

WV DOT Today!



August 2021—Volume 3: Issue 8

The Steepest Part is Always at the Top



Howard Curry, Thatcher Roy, Taite Rhodes and Danny Young.

“The steepest part is always going to be at the top. We’re right at the top and the steepest part to getting across the top is going to be right now. We’ve got a real opportunity, West Virginia.”

Governor Jim Justice spoke these words on Friday, July 23, at a lovely gathering at the Sandstone Visitors Center in the newly designated New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. The following week, our West Virginia Division of Highways interstate sign crew (above) made swift work of installing more than 80 signs directing visitors from around the world to the newly designated National Park. We always knew the gorge was world class, now the world will know.

At the West Virginia Department of Transportation, we’ve made a hard climb and we’re near the top of a mountain. Our Governor’s words resonate; as we see results of how hard we’ve worked to make our state better. The harder we work the steeper the climb feels, even when we can see results in all directions. We’re in the climb together, with all the state agencies, with all West Virginians; knowing there’s a lot to lose — and win. We feel it in all directions; from DOH’s squared potholes and major roadways nearing completion, to DMV’s quest to save lives, to Aeronautics helping airports reinvent themselves after a tough year—and before more tough years, quite frankly. We pause to appreciate the work our co-worker allies are doing; then we continue to climb. [More sign crew, page 5.](#)



A Perfect Ka-Boom! I-64 St. Albans Nitro

Contractors set off the first of many explosive blasts Tuesday, July 20, 2021 to get ready for major upgrades to the Nitro- St. Albans Bridge on Interstate 64.

West Virginia Division of Highways plans to build a new bridge beside the existing Nitro-St. Albans Bridge to carry westbound traffic, then build a new bridge on the site of the existing structure using a portion of the existing bridge piers to carry eastbound traffic. The bridge upgrade is part of a \$244 million project under Gov. Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity construction program to widen Interstate 64 to six lanes from Nitro to the US 35 interchange at Scott Depot.



Contractors closed St. Albans and Nitro interstate ramps for a few minutes before and after the blast for safety. West Virginia State Police, Putnam County sheriff's deputies and Nitro city police also instituted rolling roadblocks on the interstate.

In a rolling roadblock, law enforcement drives in front of traffic and slows the traffic stream down until safely past the construction work. Hamilton said the rolling roadblocks began at Cross Lanes for westbound traffic and at Scott Depot for traffic heading east. Rolling roadblocks kept contractors from having to close the interstate completely during the blast.

Other Roads to Prosperity projects will upgrade Interstate 64 to six lanes all the way from Charleston to Huntington. Jason Hamilton, District 1 Area Engineer for Construction, said Tuesday's blast was to loosen up rock and dirt for a new road contour on the St. Albans exit ramp that ties in with WV 817. The blast went off without a hitch at 12:29 p.m.

Local media joining WVDOT Public Relations to film the blast from a safe distance saw dirt rise and fall in an orderly fashion — the whole ka-boom went perfectly. Contractors are planning a series of small, controlled blasts to move the dirt carefully as the project progresses — with rolling stops to impact traffic as little as possible.

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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Jason Hamilton explains the project.



Cooperation Key to Statewide Vision

West Virginia Deputy Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston recently met with members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia to talk about how contractors, the West Virginia Division of Highways and other state agencies are working together to provide a better future for the people of the Mountain State.

"I think we've made great strides in coming together," Wriston told contractors. "I think we all want the same thing. You don't want to do a job that's not going to last. That's not good for your company. That's not good for your reputation."

As DOH and contractors work together to fulfill Gov. Jim Justice's massive Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program, Wriston emphasized that better

highways will bring good things to the state economy and the people of West Virginia.



"We've got \$3.6 billion in active construction projects," Wriston said. He said DOH and contractors alike want to see projects that last.

He also said state agencies have seen an increased spirit of cooperation to move West Virginia forward, citing examples of working cooperatively with Department of Commerce, Tourism, Environmental Protection and other agencies — looking for increased efficiency and cooperation every day. Within DOT, agencies are working toward the vision of One

DOT.

"You're seeing these state agencies working together," Wriston said. "You see single-minded missions, because we're following a vision."

