

WV DOT



Today!

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Paving the way
to smooth roads
for West Virginia!

Summer Marks WVDOT Paving Season

With the summer construction season now in full swing, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is paving roads all over the Mountain State.

On Wednesday, June 28, 2023, the WVDOH awarded a major paving contract on Interstate 79 as part of the

division's ongoing road maintenance program. The bid awards are from a bid letting conducted Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

WVDOH also awarded a paving contract on Willey Street (US 119) in Morgantown.

West Virginia Paving was low bidder on a project to repave Interstate 79 between the Big Otter and Frametown Road exits in Braxton and Clay counties, with a bid of \$37,682,293.39.

Anderson Excavating LLC was low bidder on a project to repave a 1.25-mile section of Willey Street (US 119) through Morgantown, with a bid of \$1,599,461.33.

This year's WVDOH paving schedule includes \$195 million in federal highway funding. That money includes \$75 million to pave about 170 miles of two-lane state and US routes and another \$120 million or so to pave more than 45 miles of interstates and expressways.

In addition, the WVDOH has budgeted \$25 million in state funds to pave approximately 250 miles of secondary roads. That figure may be supplanted if the West Virginia Legislature approves supplemental highway funding as they have done the past few years.

The WVDOH will be awarding paving contracts throughout the summer.

Now that all 10 highway districts have completed their springtime patching routines, cleared ditches and otherwise prepared the Mountain State's roads to be the best they can be, WVDOH can concentrate on repaving roads throughout the state. The organization relies on paving contracts, purchase order paving jobs and paving



jobs by our own paving crews to pave as many miles of highway each year as possible.

Paving work is nearly complete on a section of Interstate 64 from Dunbar to the Oakwood Road interchange in Charleston. Paving also continues on MacCorkle Avenue in Kanawha City,

where the road is being improved and repaved all the way from 33rd Street to 58th Street.

Contractors recently paved Heizer Creek and Manilla Creek roads in Putnam County under a \$1.5 million purchase order. All 10.25 miles of Heizer Creek and all 8.36 miles of Manilla Creek were scheduled to be paved.

Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program and the Governor's secondary roads initiative have provided funding and freed up resources to pave more miles of Mountain State roads than have been paved in decades.

Justice and the West Virginia Legislature have also provided funds to buy paving machines and other equipment to allow WVDOH to do more work and tackle more projects.

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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“WV on the DOT” Celebrates 150th Episode



The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) hit a milestone recently with publication of the 150th episode of the organization’s weekly podcast, “WV on the DOT.”

The sesquicentennial episode features an in-depth interview with Scott Williams, a contributing editor for the national motorcycle magazine “Rider,” talking about the impressive state of West Virginia’s roads, and guest appearances from leaders in several of the WVDOT’s fellow state agencies.

Williams, a Massachusetts resident and avid motorcyclist, recently visited the Mountain State with a group of fellow riders from various states. He was so taken with the state’s beauty and the quality of the roads that he called Damron, who asked if Williams would be interested in appearing on the podcast.

“It was just amazing to me how wonderfully smooth so many of the roads were,” Williams told his hosts. “I was so impressed with how well-engineered the roads are; they’re nicely banked, and there aren’t a lot of off-camber curves.”

In partnership with West Virginia Tourism, WVDOT has debuted four Mountain Rides routes in the past year, with additional routes to come. These routes welcome motorcyclists and car enthusiasts to ride on some through some of the most beautiful landscapes, and sample the restaurants and hospitality of West Virginia’s towns. Motorists are seeing the colorful signs; Seneca Skyway, Capitol Circle, Cranberry Corridor and Birdeye Bend, designating the routes.

“I liken it to a roller coaster, because they just go up and down and back and forth,” Williams said. “For me, it’s like flying on the ground. It’s one of the things I live for.”

“WV on the DOT” is produced by the WVDOT’s Public Relations Division, and features hosts Randy Damron and Jennifer Dooley, and newsman Jake Flatley with “Around the DOT.”

The 150th podcast episode also features guest appearances by several prominent figures in state government. Here’s what they had to say:

James Bailey, Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Commerce

“The partnership between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce is imperative to everything we do. The Department of Transportation is a critical partner to everything the state does – whether it’s making sure people have access to our state parks or making sure we have safe roadways and the infrastructure needed for development. All aspects of life within West Virginia, transportation plays a critical role. There’s nothing we do within commerce or across the rest of state government that does not rely on the Department of Transportation’s successful execution of what their mission is. That’s exactly what they do, which is successfully execute. All the successes we’ve had under Governor Justice’s leadership have been facilitated by the successes that he has facilitated through the Department of Transportation.”

Randall Reid-Smith, Curator for the Department of Arts, Culture and History

“I am happy to join this show and be with you all. I always enjoy being with Randy Damron and Miss Jennifer. We always have a great time talking about highways. As the State Historic Preservation Officer, you don’t build highways without me, guys! Congratulations, I love working with the DOT.”

Chelsea Ruby, Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Tourism

“We want to give a big shoutout to all those crews who make sure our country roads are perfect for visitors to the Mountain State.”

