

WV DOT Today!



December 2021—Volume 3: Issue 12



This is us!

**In 2021, we did all this,
and we did it our way.
“What can we do in 2022?”**



Also in this issue...



The Year in Review: 2021's Greatest Hits

JANUARY:

- District 6 took advantage of two earth drills bought by the department to drill holes for piling walls in rural Tyler County. The drills, operated by West Virginia Division of Highways crews, are cheaper to run than hiring contractors and allow DOH workers to get on site more quickly.
- The DOH teamed up with the West Virginia State Rail Authority and owners of the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad to replace the Trout Run Bridge, washed out by the 1985 Flood. The bridge will restore rail services between Durbin and Cass, greatly expanding tourism opportunities in the area. The new superstructure will be in place in 2022.



FEBRUARY:

- Cleanup crews from all over the state of West Virginia pitched in to help open roads and remove debris after massive ice storms slammed Districts 1, 2, and 3, which left more than 280 roads unpassable. Crews from other districts volunteered to help their neighbors and worked long hours under brutal conditions until roads were open and power restored.

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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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2021's Greatest Hits, Continued

MARCH:

- The West Virginia Division of Highways declared war on potholes, with Secretary of Transportation Byrd White vowing to try to get every pothole in the state milled and filled by Memorial Day. Not all districts made it, but in the end DOH work crews filled more than 80 percent of West Virginia's potholes by the deadline.



APRIL:

- The 860-foot main span of the Wellsburg Bridge – believed to be the longest and heaviest bridge in North America ever floated into place and hoisted into position – made its way down the Ohio River and was hoisted onto its piers during a 13-hour operation. The bridge will connect Brilliant, Ohio and Wellsburg, West Virginia.

MAY:

- The West Virginia Division of Highways installed signs on Slab Fork Road in Raleigh County renaming the road between the Lester Highway and Coalfields Expressway as Bill Withers Memorial Road. Withers, a Raleigh County native and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame known for his songs “Lean on Me” and “Ain’t No Sunshine,” passed away in March.



JUNE:

- At the request of Gov. Jim Justice, the West Virginia Legislature approved \$150 million in extra funding for the West Virginia Division of Highways. This general surplus money was quickly put to use on paving, repair and maintenance projects in every highway district in the Mountain State.



JULY:

- Buoyed by easing COVID restrictions, the West Virginia Turnpike broke an 11-year record for Fourth of July holiday traffic. Between Thursday, July 1, 2021, and Monday, July 5, 2021 the Turnpike saw 668,004 vehicles pass through Turnpike toll booths, up 28 percent over 2020 and the highest since 2010. Counting the weekend before the Fourth, more than 1.12 million vehicles used the Turnpike during the holiday.
- The Glenville Roundabout, at the intersection of US 33 with College Street and Mineral Road, opened to traffic. The roundabout, West Virginia's fifth, provides a new entrance to Glenville State College and the town of Glenville.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.



2021's Greatest Hits, Continued

AUGUST:

- The West Virginia Division of Highways awarded scholarships to several promising college students as part of the annual WVDOH Scholarship Program. Students working with the DOH as a Co-Op who are entering their junior year of college are eligible for up to \$3,000 a semester toward their educations in exchange for working for the DOH for a few years. Many who have taken advantage of the scholarships in the past have decided to stay and make the DOH a career.
- The Mountain Transit Authority, serving Nicholas, Webster and Greenbrier counties, expanded into Pocahontas County, greatly expanding Pocahontas County residents' access to Pocahontas County businesses and industries and to shopping and other services in Lewisburg and Greenbrier County. The West Virginia Division of Public Transit, part of the WVDOH, was instrumental in the expansion.



SEPTEMBER:

- The Oakwood Road Improvement Project, featuring West Virginia's first RCUT intersection, opened to traffic. Following initial skepticism, the public quickly took to the restricted crossing U-turn, which eases congestion at the intersection of Oakwood Road and Corridor G in Charleston.
- The West Virginia Division of Highways awarded a contract for \$10.94 million to build a connector road between the Trace Fork Shopping Center and Jefferson Road in Kanawha County. The project will add a second entrance to the shopping center, and, in conjunction with an ongoing project to widen Jefferson Road, will ease congestion and improve safety in the busy shopping district. The project was paid for with funding from Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program.
- Transportation Secretary Byrd White reluctantly retired after serving in the position since appointed by Gov. Jim Justice in March 2019. "Every person has what they consider to be obstacles," White said in a special message after his departure. "Turn them into opportunities. Every problem has inside of it an opportunity. Find it. Use it." The men and women of the West Virginia Division of Highways thank Secretary White for his service, spirit of optimism and unflagging sense of humor.



