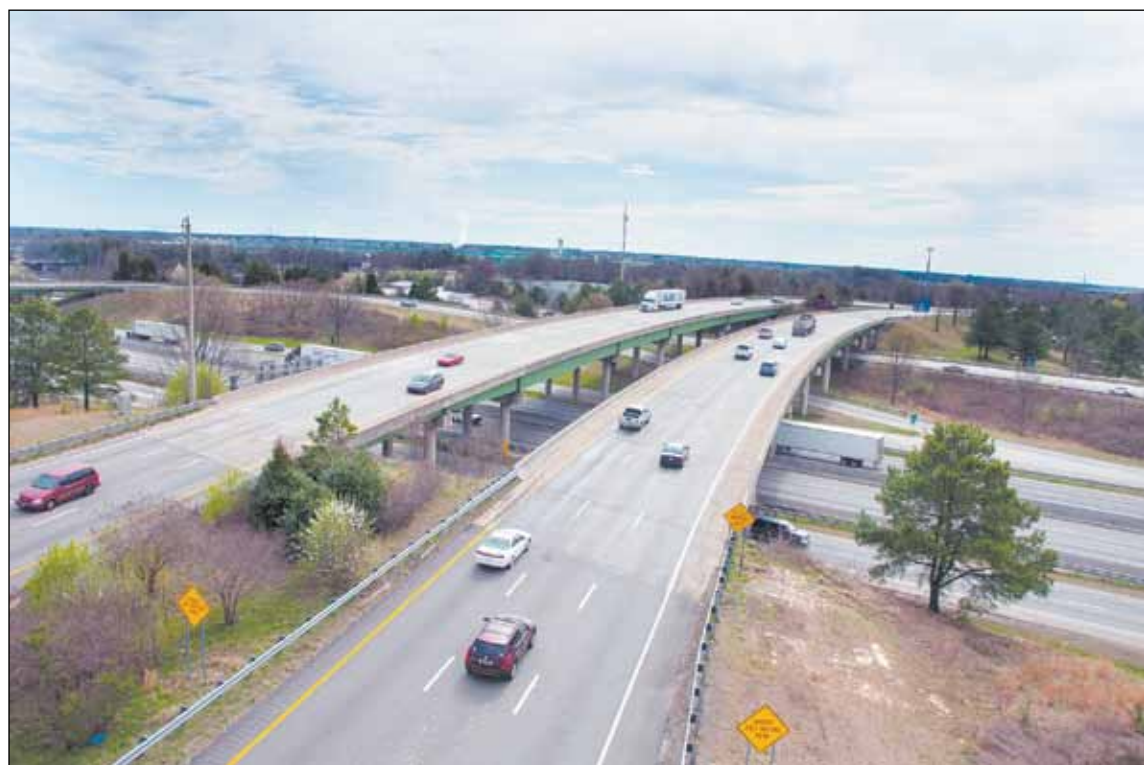
RIGHT: Another view of the project area looking south along I-385 as it crosses over I-85.

of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction can take place under one contract. All of this work except construction will be advancing during the next year. This process reduces construction time and provides for better management of costs, reducing environmental impacts and shortening travel delays for motorists.

SCDOT Resident Construction Engineer **David Hebert** said the public will not see much construction during the design phase. “While the majority of the construction work will not begin until late 2015, crews should be seen relocating utilities on the project site throughout the coming year,” said Hebert.

Additional improvements included in this project are:

- The extension of the 4th auxiliary lane on I-85 Northbound & Southbound between



I-385 and Pelham Road.

- The widening of I-385 to six lanes from Butler Road to Roper Mountain Road.

- The construction of 13 new bridges, including two flyovers that will replace the existing loop ramps that tie I-85 from and

to I-385.

- The reconstruction and enhancement of the traffic signal system on the Woodruff Road Corridor

- The construction of additional turn lanes at the Woodruff Road intersection with Mar-

ket Point Drive and Garlington Road.

The four-year project is be-

Continued on next page



An artist's rendering of the completed I-85/I-385 interchange.

Continued
from previous page

ing financed in part with funding from Act 98 of 2013 which provided SCDOT with additional funding for bridge, resurfacing and mainline interstate projects. Additional funding is being provided by the Federal Interstate Improvement Program and GPATS, the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study Committee.

**I-85 / I-385
Project
Hotline
Number:**

1-888-862-4824



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

THAD BRUNSON RETIRES

Rep. Chip Huggins in the S.C. House of Representatives Chamber recognizes SCDOT Chief Engineer for Field Operations Thad Brunson for 31 years of service. Brunson, who is retiring, was presented the resolution in the balcony by Rep. Rick Quinn. Deputy Secretary of Engineering Christy Hall, Commissioner John Hardee, Brunson's family, friends and coworkers also were present during the brief ceremony.

A Pee Dee Penny

One cent sales tax funds highway construction projects in Florence

By Bob Kudelka

If you haven't been to Florence lately, you'll notice something new: orange barrels – lots of them.

Several highway construction projects underway will have significant positive impacts on the area for years to come, officials said.

"It's been the most amount of work in the Florence area that I've seen during my career with the Department," said District Engineering Administrator **Kyle Berry**, who joined District 5 in 1998.

"You have \$100 million of work on top of what we typically let to construction over the last couple of years and the next 7 to 8 years," Berry said. "When everything is said and done, it'll be \$375 million worth of work."

Much of the work is being funded by "Florence Forward," the Florence County one cent sales tax initiative funded through the State Infrastructure Bank, Berry said.

The community is excited about what the future will bring.

"The biggest thing everybody is concerned about is when we're going to get finished," Berry said. "It's part of growing pains. But everybody's been patient. These improvements have been needed for several years. Everybody's excited about seeing these road projects coming to fruition and completed. It will enhance their ability to move in and around Florence."

Here are some highlights:

U.S. 378 Widening Sections 1 and 2

This section of U.S. 378 will be widened from two lanes to five lanes for 8.65 miles from U.S. Route 378 Business to S-21-561 (Woods Road), said Florence County Resident Construction Engineer **James Poston**. There are also three bridge replacements in this project. This project was awarded to Southern As-

phalt, Inc. of Conway in December 2013. Utility relocations and grading operations were being done this winter and bridge work was scheduled to begin March 2015.

U.S. 378 Widening Sections 3 and 4

Poston said this section of U.S. 378 will be widening from two lanes to five lanes for 6.75 miles from S-21-561 (Woods Road) to 0.09 miles west of S-21-225 (Sandpit Road). There is also a bridge replacement in this project. This project was awarded to Southern Asphalt, Inc. of Conway. The contract began on Dec. 8, 2014, with utility relocations and clearing operations being performed at this time.

"Highway 378 is a major route to the beach especially for people coming from the Midlands of South Carolina," Berry said. "In District 7, it's been widened through Clarendon County. Here in Florence County, all of U.S. 378 will be widened from two to four lanes. That's going to be a great benefit of capacity to motorists and it's going to help boost the economy. Industries look for highway infrastructure, and this will open up opportunities in the Southern end of Florence County as well."

North Irby Street (S-21-343) and TV Road (S-21-26)

Poston said this section of roadway will be widening from two lanes to five lanes for 5.42 miles from Wilson Road (S-21-343) to 0.28 miles north of I-95. There is also a bridge expansion on this project. This project was awarded to C.R. Jackson, Inc. of Columbia. The contract began on May 23, 2014. Currently, the work includes utility relocations and grading operations, as well as bridge work.

"The TV road widening will provide good connectivity between the city of Florence and the Interstate," Berry said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Seth Tanner of Florence Bridge Construction inspects work done on the bridge over Black Creek as part of the TV Road widening project in Florence.



