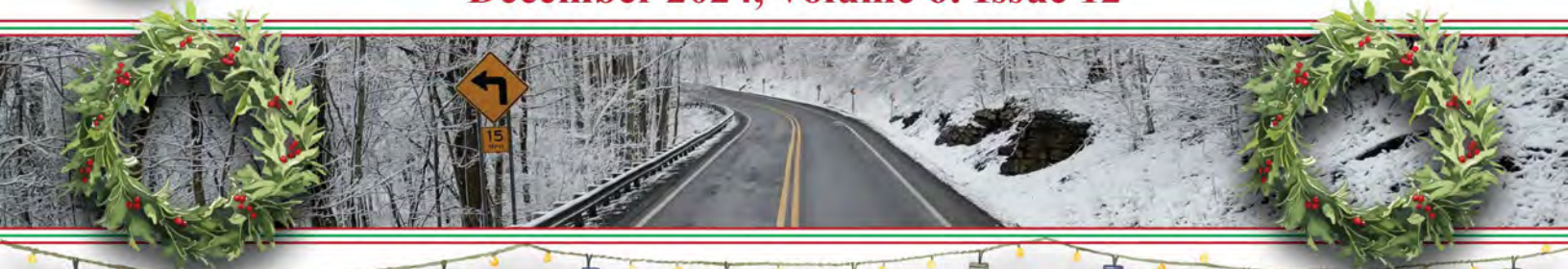




WVDOT Today!

December 2024, Volume 6: Issue 12



WVDOT Year in Review!



WE ARE ONE DOT! WE ARE ONE DOT! WE ARE ONE DOT!



December, January, February, & March

December- Gov. Jim Justice announced the opening of the Grant Street Bridge, reconnecting the city's North End and East Side with downtown and Princeton Avenue for the first time since the structure's closure in 2019. The new bridge was 330 feet long and featured a modern design to improve safety and traffic flow. Federal, state, and local grants funded the \$10.5 million project.



January-With warmer weather and temperatures expected to stay in the 50s and 60s, Governor Jim Justice and West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) kicked off Operation R.I.P. Potholes on Wednesday, January 31.

Asphalt plants open in Poca, Morgantown and Princeton, as of today, February 5, 2024, make it possible to patch with hot mix in those areas. These plants do not normally open until spring, but more potholes form during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter than any other time of the year.

WVDOT has patched more than 1,000 miles of road in Operation R.I.P. Potholes thus far and the momentum is speeding up.



February- Motorcycle enthusiast Scott Williams has graced the pages of "WVDOT Today!" before, gushing about the suitability of West Virginia's country roads for pleasure riding.

Now Williams, a contributing editor to the online publication "Rider Magazine," has shared his enthusiasm with an online article about a recent excursion to the Mountain State in an article titled, "Asphalt Heaven: Riding West Virginia Backroads."

In the article, Williams attributes the generally good condition of Mountain State backroads to Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity construction and maintenance program, and to Mountain Rides, a cooperative effort between the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) and Department of Tourism to create tourist routes specifically groomed for motorcyclists and other road tourists.

March- Gov. Jim Justice and Secretary of Transportation Jimmy Wriston, P.E., announced the tipoff to the 2024 West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Core Maintenance Program, marking another significant stride in the state's commitment to infrastructure upkeep and investment.

Applying the full-court press to potholes, as over 30,000 potholes had already been patched along 4,000 miles of roadway as part of Operation R.I.P. Potholes, the program was on its way to another win as it aims to continue the momentum of prioritizing core maintenance during the upcoming paving season.

WVDOT Today!

is a monthly newsletter published by the West Virginia Department of Transportation's Public Relations Division. The purpose of this publication is to facilitate connection across the diverse worksites and professions represented among WVDOT employees to empower us to function as **one West Virginia Department of Transportation.**

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April, May, & June

April- Wednesday, April 17, 2024, was National Go Orange Day as designated by the Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation. It's a day set aside to remind transportation professionals and the general public about the importance of work zone safety.

The event coincides with National Work Zone Awareness Week, which ran Monday, April 15, 2024, through Friday, April 19, 2024. Remember, work zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.

As the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) embarked on its massive new construction season, Gov. Jim Justice and Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., invited our partners and members of the public to join us in wearing orange on Go Orange Day to share our commitment to driving safely in work zones.

