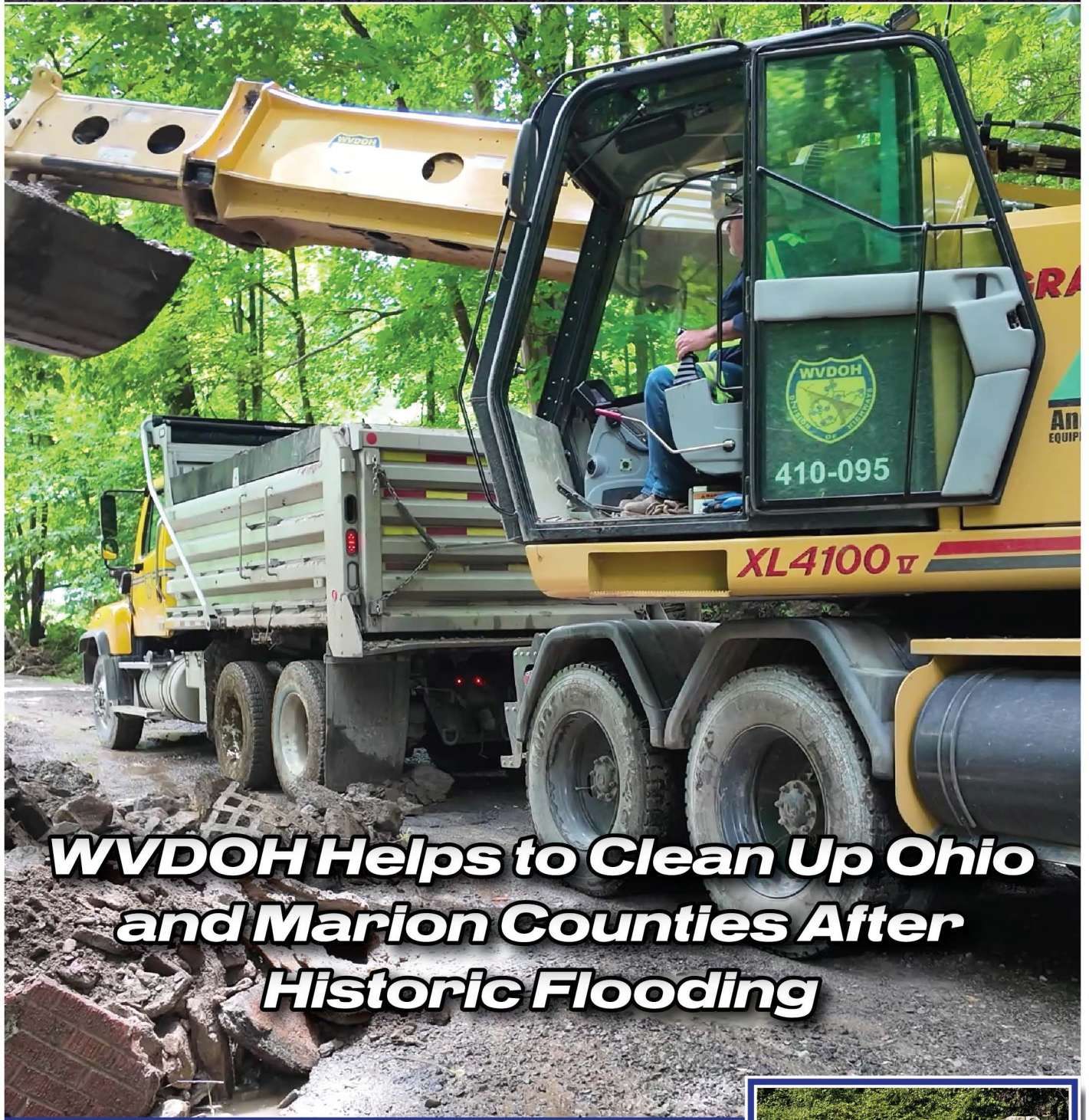


WV DOT Today!

★ DMV Opens New Welch Office ★ Another WVDOT Blast From The Past ★ GHSP Reminds Drivers To Drive Safe: Secure Your Load



WVDOH Helps to Clean Up Ohio and Marion Counties After Historic Flooding



Also, WVDOH Opens Southern Section of Berkeley Springs Bypass



July 2025, **Volume 7:** Issue 7

WVDOH Working Around the Clock in Wake of Devastating Ohio County Floods

West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) work crews have been working around the clock to open roads and clear debris after up to four inches of rain fell in Ohio County during a half-hour period on Saturday, June 14, 2025. Flash flooding killed at least three people and destroyed numerous homes in the Wheeling area.

"Our thoughts are with those affected by this fast moving storm," said Transportation Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh, P.E. "I have deployed resources from several DOH districts to assist with equipment and operators and will continue on the scene until it's complete."