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2021: And the Hits Keep on Coming!

OCTOBER:

- The West Virginia Division of Highways awarded a contract for more than \$10 million to completely rebuild a section of MacCorkle Avenue in Kanawha City between 33rd and 40th Street from the ground up. It was the second contract awarded in a project to redo MacCorkle Avenue from 33rd Street to 58th Street, and was paid for with funding from Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program.
- Gov. Jim Justice appointed Jimmy Wriston to the position of West Virginia Transportation Secretary and Commissioner of Highways, filling the vacancy left by Secretary White's retirement. The appointment was confirmed by the West Virginia Senate by a vote of 27-0. "Jimmy has been the driving force behind our efforts to transform the DOT into an agency that prioritizes road maintenance and always goes above and beyond to get the job done," Gov. Justice said. "Since he was named Deputy Secretary (in 2019), our Department of Transportation has completed more maintenance work than at any time on record."



NOVEMBER:

- On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2021, Gov. Jim Justice, US Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, US Representative Carol Miller, West Virginia Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston and other state and local dignitaries celebrated opening the final 15-mile section of US 35 between the Buffalo Bridge in Putnam County and Beech Hill in Mason County. It was the culmination of a plan discussed and planned for more than 50 years to upgrade US 35 to four lanes all the way to the Ohio State line. The project drastically increases safety on US 35.
- The West Virginia Division of Highways awarded a contract for more than \$19.5 million for a new interchange on Corridor G at Rock Creek in Boone County to provide access to the Rock Creek Development Park to bring economic development to southern West Virginia.



DECEMBER:

- The West Virginia Division of Highways accepted bids to replace the Lewis Bridge in Ohio County. The bridge is one of several weight-restricted spans on US 40 being replaced to handle expected heavy traffic from detours as contractors continue to work on Interstate 70.



DOH Declares War on Rust and Corrosion

The West Virginia Department of Transportation's Division of Highways is saving taxpayers money with a new facility in Buckhannon that lets DOH paint its own heavy equipment.

Kevin Linger, in charge of the DOH body shop at the Equipment Division, said rust and corrosion are a vehicle's worst enemies. It's a fact Linger knows from spending 20 of his 32 years with DOH as a mechanic.

A good solid paint job is the first line of defense against such deterioration.

The state-of-the-art paint booth, located at the DOH Equipment Division headquarters in Buckhannon, is big enough to paint trailers up to 50 feet long and tall enough to accommodate most construction equipment. Paint crews were recently spraying a Ford L9000 tractor with familiar DOH gold.

Repainting older equipment also helps the vehicles last longer and retain more value if they are later sold as surplus property. In the end, that saves the DOH – and taxpayers – money.

The computer-controlled painting facility, with elaborate filtering systems



and the ability to custom-match any color, cost about \$200,000 to build and outfit. But that's cheaper and less time-consuming than constantly sending equipment out to contractors to paint.

"If you've got a big truck or a big piece of equipment, there's almost nobody with the capacity to do that," Linger said.

The DOH is also continuing an aggressive program to fight rust and corrosion by undercoating state vehicles. The Equipment Division began the program four years ago.

The DOH chose a product called Fluid Film to treat the undersides of road equipment. The anti-rust and anti-corrosion compound was developed for the marine industry and offshore oil rigs. It contains lanolin as a main ingredient.

Every year, the Equipment Division undercoats approximately 500 vehicles. The division has two truck-mounted spraying units that travel all around the state.

Linger said the Equipment Division can undercoat 10 or 12 vehicles a day.

The division also undercoats every new vehicle that comes through the gates.

Fresh paint and a protective undercoat go a long way in prolonging equipment life.



We ~~Just~~ Work Here.



Joe PACKS His Bags For the Big City



Pack lives in Princeton but grew up in McDowell County. He is 48. He and his wife Shelly have two sons, and five grandchildren. His spare time revolves around his grandkids.