Randy Damron, Work Zone Safety spokesperson for WVDOH, said many speed limits are restricted to 55 mph in highway work zones. That's because work zones can be narrower, rougher and provide drivers less time to react than open highway.

In 2023, there were five crashes in West Virginia work zones, killing five people and injuring one. All crashes were avoidable. Wriston has vowed to do everything in his power to reduce the number of people killed in Mountain State work zones to zero.

The WVDOH urges drivers to remain alert when passing through work zones, pay attention to signs and other safety devices, and stay off cell phones.

May- Twenty-two high school teams and nine middle school teams participated in the finals at the WVU Institute of Technology campus in Beckley on Friday, April 5, 2024, and Saturday April 6, 2024.

The event, sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOH) for over 20 years, focuses on engineering, by using real world design principles in the software with which students design their bridges. There were 38 teams, an individual or team of two students, from schools all over the state submitting a total of 650 designs for this year's contest.

WVDOH hopes this competition can interest students in a career with the agency. Numerous students who have participated in this competition are current employees of WVDOH.



June- Gov. Jim Justice signed Senate Bill 1002 on Thursday, May 30, 2024, giving the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) \$150 million in supplemental highway funding for paving projects throughout the Mountain State.

Gov. Justice asked the Legislature to approve the extra funding during the first special legislative session in May. The money was in addition to \$190 million received by the WVDOH in federal highway funds.

The \$150 million supplemental budget appropriation was used exclusively for paving projects in every district in West Virginia, and greatly increased the ability of the WVDOH to pave the roads West Virginians drive every day.



July, August, & September

July- On Friday, June 7, 2024, Gov. Jim Justice; Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E.; Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby; and entrepreneurs for rail excursion company Rail Explorers met in Clay to debut Rail Explorers' newest railbike trail along a six-mile section of the former Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad.

The new tourist trail was made possible by a partnership between the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), Department of Tourism, and Rail Explorers founders Mary Joy Lu and Alex Catchpoole.

Rail Explorers began when Lu saw similar railbikes on a South Korean television show. She and Catchpoole traveled to South Korea to meet with the manufacturer and bring a fleet of railbikes to the United States.

They opened their first trail in New York state in 2015, and have been expanding ever since.

Rail Explorers offers two-seat and four-seat pedal-powered railbikes, which have electrically assisted motors to make pedaling easier. Visit RailExplorers.net or call 877-833-8588 to learn more and reserve tickets.



August- A major construction project that was decades in the making ended Thursday, July 18, 2024, when the Scott Miller Hill Bypass on US 33 near Spencer opened to traffic.

Two months ahead of schedule.

The 4.3-mile bypass runs from Tuckers Run to Middle Fork on US 33, and will allow trucks and other vehicles to avoid several bad curves on US 33.

Williams, who has been mayor for more than four decades, said the Scott Miller Hill project has been in discussion as long as he can remember.

In 2020, Kanawha Stone, of Poca, was awarded a contract for \$40.4 million to build the bypass.



September- The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) took home three out of 10 regional awards in the 2024 America's Transportation Awards, in competition with 13 other southeastern states. The awards were presented at the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, in Arkansas.

The WVDOT won the award for Quality of Life/Community Development, Medium Project for a project to replace the Grant Street Bridge in Bluefield, which reunited two sections of town that had been separated by closure of the bridge. The award for Best Use of Technology & Innovation, Large Project went to the WVDOT for the Wellsburg Bridge project, which entailed floating the main span of the massive bridge downstream on barges and lifting it into place. The WVDOT won the award for Safety, Medium Project with the US 340 Rock Fall Mitigation project, which installed safety barriers and removed dangerous rocks and debris high above US 340 near Harpers Ferry.

October & November

October- On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the Public Relations Division of the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) took home a national communications award for Best Event at the 2024 TransComm communications conference in Atlanta. The award was for a grand opening event at the Wellsburg Bridge organized by the public relations division and held in September 2023.

An estimated 2,500 people attended the bridge opening, which included live music, a car show, marching bands, massive amounts of confetti, and fireworks. During daylight.

Let that sink in.