Contractors work on a bridge cap on the TV Road bridge over Black Creek.



The U.S. 378 widening project is divided into four sections across Florence County.

Continued on next page

From previous page

U.S. 76 Widening (S.C. 403 to Meadors Road)

This project widens and replaces a single bridge with dual bridges over Lake Swamp.

U.S. 76 will be widened for 3.75 miles beginning at S.C. 403 in the Town of Timmonsville and ending at S-21-545 (Meadors Rd) near I-95 in the northern part of the county, said Resident Construction Engineer **A. Scott Ward**, of the Dillon/Marlboro Construction Unit. Associated side roads will also be widened to accommodate the new alignment. The roadway will begin as two lanes in town and will widen to three lanes (two lanes with a center turn lane) from Honda Way to East Main Street. From Main Street to Meadors Road, it will be widened to five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane) and will tie in to the current alignment at the I-95 interchange.

The bridge at Lake Swamp will be replaced with two 210' bridges (one bridge for each direction of traffic). This project was awarded to Palmetto Corp., of Conway. Work began on April 16, 2014 with clearing and grubbing and utility relocations. At



The widening projects also include the movement and installation of new utilities.

this time utility relocations are nearing completion, storm drainage installation and grading operations are well underway and the westbound bridge approaches are nearing completion. Bridge foundations are expected to begin soon. The project is anticipated to

be complete in late 2016 to early 2017.

Another project in the works involves S.C. 51 (Pamplico Highway) from Florence to the intersection with U.S. 378. This will be a widening project of about 15 to 16 miles, Berry said.



Robert Griffin of Florence Bridge Construction supervises the drilling of bridge pilings over Lake Swamp as part of the widening project of U.S. 76 near Timmonsville. The project widens 3.75 miles of U.S. 76 and associated side roads to accommodate the new alignment.



A section of TV Road will be widened from two to five lanes for 5.42 miles from Wilson Road to a quarter mile north of I-95.

PROMOTIONS

James A. Amerson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Sumter Maintenance on Dec. 2.

James M. Amerson, promoted to trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Michael Amos, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Gary Armstrong, promoted to mechanic II at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Michael Barnhill, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Horry Construction on Nov. 17.

Russell Bedenbaugh, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Lexington Surveys on Nov. 2.

Tony Blackwell, promoted to trades specialist III at Florence Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Christopher Blackwell, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Elisabeth Bleasdale, promoted to executive assistant I in Minority and Small Business Affairs on Feb. 2.

Svetlana Blotner, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Thomas Bond, promoted to trades specialist IV at Colleton Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Osmond Bowman, promoted to trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Craig Brown, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Berkeley Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Michael Buck, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Richland Construction on Nov. 2.

Miguel Buenrostro, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 2.

James Burns, promoted to trades specialist IV at Berkeley Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Michelle Butler, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Horry Construction on Oct. 17.

Mark Button, promoted to program coordinator I in Road Data Services on Feb. 17.

Robert Camp, promoted to program manager I in Right of Way – Greenville on Feb. 2.

Rebecca Campbell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Saluda Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Richard Carter, promoted to trades specialist III at Horry 1 Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Russell Cassell, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Pickens Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Garen Chance, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Greenville Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Brian Cobb, promoted to trades

specialist IV at Richland Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Harold Cope, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Brentley Crocker, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at York Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Don Crowley, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenwood Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Andrew Davis, promoted to information resource consultant II in Finance and Administration on Nov. 2.

Jimmy Davis, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Harry Davis, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Ashley Dawsey, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Richland Construction on Nov. 2.

Danny Diaz, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Dec. 17.

William Downes, promoted to trades specialist III at Orangeburg Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Reginald Dozier, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Colleton Construction on Dec. 2.

Robert Dunn, promoted to trades specialist V at Richland Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Joseph Dwinell, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Feb. 17.

William Eisele, promoted to trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Taylor Ellenburg, promoted to mechanic III at Pickens Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Stephen Ellison, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Stevie Ervin, promoted to trades specialist II at Darlington Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Maurice Etheredge, promoted to trades specialist III at Calhoun Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Paul Fee, promoted to trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Melvin Gale, promoted to trades specialist III at Darlington Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Brenda Goodall, promoted to administrative assistant at District 3 Office on Nov. 17.

Rodney Gooding, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Feb. 17.

James Gosnell, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Rodney Grant, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Brenda Gravely, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Fred Green, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Colleton Construction on Nov. 17.

Samer Hamam, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Jeremiah Harmon, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in RPG 1 Lowcountry on Jan. 2.

Tracey Henderson, promoted to administrative specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Luther Henderson, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Anderson Construction on Dec. 17.

Pearly Hewitt, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Dillon Construction on Oct. 17.

Jamie Holmes, promoted to mechanic II at Beaufort Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Billy Hooks, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Dillon Construction on Dec. 17.

Daniel Hopkins, promoted to associate geodetic technician at York Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Charles Howard, promoted to trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance on Jan. 17.

Phyllis Hughes, promoted to executive assistant I in Support Services on Jan. 2.

Matthew Human, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Teresa Jackson, promoted to administrative coordinator I in Director of Construction on Nov. 17.

Paul Jones, promoted to trades specialist IV at Lee Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Jeffrey Kelley, promoted to trades specialist III at Greenville Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Joe Laws, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Oconee Construction on Dec. 17.

Jeffrey Lawson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at District 2 Office on Nov. 17.

William Legette, promoted to trades specialist III at Marion Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Harold Leno, promoted to trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Seth Lown, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Richland Construction on Dec. 2.

Christopher Malphrus, promoted to trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Shannon Marcus, promoted to assistant geodetic technician at Anderson Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Joseph McDowell, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Timothy McGee, promoted to chief geodetic technician at Florence Construction on Feb. 17.

Danny Mercer, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Georgetown Construction on Jan. 2.

Lucero Mesa, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support on Jan. 17.

Joe Mikels, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Spartanburg Construction on Feb. 17.

Samuel Miller, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Laquann Mitchell, promoted to trades specialist IV at Jasper Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Holly Moody, promoted to right of way agent II in Right of Way – Florence on Dec. 2.

Paulette Morphy, promoted to administrative coordinator I in Director of Traffic Engineering on Feb. 17.

Brian Moseley, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Laurens Construction on Dec. 17.

Brandon Murr, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Charleston Maintenance on Oct. 17.

William Newton, promoted to trades specialist III at Hampton Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Benjamin Olson, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at Greenville Construction on Feb. 2.

Elizabeth Ott, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Design/Build on Feb. 2.

Gerald Peoples, promoted to trades specialist IV at Richland Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Lisa Perry, promoted to trades specialist IV at Orangeburg Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Joshua Queen, promoted to engineer/associate engineer I at Charleston Bridge Construction on Dec. 17.

Linda Raines, promoted to supply manager I at Anderson Maintenance on Oct. 17.

Allen Reddick, promoted to trades specialist III at Lee Maintenance on Dec. 2.

David Reece, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Laurens Construction on Dec. 2.

Robert Rentschler, promoted to trades specialist IV at Aiken Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Gerald Rivers, promoted to trades specialist III at Orangeburg Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Lucas Robertson, promoted to trades specialist IV at Saluda Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Dean Robinson, promoted to trades specialist III at York Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Tammy Rogers, promoted to administrative assistant at Kershaw Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Arthur Singley, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III at District 1 Office on Feb. 2.

Michelle Skeen, promoted to ac-

countant/fiscal analyst II in Finance and Administration on Dec. 2.

Duncan Smith, promoted to engineer/associate engineer IV in Pre-Construction Support on Jan. 17.

Joshua Smith, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Horry Construction on Feb. 17.

