“If you think back before I walked in the door as your Governor, our roads were falling apart. In my first State of the State address, I said we were going to get them fixed. But I don’t know if I ever dreamed that this day would be possible—a day where our roads are so improved that we can actually use them to promote tourism to bring more people to our great state. It’s so good, it’s unbelievable,” Governor Jim Justice.

West Virginia Department of Transportation joined with Gov. Jim Justice and West Virginia Tourism to unveil the second Mountain Rides motorcycle route on Thursday June 30. Capitol Circle runs from the State Capitol, down Route 60 to Fayette County, through Beckley, Logan, Hamlin, and back in a picturesque loop.

With the first Mountain Rides loop announced in May and the next one soon to be announced, West Virginia Division of Highways crews across the state really have something to be proud of.

They said it couldn’t be done. But it’s a two-step process. First, they say it can’t be done. Then, we get it done. The Mountain Rides program stands for everything good about West Virginia. It’s taking what we have and making it better. It’s working together, not only between Districts and Divisions, but with other State of West Virginia agencies.

“It’s a success story that I’m incredibly proud of,” Governor Justice said at the ribbon cutting. “We used to be the blunt end of bad jokes. We’ve always known how good we really are in West Virginia, but the outside world didn’t know. But now, every day, we are proving to the outside world that we really are the diamond in the rough.”

There would be no Mountain Rides program without each and every correctly milled and filled pothole; without every perfectly pulled ditch; without every mowed shoulder (where folks care enough to make sure the clippings aren’t in the road). It’s a tall order, for sure. But we got this one done, and we’re moving on to the next. Each person who played a role should be tremendously proud.

Also in this Issue: Cindy Butler appointed Commissioner of the new agency!
Holiday traffic on the West Virginia Turnpike during the 11 days surrounding the July 4, 2022 holiday was expected to top 1 million vehicles.

“The weekend before & after July 4 is the busiest 11-day travel period for the West Virginia Turnpike each year,” said Jeff Miller, executive director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority. “We expect to process 1.35 million transactions at the toll booths during this time frame.”

Friday, July 1, 2022, was expected to be the heaviest traffic day on the Turnpike, with 165,000 vehicles expected to pass through Turnpike toll booths. Saturday, July 2, 2022, was expected to be second highest, with 148,000 vehicles expected.

“As always, the West Virginia Turnpike will be prepared and staffed accordingly for the increase in holiday travel,” Miller said. “We remind patrons that the heaviest traffic on these days is expected between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.”

To minimize wait time at the toll booths, drivers may want to plan their trips during non-peak hours. Miller also urges drivers to take advantage of West Virginia's E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan, which allows drivers of passenger cars unlimited use of the West Virginia Turnpike for a low annual fee of $26.25, plus a one-time fee of $13 for an E-ZPass transponder. All Turnpike toll booths are set up to accept E-ZPass.

“The benefits of the West Virginia E-ZPass program far exceed the cost, particularly compared to any other national toll discount program that exists,” Miller said. "After just two round trips on the West Virginia Turnpike, the E-ZPass pays for itself. The Governor’s visionary idea for this program will pay dividends long into the future."

To get an E-ZPass, or to renew an existing E-ZPass, visit www.wvturnpike.com. Drivers may also apply in person at the West Virginia Parkways Authority E-ZPass Customer Service Center, 3310 Piedmont Road, Charleston, West Virginia 25306, or at the Beckley Customer Service Center located at 12 Pikeview Drive, Beckley, West Virginia 25801.

Secretary Wriston commends Andy Estep, Travis Thomas, and Carry Payne, of District 1. The trio recently helped the West Virginia State Police, FBI and other organizations disassemble a house as part of a crime scene investigation in Boone County. They used an excavator to take the house apart bucket by bucket so authorities could search the rubble for a possible body. Not an easy job, but it needed done.
West Virginia Secretary of Transportation Jimmy Wriston, P.E., has appointed Cindy Butler as the first Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Transportation’s new Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities. Her appointment was effective Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Gov. Jim Justice signed a bill creating the Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities in March 2022. The legislation combines the Port Authority, Aeronautics Commission, Division of Public Transit and State Rail Authority under the oversight of the new commissioner. The organizations were previously separate divisions under the WVDOT.

