



There's no reason, it's just our policy? "Not Anymore" Says Rita Pauley!

If it seems like there are a lot of new policies and policy revisions coming out of the central office lately, that's because there are. The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is in the middle of a complete agency-wide policy review.

Within WVDOT there are a total of 161 policies to go over. And, said WVDOT Assistant Highways Commissioner Rita Pauley, "Some of them are older than we are."

Every single policy has to be reviewed by Pauley, and some require multiple edits before they get to their final form.

The reason to revise, update or do away with some policies is simple. "You can't train a new person if you don't have a road map," Pauley said.

Pauley likened the workings of the WVDOT to an ant farm, with every member of the colony doing their own thing for the betterment of the whole.

"That's what we're doing," Pauley said. "We're working

constantly, and all the parts need to fit together."

Pauley and her team have about 40 policies left to review, each of which may require a lot of back-and-forth discussion on wording. "If you can make me understand it — and I don't do numbers — then you've finally got it," she said.

Every division within the WVDOT is different, and all have different needs and methods of operating. But Pauley finds that part interesting.

"I think it's fun, but I'm kind of geeky," she said.

"I'm learning all these things, and I'm meeting people I never would meet otherwise."

As WVDOT works to become more data driven, the policies that convey the work we do to the next generation cannot be overlooked. It's just our policy? Nope! With Rita's help, it will all make sense.

Seeing Results With Our Own Crews

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is seeing results in paving more miles in all 10 WVDOH districts by using its own crews in addition to contract paving.

In 2022, state forces paved 349 miles of roadway totaling \$44.9 million, averaging \$128,547 per mile compared to 88 paved miles of contract paving totaling \$63.7 million which averages \$728,814 per mile.

Through the first six months of 2023, state forces paved 48 miles of roadway totaling \$7.4 million, averaging \$154,354 per mile. Contract paving completed in the first six months of 2023 included 105 paved miles equaling \$34.9 million, which averages to \$333,923 per mile.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) continues to emphasize safety and education as it trains WVDOH employees on maintenance equipment.

Recently, a group of WVDOH workers within heavy maintenance in District 6 finished up training on a WVDOH paver. WVDOH began paver training in 2020 when new pavers were purchased and 49 WVDOH employees around the state have learned the equipment since.

The training is conducted by the WVDOH's Equipment Operator Training Academy, factory representatives from the paver manufacturer, and various maintenance assistants in the WVDOH.

Training depends on the needs of the WVDOH's 10 districts. Paver training occurred in all of the WVDOH districts in 2020 and numerous districts have had additional training since then based on workforce needs.

The recent training for District 6 included a group that will be assigned to strictly paving. All



WVDOH workers in attendance for the training learn the safety, maintenance, and operations side of the paver.

The WVDOH paver requires three workers to operate it at the same time including an operator for direction, and workers who secure the asphalt and make sure it is spread evenly.

WVDOH conducts training on every piece of equipment in its fleet.

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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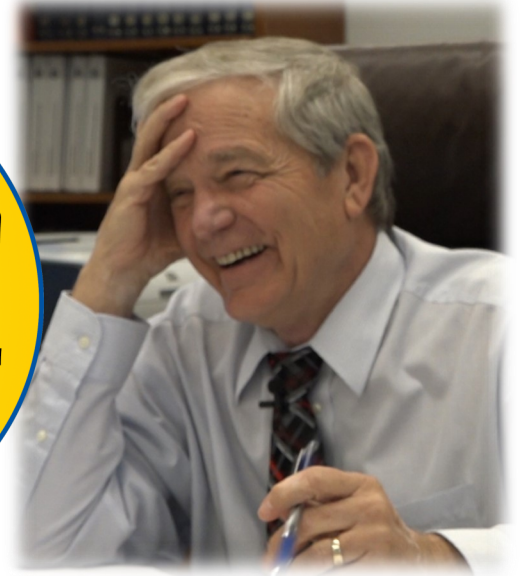
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Submit articles, letters, suggestions, and Vision Award nominations to;
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WV on the DOT Podcast Features Mattox and White



Two former West Virginia Secretaries of Transportations were welcomed as guests on “WV on the DOT” podcasts recently. Byrd White’s show, episode 153, is already available at transportation.wv.gov or on SoundCloud or Apple Podcasts. Paul Mattox’s show, episode 155, will air on Thursday, August 3 at 4:00. Both former Secretaries provided an outside-looking in view of WVDOT as it is today.

Paul Mattox was the longest serving Secretary of Transportation in the country when he retired to join E.L. Robinson Engineering, where he continues to work on West Virginia’s infrastructure. Byrd White, appointed by Governor Jim Justice in 2019 to get WVDOT back to its maintenance roots, retired to spend more time at home. Both are remembered fondly by many at WVDOT — two warm smiles, two distinctive types of laughter, two different, yet effective, leadership styles.