Public Art on DOH Right-of-Way: How It

Consider the life of a city or town and you think of art, festivals, music and other opportunities for celebrating common ground. Public art can add a sense of community pride and brighten up city streets and highways. In this era of West Virginian's working together to move our state forward, it's an idea the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) embraces.

"Art gives the community some buy-in into what they're doing," said Dave Cramer, Economic Development Engineer in the WVDOT Commissioner's office. "It allows the community to involve some local artists, which most do."

WVDOT maintains a narrow right-of-way in the immediate vicinity of each roadway. When a neighboring property slips into the road or when right-of-way must be acquired to build a new road, these can be sources of frustration for the public and WVDOT alike. The process of applying to install art on a WVDOT right of way, by contrast, adds some color to that world of black and white, taking into consideration public safety while working to promote vibrancy and hope in a community.



Several years ago, federal highways officials encouraged West Virginia to develop an official policy to address requests to put public art projects on state rights-of-way. Although not widely known, more and more communities are applying for permission to install art projects on DOH property.

A series of colorful murals on piers beneath Interstate 64 near Magic Island in Charleston and under the I-70 bridges in Wheeling are some of the more well-known public art installations approved under the program.

"Recently, we got a proposal that we approved for the city of Morgantown that involved putting murals on traffic signal cabinet boxes in downtown," Cramer said.

While would-be artists can't just show up on a bridge with a bucket of paint and a brush, a formalized application process provides a way for communities and artists to spruce up their public spaces while keeping themselves and each other safe.

"The program so far has been positive," Cramer said. "We're always agreeable to considering anything."



If You Feel Different, You Drive Different

The Labor Day holiday weekend is the unofficial end of summer, and with that, many people may be traveling to get one more get-away in before school gets underway and schedules start becoming busier.

With long weekends, some people choose to relax and unwind by consuming adult beverages or other substances that may impair their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. This is why the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety (GHSP) is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) and law enforcement agencies across West Virginia for the high visibility enforcement campaign *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. The GHSP is expanding its efforts to raise awareness about drug-impaired driving by sharing the message: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive High, Get a DUI.*

According to NHTSA, between 2009 and 2018, of drivers killed in crashes and tested for marijuana, the presence of marijuana had nearly doubled. In 2018, 46% of drivers who were killed in crashes and were tested for drugs, tested positive. In every U.S. state and territory, it is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs — no exceptions.

Whether the drug is legal or not, drug-impaired driving poses a threat to the driver, passengers, and other road users. It doesn't matter what term you use: If a person is feeling a little high, buzzed, stoned, wasted, or drunk, he or she is impaired and should never get behind the wheel. If you think driving while high from marijuana won't affect you, you are wrong. It has been shown that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.

On average, a DUI could set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing, and more. If you're caught driving under the influence of any impairing substance, you can face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your friends and family or

your employer. Drug-impaired driving could cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could stop you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.



If you have used an impairing substance such as marijuana or certain prescription medications, do not drive. Passengers should never ride with an impaired driver. If you think a driver may be impaired, do not get in the car.

If you are planning to use drugs (illegally or legally obtained with a medical cannabis card) or take a prescribed medication that can affect your ability to operate heavy machinery—like your car, plan ahead for a sober driver to safely drive you to your destination. Like drunk driving, it is essential that drug-impaired drivers refrain from driving a vehicle. It is never okay to drive while impaired by any substance. If you have a friend who is about to drive while impaired by drugs, take the keys away and arrange to get them home safely. Don't worry about offending someone — they'll thank you later. If available, use a local ride sharing program such as Lyft, Uber, or a local taxi service. If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement. Fewer impaired drivers on our roadways means they're safer for all road users. By simply not driving or planning ahead for a sober ride home, we can all be responsible road users and keep each other safe.

Each state is required by federal statute to have a highway safety program. West Virginia's program falls under the Division of Motor Vehicles. Our ultimate goal is to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on WV's roadways. We do this through concerted media and enforcement efforts in an attempt to change driving behaviors. We want YOU to be safe on the roadways so that we ALL are safe on the roadways.

For more information, please visit the www.dmv.wv.gov/ghsp or visit the GHSP's social media channels at facebook.com/wvghsp or twitter.com/WVhighwaysafety.



Expressway Sign Maintenance Crew: In Action



This is how it's done!

