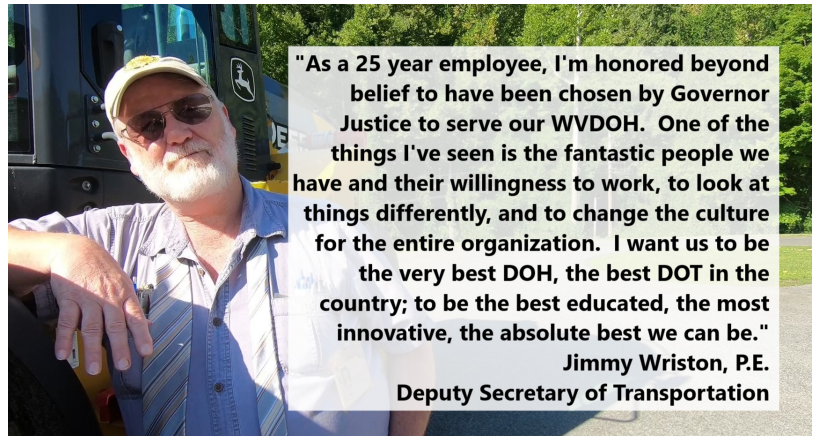
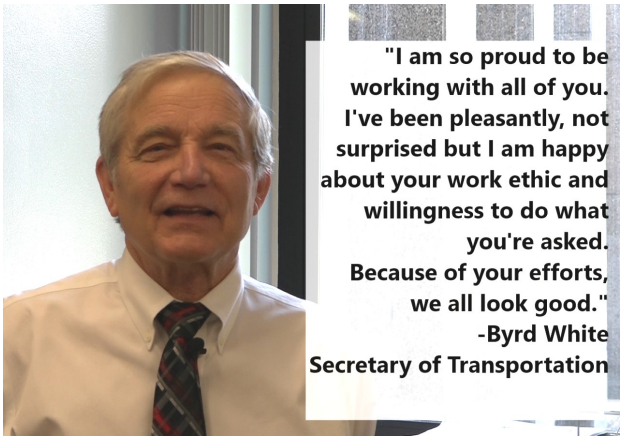


WVDOH Today!

Stop the Presses!! This Just In!! WVDOH Management Supports Employees!



All around the Division of Highways, in every District and Division, employees are getting noticed for their excellent work. "In recent months, the Division of Highways has been challenged and given the opportunity to meet some high standards and goals concerning the condition of our highways," said Steve Cole, P.E., District 9 Engineer. "I have been impressed by the positive reaction of all our district employees and the goals they have set and are meeting for their individual district organizations. Once again, the work ethic and dedication of all our staff in District Nine has made me proud."

"My employees are great," said Jacob Bumgarner, P.E., Division Director of the Maintenance Division. "No matter the issue or need, my employees identify it, and work to fix it or make the situation better. Maintenance Division and the maintenance personnel in the Districts have been specifically addressed by the Governor and DOH management

with an expectation to step up and make a difference in the road conditions throughout the state. I continually see my Maintenance Division folks and others taking that to heart and working hard to make a difference."

"I am proud to work with such a dedicated and hardworking group of West Virginians," said Darby Clayton, P.E., District 4 Engineer. "The way our employees battle the elements, the challenges of the terrain, and the public amazes me every day. I am truly proud to work with the hardworking men and women of the WVDOH here in D-4 and across the state."

"Thank you to the staff in Engineering Division for all your hard work in delivering a tough Federal Aid program, as well as many of the projects in Roads to Prosperity, GARVEE, General Obligation and Turnpike Bond highway infrastructure," said R.J. Scites, P.E., Engineering Division Director. "I am always proud of how (continued on Page 4)

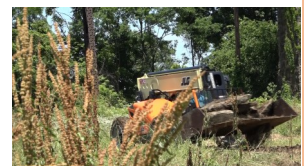
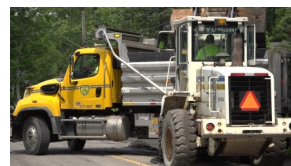
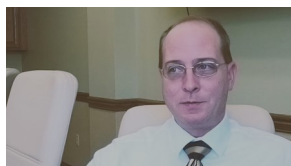
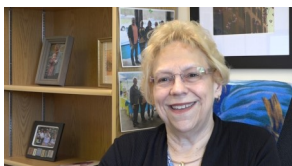
Also in this Issue:

D-4 SWAT

A Look Back

Maintenance

Silver Bridge



State Bridge Engineer, Tracy Brown, P.E., Works to Recover Silver Bridge Deck Pieces After 51 Years



Silver Bridge deck recovery

business cards and said ‘take some pics, and we’ll get back with you.’ So that’s how I got the ball rolling.”