Nathan Smith, promoted to trades specialist III at Pickens Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Angela Solomon, promoted to trades specialist III at Hampton Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Charlie Spann, promoted to trades specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance on Feb. 2.

Jerry Spencer, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Jason Stafford, promoted to trades specialist III at Chesterfield Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Justin Starling, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Ramona Stone, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Director of Maintenance on Nov. 2.

Charles Stubbs, promoted to trades specialist V at Marlboro Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Gary Thackston, promoted to trades specialist III at District 3 Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Curtis Trimble, promoted to trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Jonathan Vaughn, promoted to trades specialist IV at Anderson Maintenance on Oct. 17.

David Walker, promoted to senior geodetic technician at Richland Construction on Nov. 2.

Jeffrey Watts, promoted to associate geodetic technician at Chester Construction on Feb. 2.

James Weaver, promoted to mechanic II at Charleston Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Marion Welch, promoted to trades specialist III at Clarendon Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Martin Wessinger, promoted to senior geodetic technician in Director of Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Albert Westbrook, promoted to osha officer II at Abbeville Maintenance on Dec. 2.

Douglas Whelan, promoted to mechanic III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Justin White, promoted to trades specialist IV at Greenwood Maintenance on Nov. 17.

Andrew Wicker, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Dec. 2.

Elijah Williams, promoted to trades specialist III at Charleston Maintenance on Dec. 2.

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Sam Wilson, promoted to trades specialist III at District 6 Bridge Inspection on Nov. 17.

Joseph Winfield, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II at Aiken Construction on Dec. 17.

Benjamin Wood, promoted to trades specialist III at District 3 Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Jackie Owen Wyatt, promoted to trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance on Dec. 17.

Xinge Yin, promoted to engineer/associate engineer III in Pre-Construction Support on Jan. 2.

Glenn Yoho, promoted to trades specialist III at Georgetown Maintenance on Feb. 17.

Christopher York, promoted to engineer/associate engineer II in RPG 2 Pee Dee on Oct. 17.

Troy Young, promoted to trades specialist V at Greenwood Maintenance on Nov. 17.



Kace Smith named Chief Financial Officer

Kace L. Smith, of Moncks

Corner, has been named Chief Financial Officer to oversee the financial activities of SCDOT. She succeeds **Jim Warren**.

A native of Tallahassee, Fla, she graduated from Manatee High School and Florida State University. She is married to Mark Fulghum of Bradenton, Fla. They are members of First Presbyterian church. She enjoys cooking and outdoor activities.



Stephanie Jackson-Amell named DEA for District 3

Stephanie Jackson-Amell, of Williamston, has been named District 3 Engineering Administrator, succeeding **Steven W. Gwinn**.

A native of Gastonia, N.C., she joined SCDOT in 1995 as an Associate Engineer I, and was promoted through the ranks to her most recent position as District 3 Construction Engineer. She is a

member of ASCE.

She is a 1986 graduate of Clover High School, and a 1995 graduate of Clemson University. She is married to Benjamin Robert Amell, and they have a son, Christopher Robert, 13. She attends Newspring Church. She enjoys painting, clay, crafting, scrapbooking and reading.



Kyle Berry named DEA for District 5

W. Kyle Berry of Latta, has been named District 5 Engineering Administrator, succeeding **Dennis Townsend**. He will manage construction, maintenance and traffic operations in District 5.

He previously served as District 5 Construction Engineer. He joined SCDOT in 1998 as an Associate Engineer I, and rose through the ranks as Traffic Signal Systems Engineer, Assistant

Resident Construction Engineer and Resident Construction Engineer, before being named District Construction Engineer in 2002.

A native of Marion, he graduated from Latta High School in 1990 and Clemson University in 1997. He is married to Crystal Demery Berry, and they have two children; Maddie, 8, and Hannah Lauren, 4.

Berry is a member of Latta Southern Methodist Church, the Dillon School District 4 Board of Trustees, the Latta Pig Picking Committee and Latta High School Athletic Booster Club.

He enjoys spending time with family and coaching youth softball.



Tony Fallaw named Traffic Engineering Director

Anthony Wayne "Tony" Fallaw, of Monetta, has been named

Director of Traffic Engineering, following the retirement of **Tony Sheppard**.

He will provide oversight for all functions within the Traffic Engineering Division, and coordinate and provide engineering assistance to the districts.

He previously served as Upstate Regional Production Engineer.

A native of Aiken, Fallaw joined SCDOT in 1994 as an Engineering Associate I in Traffic Engineering. He served as Assistant Resident Construction Engineer and Resident Maintenance Engineer in Aiken County; Assistant Program Manager for COATS, Central Midlands, and Program Manager for CHATS, Berkeley Dorchester, Charleston COG, before being named Upstate Regional Production Engineer.

He graduated in 1989 from Ridge Spring-Monetta High School, received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University in 1993 and a Master of Engineering in 2000 from the University of South Carolina.

He is married to the former Denise Rodgers of Augusta, Ga. They have two children, Jason Anthony Fallaw, 18, and Keri Nichole Fallaw, 16. Fallaw is a member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church where he has served as trustee and on the Finance Committee. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve (1993-2001).

RETIREMENTS

Randy Altman retired from Williamsburg Maintenance on Dec. 8.

Clinton Attaway retired from Finance and Administration on Jan. 27.

Leviale Brown retired from Florence Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Mary Chapman retired from Darlington Maintenance on Nov. 28.

Steven Cornwell retired from Berkeley Maintenance on Oct. 31.

Ann Davis retired from District 6 Office on Dec. 31.

Anna Deparolis retired from Dillon Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Albert Durham retired from Richland Maintenance on Jan. 30.

Herbert Fedder retired from Right of Way – Greenville on Nov. 16.

Alberto Guadalupe retired from Laurens Maintenance on Feb. 19.

Deborah Hambright retired from Anderson Construction on Jan. 2.

Martin Hans retired from Marlboro Maintenance on Jan. 3.

Thomas Haynes retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on Dec. 15.

Phronsia Hunter retired from Pickens Construction on Jan. 2.

Georgia Infinger retired from Charleston Maintenance on Nov. 3.

Rickey James retired from Pickens Maintenance on Jan. 5.

John Jaynes retired from District 4 Office on Feb. 4.

Louis Jenkins retired from Colleton Maintenance on Nov. 6.

Robert Johnson retired from Pre-Construction Support on Feb. 2.

Simon Jones retired from Abbeville Maintenance on Oct. 31.

Cecil Matthews retired from Fairfield Maintenance on Oct. 16.

Charles Phillips retired from Darlington Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Vivian Ray retired from Kershaw Maintenance on Oct. 31.

Michael Sanders retired from Office of Materials and Research on Jan. 30.

Tony Sheppard retired from Director of Traffic Engineering on Jan. 2.

Roslyn Smith retired from Orangeburg Maintenance on Oct. 31.

Wendell Spencer retired from Cherokee Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Mary Stepro retired from Director of Construction on Dec. 31.

Alfred Threlkeld retired from Anderson Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Joseph Tidwell retired from Lee Maintenance on Oct. 30.

Dennis Townsend retired from District 5 Office on Jan. 1.

Donald Ulmer retired from RPG 4 Upstate on Jan. 30.

Joel Wallace retired from York Maintenance on Jan. 2.

Arthur Williamson retired from Aiken Maintenance on Jan. 24.

James Wollgast retired from Richland Maintenance on Dec. 31.

Benjamin Youmans retired from Richland Maintenance on Dec. 31.



Mark Attaway, Stan Bland, John Boylston, Timothy Callenback, Mashrur Chowdhury, Leland Colvin, David Cook, Tom Dorn, Patti Gambill, Kevin Gantt, J.P. Gauthier, Ladd Gibson, Jonathan Groeger, Christy Hall, Al Hogan, Claude Ipock

Sharing Knowledge: 2015 Engineers Conference

By Bob Kudelka

The 2015 Highway Engineers Conference drew the largest crowd in its history, with more than 700 attendees from SCDOT, the private sector and other government agencies to learn, network and share lessons learned.

