

WV DOT Today!

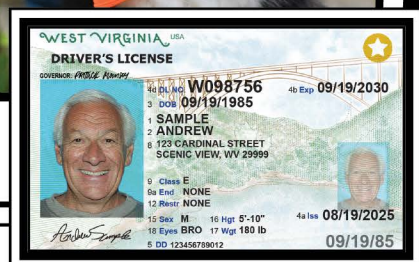
• WV DOT Holds Work Zone Safety Event at Workers Memorial • WV DOT Go ORANGE Day • Information Technology Hosts Performance Management Conference

WV DOT Went ORANGE For Work Zone Safety!



**Also, Get Your REAL ID Before
The May 7, 2025, Deadline!**

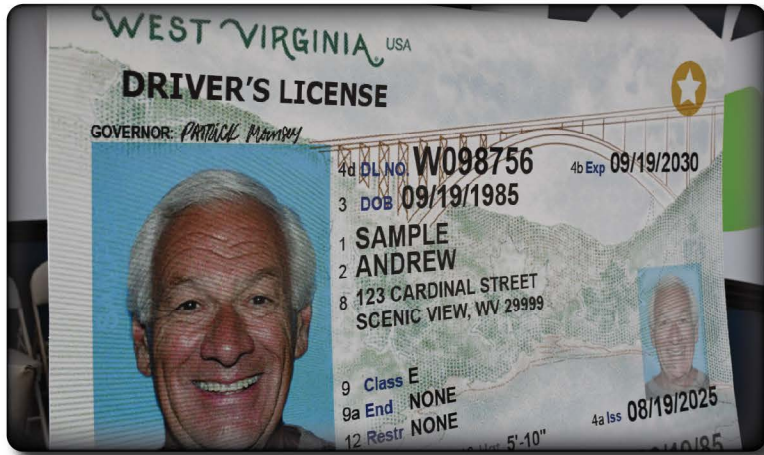
May 2025, Volume 7: Issue 5



WV DOT Urges Residents to Apply for Real ID Before the Wednesday May 7, 2025, Deadline

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is urging residents to apply for Real ID before the federal enforcement of the Real ID Act on Wednesday May 7, 2025. To board an aircraft or get into some federal buildings, you will need to have a Real ID-compliant credential. The Real ID card contains a "gold star," indicating that it meets Real ID Act requirements for nationwide federal use at airports and other designated federal facilities.

"With the federal Real ID deadline approaching on May 7th, we urge all citizens to take action now," said West Virginia Transportation Secretary Todd Rumbaugh, P.E. "Obtaining your Real ID ensures you're prepared for domestic air travel and access to secure federal facilities. Don't wait—beat the rush and take this simple step to protect your identity and stay travel-ready."



In order to apply for Real ID, you will need proof of identity like a United States-issued birth certificate or U.S. Passport, proof of Social Security Number, and two proofs of physical residency in West Virginia, and proof of legal name change document(s) if your name has ever changed. For renewal applicants, any changes in address since the last card will require two proof of West Virginia residency documents with name and physical address. Any change of legal name requires proof of legal name change document(s) and one proof of Social Security number document. The full list of acceptable proof of identity as well as physical residency may be found here.



Driver License cannot be upgraded from a "Not for Federal Use" to a "For Federal Use" License online. If you wish to upgrade to a Real ID license, please make an appointment at your regional office at apps.wv.gov/Appt/DMV. Get your documents preapproved for a small fee online at go.wv.gov/realidheadstart.

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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Get Yours Before May 7, 2025!



WVDOH Stresses Importance of Work Zone Safety

On Monday, April 14, 2025, James Dean Harper was patching potholes on the West Virginia Turnpike when a distracted tractor-trailer driver hit Harper in the work zone, killing him. Harper was 24.

He left behind a wife and infant child.

"All across the state, and even across the country, men and women will be working outside on roads," said West Virginia Transportation Secretary Todd Rumbaugh, P.E. Those men and women, he said, will be working inches away from cars and trucks zipping past, sometimes protected only by a thin orange line of safety cones and the trust that motorists will heed flashing lights and signs restricting speeds to 55 mph.

"While many take notice, many more do not, often leading to tragic outcomes," Rumbaugh said. "That's why, as we observe work zone awareness week, it is crucial to reflect on the serious risks faced by both workers and drivers in roadway construction areas."

Monday, April 21, 2025, marked the start of national Work Zone Awareness Week, a time to reflect on the importance of paying attention in the nation's work zones. Last year, there were 786 work zone crashes in West Virginia, leading to 263 injuries and seven deaths.