Rumbaugh deployed resources from WVDOH districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 to assist District 6 crews with cleanup efforts, including 29 pieces of heavy equipment and their crews.

WVDOH District 6 Manager Mike Daley said he had not seen such devastation since the historic floods of 1985 and 2016.

"It blew the windows and doors out of houses," Daley said. "It washed homes off of their foundations and carried mobile homes 200 or 300 feet from their original locations."

Four roads in Ohio County, including a section of US 40, remain closed daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for flood repairs, although local traffic and emergency vehicles are being accommodated. G. C. & P. Road remains closed to all traffic, while Dixons Run Road is accessible to emergency vehicles only.

WVDOH cleanup crews dealt with massive debris choking the roads, including cars, buildings, and even homes that were swept up by floodwaters.

Numerous bridges were also choked with debris, including Conex storage containers and cars.

WVDOH work crews worked with state and local officials and emergency responders to get access to people still trapped by the flooding.



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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A Closer Look at Flood Cleanup



DRIVE SAFE: SECURE YOUR LOAD

The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is teaming up the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), to remind drivers to Drive Safe: Secure Your Load. It is every driver's responsibility to ensure all cargo is safely secured. Items not properly secured pose a safety risk on our nation's roadways.

Every U.S. state has a law making it illegal for a driver to operate a non-commercial motor vehicle with an unsecured load. Violating these laws can carry state-specific penalties of up to \$5,000. Objects or debris can fall from vehicles and collide with other vehicles or pedestrians, causing serious injuries or fatalities. For this reason, it is essential for drivers to properly secure their load.

National Secure Your Load Day in West Virginia was celebrated on Tuesday, June 6, 2025. This day, which began in 2004, aims to raise awareness about the importance of properly securing loads to prevent crashes and injuries caused by flying debris. West Virginia, like other states, has laws in place to ensure that loads are secured to prevent them from falling off vehicles.

In West Virginia, a first offense for an unsecure load, resulting in an escaped load, carries a fine of \$250. Subsequent offenses within a 12-month period result in escalating fines: \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense, with potential permit revocation. A third offense can also result in jail time. Additionally, fines may vary depending on the specific nature of the violation and whether it resulted in physical injury.

"Many drivers think that only commercial vehicle drivers are responsible for securing their cargo," said Jack McNeely, director of the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program. "We want our community to know that it is every driver's responsibility to ensure their load is properly secured to their vehicle to protect other vehicles, drivers, and bystanders," McNeely said.

From 2016 to 2020, an average of 16,878 people were injured per year when a vehicle collided with another object that was not properly secured. During this same period, an average of 732 people per year lost their lives. Non-commercial passenger vehicles accounted for 81 percent of these crashes, in which cargo was not properly secured.

In the rush of the day, it can be easy for drivers to overlook the importance of properly securing a vehicle's cargo. Before transporting a load, drivers should check that the vehicle's load is secured on the top, sides, and back, and make sure nothing can blow or fall out. Ensure the load is safe if the vehicle was to suddenly brake or hit a bump, or if the vehicle were to be hit by another vehicle. Drivers should ask: Would they feel safe driving behind the loaded vehicle?

Drivers should follow these tips to ensure properly secure cargo:
Tie cargo down with rope, netting, or straps.

Tie large objects directly to the vehicle or trailer.

Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.

Don't overload the vehicle or trailer.

Always double-check the load to make sure it's secure.

For more information on this campaign, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/drive-safe-secure-your-load>

For more information about the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, visit highwaysafety.wv.gov or call 304-926-2509.

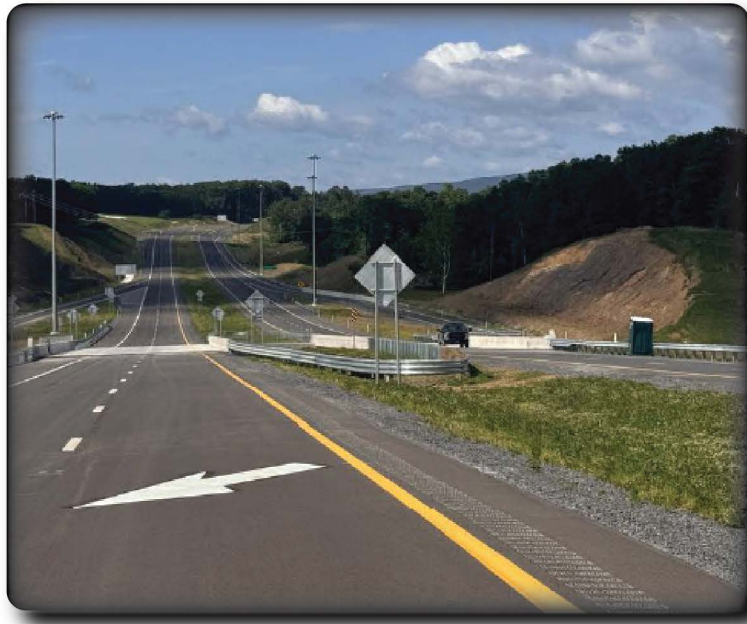


WVDOH Opens Southern Section of Berkeley Springs Bypass

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) opened the 3.4-mile southern section of the four-lane US 522 Berkeley Springs Bypass in Morgan County on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

State and local officials had long been concerned about heavy truck traffic on US 522 through the community of Berkeley Springs. About 30 percent of the approximately 13,400 vehicles that use US 522 every day are trucks.