"It's an honor to be here and to be a part of SCDOT," Secretary of Transportation **Janet P. Oakley** said to begin the conference, held March 31-April 1, 2015, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

"In this day and age of social media and e-learning...it really is important to have this face-to-face networking and information sharing," Oakley said. "It really is about establishing relationships and networks."

Oakley also encouraged use of social media. "I do encourage you to Tweet... and to share this information to let the rest of South Carolina know what you're doing the next couple of days."

That theme was supported by a session on "Public Involvement and Public Education," with Director of Environmental Services **Randy Williamson** stressing the importance of using different ways to educate the public about SCDOT.

"When we educate, it's going to lead to understanding; understanding is going to lead to an appreciation," Williamson said. "We are the best way to tell our story; we know it better than anyone else."

We see people around the state all the time. We need to take the time to tell our story and tell it well."

Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Christy Hall**, who at last year's conference was acting secretary having just led the agency through two severe winter storms and an earthquake, thanked employees and partners for their efforts to improve the state's transportation system.

"We don't know what the future holds, but we still have a mission day to day to deliver our program and do the best that we can delivering our core mission," Hall said. "I appreciate sincerely everything that our employees do day to day to meet that mission as well as our partners in the industry to get projects done on time and within budget."

Hall thanked presenters, moderators and organizers of the conference.

Organizers of the conference included conference chairman Chief Engineer for Location and Design **Ron Patton**, Agency Special Events Coordinator **Tina Kennedy**, Information Resource Consultant **Scott Meetze**, as well as Shaun Gaines and the staff from Clemson University's Transportation Technology Transfer Service.

"It's been a good conference," said Director of Preconstruction **Mitchell Metts**. "There was a wide array of topics. We try to touch on maintenance, construction, design, traffic - all the different components within the DOT - to

pique the interests of all the employees in attendance."

Metts said professional engineers gain continuing education credits through the training sessions, but more importantly they are afforded the opportunity to network with people from other areas - Headquarters staff, Districts, consultants, contractors, FHWA or local governments.

"Nothing solves a problem better than that face-to-face contact," Metts said. "I've met with people from other areas and have done some problem-solving while I've been here. It's about establishing those connections and relationships to work together and solve problems, ultimately. When you pick up that phone, you have a face to put with that name."

Conference speakers included Secretary **Oakley**, **Christy Hall**, **Allen Thompson**, **David Rogers**, **Randy Williamson**, **Mark Pleasant**, **Kevin Gantt**, **John Boylston**, **Claude Ipock**, **Kevin Turner**, **Leland Colvin**, **David Cook**, **Dan Campbell**, **Eric Stuckey**, **Ashleigh Sandel**, **Gary Linn**, **Heather Robbins**, **Mike Hannah**, **Tom Dorn**, **Stephanie Jackson-Amell**, **Timothy Callenback**, **Emily Toler**, **Ray Vaughan**, **Brandon Wilson** and **Ladd Gibson**.

Moderators included **Leland Colvin**, **Randall Young**, **Patti Gambill**, **Tim Lindberg**, **Mark Attaway**, **Roger Sears**, **Walter Reed**, **Sherri Devereaux**, **Herb Cooper** and **Mitchell Metts**.

Registration workers included **Phyllis Hughes**, **Terry Sharpe**, **Gwen Goodwin**, **Michelle Walker**, **Rose Bumpers**, **Yolanda Byrd** and **Cathy Rice**.

Training sessions included I-26 Design Build Widening; Public Involvement and Public Education; Multimodal Plan and MAP-21 Pavement and Bridge; "Envision The Future" by Secretary Oakley; Ranking of Pavement Preservation Methods and Practices; Cypress Garden Road Emergency Bridge Replacement; 2014 Winter Storm Debris Removal Update; Vehicular to Infrastructure Communication - Traveling in the Future; ProjectWise/Electronic Filing; Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Compliance; Noise Impacts and Mitigation; Asset Management; 3D Engineered Model for Construction - Design to Paver; Environmental and Erosion Control Measures Needed for the U.S. 25 Bridge Replacement Over Turkey Creek in Edgefield County; Jones Mill Road Emergency Bridge Replacement; Pipe Installation and Inspection; Stormwater Management; Slope Stabilization on U.S. 178 In Pickens County; Richland County Sales Tax; Roller Compacted Concrete/Full Depth Reclamation - Past Performance and New Technology; and Design Build.

The conference was attended by 707 people including 387 SCDOT employees.

ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Todd Anderson Traffic Engineering



Judy Hite Rights of Way



Julie Barker Preconstruction



Claude Ipock Construction



David Cook Maintenance



William McGoldrick Environmental

SAFETY AWARDS



From left: Director of Occupational Safety and Health **Kenny Eargle**, **Pickens RME Steven Henderson**, **Bamberg RME Bobby Crider** and **Orangeburg RME David Brandyburg**.

QMT AWARDS



From left: Director of Construction **Todd Steagall**, **Greenville "B" RCE Kimberly Bishop**, **Lancaster RCE Ken Wilson**, **Director of Maintenance Jim Feda**, and **Calhoun RCE Lyle Davis**.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



From left: Program Coordinator **Kelly Jo Swygert**, **Contracts Manager Lee Tsiantis**, **State Maintenance Engineer David Cook** and **Chief Engineer for Operations Leland Colvin**.

RESIDENT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER AWARDS



From left: **Abbeville RME Mike Jones**, **Cherokee RME Stephen Ellis**, **Florence RME Eric Minshew**, **Colleton RME Adam Bishop** and **Bamberg RME Bobby Crider (Statewide RME of the Year)**. Not present: **Richland RME Tony Magwood** and **Oconee RME Mike Smith**.

RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER AWARDS



From left: **Richland "C" RCE Allen Thompson**, **Saluda/Edgefield RCE Tom Dorn**, **Spartanburg RCE Patrick McKenzie**, **Cherokee/Union RCE Shane Parris (Statewide RCE of the Year)**, **Florence RCE Jamie Poston**, **Beaufort/Jasper RCE Toby Wickenhoefer** and **Orangeburg RCE Darryl Kennerly**.

Photographs by Cody Crouch



Stephanie Jackson-Amell



Andy Johnson



Tim Lindberg



Randall Young, Randy Williamson, Kevin Turner, Emily Toler, Allen Thompson, Eric Stuckey, Ashleigh Sandel, David Rogers, Brad Putnam, Mark Pleasant, Rob Perry, Janet P. Oakley, Matt Munsick, Dave Miller, Mitchell Metts, Steve Meetze

SCDOT
from page 01

collapse from a train derailment in April 2014.

Oakley said Act 98 implementation “began in earnest” in 2014 with non-federal aid secondary resurfacing; replacement of load-restricted and closed bridges; and interstate improvements.

“We’re making significant progress in Act 98 implementation,” Oakley said.

Oakley said the agency is monitoring developments in Washington concerning federal funding and the cash balance of the Highway Trust Fund.

“We’re closely monitoring our cash balance and cash forecasting to ensure we have adequate funding over the short-term,” Oakley said. She said the agency is “fully engaged” with AASHTO and other partners and continues to communicate with stakeholders at the state and federal levels.

Oakley described SCDOT’s strategic direction with a framework of six core values (leadership, innovation, public responsiveness, inclusion, fiscal stewardship and adaptability), four vital few goals (safety, preservation, optimize mobility and using transportation to enhance the economy) and four management emphasis areas (customer driven, data driven performance approach, innovation to expedite project delivery and people development, internally and externally).