In District 9, James Moore, P.E., was appointed Acting District 9 Engineer. Nathan Thomas, P.E., was appointed Acting Deputy District 9 Engineer and District 9 Maintenance Engineer. Moore, 51, has been with the WVDOH for 27 years. He graduated from the former West Virginia Institute of Technology – now the West Virginia University Institute of Technology – in 1994.

Moore grew up in Lewisburg and graduated from Greenbrier East High School. He and his wife Monica have a son and two daughters. He enjoys hunting and the Greenbrier River Trail.

Thomas, 45, grew up in a small community in Nicholas County. He has been with the WVDOH for a total of about 11 years, having left for several years to work in the private sector before returning. He graduated from Richwood High School and WVU Tech, where he received his degree in 1999.

Thomas and his wife Lana have a son and three daughters. He enjoys the outdoors.

Former Acting District 9 Engineer Joe Pack, P.E., was promoted to the position of Acting Chief Engineer of District Operations and Deputy State Highway Engineer. Pack, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in engineering technology from Bluefield State College, has been with the WVDOH for more than 12 years. Joe has also served as District 10 Engineer and District 10 Maintenance Engineer. He brings his knowledge of data based decision making and on the ground know-how to the big city, in a role where he will be as asset to Districts statewide.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

In an ongoing effort to decrease impaired driving in West Virginia, the Governor's Highway Safety Program is promoting a statewide **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** high visibility campaign.

During the 2019 Christmas and New Year's holiday periods, there were more drunk-driving-related fatalities than during any other

holiday period that year.

In 2019, one person was killed every 52 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads.

There were 56 drunk driving deaths in West Virginia alone in the same year.



New guests every Thursday
WV on the DOT

Transportation.wv.gov * Click on Podcast





HIRING **TRANSPORTATION** **ENGINEERING** **TECHNOLOGIST**

District One

Nature of Work - The Transportation Engineering Technologist will serve as the District One Survey Coordinator performing duties under limited supervision. Will supervise lower-level employees and office operations. Records fields operations, maintains property and cost records and coordinates work with other operations and divisions. Perform related work as required.

Hiring!
Transportation
Engineering
Technologist
District 1

Required Education
& Training–
Certification as an
Engineering
Technologist by the
WV Transportation
Engineering
Technician
Certification Board

Note – Employees
functioning as a land
surveyor must have a
current land
surveyor license

TO APPLY -

visit
WVDOT Careers
www.transportation.wv.gov

Posting expires-

December 5, 2021



Official Tree? That's a Capitol Idea!



West Virginia Division of Highways work crews carefully place a Christmas Tree on the north side of the State Capitol Building in Charleston. The 40-foot Blue Spruce, donated by Helen Herring of Elkview, was one of two official state Christmas trees delivered to the Capitol Grounds. A 20-foot Fraser Fir donated by the Buchanan family of Hansford was set up on the south side of the Capitol.

Meet Tracy Brown, P.E.

Tracy Brown, P.E., is State Bridge Engineer for the West Virginia Division of Highways. He oversees development and monitoring of all policies and procedures that apply to all the bridges in the state of West Virginia.

Brown grew up in Naoma in Raleigh County, where he still lives with his wife, Jennifer, and three cats. He says the town is so small people have to leave the area to hunt, because not even animals will go there.

Brown graduated from Marsh Fork High School and West Virginia Institute of Technology, where he received a degree in civil engineering in 1998.



Brown brings a lifelong fascination with bridges and their history to his position. He is adamant about the safety of the state's thousands of bridges, a concern spawned by the 1967 collapse of the Silver Bridge in Point Pleasant. Failure of that structure on a cold December day led to federal standards and requirements for bridge safety and inspections.

Brown was first appointed to the State Bridge Engineer position in May of 2019, where he served as state engineer while also serving as District 1 Bridge Engineer. In August 2021 he was given sole responsibility for bridges statewide.



WVDOH In the Holiday Spirit



District 1 Angel Tree



District 7 Food Drive



Ryland Musick, P.E., Acting District 10 Engineer, on the set of "Family Feud." District 10 played "Family Feud" as part of their holiday celebrations.

More so than any other time of year, the holidays have traditionally been a time when our thoughts turn to others.

The West Virginia Division of Highways is no exception. During the holiday season the men and women of the WVDOH look out for one another and for their communities.

In many highway districts and divisions, the holiday season has become a time for food drives and collections for other charitable causes.