The Division of Highways Expressway Sign Maintenance Crew (ESMC) is a specialized maintenance group operating within the central office Traffic Engineering Division in Charleston. The ESMC's primary function is to perform maintenance and repairs for traffic sign assemblies located both along the roadside and on overhead structures for Interstates and major expressway facilities statewide. The ESMC also performs all field modifications and new sign installations associated with the LOGO and Tourism Oriented Destination Signing (TODS) programs. These programs provide businesses, offering key services for long distance travelers, the opportunity to display signage along major roadways. In addition, the ESMC carries out specialized and typically time sensitive assignments involving the installation or modification of signage to fulfill DOH's commitments to assist local, state, and federal partners.

The crew recently installed over 80 signs for the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve — welcoming the world to West Virginia.



Construction Update: John Blue Bridge

Progress continues at John Blue Bridge in Hampshire County. The three-span, 478' long, bridge was designed for construction half-at-a-time in two stages. Staged construction was necessary due to site constraints. These constraints required construction of the first half of the new structure near the existing truss bridge.

The existing bridge was utilized to maintain traffic during Stage I. Stage I work has finished. Work completed during Stage I consisted of two piling walls with rock anchor tie-backs, caisson foundations, piers, approximately 2/3 of the pier caps, full width abutments, steel superstructure, the first half of the bridge deck and barriers, approach fill, and the first half of the paving template. Traffic is now upon the first half of the new structure and roadway approaches.



Stage II work began this month with demolition of the existing truss bridge. Demolition work is now mostly complete.

Additional working room was created by removal of the truss. This additional working room has allowed form work to begin for Stage II of the pier caps. Approximately 1/3 of the hammer-head caps will be constructed during this stage. Additional work coming up during this stage will include post-tensioning

of the pier caps, steel superstructure, the remaining 1/2 of the bridge deck and barriers, and the remaining roadway approaches. Construction work is anticipated to be mostly complete late this year.

Motorcycle Instruction Permit Available Online

Commissioner Everett Frazier of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles is pleased to announce that motorcycle instruction permit testing is now available online at dmv.wv.gov.

DMV's online testing is available through West Virginia's KnowTo Drive online platform, which officially launched in February of 2021. Online testing became necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic and gives West Virginians the ability to register and complete learner's permit testing requirements before visiting a DMV office for credential issuance.

Once a test-taker completes the exam with a passing score, a certificate of completion with a secure barcode is issued. Before the applicant is officially ready and legal to drive, they must bring that certificate with barcode to a regional office for testing validation, along with any necessary paperwork, to receive their credential.

When asked about the addition of the motorcycle instruction permit testing to the KnowTo Drive online platform, Frazier said, "The current KnowTo Drive online testing platform is meeting and exceeding our expectations. So, it was a logical

addition to allow those needing a motorcycle learner's permit to use the same platform. We are excited about our ability to expand our best-in-class services outside of the traditional DMV office."

Using KnowTo Drive online, applicants can self-register and pay for the exam through the West Virginia DMV portal. If the applicant is under the age of 18, parents or guardians can enter their information as the examination proxy. Any under-18 applicant must have a GDL II license to have a motorcycle endorsement added to their license. Once registered, the examination can be taken immediately or later, via an emailed link. During the exam, the test-taker is subject to an initial photo capture, stored for ID verification by the DMV upon passing the exam. Multiple photos are also taken randomly throughout the test, to ensure the person starting the exam is the one who completes the exam.

Again, once an applicant receives a passing score, they must bring the certificate with barcode to a regional office to have their picture taken and create the credential before they can legally drive. For more information, please visit the DMV website.



Marion County Kudos

“Marion County and District Four Department of Highways and workers:

Thanks from the Citizens of Pleasant Valley for the work being done on the highways in our area. Pleasant Valley Road was in dire need of being paved and upgraded. It is greatly appreciated.”

— Barbara Metcalfe, Mayor of Pleasant Valley

An Honest Days Work

District 4 reports the following about a transportation worker working out of the organization office in Lost Creek, Harrison County:

A lady named Terri called the Lost Creek shop to report that she had lost her purse on the interstate, she believed between the 99-105 NB mile markers.

On 7/28/21 Ron Bonnett, TW2, was mowing with the Ventrac on a Bench when he happened to spot the purse.

Ron then contacted Bob Suan about his discovery.

The purse was later discovered to have had \$1,100 in it. Terri said she was a single mom with two kids, so returning the purse meant a great deal to her.