“West Virginia was honored to receive this award from TransComm, who had to choose among many wonderful events held across the nation,” said WVDOT Public Relations Division’s Event Director Randy Damron, who organized the huge event. Not only did Damron have to coordinate appearances by Gov. Jim Justice, federal and state highways officials from both Ohio and West Virginia, state legislators, and local dignitaries, but he also had to oversee all the details -- from making sure there was enough confetti to ensuring that all the chairs were properly lined up on the bridge.

“This was a team effort in our small public relations office,” Damron said. “We had all hands on deck for what proved to be an award-winning event.”

“West Virginia has been a winning machine this year,” said WVDOT Public Relations Director Jennifer Dooley. “Show up. Do the work. Report on the work and tell the story – it’s the WVDOT recipe for success, and it works no matter what division or district you’re in within our agency.”



November- The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) won the 2024 America’s Transportation Awards People’s Choice Award for the Wellsburg Bridge project. The award was announced Thursday, October 31, 2024, at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) annual meeting in Philadelphia.

The WVDOT also took home two additional awards; the President’s Award was presented to Deputy Commissioner Rita Pauley, and the Transportation Vanguard Award was presented to Bennett Murphy. Both are prestigious awards for individuals in the transportation industry.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our WVDOT, and the work they’ve put in,” said Jimmy Wriston, P.E., Secretary of Transportation. “This just shows West Virginia values in action.”

West Virginia was one of 12 finalists in the national competition for the America’s Transportation Award, along with transportation projects from Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington State. The America’s Transportation Awards Grand Prize went to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the I-95/Cottman Avenue Emergency Response.

The Wellsburg Bridge, which connects the communities of Wellsburg, West Virginia, and Brilliant, Ohio, opened in September 2023 to a fanfare of marching bands, confetti, and fireworks, completing a project that residents of the two communities had been pursuing for a century. An estimated 2,500 people turned out for the bridge grand opening.



Monument Place Bridge has Reopened Following Major Renovation Project

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) reopened the historic Monument Place Bridge in the Elm Grove section of Wheeling on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, following major renovation work.

The renovation work included removal of existing sidewalks, removal of pavement surface and material within the bridge structure, and repairing the stones along the spandrel walls and the arch barrels themselves. Crews then backfilled it and repaved the bridge, and reconstructed the concrete sidewalks and railings.



"The Monument Place Bridge is an elliptical stone deck arch built in 1817, making it the oldest bridge on West Virginia's highway system," said Tracy Brown, P.E., State Bridge Engineer.

"When this bridge was constructed, the United States was only 41 years old and the State of West Virginia was still 46 years away from becoming a state. This bridge has been used by multiple generations and crossed by countless people over the 207 years it has been in service, including President Andrew Jackson and other historic figures. The recent renovation will help to ensure that this historic bridge will continue to be used by future generations and will provide them a direct connection to a special piece of West Virginia's infrastructure that has been around since the infancy of our country."

The stone arch bridge, built in 1817, spans Wheeling Creek as part of US 40 known as National Road. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August 1981.



WVDOT Announces Increased Police Presence on I-64 Near Barboursville

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) urges motorists to slow down and pay attention in the Interstate 64 work zone through Cabell County.

In the span of 24 hours, from Thursday, November 7, 2024, through Friday, November 8, 2024, three tractor-trailer crashes shut down multiple lanes on the interstate. West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) crews assisted contractors and local law enforcement on site to get roadways open as quickly as possible. As of now, all lanes are cleared and open.

The WVDOH Traffic Engineering Division will conduct a safety review of the Interstate 64 work zone in the coming days. The crashes that occurred on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at this time are considered to be the result of driver error. WVDOH is working with Barboursville PD to increase police presence throughout the work zone.

When a crash occurs on a roadway, WVDOH crews will report the crash to the Transportation Management Center (TMC) to get information to emergency services. The WVDOH asked the incident commander from law enforcement on scene what they need from highways, including traffic control, equipment, sand, etc. The WVDOH will also notify its own safety officer and investigator with crash information.

The project experienced damage to the top 2 to 2.5 inches of asphalt in both locations; two temporary impact attenuators were destroyed and there was damage to the median wall. The asphalt and impact attenuators were repaired on Thursday and the median wall damage is being assessed for the total limits of repair. The WVDOH would never allow traffic on a roadway that is not safe; therefore the work to ensure safety was performed prior to reopening the roadway.