“I gave her my business card,” said Brown, and she called me and arranged to have this picked up, in order to preserve history,” said Brown. “History is very important to maintain for future generations, especially in such a tragic event as the Silver Bridge collapse. You’re going to repeat your mistakes if you don’t remember what your history was. We hope to use these pieces so that future bridge engineers, bridge inspectors, the people that build, maintain and design these structures, realize the importance of them, and the importance of the work they do,” said Brown.

Brown keeps reminders of the Silver Bridge tragedy in his office, reminding every employee he mentors of the reason behind their work. (Continued on Page 3)



Tracy Brown, P.E.

Gallopis, OH – June 11, 2019 was a sunny day on the bank of the Ohio River where WVDOH State Bridge Engineer, and District 1 Bridge Engineer, Tracy Brown, P.E., and his team, gathered with local resident Terry Burnett. Terry was just seven years old, watching cartoons after school on the evening of December 15, 1967, when the Silver Bridge collapsed during rush hour traffic, killing 56 people.

“We had a ceremony marking the 50th year after the Silver Bridge collapsed, and at the ceremony, that was in 2017, December 15, we met Ms. Terry, a wonderful lady,” Brown said.

“It was kind of like a bucket list thing for me when I retired, to get this removed,” says Burnett. “My grandfather tried to get it removed, my dad tried to get it removed. I really didn’t know how, so I went to the 50th anniversary remembrance ceremony, and I met Tracy Brown and Randy Damron. I told them what I had, and what I wanted, and they were a little in disbelief that it was still here, but they gave me their

I am the DOH.

I proudly serve our communities and families by maintaining the roads we all travel, keeping quality and safety as my top priorities. I treat the public, my co-workers and everyone in my chain of command with dignity and respect, because to them

I am the DOH.

Kathy Rushworth, P.E.—Regional Maintenance Engineer

Editor’s Note:
Welcome to the first issue of “WVDOH Today!” Our title was chosen because the WVDOH of today is not the WVDOH of yesterday, or of tomorrow. We change every moment, with every action each of us takes. This issue reflects July 2019, by the August 2019 issue there will be something new to report. We’re not holding still, we’re moving West Virginia forward. Governor Justice has entrusted us with driving the economic recovery of our state. We know it’s a task of which we are capable, because we ourselves have seen how much we can do. We’re getting back to our roots, yet this time is like never before. As things that once stood in our way no longer hold us back, we can each say, “I’m proud to work for WVDOH —Today!” - Jennifer Jo Dooley, Editor



(Silver Bridge, Continued from Page 2) “I was seven. I had just got home from school,” said Burnett. “I was watching cartoons, that’s what kids did. The house just started shaking. I was in the living room and mom was in the kitchen. She just started screaming, ‘the bridge is falling!’ I ran to the back door. You could just see the last part going down into the river. It was a horrible experience.”



WVDOH works to retrieve Silver Bridge deck pieces



Silver Bridge deck concrete.

“It was an 1/8th inch crack that took that bridge down,” said Brown. “To look how far it is across the river, and to think about an 1/8 inch crack took the bridge down, it’s frightening, especially for somebody in the bridge field. As horrible a tragedy as this was, we have things in place now where we can catch things. It’s like going to the doctor. You get a check-up and the doctor is going to tell you right away if something is wrong so you can help prevent it from happening, or getting worse. That’s what our bridge inspectors do. They go out and they do check-ups on bridges. They see what the problems are, and we know what they are, and we can fix them before something like this ever happens.”

Following the collapse of the Silver Bridge, a national bridge inspection program was put in place. Brown reminds each bridge inspector, and bridge engineer with whom he works that, “Our families drive these bridges, and if they don’t, someone’s family does.” Now, thanks to his hard work, pieces of the bridge long-neglected along the banks of the Ohio River will no longer be a painful reminder to residents like Burnett, but an inspiration for diligent employees to remember the meaning behind their work.

A Good Listener: Beverly Elder D-4 SWAT

When citizens from Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Taylor, and Preston counties have concerns about road conditions, they call Beverly Elder, the SWAT Coordinator for District 4.



Beverly Elder

“SWAT is Safety With Action Today, and it was initiated by Governor Justice to get the citizens of West Virginia answers to their questions,” said Elder. “I think that it’s opening up more doors, and eyes, to make employees more accountable.”