In Building 5, the different divisions have come up with a gift basket contest to raise interest in their canned food and pet food drive. Divisions come up with a themed gift basket, and those who have donated food get to vote on the best basket. Donors get a ticket for every can they donate, so those who donate more get more votes. The division with the most tickets gets a trophy.

Food goes to local food banks, and pet food goes to the local animal shelter.

District 1 has an Angel Tree to collect donations for Charleston's Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families. Donors sponsor specific children and families who are staying at the shelter, supplying them with clothing, toys and other items. District 1 has started donating gift baskets to the mothers as well. This year, the district is sponsoring 10 children.

Most districts have some type of food drive, Angel Tree or other charity they collect for during the holidays. But District 6 has a variation on the theme.

There, employees take up a collection to buy gifts for their custodial crews, who work for the Association of Rehabilitation Facilities Inc.

And while COVID-19 has put a damper on things like Christmas parties, most districts also have some sort of special holiday events for their employees. One tradition Acting District 10 Engineer Ryland Musick, P.E., would like to revive is the annual "Family Feud" tournament following the district's Christmas luncheon.

District 10 took the tournament so seriously that Musick actually went to the set of the show to get "Family Feud's" permission to host the game back at the district.

Hartwell Apointed to Research Panel

William Hartwell, director of the Civil Rights/Compliance Division, was recently picked to serve on a panel put together by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, which conducts research into problems affecting highway planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance. The panel will examine racial and other inequities in highway design.





By Marty Gibson

The Operations Division is pleased to recognize Sherri K. Rowan as a recipient of the WV Division of Purchasing’s **Basic Procurement Certification** on November 9, 2021. Sherri, the Contracts Coordinator in the Contracts Unit of the Operations Division, has worked for the State since April 2018. To qualify for consideration in the program, Sherri had to get one year of experience in public procurement with the scope of her work involving a level of 75% or more of public procurement responsibilities in a professional role. Sherri also had to attend at least one of the last two Agency Purchasing Conferences AND complete 15 hours of classes or learning sessions offered, as well as complete a two-day training session with the staff of the Purchasing Division before sitting for the final examination. When notified of her successful completion, Sherri said “Thank you so much for the great news! I look forward to continuing learning and the journey.”



VISION AWARDS

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

JR Crouse—District 4

Beverly Elder—District 4

Mark Elswick—District 2

Bryan Henry—District 4

Scott Kelly—District 3

James McCarty—District 9

John Ramey—District 2

Karen Saunders—District 2

Stephanie Shingler—District 5

Alyson Skaggs—District 9

Jonathan Schaffer—Human

Resources

The Vision is simple; to be the best DOH 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 DOH 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.



Beckley Widening Open for Holidays

A six-lane upgrade to the West Virginia Turnpike near Beckley was open in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Three northbound and three southbound lanes of the Turnpike between mile markers 40 and 48 are officially open to traffic.



asphalt plants reopen in the spring of 2022. The Parkways Authority and West Virginia Division of Highways decided to open all lanes to ease congestion during the holiday season, even with more smoothing still needed.

Widening the Turnpike to six lanes will ease congestion on one of

the most heavily traveled parts of the Turnpike.

"This is a tremendous improvement, a much-needed project that had been considered for several years. We're very thankful for Gov. Justice's Roads to Prosperity program which made this happen for the thousands of people traveling to and through our state," said Jeff Miller, Executive Director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday following Thanksgiving are typically the busiest days of the year on the West Virginia Turnpike. In 2019 more than 607,000 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths during the week of Thanksgiving. About 733,000 vehicles traveled the Turnpike between Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 and Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021.

The \$140 million project was one of the first contracts to be awarded from Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program. The widening of the Turnpike to six lanes between mile markers 40 and 48 was first considered by the Parkways Authority in 2006 but was deemed too expensive at the time.

Extra toll booth staff, the West Virginia State Police, the Courtesy Patrol, and extra flaggers were stationed in and near Turnpike toll booths to keep congestion to a minimum during times of heavy traffic. Pre-planning worked, with almost no traffic delays.

Snowplows and ice-clearing equipment are ready for the coming winter.