“It really provides a framework for the Department to accomplish its activities,” Oakley said.

Oakley said there have been several areas of accomplishments including manpower, recruitment strategies, employee recognition; internal management measurement and targets; public responsiveness; encroaching permit processing system; minority and small business affairs; and procurement changes.

For the third straight year, there have been no audit findings from the Recovery Audit or the Public Transit Annual Audit.

“We have moved from the problems that the agency had in getting its fiscal house in order,” Oakley said.

SCDOT is the first in the nation to execute a new stewardship and oversight agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, Oakley said, strengthening the accord with federal guidelines on project delivery.

SCDOT won several honors in 2014 including the Palmetto Award from the ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) for the Cypress Gardens Bridge project.

“I think the staff of DOT, with 4,350 strong, is to be commended for what they have been able to deliver,” Oakley said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR
Senator Kevin Johnson, left, asks S.C. Transportation Secretary Janet P. Oakley, center, a question during her report. At right is Senator Karl Allen.



Senator Larry Grooms is chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.



Senator John Scott, left, and Senator Sean Bennett listen to Oakley's report.

Oakley also gave an overview of the state of the transportation network – highlighting traffic safety; the condition of state-owned bridges; interstate, primary and secondary system pavement condition; public transit ridership and access.

Looking ahead to the future, Oakley touched on many key issues.

The 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan, approved by the Commission in December, was developed in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the South Carolina Ports Authority. The plan is updated every five years to define the state’s vision for transportation.

The Governor’s funding package proposal stresses “Preservation First,” Oakley said.

“In the short term, we can focus on the most critical needs,” Oakley said, including reversing the decline and improving the condition of the state-owned system.

The Preservation First plan would provide \$208 million to stop the downward trends for bridges, pavements and routine maintenance; and \$186 million to reverse the decline and improve pavement, bridges on interstates and primary roads, and make low cost improvements at some points of congestion.

Oakley said the agency is monitoring developments in Washington concerning federal funding and the cash balance of the Highway Trust Fund.

“We’re closely monitoring our cash balance and cash forecasting to ensure we have adequate funding over the short-

term,” Oakley said. She said the agency is “fully engaged” with AASHTO and other partners and continue to communicate with stakeholders at the state and federal levels.

In closing, Oakley outlined a management emphasis called, “Process Re-Engineering.” It includes: Privatization/Outsourcing; Integrated Management Systems; Risk-based Asset Management System; performance targets and resource development; Innovations for expediting project delivery; Internal management monitoring and reporting; and continued financial management improvements.

The State of the SCDOT presentation is available on our web site at http://www.scdot.org/inside/state_of_scdot.aspx.



South Carolina Walk to School Day

Students across the state participate in Safe Routes to School event

By Kim Corley

Students across the state gathered on March 4 to participate in South Carolina Walk to School Day. This annual event is organized by the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program and its Resource Center.

These events emphasize the importance of physical activity, pedestrian safety, reducing traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections within the broader community.

The Safe Routes to School program launched their first South Carolina Walk to School Day event in the spring of 2012 with nearly 150 schools participating. This year, that number increased to 209. South Carolina Walk to School Day mirrors International Walk to School Day, a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on

the same day. It began as a one-day event in October 1997.

This past October, with 377 schools, South Carolina had a record for the number of registered events in the state and ranked number one in the nation with the highest percentage of schools participating for two consecutive years. One out of every three elementary and middle schools registered a Walk to School Event.

The South Carolina Safe Routes to School Resource Center, a federally-funded project of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, is looking forward to another record-breaking year.

For more information about the South Carolina Safe Routes to School program, please visit www.SCSafeRoutes.org.

At the site, you can browse information about events, materials and opportunities to register for upcoming events. Services and materials are provided at no cost to K-8th grade schools and their communities.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH AND ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Students from Hand Middle School and Oak Grove Elementary were two of the many schools which participated in the March 4 event.

SCDOT retiree Carl Chase turns his walks into runs

By Pete Poore

When Carl Chase served as the Assets Manager for SCDOT, you would rarely find him in his office. He was usually out walking around the Headquarters building, or out inspecting SCDOT properties in the field. Now that he's retired, you might find it hard to keep up with him. The "walks" have turned into "runs."

Chase spends a lot of time training for marathons and his running resume is quite lengthy and impressive. "I started in high school running the mile and when I entered the military, of course I did a lot of running in the Army," he said.

His military service connects his running experience to an historic chapter in the history of the Civil Rights movement in this country. In 1962, James Meredith was the first African-American admitted to the University of Mississippi in Oxford. At first, federal marshals were assigned as Meredith's protection detail, but then violence broke out. At that point, the decision was made to send units of the U.S. Army to Oxford. Chase was a member of one of the units that was assigned to escort Meredith to classes and then guard his dorm when he returned.

"We were housed at the Oxford Airport, living in tents. There was a lot of down time," said Chase. He thought about the challenge President Kennedy made to Americans to walk or run 50 miles. He proposed a 50-mile run to his commanding officer to answer JFK's call and to break the boredom.

The course was to run from the Oxford Airport to a town called Enterprise and back. About 20 or so soldiers set out on the run. During the return trip, Carl noticed something. "I was the only one still running. Everyone else had dropped out. When I got close to what I thought was the finish line, my commanding officer was sitting there in a jeep. He told me that the course was short and I had to run another mile or two," said Chase. He added, "I ran the extra distance, but next morning, I could hardly move."

Chase hasn't taken on any more 50-mile runs, which are now considered "ultramarathons" since 1962. But he's finished the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. five times since 1990. In 1995, he finished the Army Marathon at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Chase has run the Cooper River Bridge Run (10k) about 15 times, including the one-time-only "Burn the Bridge Run" which was the last race on the old bridges before they were demolished.



Carl Chase poses by the finish line of the Palmetto Half Marathon on April 11.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CARL CHASE

In December 2014, the senior marathoner traveled to Hawaii to run the Honolulu Marathon. On the day of the race, Chase and 30,000 new-found friends took off from the starting line at 5:00 a.m. Chase said he spent the early part of the race running into rain showers, followed by some beautiful rainbows, more sunshine and then into another rain shower and more rainbows. He's going back for the 2015 race.

Chase retired from SCDOT in 2009 which allowed him to step up his running. Though he no longer has to set an alarm, he's up before the sun to get in his training miles before going off to teach Criminal Justice classes at Midlands Tech and South University.

Chase has more goals to reach, including qualifying for the Boston Marathon. To help him achieve that goal, he's going to camp this summer. "I've never really learned how to run," he said. Chase has signed up for a running camp in June at Furman University where he'll learn how to stride, improve his flexibility, learn to breathe properly and do all the things elite runners do. Then it's on to Santa Rosa, California near San Francisco on August 23. This is the last sanctioned race for qualifying for the 2016 Boston Marathon. The time Chase has to beat is four-hours and 35-minutes.

What's next for this restless retiree? "I plan to keep running until I'm 80, and if I'm still healthy then, I'll keep running" he

said.

To fill in the time between races, he may soon be "Dr. Chase" in the next couple of years. He's taken the GRE exam for graduate school and has applied to the College of Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina for admittance into its Ph.D. program.

Carl summed up his life after retirement from SCDOT by saying, "I can't picture myself sitting for more than five minutes."

Jeff Jordan Update

By Pete Poore

SCDOT employee **Jeff Jordan** was featured as the SCDOT "Extreme Athlete" in the Fall 2014 edition of The Connector. Jordan participated in the "Ride to Remember," a fund-raising event for the Alzheimer's Association.