WVDOH is proud of Ron for an honest days work!

Happy Retirement



Office Services wishes Roy Thompson a happy retirement following 32 years of dedicated service. We'll sure miss you!

VISION AWARDS

Congratulations to the following individuals being recognized this month by Secretary Byrd White and Deputy Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., for their dedication to The Vision.

Toni Rogers—District 1

Tom Caldwell—District 5

Sid Hammack—Office Services

Jennifer Rutherford—Legal

Scott Evans—District 9

Tommy Bays—District 9

Chris Sands—Contract Administration

Michele Wilfong—District 4

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.



New Shows: Thursday 4:00 p.m.

[Transportation.wv.gov](https://transportation.wv.gov)

Click on the Podcast link.

Or listen on the Soundcloud app.



Applying for a Job with WVDOH

By Leslie Adkins, Career Services, WVDOT/DOH Job Recruiter

As we approach the one year anniversary of West Virginia Division of Highways establishing our own application platform and procedure, there are still questions being asked about the process. In the upcoming editions of the newsletter, we will try to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

One question we run into from employees and the public is “I did my application using my cell phone. Is that ok?” The answer is never use your phone to complete the online application. Although it may appear to look correct, there’s something that happens in the submission of the app through the phone. Be on the safe side and use your desktop or laptop computer to apply for Highways jobs.

Another set of questions we receive at Career Services is 1) “I am a temp employee. Can I apply internally?” and “I have been hired, but I am still in my probationary period. How do I apply?” In both cases, you will need to apply externally, using “Jobs Open for Public Application”. Only an employee who has served and been approved Certified Permanent State Employee can apply internally.

These are some of the questions that are often asked about the application process. If you have questions and need help with the application process, please reach out to Career Services by email at DOHcareers@wv.gov or call 304-558-3111. We are here to assist you and glad to do it.

Millin’ and Fillin’ Like a Villian, District 4 is far from Chillin’



District 4 has been attacking core maintenance projects throughout the district. District work crews could be seen out and about — milling and filling in Preston County. Meanwhile, Harrison County crews were out pulling ditches.



WVDOH Equipment Operators Know Their



When you know what you’re doing, and you do it well, people are going to notice. Like this grader operator spotted by West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell, R — Mineral. The operator was working on WV 46 about a half-mile east of Keyser.

Delegate Howell knows talent when he sees it. He pointed out, “This operator is doing things with that grader that many would have trouble doing with a dozer.”

It’s nice to be recognized for a job well done. Thank you to our employees who take pride in their work every day, and to Delegate Howell for the positive, specific feedback!



Registration ends August 2 at 11:59:59 p.m.



SAVE A LIFE. CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

SWEEPSTAKES

WHO CAN ENTER?

- West Virginians 12 to 17 years of age who have received at least their first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine
- West Virginians 18 years of age and older who have received at least their first COVID-19 vaccine if receiving the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose if receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

WHAT CAN YOU WIN?

- \$1.588 million grand prize
- \$588,000 second prize
- Weekly drawing for \$1 million
- Full scholarship to any WV state college or university
- Custom-outfitted truck
- Weekend vacation at a state park
- Lifetime hunting and fishing license
- Custom hunting rifle or custom hunting shotgun

Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you at vaccines.gov.

Learn more and register to win prizes at doitforbabydog.wv.gov!



Roads Scholars and Training Opportunities

ROADS SCHOLAR GRADUATES

The WV LTAP staff is excited to recognize these recent graduates who committed to completing the course requirements for either the Roads Scholar I or II programs by attending virtual training. If you are not familiar with the Roads Scholar programs, please visit our website at wvltap.org and click on the training tab to learn more.



Bruce (L) receives his RS recognition items from Tony Clark (R), Highway District Manager for WVD04-D6.



Troy (L) receives his RS recognition items from Leo Thome (R), Highway District Engineer for WVD04-D5.



Dave (L) receives his RS II recognition items from Jake Blumgarner (R), WVD04 Operations Division Director.



Jennifer (L) receives her RS II recognition items from Tony Clark (R), Highway District Manager for WVD04-D6.