"Cindy started out in transportation in Division of Highway's District 5 many years ago," said Secretary Wriston. "She moved to the State Rail Authority (SRA) as their comptroller and they got better immediately. When she was chosen as the Executive Director of the SRA, in just a few short years, she transformed the entire agency from a seat of the pants operation to a well oiled, efficient, well managed Division. I'm expecting no less with the new multimodal agency. I know she'll do a great job."

The new Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities embodies WVDOT's mission to work together as "One DOT," in the spirit of cooperation between agencies to provide service more efficiently to all West Virginians. Staff of the agencies being combined will continue their previous missions under the new agency.

The new Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities embodies WVDOT's mission to work together as "One DOT," in the spirit of cooperation between agencies to provide service more efficiently to all West Virginians. Staff of the agencies being combined will continue their previous missions under the new agency.
Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., recently appointed Cindy Butler as the first Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Transportation’s newly created Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities, which combines the West Virginia Port Authority, State Rail Authority, Aeronautics Commission, and Division of Public Transit under one umbrella. The new division is tasked to “promote, supervise and support safe, adequate and efficient transportation, preserve rail, water and airway facilities and promote economic development and tourism,” according to the enabling legislation.

Gov. Jim Justice has approved a bid award for construction of an approximately 3-mile section of Corridor H in Tucker County; a major project in Gov. Justice’s Roads to Prosperity program.

A.L.L. Construction Inc. was the lowest of five bidders for the project, with a bid of $49,488,494. An additional 15 percent of the bid amount will be added to the bid and set aside for erosion and sediment control to protect the environment.

The contract calls for grading and drainage work for a 3.08-mile section of highway to be built starting near the Cheat River Bridge. The winning bid was less than the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) Engineer’s Estimate of $71,772,000, including erosion and sediment control.

“I congratulate everyone involved in the next leg of this important project,” Gov. Justice said. “I’ve said over and over, Corridor H is one of, if not the most important highway that we need to finish in West Virginia. It’s so vital because it links us right to D.C. It will bring population growth and businesses and more opportunities will follow.”

The contract is part of a larger project that began in Randolph County and will extend the four-lane from the Cheat River Bridge to the Roaring Run Bridge near Mackeyville. The earthwork is an important step in construction of the next section of Corridor H.

The work is vital to create a path for the new four-lane highway to follow. Contractors are expecting to move about 8 million cubic yards of earth to make way for the road; that’s enough dirt to fill more than 2,400 Olympic sized swimming pools.

The WVDOH has already obtained rights of way for the project. Corridor H begins in Weston and travels across central West Virginia, to eventually link up with Interstate 81 in Strasburg, Virginia. The highway is expected to open some of West Virginia’s most remote areas in Grant, Tucker, and Hardy counties to economic development, speed travel times through the mountains and provide a smooth, safe highway for travelers and local residents.

More than 120 miles of Corridor H is currently open to traffic, with about 30 miles left to complete.

To date, more than $1.93 billion has been spent on the four-lane highway.

The completion of Corridor H has been in the works for decades, but stalled out years ago. However, when Gov. Justice took office and instituted his Roads to Prosperity program, additional funding began to be secured and work on the corridor picked back up.

“We continue to work really hard on Corridor H and all of our roads across this great state,” Gov. Justice added. “ Everywhere you go, you’re seeing road improvements and orange cones.” Construction is expected to begin this fall. The project currently has an estimated completion date of late 2025.

Cindy Butler Reflects on New Role

Butler is excited about her new role.

Butler has known and worked with Secretary Wriston since 2010.

“We always talked about the fact that we should be One DOT, and how we can come together as one happy family and promote West Virginia, and promote all modes of transportation,” Butler said.

“I’ve been with the Rail Authority for 25 years, so the rail part I know,” she said.

Butler said she is looking forward to her new role in One DOT.
As the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) kicks off an aggressive summer paving campaign, counties who have long felt overlooked for paving and road maintenance projects are reaping the benefits of a statewide common sense approach.

Take Mason County, for example, where Pond Gap, Gibbstown Road, Bud Chetten Road, four projects on WV 2, and two projects on Ashton Upland Road have already been paved in a season which has just begun.

"West Virginia has 55 counties, we’re dedicated to consistent work in all 55," said WVDOH District 1 Manager Arlie Matney. "In counties like Mason we’re striving to get ahead, and we’ve picked some roads that might not have been paved for 15 years."