“I travel around the state of West Virginia and the roads are in the best condition today than I have ever seen them in my lifetime,” said Mattox. “I have a tremendous amount of respect for the men and women of the West Virginia DOH and what they have done with this influx of state money from the Governor’s Roads to Prosperity program and the federal money coming in from IIJA.”

“I miss the DOT,” said White. “It was probably the most worthwhile job I had in my career. It was a lot of fun and a very rewarding job.

“I miss the people,” White said. “The DOT is just loaded with the best people.”

Both are still watching and #SeeingResults as WVDOT continues to implement the Roads to Prosperity program. More than 1,100 out of 1,300 projects under the program are now complete.

“Roads to Prosperity has been a boom to this state,” said White. “It’s made a huge difference and is one of Governor Justice’s crowning achievements. I am pleased I was able to make a small part of it, and I am proud of having left it in the hands of someone as capable as Jimmy Wriston.”

When asked what he would do if he were to step right back into his old role of Secretary of Transportation and Commissioner of Highways, Mattox said with a chuckle, “I would make sure that Secretary Wriston was right there beside me. I tell you, he was a huge help for me in the years that I served as Commissioner and Secretary. He did a great job in his role of, basically, one of my senior engineers and Chief Problem Solver. I can’t tell you the number of emergency projects that I would call now-Secretary Wriston and didn’t have to worry about it, Secretary Wriston would take care of it.”

“You gotta surround yourself with good people,” said Mattox, going on to list a few, like Alanna Keller, Jason Foster, Gehan Elsayed, RJ Scites and now-retired Greg Bailey.

Listen to the podcast on transportation.wv.gov or follow it on SoundCloud or Apple Podcasts.



WV DOT Sends Best Wishes to Longtime Administrator Greg Bailey

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is saying goodbye to longtime Central Office administrator Greg Bailey, P.E., following 31 years of service.

Bailey retired as Interim State Highway Engineer at the end of July after more than three decades with the WVDOT.

Bailey ended his career in the chief engineer's office in Building 5 in Charleston. During a recent appearance on the "WV On The DOT" podcast, Bailey said he works on administrative issues, development and planning work with projects, and touches base with many workers on the ground.

"The Division of Highways has accomplished quite a bit since the early 90s," said Bailey. "If you look around the state and the various highways that have been developed, it's a pretty amazing story."



Bailey said work on Corridor H, the Wellsburg Bridge, Mileground Road in Morgantown, and the roundabout in Glenville have all been memorable projects he witnessed come to fruition under his watch.

"One of the most rewarding parts of the job is to be able to do something for a community that has a vision of what needs to happen," said Bailey. "To be

able to participate and help them accomplish that is rewarding."

In the future, Bailey said he plans to spend even more time with his nine grandchildren.

Bailey said goodbye during an emotional gathering in the Highway Engineer's office on Thursday, July 28, 2023. The WVDOT family wishes him the best in his endeavors.

District 6 Engineer Tony Clark Departing

Tony Clark, P.E., now former District 6 Engineer, left his role on Friday, July 21, 2023 after overseeing numerous projects in the Northern Panhandle.

Clark started with the West Virginia Division of Highways in September 2010. He began in District 6 as an inspector, a year after he graduated from college.

Clark was appointed as the D6 District Engineer in December 2019. He noted the challenge of taking over the district just months before a global pandemic began in early 2020.

Clark has navigated the district through many marquee projects including the construction of the Wellsburg Bridge, rehabilitation



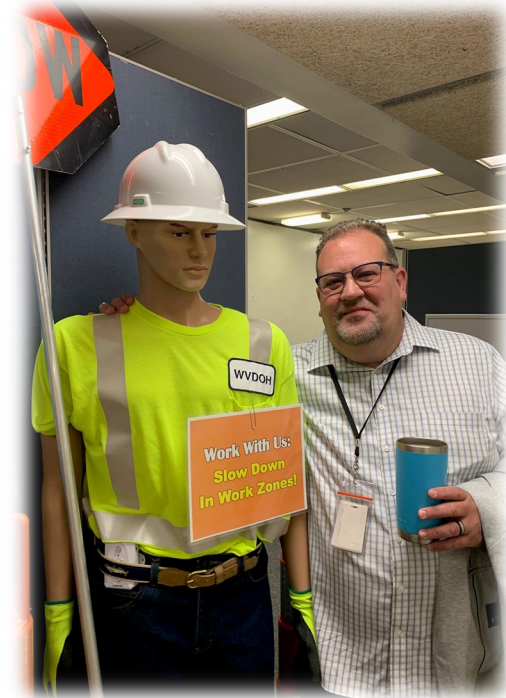
of 26 Interstate 70 bridges, work on the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, and Wheeling Streetscape.

"I will not forget the Department of Transportation, the Division of Highways, everything I have learned, and especially the good people that we have all over this state," said Clark.

"I have made life-long, lasting friends."

Clark will be working with a private contractor. If the path ahead should ever lead back to WVDOT, we hope next time Clark will let someone else help him carry the Wellsburg Bridge!