Drivers traveling through work zones should remain aware that changes can occur from day to day as the work progresses.

The overall scope of the project underway is to widen I-64 through Cabell County from mile marker 15 to mile marker 20. For the 29th Street to Guyandotte River project, both bridges are currently being worked on. The 29th street bridge is in its final phase and should be completed in early 2025. The Guyandotte River Bridge is in the second phase with steel erection complete and preparations starting for the deck to be placed in the coming month. The contractor is working on the last phase of westbound roadway improvements from 29th Street to the Guyandotte Bridge. All contraflow activity will be complete and out of the way west of the Guyandotte River Bridge by late spring 2025. Work will be concentrated on the Guyandotte River Bridge only at that point.

Merritt's Creek is in the final phase of mainline construction. Work is continuous from Mall Road to Merritt's Creek. Dirt crews are working on the sliver fills and cuts to accommodate the auxiliary lane that will flow from Merritt's Creek exit to the Mall exits. Crews are working on four of the five structures and work ranges from demo to setting beams. Throughout the rest of this year, the traveling public will see major strides in achieving the goal of eight lanes from Exit 20 to Exit 18. All contraflow is slated to be off of the mainline by mid-2025 as well. Merritt's Creek from mile marker 18 to mile marker 20 is slated for completion in Fall 2025. The mainline will be completed earlier in 2025 with final work on side roads wrapping up later 2025.

All roadway work west of the Guyandotte Bridge is scheduled to be complete with no contraflow in place by May 2025, with final resurfacing coming once the Guyandotte Bridge is complete. The Guyandotte River Bridge is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2026.

The WVDOT reminds all motorists to pay attention and slow down in work zones. Fines are doubled if you're caught speeding in a work zone. Work zones change daily and it is every driver's responsibility to be aware behind the wheel and obey all traffic laws.

The WVDOT provides real-time traffic updates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through its WV 511 service. Visit wv511.org or the WV 511 Drive Safe app.



West Virginia Parkways Authority Celebrates 70th Birthday of West Virginia Turnpike

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is excited to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ribbon cutting for the West Virginia Turnpike, a landmark event in the state's transportation history. The iconic highway, which stretches 88 miles from Charleston to Princeton, was officially opened to traffic on November 8, 1954, and has played a pivotal role in the economic growth and development of the state for seven decades.

The West Virginia Turnpike was one of the first superhighways in the United States and remains one of the most important routes in the state. It is a critical link connecting southern West Virginia to the rest of the country, facilitating the movement of goods, tourists, and commuters.

"Today, we are very proud of the contributing asset to the State of West Virginia we have in the West Virginia Turnpike, and very proud of the countless men and women who have made careers caring for this wonderful roadway system," said Jeff Miller, Executive Director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority.

The Turnpike's creation came during a time of optimism and forward-thinking for the state. With limited infrastructure in the mountainous regions, state leaders recognized the need for a modern highway that could accommodate increasing traffic and facilitate economic development. In 1952, the West Virginia Legislature passed a bill authorizing the construction of the Turnpike, and the groundbreaking ceremony followed shortly thereafter.

The highway was built using funds from the sale of bonds, a move that was seen as innovative at the time. Despite the challenges posed by West Virginia's rugged terrain, construction crews worked tirelessly to build the road, overcoming significant engineering hurdles to carve a path through the Appalachian Mountains.



At its completion in 1954, the Turnpike was hailed as a feat of engineering, featuring a series of tunnels, bridges, and curves that were not only functional but also scenic. With an initial cost of approximately \$200 million, the project was one of the largest of its kind in the country at the time.

Over the years, the Turnpike has been crucial in boosting the state's economy. The highway has supported key industries such as coal, manufacturing, tourism, and retail, while also enhancing connectivity for residents and businesses in southern West Virginia. The Turnpike continues to serve as a gateway for visitors traveling to popular destinations such as the New River Gorge, one of the nation's premier outdoor recreation spots, and the state capital, Charleston.

Improvements to the West Virginia Turnpike are ongoing ensuring that the highway meets modern safety and transportation standards. In recent years, the West Virginia Parkways Authority has invested in major upgrades, including a toll system upgrade project and travel plaza redevelopment at Beckley and Bluestone. The efforts ensure that the Turnpike will remain a vital route for future generations.