ROADS SCHOLAR I

Tom Collins
WVD04-D8 Deputy District Engineer

Bruce Debolt (1)
WVD04-D6 TWS Crew Chief

Troy McCumbee (2)
WVD04-D5 Technician

Stephanie Neuman
WVD04-D6 Transportation Engineer Trainee Associate

Michael Roberts
WVD04-D6 TWS Crew Chief

ROADS SCHOLAR II

Scott Billings
WVD04-D10 Transportation Engineer Technician Senior

Dave Brabham (3)
WVD04 Regional Operations Engineer

Jennifer McNamara (4)
WVD04-D6 Transportation Engineer Trainee Senior



WV LTAP'S VIRTUAL TRAINING PLATFORM

You can now earn Roads Scholar (RS) credit and PDHs through our self-paced virtual training platform!

The WV LTAP recently launched this platform on our website, which features recordings of a few of our popular Roads Scholar classes. Anyone wanting to get credit will need to watch the entire recording and complete the associated quiz, earning a grade of 70% or higher.

This training platform can be accessed on our website, wvltap.org. Select WV LTAP Virtual Training under the Training tab. You can also access the platform directly at wvltap.org/virtual. Once you arrive on the training platform's page, simply click the title of the class you'd like to attend; you can also watch a short video with instructions on how to use the platform.

If you have questions about the Roads Scholar Program or this new virtual training opportunity, email Kim at Kim.Carr@mail.wvu.edu.

These four Roads Scholar II classes are currently available through the virtual training platform.

- Common Sense Solutions for Intersection Safety
- Gravel Roads Design and Maintenance
- Introduction to Asphalt Technology
- Pavement Preservation

ROADS SCHOLAR I 2021 GRADUATE

Marcus Wood
WVD04-D6 Technician



Marcus (L) is shown receiving his RS recognition items from Tony Clark (R), Highway District Manager for WVD04-D6.

ROADS SCHOLAR II 2020 GRADUATES

Mark Davis
WVD04-Retired

Leon Kinney (Pictured)
WVD04-D6 Technician

Mike Stone
WVD04-Retired

Duane West
WVD04-Retired



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Please mark your calendar for the events listed below. These are just a few of the training opportunities that are available this year. We are working to schedule additional WV LTAP hosted training on topics such as excavation and trenching, so please visit our website (wvltap.org) for up-to-date information.



INSTRUCTOR LED

April 21-22, 2021 (10:00 AM to Noon Both Days)

Excavation & Trenching Safety, RS I Virtual Training

April 28, 2021 (11:00 AM to Noon EST)

Integrated Pavement Solutions with Portland Cement PCA Infrastructure Webinar Series 1 of 10, RS II Virtual Training
This webinar series is being held on Wednesdays through July 14. The WV LTAP will accept this series as a RS II class if six of the ten sessions are attended in their entirety and certificates are submitted.

May 12-13, 2021 (10:00 AM to Noon Both Days)

Excavation & Trenching Safety, RS I Virtual Training

May 19-20, 2021 (1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Both Days)

Reducing Roadway Departure Crashes, RS I Virtual Training

September 30, 2021

Snow & Ice Control Workshop, Summersville, WV

October 6-8, 2021

Roadway Management Conference, Rehoboth Beach, DE



SELF-PACED

AASHTO TC3 has numerous options for self-paced virtual training that you can access through our webpage, <https://www.wvltap.org/self-paced>, or directly at this link <https://tc3.transportation.org/training-resources/courses/>.

Training is free for employees of local agencies and state agency contributing members, which includes the WVDOT/DOH. Course training categories are construction, materials, maintenance, traffic and safety, pavement preservation, and employee development. This is another great training opportunity if you are looking for training you can complete at your convenience.

DMV Highlights—August

Target Red: Stop on Red

Intersection safety is a serious topic of concern in our communities. A study found that motorists in urban areas are more likely to be injured in crashes involving red-light running than in any other type of crash. During August 1-15, 2021, law enforcement agencies in West Virginia will be participating in **Target Red**, an enforcement initiative that will be target motorists who fail to make a complete stop at red traffic signals and stop signs. In addition, with the start of a new school year, law enforcement officers will be out reminding motorists that they should not pass stopped school buses.



School Bus Safety: Red Means Stop!

Students across West Virginia will be returning to school beginning in early August. We remind motorists to leave early when local schools reconvene so that you have plenty of time for your morning and afternoon commute. Remember that when a bus has its stop sign deployed and red flashing lights are on, vehicles should stop so that students may exit the bus and cross the road safely.