“I think it’s a wonderful program, because it does give the public somewhere to vent,” said Elder. “I’m pretty busy, but everyone who calls (1-833-WVROADS) or sends something in by the website (transportation.wv.gov), they deserve an answer, they really do. Because when I call places and I have a question, I’d like an answer.”

When citizens call Elder, information is carefully collected including the name of the road and route number, the county, names of anyone the citizen may have spoken to previously, and important details on the condition of the road so that when the call is returned it will be to provide a complete answer. Citizens also vent to Elder, and make jokes about road conditions. “One man said the potholes are like rabbits, they’re multiplying!” Elder said with a laugh. Elder takes the time to be a good listener, and a sympathetic ear. “I know how I feel when I call places,” she says. She also takes careful notes to prepare her to find the correct person to give her the answer the citizen needs. “If I’m quiet for a moment, I’m taking notes,” she says. Elder often has to follow up with several people to find the status of a road repair, but she states, “I love my job, I really do. I love talking to the citizens.” To Elder, being a good listener is not just receiving the information, it’s assisting the citizens and DOH employees she serves; keeping communication flowing as the WVDOH holds itself to increasingly higher standards.

(Employees, Continued from Page 1) the staff is ready to lend a hand in assisting on any task that is asked of them,” Scites continues. “Especially important is how they are willing to improve workflow, streamline processes and use technology to overcome any obstacle. The Division of Highways is very fortunate to have dedicated employees like those working in our division.”

“I think one of the things that impresses me most about our employees are the ones who do everything they can to solve a problem quickly and efficiently,” said David Brabham, P.E., District 6 Engineer. “Specifically, our current SWAT Coordinator usually answers the citizens within a day or two at the most, after tracking down an answer from one of a dozen people. Even when the answer she gives is not what the citizens want to hear, she still does her job professionally and effectively. Another thing I am very proud of at the moment is the additional core maintenance and paving work we are taking on at the request (and funding) of the Governor. We have been asked to do more with less for many, many years, and we are finally able (and financially able) to properly repair roads as they need to be. Our district maintenance forces have stepped up, put in the hours, and have done some fantastic work. In District 6, we will have spent over \$7 million dollars and asphalt paved more than 45 miles of roads in the six counties within a 2-month timespan.”

“Here at District 1, I have many areas in which I am proud of the employees,” said Travis Knighton, District 1 Engineer. “To start with our Soil Nail crew is made up of Contractor employees, WVDOH employees, and a Corrections crew that works together every day. Our crews are teaching the Corrections crew how to lay out a retaining wall and other important skills they can use once they are released. I currently know of two former inmates who have gotten a job with a contractor because of the skill set they learned while working with District 1. Also, our district-wide ditching crew went to Preston County and worked with them for over two months in order to help them get back into shape. All of our Maintenance Organizations are working hard to bring our roadways back up to an acceptable level of service. They are putting in 10 hour days, sometimes 7 days a week. Our Construction department is currently working on major interstate reconstruction as well as three bridge deck reconstructions, and our normal paving program around the District. Our Bridge department has worked tirelessly for over a year to obtain the correct permits to retrieve the last known remnants of the Silver Bridge. Our employees have worked hard to support all the organizations by holding job fairs. One of our main goals is to make sure the employees doing the work have the equipment and manpower to achieve the goal.”

All told, WVDOH management has no shortage of positive comments about the work of our dedicated employees.

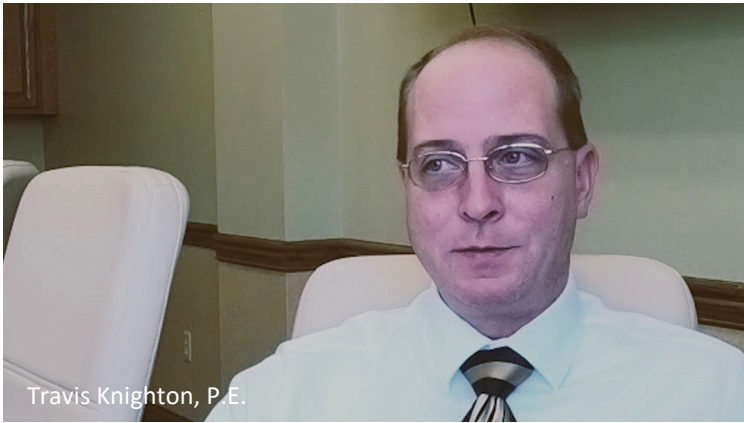
Traveling Trophies: WVDBDC Recognizes the Next Generation



For 18 years, and counting, West Virginia Division of Highways employees have volunteered their time in high school and middle school classrooms across the state, introducing West Virginia’s next generation of engineers to their future. The West Virginia Bridge Design and Build Contest has inspired hardworking students, and brought together families, schools, colleges and professionals around the message that there are good jobs available in our state.