The West Virginia Turnpike has never been in better shape, with continuous improvements like accelerated bridge deck replacement projects, median barrier wall replacement safety enhancement projects making the road safer, smoother, and more accessible. Whether you're commuting, traveling for business, or exploring the state's natural beauty, the Turnpike offers an unparalleled driving experience. Now, thanks to the Single Fee Discount Program, it's more affordable than ever to enjoy this iconic roadway.

Drivers can easily enroll online or visit any customer service center to obtain their annual pass. This program is a perfect way to make the most of the Turnpike's 70-year legacy while saving on toll costs.



RHL Boulevard Reopens in Time for Busy Holiday Shopping Season

Contractors have reopened the RHL Boulevard connector from Jefferson Road following work on the next phase of the Jefferson Road widening project.

The road, which includes a 420-foot bridge, connects Jefferson Road with the Trace Fork Shopping Center in South Charleston. The connector reopened on schedule, as not to interfere with the busy holiday shopping season.

A traffic signal has been placed at the intersection which allows traffic to make left turns onto RHL Boulevard from Jefferson Road and to make left turns onto Jefferson Road from RHL Boulevard. Traffic signage has been installed on the road to alert drivers of signals ahead.

The RHL connector is part of a tri-tiered effort by the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) to alleviate traffic congestion on Corridor G and Jefferson Road in Charleston and South Charleston that also includes widening Jefferson Road and speeding up traffic through the Oakwood Road interchange of Corridor G. The RHL connector provides an alternate entrance and exit from Trace Fork, allowing drivers access to the shopping center from either Corridor G or Jefferson Road.



Triton Construction Inc. was awarded the construction contract for \$10,942,950 in October 2021.

The construction of two Restricted Crossing U-Turns (R-CUTs) at the Oakwood Road intersection on Corridor G, completed in September 2021, significantly reduced congestion in the mornings and afternoons. Oakwood Road provides access to several schools, which used to cause traffic backups during those hours and during the holiday shopping season.

The third major project is widening Jefferson Road to five lanes between US 60 in South Charleston and Corridor G. The project also replaces a bad dogleg intersection at Jefferson Road and the Kanawha Turnpike with a new bridge and roundabout.

Kokosing Construction Company was awarded a contract for \$46.8 million to design and build the project in April 2019. The widening project is expected to be complete in the spring of 2025.



New Guests Each Week!



Follow us on SoundCloud & Apple Podcasts. Listen at: transportation.wv.gov * Click on Podcast



Canopy Clearing Begins

November marked the beginning of canopy clearing season for the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT).

Canopy clearing is the act of cutting branches and brush that overhang the Mountain State's roadways, and it's a vital part of WVDOT's data-driven approach to long term highway maintenance and management. Eliminating shady areas along roads helps ice thaw more quickly in winter, and rainfall dry more quickly from the road surface, thus prolonging the life of the pavement on West Virginia's 39,000 miles of road.

By federal law, maintenance crews are only allowed to clear canopy between November 15 and March 31. The restriction is in place to protect endangered bat populations, which don't typically use trees during those months.

In the past, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) was restricted to cutting a total of 140 acres of canopy a year, or 14 acres for each of the state's 10 highway districts. In 2022, at the urging of Secretary of Transportation Jimmy Wriston, P.E., that restriction was lifted, allowing districts to clear as much canopy as possible, provided they stay between the November - March time restriction.

The first year the restriction was lifted, WVDOH crews cut over 500 acres of canopy by focusing on cutting during winter days when they were not actively clearing snow and ice. Last year the WVDOH cleared 573.40 acres of canopy; and this year the goal has been raised to 600.

Moisture left on pavement degrades asphalt fast, so maintenance crews cut away limbs and branches to allow sunlight to get to the roadways below.

Five hundred or 600 acres of canopy may not sound like a lot when spread over 55 counties, but the work is done along the sides of the road, not the middle of the forest. Five hundred acres equals enough miles of roadway to stretch from Charleston, West Virginia to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Maintenance crews use bucket trucks, chainsaws, pole saws and chippers to clear away branches and limbs and grind them up. Bucket trucks have a reach of 40 feet, but maintenance crews have pole saws that are up to 175 feet long for reaching the highest branches.