Final paving on the six-lane upgrade will be completed as soon as

WVDOT Touts Successful Hiring Year

More than 400 new transportation workers were hired in 2021 because of aggressive recruiting by the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

During the past year, the WVDOT participated in 35 job and career fairs at colleges, universities, technical centers, and WorkForce West Virginia sites all over the Mountain State. The WVDOT also hosted eight large-scale hiring events around the state's 10 highways districts, like one held recently in Elkins for District 8.

District 8 Engineer Jamie Rossi, P.E., was looking to hire 18 transportation workers. One hundred sixty applicants showed up.

The quality of job applicants in Elkins was so good that Rossi is now looking to hire between 32 and 37 people from the hiring event. Adjoining counties are also benefitting.

The creation of Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity highway maintenance and construction program in 2017 created the immediate need for thousands of transportation workers, engineers, equipment operators, bridge inspectors, administrators, and others who would be needed to bring the Governor's vision to fruition. To make it happen, Gov. Justice signed a law streamlining WVDOT hiring procedures to get job applicants on the job quicker.

WVDOT has hired 434 new workers since Jan. 1, 2021.



Strategic Data Management, Technology Division Celebrate GIS Day

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, members of the West Virginia Department of Transportation's Strategic Data Management and Technology Division helped celebrate international GIS Day at the State Capitol building in Charleston. The event is held annually to celebrate GIS technology.



geography for analysis and later use. GIS technology allows users to capture and study information in space and time.

Within WVDOT, GIS technology is used primarily for the generation of highly specialized, multi-layered maps that can show very specific information. Using GIS technology, Strategic Data Management and Technology Division Director

The day brings universities, government agencies, schools, nonprofits, and GIS professionals together to build knowledge of GIS in their communities and create understanding about the world we live in.

GIS stands for geographic information systems, which are computerized programs that collect and store data related to

Hussein Elkhansa, MSE, GISP, and his team can generate maps showing the progress of Corridor H or Gov. Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity program, or maps showing the specific locations of every bridge in the state.



Annual Leave Donation: Piece of Cake!

The men and women of the West Virginia Division of Highways tend to look out for one another.

So if a fellow employee has a long-term illness or some other unforeseen circumstance, it isn't unusual that he or she may use up all of their leave time. Fortunately, the WVDOH allows employees to donate part of their annual leave time to fellow workers who — through no fault of their own — may have expended all of their leave.

Human Resources Specialist Gordon Cook said donating time is incredibly simple. There's a form for that!

All someone who wants to donate leave to a coworker has to do is fill out the top half of the form with their name and details and the name of the person to whom they want to donate time. Sign the form and give it to your supervisor or timekeeper and they'll do the rest.

If you're out in the field or working from home and can't easily get to your supervisor to get a form, call Gordon Cook or Tracy Trail in Human Resources at 304-558-3111.

And that's all there is to it!

WV DIVISION OF PERSONNEL APPENDIX C LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM APPLICATION TO DONATE ANNUAL LEAVE

In accordance with W.V. Code §29-6-27 and 143CSR2, I am applying to make a voluntary donation of annual leave as indicated below.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

PART I – Applicant Information: To be completed by the applicant.

1. Name:		2. Social Security Number:	
3. Agency:	4. Section:	5. Unit:	
6. Total hours of annual leave applying to donate:			
7. Designated recipient's name:			
8. Designated recipient's agency:			
9. Applicant's signature:		10. Date:	

PART II – To Be Completed By The Applicant's Appointing Authority or Designee.

1. Applicant's balance of leave remaining after deducting the leave donation:		
1a. Annual Leave	1b. Sick Leave	1c. Total
2. If this is an inter-agency donation, are there sufficient funds available to make this donation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
3. The applicant is: <input type="checkbox"/> ELIGIBLE to make the indicated leave donation. <input type="checkbox"/> NOT ELIGIBLE to make the indicated leave donation. 3a. REASON:		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> QUESTIONS? Please call the person named in item 7 below. </div>		
4. Donor's hourly rate of pay:		
5. Dollar value of leave donated (i.e., total leave donated multiplied by donor's hourly rate of pay):		
6. FIMS account information for donor:		
7. Certified by:		8. Date:
9. Title:		10. Phone:

7/208



Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter Weather

By Shane Hudnall

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 440 fatal crashes in 2019 related to winter road conditions in the U.S. Therefore, it's imperative to prepare yourself – and your vehicle – for winter weather.