In the spring of 2019, Gov. Jim Justice met with County Administrators from each county and asked them a question; what resources do you need? All levels of management, from Secretary of Transportation Jimmy Wriston, P.E., to Crew Chiefs on the ground worked together to implement common sense best practices based on the concept of taking care of the workers, so the workers can take care of the roads. Three years later, the results are showing.

By the middle of June, the WVDOH had paved 375 linear miles of roadway throughout the Mountain State utilizing paving contractors. WVDOH paving crews have paved an additional 125 miles of backroads using the Division’s own paving machines. Paving with WVDOH’s own crews does not replace the work of contractors, but adds to it to cover more miles more quickly.

"Employees come to work wanting to do a good job," said Matney. "If we teach every new employee to do it right, they won’t know how to do it wrong."

Preparation before paving makes the roadway surfaces last. Ditching, drainage and tree canopy clearing keeps the water off the roads and allows sunlight to reach the pavement; preventing potholes. When potholes have formed, proper milling and filling results in smooth, square patches that last longer than the jagged edged throw-and-go methods. Even roads that are scheduled to be paved are patched properly beforehand.

"That might not seem to make sense," Matney said. "But if we pave over a hole in the road, the hole is still there and will come back through. We need to fill those potholes first to create a smooth, long-lasting surface."

Gov. Jim Justice took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 23, 2022, to celebrate the grand opening of the new Larlyn Patrick McKinney Bluefield Area Transit Regional Transfer Station, located in the heart of downtown Bluefield.

The $3.2 million, state-of-the-art facility will operate as the hub of the city’s Bluefield Area Transit (BAT) bus system. The local transportation network now serves more than 225,000 annual passengers on routes in Mercer and McDowell counties, including over 120,000 seniors and 15,000 passengers with disabilities.

"This is an incredible building that is going to serve thousands upon thousands of riders, letting them be in the air conditioning or the warmth instead of standing outside in the elements. It’s truly amazing," Gov. Justice said. "It’s taken a lot of hard work by a lot of people, but you’ve done it. You’re on your way, and there’s going to be more and more goodness to follow. I couldn’t be more proud."

Named for BAT’s director of more than two decades, Patrick McKinney, the new transfer station will offer riders a safe indoor facility with restrooms, plus heating and air conditioning. The facility will allow BAT riders to stay out of the weather while waiting to transfer to another bus, unlike the small open-air shelter used for many years on Princeton Avenue.

The new bus transfer station was built utilizing more than $527,000 in grant funding from the West Virginia Department of Transportation, along with funds from the U.S. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and local funding.
Public Relations Division Welcomes
The One and Only TROY MORGAN

West Virginia Department of Transportation, Public Relations Division, recently welcomed Troy Morgan to our team. Morgan, pictured here competently juggling sunglasses with a pair of Sony headphones to manage a super sunny Thursday in Bluefield, comes to us with 17 years of professional experience as a videographer, real journalistic integrity and a willingness to make The Vision his own.

Save the photo. You will see Troy in the field. He has dived in with both feet and will be out and about all summer. Welcome Troy!

Arlie Matney Champions
District 1’s New Museum

Inspired by State Bridge Engineer Tracy Brown’s dedication to preserving the history of the Silver Bridge for our employees, Arlie Matney, District 1 Manager, championed a museum where his employees can draw pride, strength, and inspiration from accomplishments and challenges of the past.

Featuring the Route 35 Final 15 mile ribbon cutting, and artifacts donated from Divisions and Districts around the West Virginia Division of Highways, Matney’s museum is a testament to the way time spent working diligently can bring about good things.

“We found all sorts of things just packed away,” Matney said. “I hope we keep adding to it.”

Matney unveiled the museum recently with the employees he works to inspire. So far, a piece of the Silver Bridge decking, photos and documents reflecting the completion of larger projects, and the faces of those who have worked here before are among things a viewer might appreciate when visiting the museum.

Matney, alongside his Maintenance Engineer, Kathy Rushworth, P.E., invite everyone to stop in and see the museum when in Charleston. Housed in a room in the District 1 Headquarters on Smith Street, it’s a welcoming space for employees who are open to inspiration and eager to learn something new.
A project to widen Jefferson Road to five lanes between US 60 in South Charleston and Corridor G (US 119) is on schedule and making good progress.

“The bulk of the work right now is concentrated on the new bridge over the Kanawha Turnpike,” said Jason Hamilton, P.E., area construction engineer for West Virginia Division of Highways District 1.