“When completed, the bypass will provide for a more efficient route for commercial trucks, helping to ease longstanding congestion in the town of Berkeley Springs,” said Transportation Secretary Stephen T. Rumbaugh, P.E.



In October 2020, Trumbull Corporation was awarded a contract for \$59.8 million to build the lower leg of a bypass around Berkeley Springs, beginning south of Winchester Grade Road and extending north of Martinsburg Road. The project included construction of several bridges, three new at-grade intersections, and a new interchange with existing WV 9 and Martinsburg Road.

“We are proud to deliver this critical infrastructure project as part of our ongoing commitment to modernizing West Virginia’s roadways, promoting safety, and supporting our communities,” Rumbaugh said.



In December 2022, A.L.L. Construction Inc. was awarded a contract for \$35 million to complete the northern leg of the bypass to connect the southern section back onto US 522 north of Berkeley Springs. That project also includes construction of two bridges and a connector road to War Memorial Hospital.

“The northern corridor of the Berkeley Springs Bypass remains under active development,” Rumbaugh said. “Design work is advancing, and right-of-way acquisition is ongoing to prepare for future construction.

“We remain committed to moving this project forward and securing the resources necessary to complete the full bypass for the people of Morgan County,” Rumbaugh said.

The northern section of the bypass is expected to open to traffic in 2027.

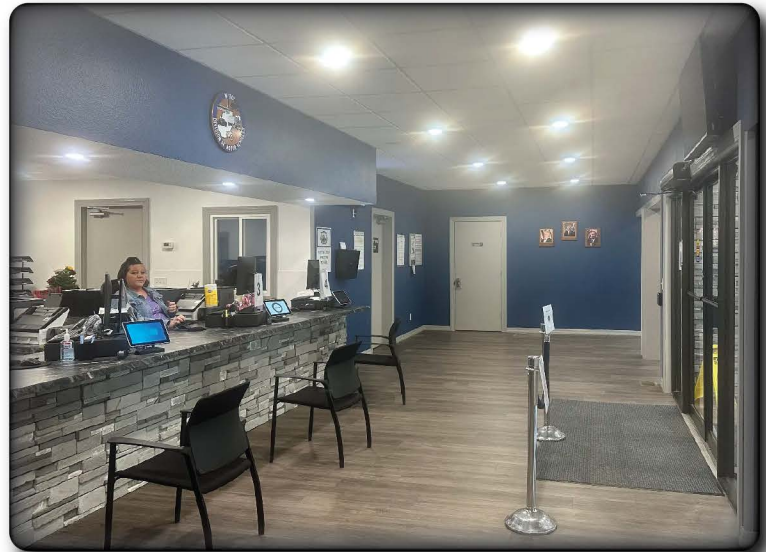


West Virginia DMV Opens New Welch Location

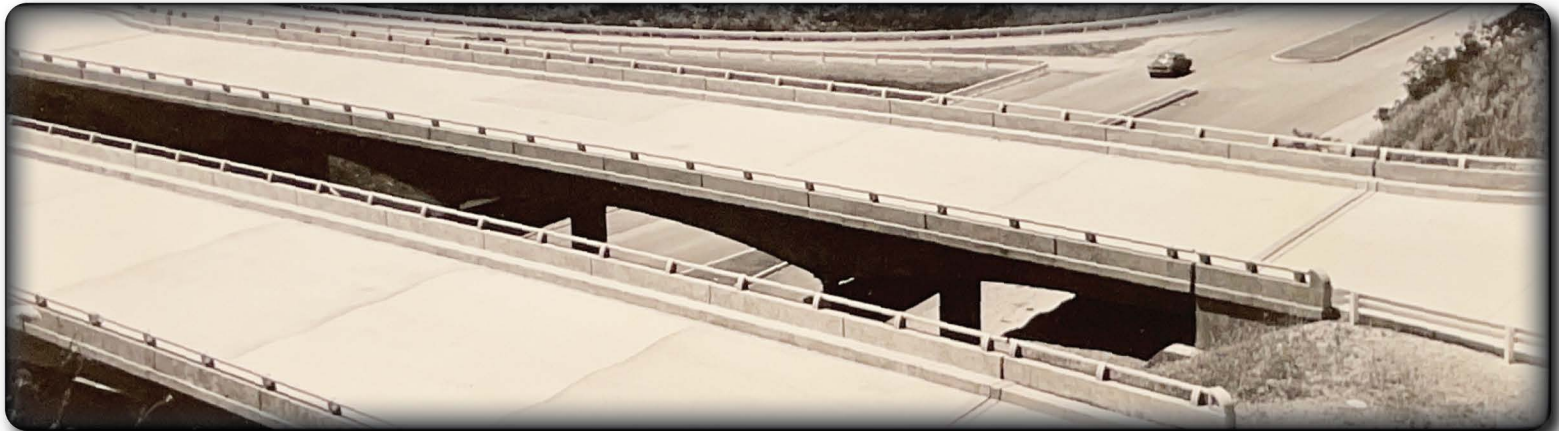
The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has officially opened the doors of its newly relocated Welch Regional Office, now situated at 681 Riverside Drive in Welch. This modern facility is designed to enhance service delivery for residents of McDowell County and surrounding communities.

