

## VIEWPOINTS

**By Christy A. Hall  
South Carolina Secretary  
of Transportation**

As the year comes to a close, I want to take an opportunity to celebrate the things we have accomplished together and look towards the priorities for the future.

At a recent groundbreaking event, Governor Henry McMaster told the folks gathered that traffic cones are quickly becoming the state flower of South Carolina. That is what progress looks like. And that progress is because of your effort and commitment to our organization and this state.

We have seen unprecedented

levels of investment from our Governor and the General Assembly – this increase in funding allowed us to accelerate the I-26 and I-95 widening projects along with other widening and improvement projects on every interstate in South Carolina. We're paving the way for freight and distribution from the Port to the Upstate—strengthening the economy of South Carolina and making our state an even better place to live and work.

Our state leadership put their trust in us and we are going to deliver.

The pages of this Connector highlight just a few of the recent projects happening around the

state. We also implemented programs to improve customer service, speed up work orders and engage with our local communities. We're delivering on the Strategic 10-Year plan, and we're extending those priorities and values into everything we do. We must move toward execution to deliver on those promises.

We have a number of bridge replacement projects that are under construction or have been completed in the last year. That includes the Harbor River Bridge Replacement project in Beaufort County – a project selected for national recognition.

We recognize that our bridge system in South Carolina is rap-

idly aging. As many of the bridges in our network approach 60 and 70 years old or even older, SCDOT must continue and accelerate its focus on bridges in the coming year. We're targeting the worst issues first, but we know that we need improvements across the network, and we need to accelerate those improvements. We already have a robust inspection and inventory program. Now is the time to build on the work already done and strategically invest our resources to improve connectivity around the state.

We build things here – we build roads, we build bridges and we're building a better future, together. Thank you for all that you do.

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## SCDOT Fall Litter Cleanup

SCDOT held its bi-annual litter pickup event on Nov. 29, 2022. SCDOT employees in every county across the state volunteered to pick up roadside litter as part of SCDOT's Fall Cleanup event.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Crews pickup litter along I-77 near Forest Drive in Columbia.

Lexington Maintenance team members and volunteers from Headquarters remove litter from the center median of U.S. 321 near Gaston in Lexington County.