Statewide Click It or Ticket Mobilization to be held August 6th-22nd.

In an ongoing effort to improve seat belt usage in West Virginia, the GHSP is promoting a statewide **Click It or Ticket** high visibility campaign. Seat belts have proven to be one of the best ways to save your life in a crash, yet many still do not buckle up. The **Click It or Ticket** mobilization focuses on safety education and law enforcement officers saving lives by enforcing state law.



Route 2 Slip Repair

Repairs are underway on a slip on WV 2 in Mason County near the Jackson County line.

"The area presented a challenge due to the length of the slip," said District 1 Maintenance Engineer, Kathy Rushworth. "We gathered information and considered several methods of repair and chose soil nails as the most efficient and effective for the location."

The initial slip occurred on July 1, followed by a subsequent slip. District 1 studied the situation, considered the alternatives, met with the contractor (GSI) and began work on the ground on July 28.

"We're working to get more responsive," said Rushworth. "So we can get out and solve problems."



DOH History: 108 Years and Counting

West Virginia's rugged terrain and far-flung communities have made transportation vital throughout the state's history. But centralized planning for the state's highway system has been in place only a little over a century.

Prior to 1913, construction and upkeep of West Virginia's roads was the responsibility of the individual county commissions, known at the time as county courts.

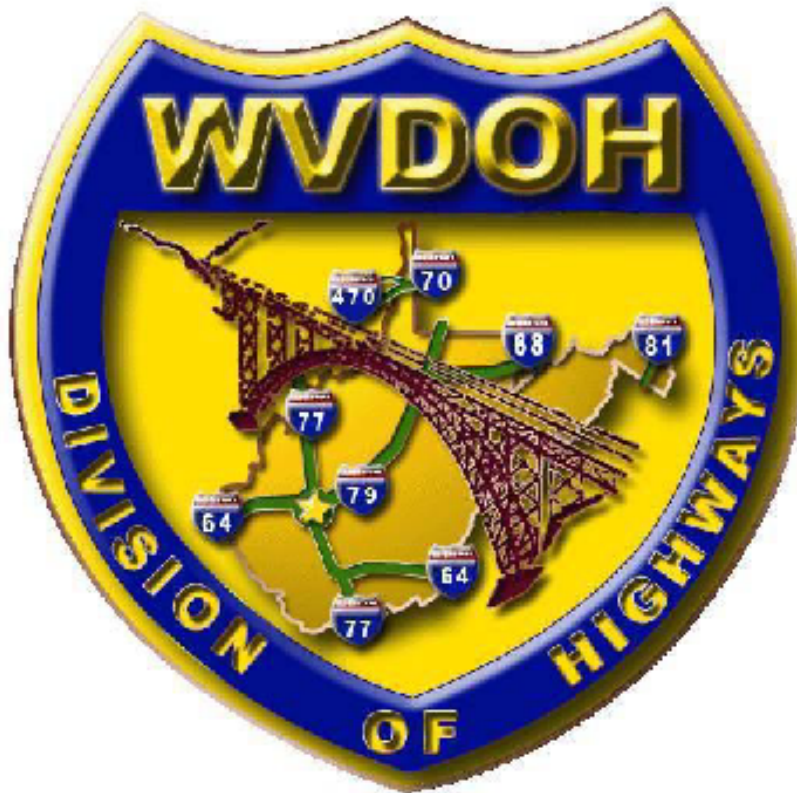
That changed in 1913, when the state Legislature created the State Road Bureau to coordinate construction efforts among the counties. The Federal Road Act of 1916 provided federal monies to improve roads, but required states to establish statewide highways departments to come up with matching funds. So the Legislature replaced the State Road Bureau with the State Road Commission in 1917.

The State Road Commission did all of the heavy lifting during the first decades of the 20th century. The state issued its first road bonds in 1920, and lawmakers first dedicated motor vehicle license fees to the State Road Fund in 1921. The state's first gasoline tax dedicated to paying off road bonds and maintaining highways came in 1923.

In 1933 the Legislature took the responsibility of maintaining local roads off of cash-strapped county courts and transferred thousands of roads to the state highway system. The 1940s and '50s saw a flurry of road construction, with the West Virginia Turnpike opening in 1954.