Mitch Carmichael, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development

“The West Virginia Department of Transportation and our Economic Development team work very well together to bring jobs, growth and economic opportunity to our state. It’s imperative that we have a great relationship and to provide the transportation corridors that are necessary to economic job enhancement and growth within our state. People around the world are noticing how well we work together and how quickly we can make projects come together.”



State Motorcycle Training Coordinator Presents at Conference

Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Motorcycle Safety Program Training Coordinator Mary Jarrell gave a presentation at the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) Region 2 meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, on Thursday, June 29, 2023 to talk about motorcycle safety issues in the Mountain State. Jarrell was a panelist in the



“DMV and State Highway Safety Office Collaboration” session. This session highlighted Region 2 jurisdictions that have fostered opportunities and programs developed through partnerships between state divisions of motor vehicles and State Highway Safety Offices (SHSOs).

Jarrell's presentation, “Working Together as One,” discussed the issues West Virginia has with motorcyclist fatalities. In years past, crash data indicated that nearly half of motorcyclist fatalities were attributed to helmet non-use. Jarrell dug deeper into crash reporting and found that the issue was that data was not entered correctly on crash reports.

Additionally, she began researching motorcyclist fatalities to determine if riders had their Class F Motorcycle Endorsement on their driver's license. Jarrell found that on average, over the past five years, two-thirds of motorcyclists who died in crashes on West Virginia roads did not have their Class F Endorsement.

To educate motorcyclists and to mitigate motorcyclist fatalities, Jarrell approached the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles

(DMV) with an idea. She proposed that the Motorcycle Safety Program and GHSP create an insert that would be included in the mailings for motorcycle registrations. Jarrell worked with the GHSP public information specialist to create an insert that educated motorcycle owners about the Class F Endorsement. Information about how to obtain a learner's permit and taking

either the on-cycle skills test at a local DMV or successfully completing a Motorcycle Safety Class would qualify a rider to obtain their Class F Endorsement.

The inserts were first included in the 2022 registration mailings. An updated design was included in the 2023 mailings. A “Don't Drink and Ride” advertisement is on the back side of the mailers.

Future plans for the Motorcycle Safety Program include continuing with the mailers each year in cooperation with the DMV. Preparations are underway to create informational cards to distribute to motorcycle dealers within the state educating new buyers about the steps to obtain a Class F Motorcycle Endorsement.

The GHSP's mission is to reduce crashes and associated injuries and fatalities on West Virginia's roadways. The Motorcycle Safety Program's focus is decreasing motorcyclist deaths through education and training. The collaboration between the DMV and GHSP is a step in the right direction to fulfill these objectives.

DMV Wins Big at AAMVA Conference

The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) took home two awards at the same conference attended by Motorcycle Training Coordinator Mary Jarrell (see above).

DMV won a regional award for informative writing for a packet about DMV's innovative responses to the COVID pandemic. Among other responses to the pandemic, DMV instituted an appointment system for customers, greatly increased online services,

and instituted contactless driving tests.

The organization won a second award for improvement through efficiencies for a nation-leading initiative to move toward paperless titling. This modernization project includes the digitization of the dealer submission capabilities for title transfer application and registrations and the launch of a comprehensive Electronic Lien and Title (ELT) program.



Summer Construction Season Sees Work on West Virginia Turnpike



With the summer construction season in full swing, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is seeing major construction projects on all the Mountain State's interstate highways.

Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program has allowed the WVDOH to undertake major construction projects on the state's interstates. Two major construction projects are currently underway on Interstate 64 and Interstate 77 on the West Virginia Turnpike.

Charles Chuck Yeager Bridge painting

Work should be finished in October to repaint the northbound and southbound spans of the Charles Chuck Yeager Bridge near Charleston. In June 2021, Southern Road and Bridge LLC was awarded a contract for \$16,267,273.80 to completely repaint both spans.

In honor of Yeager, a Hamlin native who was the first man to officially break the sound barrier, the decision was made to paint the bridges in blue and gold.

"The Yeager Bridge is an iconic bridge entering the Kanawha Valley on the West Virginia Turnpike and it was in desperate need of a full painting," said Jeff Miller, Executive Director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority. "The West Virginia Parkways Authority is proud that Gov. Jim Justice had the vision to honor Yeager, who is one of the greatest West Virginians of all time, by painting this bridge in the official state colors of gold and blue. Not only will this help improve the overall condition and appearance of the bridges, but it is also a simple, yet classy ges-

ture to honor this great West Virginian."

The southern span of the bridge was built in 1952 as part of the original alignment of the West Virginia Turnpike. The northbound bridge was built in 1980. Plans call for the southbound bridge to be painted blue and the northbound span to be painted gold.

Interstate 64 eastbound, Interstate 64 westbound and Interstate 77 northbound rubblization and paving

Work is currently underway to rebuild about 20 road miles of the Turnpike on both Interstate 64 and Interstate 77 in the area where the two interstates split south of Beckley. The existing concrete road surface will be reduced to rubble to create a new roadbed and new asphalt will be laid down.

"By doing a full rubblization and paving on this section of roadway, we anticipate that we will not have to do any significant roadway work or repairs to this section for at least 20 years, outside of routine maintenance," Miller said.