To mark Work Zone Awareness Week, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) hosted a press conference to call attention to the dangers inherent in highway work zones. Rumbaugh was joined by representatives of the West Virginia State Police, West Virginia Contractors Association, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), and the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

"Distracted driving in work zones isn't just reckless, it's deadly," said Everett Frazier, representing the Highway Safety Program. "One second of looking at your phone, fiddling with the radio, or being mentally somewhere else is all it takes to change a life forever."

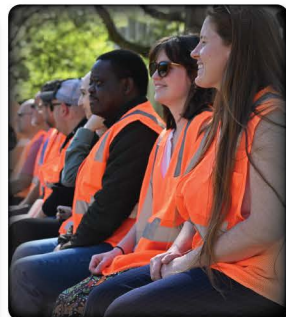
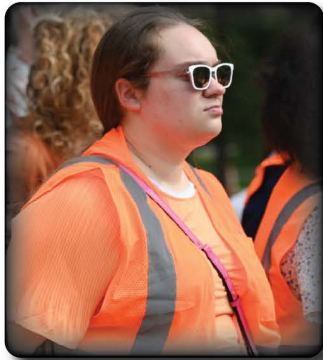
Also present was Randall Randolph, a WVDOH worker who was hit by a truck in a Mason County work zone in January. In the days following the incident, Randolph did not know if he would live, let alone be able to walk again.

"We owe it to our workers, and to ourselves, to slow down, stay alert, and stay off the phone in work zones," Frazier said. "Those 'Work Zone Ahead' signs? That's not a suggestion. It's a plea to value life over convenience."

Rumbaugh said work zone safety is not just a concern for a week in April.

"We cannot wait until each April and use our clever phrases and wear orange for a week, or a month," Rumbaugh said. "It must turn into a behavior, and an everyday mindset."

WVDOT Goes ORANGE for Work Zone Safety



WVDOH Remembers Fallen Comrades

Thursday, June 11, 2015, was a warm and sunny day in Wood County. Randy Bland, a crew supervisor with the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), was setting up traffic cones with his work crew on US 50, preparing to patch potholes.

Bland would not make it home to his family that night. At about 11 a.m., a truck hauling water slammed into the back of a van in the work zone. The van plowed into Bland, carrying him about 50 feet before crashing into Bland's work truck, crushing the crew supervisor between the two vehicles.

Mike Daley, district manager for WVDOH District 3 where the accident occurred, was district safety officer at the time. Within minutes he was on scene as paramedics fought to save Bland's life.

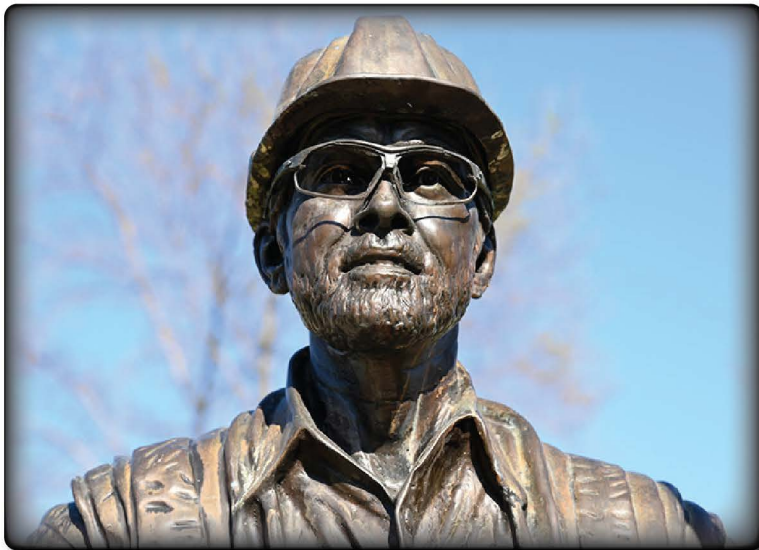
Daley is also a trained EMT. Instinctively, he jumped into the ambulance to help in any way he could. He may well have been the last person to speak to Bland.

"He looked up at me and said, 'I'm not doing too good, am I?'" Daley recalled.

Despite Daley's reassurances that he would be okay, Bland apparently knew otherwise.

"He said, 'Please make sure my family is taken care of,'" Daley remembered. "And that was it."

Bland was rushed to the hospital, but died a short time later.



Bland's death hit District 3 hard.

"We wanted to do something to memorialize that loss and show that we cared for Randy," said Jacob Bumgarner, P.E., WVDOH state highway engineer. "We wanted to be able to show that."