In the summer of 2014, he was part of a cycling team that rode 252 miles from Simpsonville to Mount Pleasant. The District 3 engineer and his team are scheduled to make the "Ride" again this summer. Jordan and his team are accepting donations that will go to the Alzheimer's Association. Information about the Association, the event and how to donate can be found at the following link:

www.aridetoremember.org



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Jeff Jordan will be riding again for charity this summer.



HONORING RILEY



The SCDOT Commission met in the historic Charleston City Hall for their April 17 meeting. During the meeting the Commission presented long-time Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, who is retiring from office, with a resolution thanking him for his significant role in transportation-related projects during his tenure.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

DEATHS



Hugh Atkins

Hugh Atkins of Spartanburg, former SCDOT Commissioner, died Jan. 30.

Spencer Bethea, trades specialist II at Orangeburg Maintenance, died Jan. 1.

Ted Boozer, retired SCDOT Engineer, died Feb. 19.

Maurice Close, Darlington Maintenance retiree, died Dec. 9, 2014.



Paul Fee

Paul Fee, trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance, died Feb. 28.

Gordon Jacobs, trades specialist II at Marlboro Maintenance, died Feb. 16.

Louis McCrea, trades specialist III at Williamsburg Maintenance, died Jan. 22.

Marcus Moore, trades specialist III at Anderson Maintenance, died Jan. 15.

Jennifer Whitten, Equipment Depot retiree, died Dec. 6, 2014.

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, South Carolina's public servants deliver services that enhance the lives of the people of the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's public servants perform a variety of challenging and important tasks, including preserving public safety and protecting the health of our citizens, working to ensure clean air and water, caring for crime victims and the economically-disadvantaged, rehabilitating and counseling people in need, attracting and supporting commerce, building and maintaining our highways, schools, and other infrastructure, administering justice, protecting citizens' rights, inspecting our food, licensing our cars, educating our children, and striving to advance medicine, science, and technology for the benefit of our residents; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated servant leaders perform their duties with compassion, professionalism and a commitment to those they serve; and

WHEREAS, Public Servant Recognition Week and Day call attention to their contributions to our continued well-being and quality of life and provide a special time to express our appreciation and gratitude for all they do.

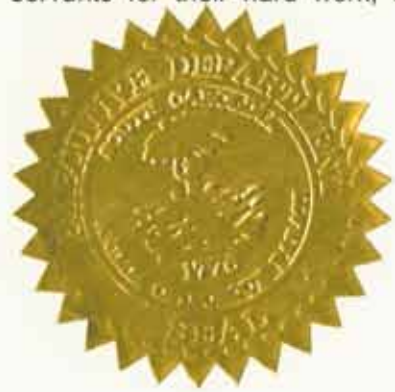
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 3 - 9, 2015, as

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION WEEK

and May 6, 2015, as

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our public servants for their hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to the people of our state.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*Thanks
to
all the
SCDOT
employees
that do
a great
job
every
day
for
the
citizens
of
South
Carolina.*

Governor Nikki Haley signed an Executive Order dated April 21, 2015, which proclaims that South Carolina Public Servant Recognition Week is May 3 – 9, and South Carolina Public Servant Recognition Day is Wednesday, May 6, 2015.

Engineering News

Salvage Excavation Project

SCDOT Archaeologists uncover history in Camden

By Chad Long
Environmental Office

In the spring of 2014 a group of SCDOT archaeologists participated in a two-day salvage excavation project at the original settlement of Camden in Kershaw County.

Known as the oldest inland city in South Carolina, the original settlement of Camden is located on the grounds of the Revolutionary War Park and Museum on U.S. 521 leading into downtown Camden.

The settlement played an important role as a trading post on the colonial frontier and also served as a British supply post during an 11-month period of the Revolutionary War. The archaeological site associated with the settlement is considered “nationally significant” because of the important information the site contains about colonial settlement on the South Carolina frontier.

Salvage excavations at the settlement of Camden were needed when it was found that a deep trench associated with a new gravity and force main sewer system being installed by the city of Camden would impact a portion of the National Register-listed site. The excavations began on the morning of April 2, 2014, by a team of archaeologists pulled together from various state agencies and cultural resource management firms.

Under the supervision of SCDOT archaeologist **Chad Long**, volunteer archaeologists excavated three test units, two slot trenches, and five historic features just hours before heavy equipment completed the construction of the sewer line. SCDOT archaeologists **Dr. Bill Jurgelski**, **Tracy Miller**, and **Jeff Craver** also provided invaluable assistance throughout the course of the project.



SCALE: 5 centimeters
is approximately
2 inches.

Got news?

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



Dede Elmore

ITEMS FOUND

- a) Hand painted pearlware (1775-1840)
- b) Domestic made redware (late 18th/early 19th century)
- c) Delftware (1600-1802)
- d) Polychrome pearlware (1795-1820)
- e) German stoneware (1650-1775)
- f) Olive green wine bottle glass (18th/19th century)
- g) Catawba ceramics (late 18th/early 19th century)
- h) Kaolin pipe stems (ca. 1800)
- i) top left: brass metal disc button; bottom left: .69" caliber musket ball; right: Iron/brass knife fragment
- j) Butchered bone
- k) Pig teeth

The salvage excavation project was successful for a number of reasons. First and foremost, a group of dedicated volunteer archaeologists was able to quickly mobilize and successfully miti-

gate the adverse effects of construction on a nationally significant archaeological resource. Second, the public display of salvage archaeology being conducted on the grounds of the Rev-

olutionary War Park and Museum in Camden was an important factor in the city's decision to revise the alignment of the sewer line to avoid further impacts to the site. Last, through a series of preserva-

tion-related talks, the salvage excavation project has helped create greater awareness of Camden's archaeological heritage and the importance of cultural resource protection.

District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

*District Engineer: Bryan Jones (803) 737-6660
FAX (803) 737-6401*

Practice makes perfect

Equipment Operators prepare for the big competition

District 1 maintenance offices (Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter) have put their game faces on, buckled up those seat belts and put their skill to work. No, it's not the Daytona 500 – it's the 2015 Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference.

Each year, maintenance offices from across the nation compete in various equipment events.

The events range from safely navigating a tractor through a tight turning course, parallel parking a tractor truck with a lowboy, maneuvering a motor grader through a course for time and picking up golf balls with a backhoe and placing them in concrete test cylinders.

Each county chooses their most experienced operators in hopes of advancing through to both the state and regional competitions.

In 2014, **James Catoe** of Kershaw Maintenance, and **Scott Burgess** of Lexington Maintenance both represented District 1 in the motor grader competition. James Catoe finished a solid second place in the regional competition. Both men hope to get another chance to bring home a first place finish.

The District 1 competition is scheduled for April 22 at the State Equipment Depot.



PHOTOS BY GLEN BRAMLITT/DISTRICT 1 MAINTENANCE

A tandem axle operator navigates the straightline course at the annual Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference in Columbia in 2014

Got news?

Contact Glen Bramlitt at: 803-737-6420 or email him at BramlittGA@scdot.org

**Glen
Bramlitt**



Meet Shane Byrd

Richland Maintenance has a new shinn cutter Operator and he brings 30 years of experience in drilling and blasting mining, doubles as a mechanic in the Richland Maintenance Shop, helps with the Winter Maintenance Crew and knows a secret for catching the best Spanish mackerel. His name is **Shane Byrd**.

Byrd, a native of North Carolina, moved to West Columbia in 2001. After spending 30 years in the drilling and blasting field, Shane finds himself setting new long-term goals with Richland Maintenance. Serving as the shinn cutter operator since December 2014, he quickly transitioned to mechanic mode when the shinn cutter became inoperable and has become a valuable asset to the shop.