"This eliminates some of the last remaining sections of concrete on the Turnpike mainline roadway," Miller said. "I commend the contractor and roadway crews for performing this job the right way and am proud of how quickly this work is progressing."

West Virginia Paving was awarded the contract for \$33,676,407.72.

Work on I-64 East is expected to be complete in November. Work on I-64 West and I-77 North will begin in March 2024 and be complete by the end of the year.



DMV Opens New Office in Berkeley Springs

After a soft launch earlier in June, West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Everett Frazier recently announced that the Berkeley Springs DMV Regional Office is officially open and conducting all



the Berkeley Springs area. We are thrilled to be able to provide this convenience and service to our customers," Frazier said.

The new office is the 26th full-service location in the state, and customers may visit the office at 101 Cavendish

Drive in Berkeley Springs, across Valley Road from the Southern Belle Truck Stop.

available DMV transactions, including driver and vehicle services and driver, commercial driver, and motorcycle testing.

For more information, please see the DMV website at dmv.wv.gov.

"We know from looking at the population in the Eastern Panhandle that an additional full-service office was needed in

Work Progressing on Scott Miller Hill Bypass in Roane County

Work is well underway on a major construction project on US 33 in Roane County. The Scott Miller Hill project creates an approximately 4.3-mile bypass on US 35 from Tuckers Run to Middle Fork.

The more than \$40 million project eliminates several bad curves and is designed to improve access and promote business growth in Roane



County and the town of Spencer. Kanawha Stone of Poca was awarded the construction contract in 2020.

"We've waited way too long for projects like this," said West Virginia Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E. "When Governor Justice came in with his big, bold vision for the Roads to Prosperity, he set us on a path to doing all these great things on our highways, taking care of decades upon decades of underinvestment in our infrastructure."

"Scott Miller Hill always had a lot of accidents because of the steepness of the grade. Most of our goods and services are

brought here by truck," said Spencer Mayor Terry Williams.

Williams, who has been mayor for more than four decades, said the Scott Miller Hill project has been in discussion as long as he can remember.

"This may be one of only two projects that have been in the works longer than the mayor has been mayor,"

Wriston joked. "We're going to get Scott Miller Hill done."

"This project will make for a safer road for the traveling public and create economic opportunities for the area," said West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) Chief Engineer of Construction Todd Rumbaugh, P.E.

The massive construction project requires the movement of more than 2.4 million cubic yards of earth. That's enough dirt to fill more than seven Olympic sized swimming pools.

The bypass is expected to be complete in the fall of 2024.



Darby Clayton Retires Following Three Decades of Service

Darby Clayton, P.E., a 31-year West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) employee, retired on Friday, June 30, 2023. He began his career with the WVDOH as a summer co-op while attending engineering school. Following graduation, Clayton started working for the WVDOH in June of 1992.

He worked in the construction department of District 5 in Burlington on a wide variety of projects, most notably many sections of Corridor H. In 2006 he was named a Regional Construction Engineer in the Contract Administration Division. During 2018, following the retirement of the District 4 Engineer/Manager in Bridgeport, Clayton was asked to serve as the Acting Manager. He served in this role until July of 2020. He then took on the assignment of Assistant Deputy State Highway

Engineer Operations. He served in this position until his retirement in 2023.

Clayton worked on many challenging construction projects throughout his career. These include many sections of Corridor H, James Rumsey Bridge, Shenandoah River Bridge, I-81 widening, and US 340 widening. He also took on the responsibility of managing a District in an acting role. As

the Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer of Operations, Clayton spearheaded a complete upgrade of the WVDOH Fuelmaster System. He also led the development of the Public Interest Finding for our first formalized Bridge Management System.

Clayton was also very active on the AASHTO Subcommittee on Construction throughout his time with the WVDOH.



Stay Safe! Look Twice for Motorcycles!





Received the following letter from the town of Bath:

Dear Secretary Wriston,

We are the Mayor and Council of the town of Bath and we are writing this letter to express our appreciation for the paving work that the Morgan County DOH recently completed on the northern portion of Wilkes Street. Superintendent Todd Hutchinson did an excellent job in leading his crew on work that was vitally important to not only the residents and property owners on this street, but the entire town.

Wilkes Street is now a more safe, orderly, and attractive environment for our citizens. These enhancements are strong contributions to the economic development and wellbeing of the area. These improvements are meaningful, and we intend to maintain the momentum that the work that District 5 Engineer Lee Thorne has started. Our town benefits from all the paving and road improvements of the WVDOH which occurs in and around Bath.

In addition to street paving, we are also grateful for the DOH Transportation Alternatives projects in and around Bath. These include the Town of Bath Streetscape Project, the Berkeley Depot Project, the Berkeley Springs State Park Project, and the North Berkeley Rail/Trail Project. All of these are significant contributors to the betterment of the Town of Bath and Morgan County.

(Signed) Mayor Scott Merki, Recorder Susan Webster and all five council members.

VISION AWARDS

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

James Watts—District 2

Matt Davidson—District 2

Mary Sturgell—District 8

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