Bumgarner, who was District 3 maintenance engineer at the time of the accident, said a committee was formed to plan a memorial for Bland. Along the way, they discovered that, unlike other states, West Virginia did not have a statewide memorial to commemorate highways workers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. The idea was born to build a state Fallen Workers Memorial in Williamstown.

"We thought it would be a good way to humanize and put a name with those incidents," Bumgarner recalled. In memory of Randy Bland, the bronze-colored statue that graces the workers memorial is cast in Bland's image.



Monday, April 21, 2025, through Friday, April 25, 2025, is National Work Zone Awareness Week, a time to stress the importance of paying attention in work zones, and to draw attention to the tragic consequences of failing to heed work zone restrictions. Every year during that week, the WVDOH holds a memorial ceremony at the Fallen Workers Memorial to remember the 58 workers who have died on the job over the years.

"I never ever want to experience that again," Bumgarner said at this year's memorial service, held on Thursday, April 24, 2025. "That was the basis for this memorial."

"Work zone safety should be a lifestyle," Bumgarner said. "It should be something that is in our minds every day"

"Please, please think about what you're doing when you're driving," Bumgarner said. "Pay attention. Make sure you get through work zones safely every day."

Information Technology Hosts Performance Management Conference

The West Virginia Department of Transportation's (WVDOT) Information Technology and Performance Management divisions recently hosted their first conference at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Three days packed full of peer-to-peer learning, engaging guest speakers, and hours of karaoke and s'mores by the fire culminated in what Chief Technical Officer Hussein Elkhansa said was a successful weekend in the northern panhandle.



"This was our first conference for IT and Performance Management since we established the two divisions, Elkhansa said "We did some surveys and to be honest with you, I was very happy with the result. People stopped me to say that we shocked them because they didn't know how much we did and now want to engage with us more."

Elkhansa said they plan to host the conference again next year, with an added twist to keep things interesting.



Commissioner Butler Retires from West Virginia Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities

West Virginia Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities Commissioner, Cindy Butler, retired this month, leaving behind the sound of trains rolling up the tracks past a babbling stream with spring birds singing for ... trains, rolling up the tracks, past a babbling stream, with spring birds singing, and nothing to have to fix.



Known for the extreme coolness of her cat-themed t-shirts, decisiveness in action and genuine hospitality, Butler began her career in West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) District 5. She then joined the State Rail Authority, first as comptroller, then as executive director. When the Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities was created to combine the State Rail Authority, Division of Public Transit, Aeronautics Commission and Port Authority, Butler was named Commissioner on June 18, 2022.



Butler's wins for the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) are many, but include revitalizing a struggling State Rail Authority; working in partnership between Department of Transportation agencies to rebuild the Trout Run Bridge along the Cass Scenic Railroad, washed out by flood in 1985 and accessible only by rail; using Division of Highways crews, putting together a State Rail bridge inspection program; bringing Railbikes to Clay County; and otherwise working to keep West Virginia's multimodal programs not only "on track" but "full steam ahead." All puns intended.



The WVDOT wishes Commissioner Butler well in her retirement. In the Interim, Stephen Connolly has been appointed to fill her sneakers in the Commissioner role.

Happy Retirement!

WVDOH Sweeps National Asphalt Awards for Second Year in a Row

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) swept all three categories for quality paving work in the national Asphalt Pavement Alliance's 2024 Perpetual Pavement Awards. It is the second year in row the WVDOH has won all three categories.

"We are thrilled with being selected again for this prestigious award," said Transportation Secretary Todd Rumbaugh, P.E. "This shows our intent to use the best design practices to produce a world-class transportation system."

"On behalf of the Asphalt Industry, Congratulations on winning all three Perpetual Pavement Awards for the second year in a row!" said John Crane, executive director of the Asphalt Paving Association of West Virginia. "This is wonderful news and a testament to the work administer by the WVDOH, the personnel involved throughout the years, and all our endeavors to do the best we can for our fellow taxpayers."