Like cutting grass in the summer, milling and filling potholes or clearing ice and snow, canopy clearing is part of the WVDOH core maintenance program. Combined, core maintenance procedures prolong the life of pavement and keep roads safer.



VISION AWARDS

Congratulations to the following individuals being recognized this month by Secretary Wriston for their dedication to The Vision.

Ashlee Wilson - Traffic Engineering

Alex Wriston - District 1

Joyce Dunbar- Transportation Cabinet Secretary's Office

Steven Holmes - District 1

Stevie Johnson - Cenforce

Arthur Mitchell - Operations Division

Kathy Bowe - Operations Division

Michael Stowers - County Administrator

Clarence "Jimmy" Pruett - County Administrator

Stephen Harmond - County Administrator

Tina Wriston - DMV Commissioner's Office

Susan Hughes - Spencer Regional Office

The Vision is simple; to be the best DOT in the country, for the purpose of giving our West Virginia the chance it should have - a place of prosperity and joy, where citizens have the best chance to build the lives they hope for. To be the best DOT in the country based on the quality of our work and motivation. To be the safest place for our employees to work. To be the best trained, and most educated. To go Above and Beyond, every day.



With First Snowfall WVDOH Begin SRIC

West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) crews across the state handled the first statewide winter forecast of the year on Thursday, November 21, 2024, into Saturday, November 23, 2024.

Multiple counties in the eastern portion of the Mountain State were under a winter storm warning, winter storm watch, or winter weather advisory through the evening of Saturday. Counties forecasted under those advisories, watches and warnings include McDowell, Wyoming, Upshur, Barbour, Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, Webster, and Pocahontas.

“Our operators are assigned to continue to perform SRIC operations until all roads are addressed -- on a 24-hour, seven-day-per-week basis,” said Joe Pack, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of Operations.

SRIC stands for snow removal and ice control, and it’s the process the WVDOH uses to keep roads clear for winter travelers.

Statewide, the WVDOH has a stockpile of more than 231,000 tons of salt, and more than 1,000 snowplows to cover all 55 counties. A typical snowplow holds 12 tons of salt, enough to treat about 100 lane-miles of road. That’s about a 50-mile stretch of two-lane road, or about 25 miles of four-lane.

District 8, which includes the counties of Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker, has 9,410 tons of salt, 21 tandem trucks, 43 single axle trucks and additional equipment ready for SRIC operations this winter. The Elkins area could see between six and 12 inches of snow through 7 p.m. Saturday.

District 7, which includes Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Upshur, and Webster counties, has 11,000 tons of salts, two dozen tandem trucks and 39 single axle trucks ready for SRIC. That area is forecasted to see several inches of snow.

In Richwood, Nicholas County, up to a foot of snow was forecasted from Thursday into Saturday. Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Summers, also in District 9, have 20,860 tons of salt available this SRIC season.

“Our crews are ready to roll and meet the demand of this winter storm,” said Jim Moore, P.E., District 9 Engineer. “We conducted dry runs in our area in October.”

District 10, which is McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, and Wyoming counties, have 105 snowplows ready to attack the roadways.

All roads maintained by the WVDOH and West Virginia Parkways Authority are assigned a priority for snow removal. Priority 1 routes include interstate, expressway, national highway system, and all other United States and West Virginia routes. Some Priority 1 routes also include high-traffic county routes. Priority 2 routes are all other school bus routes that are not considered Priority 1. Priority 3 routes are the remaining routes, not including park and forest routes. Priority 4 routes are park and forest routes.

Once Priority 1 routes are deemed in accessible condition, WVDOH operators move those the secondary routes in Priority 2 and 3. However, as snow returns, WVDOH operators return to the Priority 1 routes.

Lower elevations in West Virginia such as the Kanawha Valley and Ohio River areas may see an inch or two of snow.

For the latest updates and information on travel conditions throughout West Virginia, visit wv511.org.