This year, traveling trophies were presented to student teams from John Adams Middle School (Erae Ko, pictured, with her teacher and principal), Hurricane Middle School, St. Albans High School and Greenbrier East High School. Trophies were awarded for two divisions; using Engineering Encounters Bridge Design Software to design the lowest cost bridge, and designing a Balsa Bridge with the greatest strength-to-weight ratio. The software trophy is named for Jimmy Wriston, P.E., Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Acting Commissioner of Highways, who was instrumental in bringing the contest to West Virginia and who has served as a volunteer in many classrooms. The balsa trophy is named for Benjy Simpson, of BridgeWalk in Fayette County, who offered every student who entered the contest a complementary New River Gorge Bridge catwalk tour for their entire family. Over 300 teams from across the state competed in the qualifying round, with top teams advancing to the statewide finals at Marshall University on May 4. In addition to the traveling trophies, students also received cash prizes, and teachers and parents were recognized for their dedication.

Trophies were presented to the four schools at the end of the school year. They will spend a year at the schools, then return to the state finals next year to see who will win them next. Many young aspiring engineers return year after year to participate in this STEM competition.



Travis Knighton, P.E.

Wellness Corner: Preventative Programs Available Through PEIA

Did you know that Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) has many preventative programs including weight management available to help employees? We are a rural state and it can be difficult to find an exercise facility, but participating fitness centers are available in the following cities;

A Look Back: Travis Knighton, P.E., D-1 Engineer on His Co-Op Experience

“It really helped me while I was going to school, because you can see it on the paper, but when you get out in the field and it’s actually 3-D, and it’s actually there, it really helps you understand what the concepts are trying to teach you. There’s no substitute for experience. You can be as book-smart as you want but until you get out there and you actually put your hands on it, it’s really not real, to me,” Travis Knighton, P.E., says about his time as an Engineering Summer Co-Op.

During Knighton’s early experience in the WVDOH, he worked as a Summer Employee and an Engineering Summer Co-Op. “I was picking up dead deer, I was shoveling asphalt, I did all that stuff,” he says. “Then I had two Co-Ops on the Chelyan Bridge, and two Co-Ops on the Lower Buffalo Bridge.” Knighton has worked in the private sector, and with the WVDOH in the Buildings and Grounds Department and as the D-1 Maintenance Engineer, before accepting his current position as the D-1 Engineer, a position in which he oversees operations in Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Mason and Putnam counties. “During that Co-Op time, I had not even a dream that I would be the District Engineer one day. It really stands out now that I look back. It really helped me out a lot.”

Positions are available each year for both Summer Employees and Engineering Co-Ops. For those interested in considering it, it’s time to think ahead to next year. Summer workers can choose to work in the field or in an office setting. Engineering Co-Ops work during the summers while they pursue an engineering degree. Many current WVDOH employees began their careers with this valuable experience.

Ansted	Gilbert	Petersburg
Barboursville	Grafton	Princeton
Beckley	Huntington	Rainelle
Berkeley	Hurricane	Romney
Buckhannon	Marlinton	Scott Depo
Charleston	Milton	Shepherdstown
Clarksburg	Moorefield	Sophia
Cross Lanes	Morgantown	Welch
Elkins	Nutter Fort	Wheeling
Fairmont	Oak Hill	Winfield

Applications and additional information are available on PEIA’s website at peia.wv.gov/wellness_tools/wmp.

West Virginia Division of Highway’s Human Resource Division is supportive of employees who are making efforts to fit wellness into their busy lives. The work/life balance can be tough to manage for people who work hard, long hours like our employees often do. The West Virginia Division of Highways strives to be the best employer it can be for the people who make our organization strong. We appreciate our people!

We tell the public. we remind ourselves...

Just Slow Down.

...in work zones.



Statewide Maintenance Initiative: Update



David Marquis, Crew Chief, District 10, Mercer County.

From Barbour to Wyoming; Wayne to Jefferson; Hancock to McDowell the impact of our statewide Secondary Roads Maintenance Initiative is becoming apparent in all 55 counties.

The month of June is over, the charts have increasingly turned red.

Let's be proud of what we've done. You're curious? Look up your county!