The new location offers expanded space and improved accessibility, creating a more comfortable and efficient experience for customers. With updated infrastructure and technology, the office is equipped to provide a full range of DMV services, including driver's license and ID issuance, vehicle registration, title transfers, and more.

The opening of this upgraded office reflects the DMV's ongoing commitment to modernizing its services and making them more accessible to all West Virginians.



A Blast From The Past



Interstate 64 at WV 75 (Kenova Interchange)



Interstate 64 at Bridge 2620 across the Greenbrier River



Interstate 64 west of White Sulphur Springs

We are Proud to Announce Several New Appointments

Nathan Thomas, P.E.

**Deputy State Highway Engineer – Operations, West Virginia
Division of Highways**

Nathan Thomas, P.E., has been officially appointed Deputy State Highway Engineer of Operations at the West Virginia Division of Highways. He brings more than two decades of engineering experience within WVDOH.

In his new statewide role, Thomas will oversee maintenance, resurfacing, winter operations, and operational safety programs across all 55 counties. His focus will be on enhancing roadway safety, efficiency, and asset longevity while applying his proven track record of delivering high-quality projects within budget and with operational excellence.

David Holtzapfel

**Acting Managing Attorney – Real Property Section, Legal
Division, West Virginia Division of Highways**

David Holtzapfel has been appointed Acting Managing Attorney of the Real Property Section in the West Virginia Division of Highways' Legal Division. With extensive experience in property law and public infrastructure, David has played a key role in supporting highway projects through land acquisition, title review, and legal coordination. In his new role, he will lead the section's legal work related to rights-of-way, easements, and property negotiations, helping ensure projects move forward efficiently and in compliance with state and federal law.

**Chris Alder - Acting Director of the Legal Division, West Virginia
Division of Highways**

Chris Alder has been appointed Acting Director of the Legal Division at the West Virginia Division of Highways. He brings extensive legal experience and a strong background in public service to the role.

As Acting Director, Alder will lead the Legal Division in providing legal support and guidance to all WVDOH agencies. His responsibilities include overseeing legal matters related to transportation projects, regulatory compliance, contracts, and property acquisition. Alder's leadership will be key in ensuring the Division operates with integrity, consistency, and a commitment to serving the public interest.

James T. Collins

**Special Programs Engineer & Interim Chief Engineer –
Construction, West Virginia Division of Highways**

James T. Collins has been appointed Special Programs Engineer in addition to his current role as Interim Chief Engineer of Construction for the West Virginia Division of Highways. With extensive experience at WVDOH, including serving as Deputy District Engineer, Collins brings a strong track record in overseeing complex construction projects and pilot programs statewide.

Cindy Wilkinson

Director – Finance Division, West Virginia Division of Highways

Cindy Wilkinson has been appointed Director of the Finance Division for the West Virginia Division of Highways. A seasoned finance professional with extensive experience in public sector accounting and budgeting, Cindy previously served as Assistant Director of Finance within WVDOH. She is known for her strong fiscal management skills and her ability to implement cost-control strategies that align with broader agency priorities. In her new role, Cindy will lead the division's financial planning, reporting, and analysis efforts, ensuring sound stewardship of transportation funding. She will also work closely with leadership, federal partners, and local districts to support project delivery through effective budget oversight, internal controls, and financial transparency.

Brandon Raines — District 7 Construction Engineer

Brandon Raines has been appointed as the new Construction Engineer for District 7 at WVDOH, overseeing construction projects across Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Upshur, and Webster counties. Since joining WVDOH in December 2015, he has accumulated over nine years of experience, including seven years leading bridge and roadway work on the Corridor H project. Please join us in congratulating Brandon as he begins this pivotal role for District 7!