In April 2019, Gov. Jim Justice approved the bid award for the project to Kokosing Construction Company for $46.8 million to design and build the five-lane upgrade. In addition to widening Jefferson Road to five lanes, the project will replace a congested dogleg intersection and rail crossing at the intersection of Kanawha Turnpike and Jefferson Road with a new bridge and roundabout. Heavy growth along Corridor G has led to growing congestion on Jefferson Road, especially during the holiday season and on weekends.

The Jefferson Road widening project will work in conjunction with a new half-mile connector road to link Jefferson Road with RHL Boulevard. That project will add an additional access road to the Trace Fork Shopping Center, allowing direct access to Jefferson Road and alleviating congestion on both Jefferson Road and Corridor G.

In September 2021, Triton Construction Inc. was awarded a contract for more than $10.9 million to build the connector road, which includes the construction of a 420-foot bridge.

Kokosing has been concentrating on building the bridge piers and abutments for the new bridge over the Kanawha Turnpike and railroad tracks on the far northern end of the project. Blasting and clearing work has also been going on above Jefferson Road for the upcoming widening. The project also required tearing down 16 houses south of Kanawha Turnpike.

Utility companies are also in the process of relocating power lines and other utilities in the area.

Gov. Justice’s Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program allowed the WVDOH to free up federal funds and state money to pay for the Jefferson Road project. The project is expected to be finished in the fall of 2024.

The first project in the series of three designed to alleviate congestion on Corridor G was completed in September 2021 when the WVDOH opened West Virginia’s first Restricted Crossing U-Turn, or R-CUT, at the intersection of Oakwood Road and Corridor G. The R-CUT was designed to keep traffic flowing smoothly on Corridor G by shortening wait times at the traffic lights and redirecting traffic coming off Oakwood Road to two new U-turns: a faster and safer design.

“The Jefferson Road project, in conjunction with the RHL Boulevard project and the new R-CUT, will greatly alleviate congestion along Corridor G and improve travel times once complete,” said West Virginia Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E.

More than 53 million vehicles on the road today have unresolved safety recalls, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data. That’s more than one in four vehicles. This poses an urgent and serious risk to drivers and passengers.

Check To Protect is a national campaign led by the National Safety Council that encourages drivers to check the recall status of their vehicles and have open recalls fixed immediately. It is no longer necessary to wait for a recall notice in the mail. Drivers simply enter their vehicle identification number or license plate number at https://checktoprotect.org/#/.
Taylor County Administrator John Corio recently retired after 30 years of service to the West Virginia Division of Highways.

Corio made his way up through the ranks, having joined the WVDOH in 1993.

“I worked as a laborer and moved up to the position of operator,” he recalled. “From operator, I became an assistant, then a crew supervisor, supervisor, and inmate crew supervisor.” He then worked his way up to Assistant Highway Administrator and finally Taylor County Highway Administrator.

“I must admit it’s been a incredible and wonderful 30 years,” Corio said.
Every year, the West Virginia Legislature passes a handful of bills that affect the West Virginia Department of Transportation. During the 2022 legislative session, 58 transportation-related bills were introduced in the House of Representatives or state Senate, but only seven passed. Considering the House and Senate introduced 2,216 bills this year, that’s not many.

The most important piece of legislation passed in 2022 affecting the WVDOT is House Bill 4492, which created the Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities by combining the State Rail Authority, Port Authority, Aeronautics Commission and Public Transit under one umbrella. The bill was designed to promote cooperation between the WVDOT and state Department of Economic Development and ensure the safe and efficient operation of all forms of transportation within the state.

Other legislation passed in 2022 affecting the WVDOT:

- Senate Bill 609 allows the Commissioner of Highways to take over ownership of old rented or leased equipment. The bill allows the districts to replace older equipment faster.

- Senate Bill 610 allows the Secretary of Transportation more leeway in filling positions throughout the entirety of the WVDOT and move employees between divisions if it’s in the best interests of the entire organization.

- House Bill 4062 removes an old requirement in the law that the Commissioner of Highways must live at the Capitol. In the entire history of the WVDOT, only two highway commissioners have ever lived in Charleston.

- House Bill 4345 allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue electronic versions of vehicle registrations. The bill would allow drivers to keep a copy of their registration on their cell phones to show law enforcement.