Complete lists, updated periodically, are available at;

<https://transportation.wv.gov/Pages/Secondary-Roads-Maintenance-Initiative.aspx>

Transportation > Secondary Roads Maintenance Initiative

Secondary Roads Maintenance Initiative

The lists below represent secondary road maintenance needs that officials with the Department of Transportation have identified and intend to complete as soon as possible. These lists will be regularly updated as roadwork continues. When a project is completed, it will be highlighted in red. All of the following lists are up-to-date as of June 24, 2019. Click on a county below to view the intended projects in your area:

- Barbour County
- Berkeley County
- Boone County

Boone	Co. 1001	Power Line (State)
Boone	Co. 1002	Carroll Creek Rd
Boone	Co. 1003	Road Damage Rd
Boone	Co. 1004	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1005	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1006	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1007	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1008	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1009	WV State Rd (Metheny)
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Boone	Co. 1048	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1049	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1050	WV State Rd (Metheny)



Ditching, District 4, Monongalia County.

Boone	Co. 1001	Power Line (State)
Boone	Co. 1002	Carroll Creek Rd
Boone	Co. 1003	Road Damage Rd
Boone	Co. 1004	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1005	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1006	WV State Rd (Metheny)
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Boone	Co. 1049	WV State Rd (Metheny)
Boone	Co. 1050	WV State Rd (Metheny)



Ryland Musick, P.E., Appointed Deputy State Highway Engineer for Planning and Programming

“I’m excited and really looking forward to my new position as the Deputy State Highway Engineer, Planning and Programming,” said Ryland Musick, P.E., on his appointment to his new position. “With this position, I will be able to have a larger positive impact on the development and promotion of our Planning and Programming Divisions. I’ll also be able to apply my skills and experience to enhance better communication at all levels to facilitate better project management and program management within the Capital Improvement Program. Lastly, I want to serve as a catalyst for forward change for the Division of Highways, helping others make it the best it can be.”



Ryland Musick, P.E.

Musick most recently served as the Director of the Programming Division. He said, of his most recent position, “The position brought me a wealth of experience and taught me a number of items. It has taught me the appreciation of hard-working folks that bust it day-in and day-out programming projects, processing financial documents, and providing assistance to our Districts and Development Divisions to establish project numbers, secure funding, and make their life and job a little easier each and every day. Also, it has taught me the appreciation of project finance and the importance of having funds and making good financial decisions so that the optimum amount of work gets performed. It has also made me proud that the Programming Division tirelessly provides time-sensitive reporting for the Executives here at the Division of Highways so that the DOH Capital Improvement Program can thrive and that the right message is conveyed. It has genuinely been a good journey, one to appreciate, reflect on, and remember all of our fond memories and accomplishments that we have achieved against all odds.”

Musick has also served on the advisory committee for the West Virginia Bridge Design and Build Contest for five years. This STEM competition introduces West Virginia’s high school and middle school students to the field of engineering. Musick has encouraged engineers working in his Programming Division to serve as classroom volunteers in classroom across the state. Always a believer in education, in his “spare” time, Musick is finishing up his doctorate degree.

Unveiling of DOT-12 Training Opens Doors for Recognizing Our Work



DOT-12 training.

“It is absolutely critical for us to be able to show exactly where and how we spend Highways dollars,” said Deputy Secretary of Transportation/Acting Commissioner of Highways, Jimmy Wriston, P.E. “We as an agency will not just give the word ‘accountability’ lip service and not produce solid, accurate information as to what work is being done.”

This is the concept behind the DOT-12 Training being presented for crew chiefs in all ten districts throughout July and August. The DOT-12 is a legal document that keeps a record of resources used, time and work completed. It is, also, a way to inform the public of the volume of work being completed statewide.

“Reporting starts right there at the ground level, with the crew chiefs that are in charge of not only getting the work done safely and efficiently, but accounting for that work accurately,” said Wriston. “The DOT-12’s



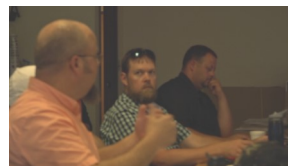
feed the systems that produce reports necessary for all of us to be held accountable.”



“While actually doing the work correctly and efficiently is important, the reporting of that work through our DOT-12 is equally important,” said Jake Bumgarner, P.E., Director of the Maintenance Division.



“We are living in an age of instant gratification in which people want data at their fingertips, on a phone, tablet or computer. We



want to be able to share our story of the good work we are doing and that begins with keeping an accurate record.”