Byrd has a wife, four sons and one daughter to keep him busy when he's away from work – which includes riding his motorcycle and fishing at the beach. While very much a family-man, "kid free, riding free," would be Byrd's perfect day.

The next time you're visiting Richland Maintenance, or you happen to be fishing from his favorite spot at Garden City Pier in Myrtle Beach, welcome him with a hearty handshake – and maybe he'll share that secret for catching Spanish mackerel.



Shane Byrd



Byrd takes time away as the shinn cutter operator for Richland Maintenance to help with equipment preventive maintenance.

District 2 News

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

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

Do you hear what I hear?

District 2 completed another round of Hearing Testing with the assistance of Nurse Dale Thomas, left, and Enviromed Corp. Thanks to all the maintenance employees who participated and assisted with the testing preparations.



SARAH MCKINNEY/DISTRICT 2

Got news?

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



Sarah McKinney

Meet Nick Rebovich



SARAH MCKINNEY/DISTRICT 2

Job Shadowing



BARBARA SHEALY/MCCORMICK MAINTENANCE

Madison Johnson, a student of Edgewood Middle School in Ninety Six, participated in National Job Shadow Day. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Shealy, Administrative Assistant for McCormick Maintenance. She is 11 years old and is in the sixth grade.



Dylan Skipper, a senior at Newberry Academy, visited Newberry Construction on March 10, 2015 for job shadowing. Skipper shadowed RCE Matthew Shealy, P.E.

Laurens Maintenance says goodbye

Laurens Maintenance had a breakfast recognizing the departure of co-workers. Trades Specialist III Ray Crisp, left, retired from Laurens Maintenance with 18 years of service at SCDOT and RME Robert Russian, right, left SCDOT after 14 years of service to begin work at Laurens Commission of Public Works. They were both presented with their hard hats that were autographed by their co-workers.



Ray Crisp



Robert Russian

District Traffic Engineer **Nicholas "Nick" Rebovich** has been in competing in the world-wide 2015 CrossFit Games called The Open.

The workouts for the 5th Open are kept secret until the week they start. Each week for five weeks, the Workout of the Day (WOD) is announced on Thursday afternoon. Top athletes from around the world perform the WODs for the first time live on the CrossFit Games website. Individual athletes have until the following Monday night to complete the WODs and submit their scores online. Athletes have to be judged by CrossFit certified judges at a

local affiliate or submit videos to CrossFit headquarters to be considered for the Regionals. More than 270,000 athletes worldwide compete in The Open.

Workouts consist of timed events such as dead lifts, snatches, clean and jerk lifts, wall-ball shots with a 20 pound medicine ball, jumping rope and handstand push-ups.

"I started doing CrossFit because I need a new drive," Rebovich said. He credits CrossFit for reducing his stress and teaching him that his mind and body are capable of far more than he ever imagined. He signed up for the Open to challenge himself.

District 3 News

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

Got news?

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

**Brian
Harris**



District 3 handles winter weather

Another winter has come and gone. All of the fine SCDOT employees who worked tirelessly to provide safe travel on our Upstate roads deserve a special thanks.

SCDOT maintenance offices in Greenville, Spartanburg, Oconee and Pickens counties worked around the clock to make sure roads were safe for Upstate citizens.

A special thanks is also in order for the employees that work with the SHEP Program. They worked day and night to assist drivers and the SC Highway Patrol with any wrecks or road hazards the weather caused.

This year's snow totals in the Upstate remained modest despite weather reports across the region. Most areas saw less than 3 inches of snow during the storm.

A special thanks to **Brian Cochran** for the photos of the Interstates during the snow.



DEA Gwinn retires after 30 years



Steve Gwinn

District 3 Engineering Administrator **Steve Gwinn** retired on March 31, 2015 after 30 years with SCDOT.

Gwinn started with the state on Feb. 4, 1985, in construction until he was named the District Engineering Administrator for District 3 in 2006.

District 3 wishes Steve Gwinn the best and would also like to thank him for his exemplary service to SCDOT and the counseling and teaching he has willingly given to his co-workers.

Good luck and best wishes!

Meet Ebony Middleton



Ebony Middleton

Name: Ebony Middleton
Title: Resident Engineer

Have you met **Ebony Middleton**?

Middleton has been employed with SCDOT for a little more than seven years, but many may be unfamiliar with who he is. Middleton works at Spartanburg Maintenance as a Resident Engineer.

He is active as a volunteer in his church ministry. He enjoys golf, reading and Deejaying.

Middleton is often heard quoting his famous statement "Make It Happen." So welcome Spartanburg's own Ebony Middleton to the SCDOT family and thank him for the fine work he's doing at Spartanburg Maintenance.

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 recognizes employees for safety

District 4 presented safety awards to employees who had not had an injury or an at-fault accident for the months of October-February. The following employees were recognized:

5 Years

Aaron Martin
Richard Tegieu
Jason Wyatt
Al Terry
Alice Evans
Yvonne Clark
Lee Oliver
Hulee Harvey
James Horne

10 Years

John Evans
Brad Trout
Donnie Rivers
James Joyner

12 Years

Tina Laymon

13 Years

Scott Faulkenberry
James Lewis

16 Years

Ricky Pollock
Larry Hodge

17 Years

Charles Glenn
Antoine Davis

18 Years

Harry Hollis
Lewis Brazell
Perry Crocker
Jamie Fowler

19 Years

Todd McAbee
Vic Edwards

21 Years

Kim Desrosiers
Wesley Spencer

22 Years

William Gaskins

23 Years

Mike Mills
Danny Carns
Jeff Burdette

25 Years

Leslie Brown
Kent Wagner

26 Years

Lee Estes

29 Years

Ken Wilson
Edward Moore
Rusty Snider

Got news?

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



Edward Moore



Commissioner W.B. Cook pledged to pay 10 employees to participate in the Health Screening. Employees names were drawn and these employees were the lucky recipients. A special thanks to Commissioner Cook.



Cherokee RME Stephen Ellis, right, presents Wendell Spencer with a retirement plaque for 27 years of service.



PHOTOS BY KIM DESROSIERS/D4 OFFICE

Chester Maintenance and District 4 specialty crews were recognized for completing 2014 without an OSHA recordable injury.



Edward Moore, left, presents John Jaynes with his certificate for 20 years of service just prior to his retirement.



On Dec. 4, 2014, employees from Chester Maintenance and the District 4 Office held a lunch fundraiser for coworker Chad Hare, left, a Mechanic at Chester Maintenance. Hare was recently diagnosed with cancer and employees raised approximately \$1500 to help with his expenses. Shop Supervisor Tommy Clayton, right, coordinated the event. All District 4 employees send best wishes to him as he continues his fight.



PHOTO BY KEN CALDWELL

On Nov. 29, 2014, District 4 employees participated in a chainsaw training and competition. Winners from the four events are, from left: John Watson of Cherokee Maintenance, Chainsaw Speed Cut; Nathan Lance of York Maintenance, Chainsaw Maintenance; Brett Branham of Fairfield Maintenance, Polesaw Speed Cut; and Jeremy Shrewsbury of York Maintenance, Tree Felling.

District 5 News

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

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

SCDOT employee to the rescue

On Feb. 3, 2015, Darlington County track hoe operator **Steve Zaretska** was performing a ditch digging operation near an intersection.

One of the property owners near the ditch came over to watch the digging, and Zaretska looked over to make sure the property owner was a safe distance from the work area.

As he looked toward the pedestrian, he saw a pickup truck run the stop sign and strike another car. The truck spun around, narrowly missing the property owner, and landed in the freshly dug ditch. The car that was struck rolled several times and stopped upside down and partially in the road.