Winter Weather Driving Tips

Winter Weather Driving Tips



REDUCE SPEED

ALWAYS DRIVE SLOWER THAN USUAL IN SNOW, ICE, OR SLIPPERY CONDITIONS



AVOID SUDDEN MOVEMENTS

SMOOTH, GRADUAL STEERING, BRAKING, AND ACCELERATION ARE CRITICAL IN PREVENTING SKIDS



GIVE SNOW PLOWS SPACE

IF YOU SEE A WVDOT SNOWPLOW OR SALT TRUCK, STAY BACK



CARRY WINTER EMERGENCY KIT

BLANKETS, GLOVES, EXTRA WARM CLOTHING, FIRST-AID KIT



WATCH FOR ICE ON BRIDGES AND OVERPASSES

BRIDGES AND OVERPASSES FREEZE MORE QUICKLY THAN REGULAR ROADS



DRIVE WITH THE CONDITIONS

NOT THE POSTED SPEED LIMITS



Citizen's Message on a Job Well Done!

Dear Mr. Thorne,

I am following up on my call yesterday, regarding the damage to my arborvitae during overhang trimming on Apple Jack Lane in the Harpers Ferry area and how impressed I was with your team and such a rapid response.

I was not expecting any immediate followup. However, Kevin and another gentleman showed up, not long after my call to your office, to investigate my complaint. Both gentlemen were very responsive to addressing my complaint and provided me with helpful information regarding the right-of-way on the narrow lane. In addition, they took time to answer my questions, so I could learn how avoid future problems. Kevin followed up this morning to verify the 30 foot right-of-way.

Please accept my gratitude to you and your department for following up with a prompt response and courtesy. I commend Kevin and the gentleman accompanying him to you for their professionalism and to your department for excellent constituent service!
Sincerely,

Lisa Payne



Engineering Management Program at Fairmont State

Overview of the program: The Engineering Management degree at Fairmont State University has been designed to address the needs of business and industry. It prepares graduates for a wide range of career options in engineering fields as managers, supervisors, corporate executive officers, or as senior lead analyst. Some advanced responsibilities of engineering managers include operations management, project management, research and development, and determining project feasibility.

Engineering management is a career field that combines engineering knowledge and technological expertise with planning abilities to coordinate complex enterprises from conception to completion.

Employment Opportunities: A large percentage of current positions are in manufacturing industries (35%), and approximately 34 percent can be found in scientific, professional, and technical service areas. The average salary for individuals working this field with a master of science degree is \$96,000, and the median national annual salary for engineering managers is in excess of \$140,000.

If you are interested in more information please contact:

Ragavanantham Shanmugam, PhD. Chair, Department of Engineering Technology
302B Engineering Technology Building
Ragavanantham.Shanmugam@fairmontstate.edu
Phone: (304) 367-4887

Welcome Sean and Nick!

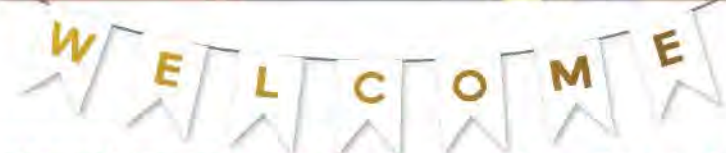


The Public Relations Division would like to welcome Nick Crouch and Sean Gue to our team.

Sean Gue is the One DOT Specialist; he has a graphic design background, graduating from Marshall University. He works primarily with the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, (GHSP), Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and West Virginia Parkways Authority, creating graphics, press releases and taking photos.

Nick Crouch is an External Public Information Specialist; his background is in advertising, and he graduated from Marshall University with a degree in advertising and public relations.

We are so happy to welcome them to our team and to the West Virginia Department of Transportation.



Governor's Highway Safety Program Holds Roundtable Meeting

On Thursday, November 14, 2024, and Friday, November 15, 2024, the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) held a roundtable meeting at the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Center in Hurricane. The two-day roundtable was a success, with different facets of the Governor's Highway Safety Program like regional coordinators, West Virginia State Police, and executive staff coming together and collaborating with different ideas.

Speakers like Jack Luikhart, director of the West Virginia Fusion Center; and Douglas Mowbray, traffic records program manager of the Maryland Highway Safety Office, offered great insight into how they work with the Governor's Highway Safety Program. There were also insightful talks on the topics of impaired driving, crash reports, and prevention partnerships.

The talks concluded with annual reports from all regional coordinators and an open discussion to further the conversation and ideas. It was a valuable roundtable that impacted everyone who attended.



Happy Holidays!



The WVDOT Wishes Everyone Happy Holidays!!!!