The Basics - Slow down. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. Don't crowd our snowplows or travel beside the truck. Snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

Tires - As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure. Remember not to inflate your tires to the pressure listed on the tire itself. That number is the maximum pressure the tire can hold, not the recommended pressure for the vehicle.

Batteries - When the temperature drops, so does battery power. In cold weather, gasoline and diesel engines take more battery power to start and driving range can be reduced for electric or hybrid vehicles. Have a mechanic check your battery, charging system, and belts for any other needed repairs or replacements.

Floor Mats - Due to slushy winter conditions, you might consider switching out your usual floor mats for thicker material or rubbery ones. Improperly installed floor mats in your vehicle could interfere with the operation of the accelerator or brake pedal, increasing the risk of a crash. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mat installation and use retention clips to secure the mats. Always use mats that are the correct size and fit for your vehicle.

Windshield Wipers - You can quickly go through a lot of



windshield wiper fluid in a single snowstorm. Make sure your vehicle's reservoir is full of high-quality "winter" fluid with de-icer before winter weather hits. Make sure defrosters and all windshield wipers work and replace any worn blades. Consider installing heavy-duty winter wipers if you live in an area that gets a lot of snow and ice.

Know Before You Go!

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- A snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
- Abrasive material (sand or kitty litter) in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers).
- Blankets for protection from the cold.
- A cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

Before heading out, make sure to check the weather and use our 511 app to check traffic and road conditions. As always, if it's too dangerous and you don't need to go, stay home!

Avoid Risky Driving Behaviors

You know the rules: Do not text or drive distracted; obey posted speed limits; and always drive sober. Both alcohol and drugs can impair safe and responsible driving by affecting things such as coordination, judgment, perception, and reaction time. And remember: ALWAYS wear your seat belt!

We want all of our Division of Highway employees to be safe not only while they're at work but when they are away from the job too! Everyone have a safe and happy holiday!



WVDOH: Always On the Job



District 9

No matter the time of year, West Virginia Division of Highways' work crews are out in force to conduct core maintenance, make needed repairs, clear ditches, respond to emergencies or keep track of important highways projects.



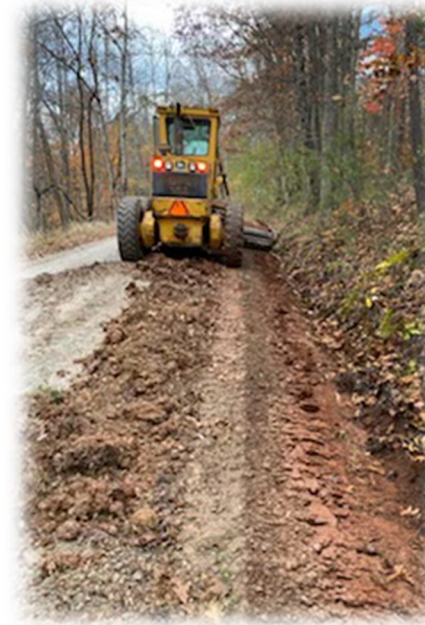
District 5

Whether it's pulling a ditch, trimming canopy, chipping brush, cutting a bank, maintaining a gravel road, checking up on bridge replacement projects or preparing salt for SRIC season, the men and women of the West Virginia Division of Highways are there to see that the job is done and done right.



District 4

Here are some photos from each of the Division of Highways' 10 highway districts submitted by our road crews that show our folks in action.



District 1



District 10



District 7



District 8



District 6



District 3



District 2



...Final Thoughts for the Year That Was

As a final comment on the year that was 2021, the following comes to us from retired former Transportation Secretary Byrd White. This memo has been floating around for years (typos included). But as a stalwart proponent of good planning, and possessing an impish sense of humor, the former Secretary found it appropriate to submit for inclusion in the final newsletter of the year.

The moral of the story: Poor planning has consequences. As we plan our work and work our plan, and pull the rope in the same direction, we do so in a measured, intentional way. Best wishes, and we'll see you all again in 2022!

PLAN AHEAD

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block No. 3 of the accident reporting form, I put quote - poor planning- unquote as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working along on the roof of a new six story building. When I completed by work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building, at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the brick into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of brick. You will note in block number eleven of the accident report form that I weight 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise to being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground --- and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed approximately 50 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight in block number eleven. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the laceration of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks - in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel six stories above - I again lost my presence of mine --

I let go of the rope--