The Legislature also passed several bills relating to self-driving vehicles, electric vehicles, and vertical take-off and landing aircraft. As these new technologies emerge, the WVDOT intends to work with state lawmakers to ensure the new technologies are safe for use in the Mountain State’s rugged terrain.
Severe thunderstorms that swept through much of West Virginia on Monday, June 13, 2022, and Tuesday, June 14, 2022, sent West Virginia Division of Highways cleanup crews throughout the Mountain State into a frenzy of activity cutting trees out of roadways to open closed roads.

But once the trees are out of the roadway and traffic can flow again, work doesn’t just stop.

“It’s a two-step process,” said Kathy Rushworth, P.E., WVDOH District 1 Maintenance Engineer.

When a storm hits, “We have emergency callouts through the night,” Rushworth said. “We do everything we can to get that road open for traffic.”

But the WVDOH can’t just leave the cut trees lying in the ditch or along the side of the road. Clogged ditchlines lead to flooding, and piles of debris on the side of the road are a safety hazard.

After clearing roads following a storm, cleanup crews go back to remove the cut trees and debris, clear out the ditches and haul off the mess.

WVDOH cleanup crews recently returned to a storm-damaged section of road near the Kanawha County community of Mammoth to remove trees and brush that had been cleared following recent storms. Armed with chainsaws, end loaders and dump trucks, they cut up large trees into small, manageable chunks and loaded them into dump trucks to be hauled away.

Once the trees were cleared, the ditches were cleaned, debris removed from the side of the road, and all the detritus trucked offsite. The debris may be ground up or moved to designated drop sites.

People really do notice when we do good work. Below are some of the comments recently received by the West Virginia Department of Transportation:

“Dear Commissioner Frazier:
I am writing this letter to commend one of your employees who provided outstanding service to me today at the Winfield DMV Office.

This employee was a young lady named Victoria. I have had occasion to visit several of the DMV offices over a period of many years and this was the very best experience I have ever had at any of the offices. While I have never been treated poorly in any way by a DMV employee, I have often felt that the employees whom I dealt with were just doing their jobs, kind of going through the motions. The service provided by this young lady helped me accomplish the transactions I went there for today and made it an enjoyable experience. She was patient, kind and helpful in every way. Because of Victoria’s excellent interpersonal skills my visit to DMV today turned out to be a pleasure instead of an ordeal. I hope you will let Victoria know how much I appreciated the excellent service she provided today.
Thank You.”

—Max Blair
West Virginia Division of Highways bridge crews will begin cleaning work to prepare the historic Carrollton Covered Bridge for restoration beginning Monday, July 11, 2022.

The Barbour County bridge, the third oldest of 17 surviving covered bridges in West Virginia, was badly damaged by a fire in August 2017. The blaze destroyed much of the outer covering of the bridge but left the basic structure mostly intact.

“We’re finally at the point where we can begin restoration of this historic structure,” said Brian Cooper, P.E., District 7 Engineer. “We appreciate the public’s patience with this project.”

The WVDOH was able to reopen the bridge to traffic in September 2017 after minor repairs to the modern bridge superstructure to ensure the bridge was safe. Consultants then developed plans on how to best restore the structure.

The consultants Mead & Hunt, who have done extensive work on the Philippi Covered Bridge, determined what portions of the old wooden superstructure could be saved and installed temporary bracing to shore up the remains of the roof system. Tiger Diversified LLC, in Upshur County, was awarded a contract in May 2021 to provide the timber for the restoration. Contractors for Span 1, LLC just finished installing scaffolding and rigging to replace the bridge’s wooden siding and portions of the upper superstructure.

Now that all the rigging is in place, the District 7 bridge department can go to work replacing all the wood.

“Our crews don’t typically do this kind of bridge work, but they’re excited about it,” Cooper said. “They’re looking forward to having a part in the history of the bridge.”

The restoration of the bridge will begin with a thorough cleaning.

The bridge was built in 1856 by brothers Emmett and Daniel O’Brien and crosses the Buckhannon River near Carrollton. At 140 feet, it is one of the longest surviving covered bridges in West Virginia.

The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

West Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Jimmy Wriston, P.E., is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 West Virginia Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Scholarship Program.

The winners of the scholarships were chosen from a random drawing and will be awarded $500 to their college student account. This year’s recipients are:


SASHTO Scholarships Announced