Zaretska secured the track hoe and ran to help the woman driving the car. She was trying to crawl out of the car, and he helped her out of the car and assessed her condition. She was not bleeding, so he helped her to the side of the road and placed his SCDOT jacket on her to keep her warm. He then checked on the truck driver, who was dazed but unhurt.

Zaretska got the truck driver and sat him near the woman so he could observe both, then proceeded to call 911.

With the car in the roadway, Zaretska directed traffic until the patrol, fire department and ambulance arrived. One of the troopers commented that he "did a great job, being by himself."

SCDOT thanks Zaretska for being ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure the public's safety!



Steve Zaretska

Meet John Carmichael

John Carmichael is the Shop Foreman in Dillon Maintenance. He is also one of District 5's Third Party Testers for CDL operators.

In his Third Party Tester position, he has helped Dillon Maintenance employees keep on top of vehicle pretrips, and when issues are noted, the trucks are turned into his shop, so he knows they get repaired!

Carmichael has assisted other counties inspect their vehicles in preparation for QMT's as well. In addition, he has been invaluable in assisting the county safety officer with her duties.

Carmichael is married and has 4 children. His daughter, **LaTosha Carmichael**, is an SCDOT employee in the District 5 Office.



John Carmichael

Got news?

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

Michael Miller



Employee's bright idea increases tractor visibility

Kenny Rouse is a mechanic in the Dillon Maintenance Shop. Prior to transferring to the mechanic position, he worked on the mowing crew, and was concerned about the visibility of SCDOT mowers on the roadway.

When one of the mower operators came in and discussed several close calls with motorists, Rouse fabricated mounts with additional warning lights to install on the tractor, hopefully giving motorists a better chance at avoiding collisions with our equipment.



Kenny Rouse



QMT Results

District 5 has completed 3 of the 4 QMT's in the district for this testing season. All three counties passed. Great job Kingstree, Horry and Darlington counties!

District 6 News

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

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

Got
news?

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



Michelle Benton

Tree clearing underway on I-26

Approximately 54 acres of trees are being clear cut in the median of I-26 in Berkeley and Dorchester Counties for the installation of cable barrier.

Willis Dobison of Dorchester Construction is the project manager overseeing the project and has been working with the contractor from Cherokee, Inc. ensuring the work is being done in accordance with the contract and kept on schedule. The mile point ranges are from: MP 170-171, MP 175-176, MP 182-183, MP 187-191 and MP 193-198.

The tree cutter wraps its claws around a pine tree before it saws through the tree at ground level. The machine then lays the tree down in a neat pile before being limbed and hauled away. The cutting process takes less than 15 seconds per tree.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT participates in career day



Spann Elementary in Summerville held their 2nd Annual Career Vehicle Day on March 13 and invited Dorchester Maintenance to show off their equipment.

Johnny Robinson, Heyward Zeiglar, Joey Gokey, Dylan Murray, Clay Villeponteaux and David Pilch provided the students with the knowledge to get them thinking about their career paths in the future.

Meet Jason Powell

Jason Powell began his career with SCDOT SHEP in 2010. He is the Incident Responder in District 6 for Charleston. As a responder, he's responsible for assisting motorists, clearing anything blocking the lanes, and provides traffic control for law enforcement.

He takes great pride in his work and is a valuable employee to the SHEP Team. On Feb. 17, 2015, the Post and Courier published a "letter to the editor" which was written by a motorist thanking Jason Powell for his service and naming him a "Highway Rescue Hero."

He is from Summerville and married to Julie Powell. They have one dog. In his spare time, he likes to go fishing and watch Nascar.



Jason Powell

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*

New cutter head safer, more efficient

District 7 has been using Boom/Slope mowers for a long time. Recently, however, a newer type of cutter head, a Gyor-Trac, has been installed that not only cuts brush and trees limbs but grinds them into mulch without throwing the debris into the road.

Credit must be given to District 6 who was instrumental in getting these new cutter heads since they performed all of the original testing.

The result however is that employees can now do their job in a safer more efficient way.

These heads have shown to be cost effective and safer since less debris flies away from

the cutter head. The crew shown in the picture could not wait to brag on how good this machine worked.

With the acquisition of new cutter heads, we have been able to make a great deal of progress over the older Flail Head cutters that were constantly breaking down and would not cut the larger diameter material.

A similar type cutter head can also be used on the front of a Skid Steer Loader to cut brush where the Slope Mower tractor cannot go.

Overall the employees like the machine so they do their job better, and this means better results for the public.



Got news?

Contact Charlie Jones at:
803-395-7161 or
by emailing her at
JonesCD@scdot.org

Charlie Jones



Meet Deborah Till

Deborah Till is the administrative assistant for the Orangeburg Construction Office. Till does great job assisting with the statewide median cable barriers.

She works with the Orangeburg Construction Office in District 7 that is responsible for coordinating the maintenance of the median cable barriers across the entire state. Orangeburg Construction coordinates cable barriers for the following roads: I-20, I-26, I-77, I-85, I-85 Business, I-95, I-385, I-520, I-526, SC-22, S.C.31 and S.C.277.

Till, under the guidance of RCE Darryl Kennerly and DCE Jim Porth, she advises SCDOT representatives throughout our state about procedures to record accident hits, troubleshoot repair problems and file accident claims.

At the end of each month she reconciles quantities and hit information to generate monthly reports for contractors.



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**SCDOT
Communications
PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202**



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Great American Cleanup
District 7 OSHA Officer Danny Simmons (left), Secretary of Transportation Janet Oakley (center) and Bamberg Maintenance employee Diane Aldi pick up litter on U.S. 301 in Bamberg County during Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup on April 23, 2015.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Bamberg Maintenance employees were joined by S.C. Secretary of Transportation Janet P. Oakley and other members of the SCDOT senior staff for a litter pickup along U.S. 301 in Bamberg on April 23, 2015.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Richland Maintenance flew their flags at half-mast on March 4, 2015, in honor of employee Paul Fee who was killed while working on Feb. 28.

THE CONNECTOR

VOLUME XXV NO. 1

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2015

SCDOT

VIEWPOINTS

By Janet P. Oakley
Secretary of Transportation

First, I want to express my deepest sympathy to the family and co-workers of **Paul Fee** who was killed in the line of duty on February 28. Working conditions in the field are very dangerous and we will redouble our efforts to address safety procedures and equipment. Please commit to helping each other be safe as possible.

As I reflect on the past year as your Secretary, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your support of our mission to serve the citizens and businesses of South Carolina. You demon-

strated over and over again your commitment to excellent service -- responding to ice storms, earthquakes, flooding, emergency repairs, and bridge and culvert collapses. You displayed over and over again the best of teamwork in responding to the needs of our customers, going the extra mile to get the job done well. I am honored to be leading the dedicated professionals of SCDOT.

You also have embraced the challenges of a new and renewed focus on customer service, objective-based performance management and project delivery. Since May 2014, we have charted a new, focused course of action with SCDOT's Strategic Direction and you have developed busi-

ness plans designed to make progress in achieving our goals. You have implemented new practices and procedures that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations and service to our customers. You have accomplished this while still delivering the current program -- much like changing the tires on a moving vehicle!

Your efforts will never go unnoticed. Ultimately, everything you do will impact the economy and quality of life of South Carolinians. Over the coming year we will work together diligently on execution, but we will stop to celebrate our successes and recognize the achievements of our colleagues. Thank you SCDOT for a job well done! I am proud to be working with you and for you.



Janet P. Oakley
Secretary of Transportation

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ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Traffic moves under a beautiful canopy of trees along Cypress Gardens Road near the entrance to Cypress Gardens in Dorchester County. The road was recently reopened after repairs were made to the bridge, shown here, which was damaged by a derailed train.