In the 1960s the Road Commission became known as the Department of Highways. The Department of Transportation, its agencies and the Division of Highways were created in 1989.





APPLY NOW!! HIGHWAY ENGINEER SENIOR-STATEWIDE

Highway Engineer Senior

Will serve as Regional Maintenance Engineer for multiple districts in the southern part of the state providing services in planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations to highways and their facilities. Will provide professional services and assistance to District Maintenance Engineers, Maintenance Assistants, and Supervisors in the accomplishment of statewide maintenance activities and much, much more.

Although this job falls under the Operations Division, you will work STATEWIDE

Are you looking for career advancement?

Are you a Highway Engineer Associate looking to promote?

Do you have your WV PE License & 7 years of highway engineering experience?

APPLY TODAY

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Click on WV DOT Careers
Scroll to Internal Postings

Posting # DOH21OP121

Call 304-558-3111 for assistance



Final Stretch US 35 -73,568 Tons of Asphalt

On the 14.6 mile final section of US 35 through Mason and Putnam Counties, 16.8 million cubic yards of earth have been moved and 73,568 tons of asphalt are being placed to improve safety for travelers as the much anticipated section of the Roads to Prosperity project nears completion.

Work currently taking place on the roadway includes completion of paving, shoulder work, guardrails and signage to keep the public safe on the new road. West Virginia Division of Highways recently received a contractor request to extend the date for completion of the project to late October, due to a traffic accident which caused damage to a bridge that needed repair, a couple of slides which occurred during construction and weather delays. Any additional unforeseen circumstances could cause delays, but West Virginia Division of Highways is committed to making sure the project is complete, with quality work and that all safety devices are in place for the travelling public before the much anticipated roadway opens.

This project upgrades the remaining two lane section of US 35 to four lanes between the Buffalo Bridge in Putnam County and Beech Hill in Mason County, and provide access to the existing road at Beech Hill. When complete, the project will also include ten new bridges, 38,544 linear feet of drainage pipe and the installation of 100,351 linear feet of guardrail.

West Virginia Division of Highways used a number of contractors on the project. Bizzack Construction LLC is responsible for earthwork, drainage and pipe laying. Bizzack subcontracted with Orders Construction, Haydon Bridge Company and Kanawha Stone for the construction of the new bridges for the project. West Virginia Paving, Inc. is laying the asphalt for the project, using a 28-foot-wide paving machine which can pave two lanes at once.

When the road opens this fall, US 35 will comprise four lanes all the way to the Ohio state line. The nearly \$244 million project will improve safety for travelers through the region by eliminating the two lane stretch of road. In its entirety, US 35 runs 412 miles, from Interstate 64 near Teays Valley, through Ohio and Indiana.

Stay tuned for more information on this monumental project.



Babydog Says:

**Find a COVID-19 vaccine
near you!**

Vaccines.gov



Core Maintenance: Key Summertime Work



Meet Your Chief Engineer of Development: Jason Foster, P.E.

Jason Foster is Chief Engineer of Development for the West Virginia Division of Highways. As Chief Engineer of Development, he oversees DOH's Engineering Division, Traffic Engineering Division, Right-of-Way Division and Technical Support Division.

Between the four divisions, Foster oversees approximately 200 employees.

"We do the work that delivers the project to construction to build," Foster said. Basically, his division touches anything and everything from acquiring property, to environmental studies, to core drillings, to surveying, to geotechnical, to signage, traffic signals and a myriad of other tasks that may be necessary to see a project get underway.

Foster, 50, was born in Blue Creek in Kanawha County, but moved to Ona and graduated high school in Huntington.



Foster graduated from West Virginia Tech in 1995, and has been with the West Virginia Division of Highways since 1996. Except for a five-year stint with DEP, he has been with DOH ever since.

Foster lives on a 62 1/2-acre farm in Ona with his wife, Mary. He has four children: Benjamin, Jonathan, Elijah and Ellianna.

"The things I enjoy are those things with my family," Foster said,

although those things often involve some kind of physical labor.

When not sharing family time or working, Foster enjoys collecting cars, including Jeeps — lots of Jeeps.

"I fiddle with them, is what I like to say," Foster said. Alrighty, Jason — but it's a lot more practical to fiddle with violins!

Check back next month as Rusty Marks introduces you to another member of your leadership team.