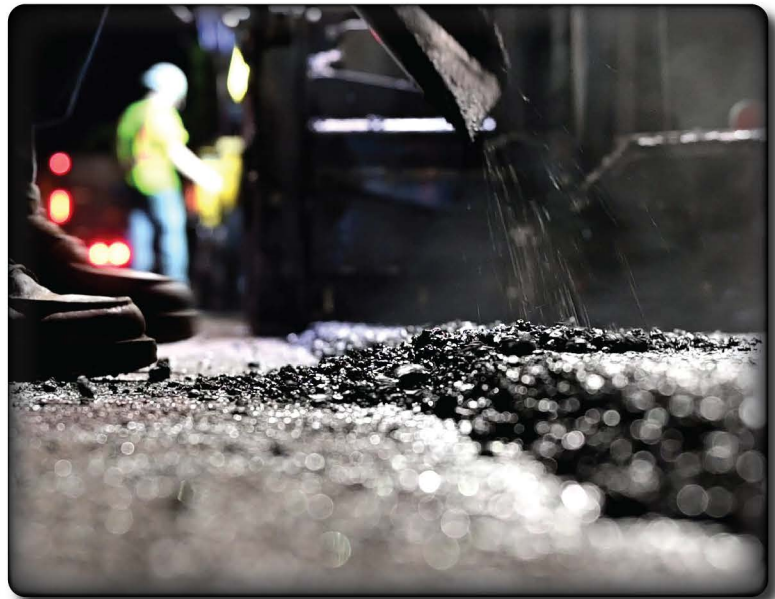
The agency won a Perpetual Pavement Award by Performance for a paving job on County Route 40 (Birch River Road) in Braxton County. The WVDOH won a Perpetual Pavement Award by Design for the Powell Mountain section of US 19 in Nicholas County. The Perpetual Pavement Award by Conversion was awarded for a paving job from Kenna to Fairplain on Interstate 77 in Jackson County.



The Asphalt Pavement Alliance believes asphalt roads can last indefinitely with regular maintenance if properly built and cared for. Perpetual Pavement Awards recognize roads that have lasted more than 35 years without a structural failure and have received normal maintenance, roads that have been switched to pavement that are expected to meet those standards, or newly built roads built to standards such that they should last at least 35 years with normal maintenance.



This awards honor agencies whose outstanding design practices on their roadway networks meet Perpetual Pavement design standards. A National Center for Asphalt Technology engineer evaluated the nominations and validated the winners.



The WVDOT Financial Reporting Section Wins the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence

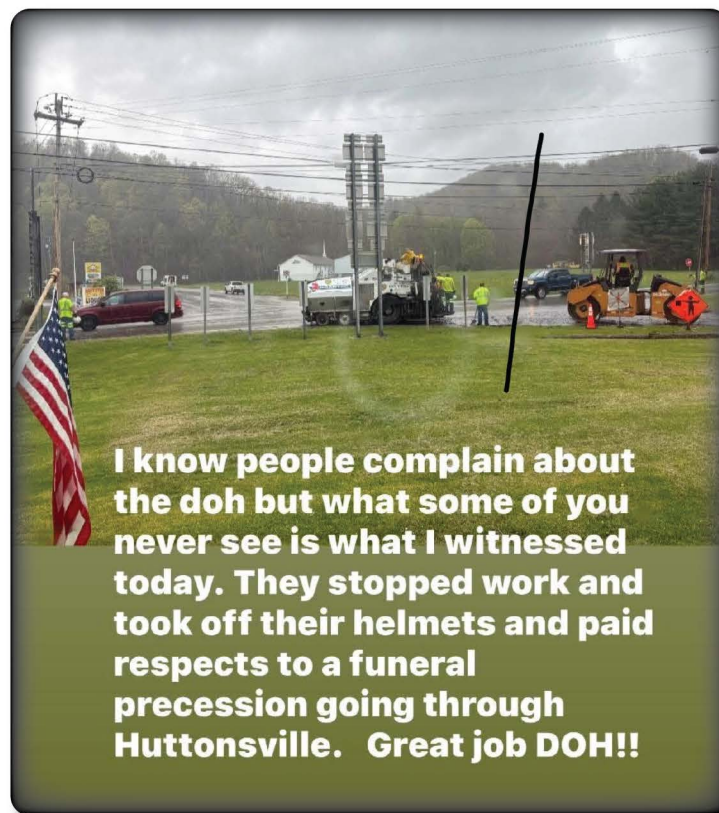
Chicago—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Congrats!



WVDOH Workers Show Respect While Working



WVDOT Looks to Continue The Mountaineer Mile Initiative

**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
WALKED THE
MOUNTAINEER
MILES IN APRIL.**

**LET'S KEEP
THIS GOING!**



We Are Doing The Mile, What Is Your *EXCUSE?*

You Can Never Have Too Much ORANGE!



You Can Never Have Too Much ORANGE!



***We Would Like To Thank Everyone Who
Participated In This Years GO ORANGE DAY!***

May is National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month



National Ride a Bike Day

May 4, 2025

Bike to Work Week

May 12-18, 2025

Bike to Work Day

May 16, 2025