DMV to Highlight Safety at Regional Offices



You've heard of Harley Quinn? Meet Manny Kinn. West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Everrett Frazier (left) and DMV Deputy Director Linda Ellis (right) are working with the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) to install similar mannequins at DMV regional offices as an additional reminder to drivers to keep our highways and byways safe for both themselves and other travelers.

Manny and his cousins may soon be hanging out at a DMV regional office near you, so pay attention when you're behind the wheel!



DisForce Paving Pays off for Putnam County

Among the cost-saving paving projects recently underway around the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is using its own paving machines and paving crews to repave a six-mile stretch of Poca River Road in Putnam County.



The paving job one of many paving projects being done all over the Mountain State as part of a statewide paving and road maintenance program.

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.

"With our spring patching operation now done, it's the time of year that we move to resurfacing roadways all over West Virginia," said Joe Pack, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of District Operations.

In 2017, Mountain State voters approved massive bond sales to support Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity road construction and maintenance program. Roads to Prosperity and Gov. Justice's emphasis on secondary road maintenance has provided the WVDOH with previously unheard-of levels of funding to build new roads and maintain existing roads.

Paving crews are members of WVDOH District 1's District Force, or DisForce. Each of the WVDOH's 10 highway districts has its own DisForce crews to take on special jobs like paving.

West Virginia's massive road construction and paving program created such a demand on the paving industry that the WVDOH invested in its own paving machines. DisForce paving allows the WVDOH to pave roads that contractors might not be able to get to in one season, particularly in rural areas of the state.

"Our own crews are another resource in the paving industry during this unprecedented opportunity to resurface more of our roadways," Pack said.



2022 Jake Jacobson Safety Awards Announced

The South Branch Valley Railroad and the West Virginia Central Railroad, both owned by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities, both received the 2022 Jake Jacobson Safety Award with Distinction. The award is presented to American Short Line and Regional Railroad member railroads who perform better than the Class II and III industry average injury frequency rate as reported by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) during the prior year.

“As safety is the number one priority in the operation of our state-owned railroads, I am happy to announce that the Jake Jacobson Safety Award with Distinction was awarded to our South Branch Valley Railroad, which is owned and operated by the state, and to our West Virginia Central Railroad that is owned by the state and operated by the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad,” said Multimodal Transportation Facilities



Commissioner Cindy Butler.

“The award with ‘Distinction’ means there were zero FRA reportable accidents or injuries,” Butler said. “I am very proud of all employees for this accomplishment.”

The award recognizes that both state-owned railroads achieved a perfect safety record. The South

Branch Valley Railroad also received a Jake Jacobson Safety Award with Distinction in 2021.

The Jake Jacobson Awards are named for the late Lowell S. “Jake” Jacobson, former president of the Copper Basin Railway in Arizona.

After achieving a perfect safety record for the railroad in 1993, Jacobson realized there was no award that recognized smaller railroads’ safety records. So he created an awards program to honor his fellow small-railroad colleagues and their commitment to safety.

GHSP Working with Law Enforcement to Keep West Virginia’s Roads Safe

The Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP), housed within the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), is always working to change driver and other road user behaviors to make our roads safer, whether it be through media, education, or enforcement. Media messaging combined with proactive enforcement has been proved to change driver and other road user behavior.

August is a busy month for media and enforcement. The GHSP is conducting three enforcement campaigns throughout August:

- Target Red is a statewide mobilization that runs from August 1-15 and focuses on drivers running red lights and stop signs. Between 2016 and 2020, 18% of all crashes in WV involved an intersection.
- Click It or Ticket (CIOT) is a statewide mobilization that runs from August 4-20 and focuses on drivers and passengers who are not properly buckled up, including children who are not properly restrained in child safety seats. Between 2016

and 2020, 32.2% of crashes in WV involved someone not using proper occupant protection, which includes seat belts, child safety seats, and helmets for bikes, motorcycles, and ATVs.

- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over (DSOGPO) is a national and statewide mobilization targeting impaired driving, whether it is due to alcohol, drugs, other impairing substances, or a combination of these. Between 2016 and 2020, 21.5% of crashes in WV involved an impaired driver or other road user.

The more people who use occupant protection properly (seat belts, child safety seats, helmets), the less people who drive impaired or distracted, the less crashes, injuries, and deaths we can avoid on our roadways, and the more likely you and your loved ones are able to arrive to your destinations safely. For more information on our programs, please reach out to our office or visit our website: highwaysafety.wv.gov.



Update: Mileground Road Expansion Project on Track; Paving Continues in Monongalia and Surrounding Counties

Utility work continues along Mileground Road near Morgantown, a five-lane upgrade of a formerly heavily congested two-lane road.

Four traffic lanes and a center turn lane are currently open to traffic, but it will be fall before the project will be complete.

“This was desperately needed,” said West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) District 4 Manager Mike Daley. “This stretch of road has been a major point of congestion for years.”

As a major access road to two hospitals and West Virginia University’s football stadium, the old two-lane could back up for hours, particularly before or after a football game. Daley said the extra lanes are expected to cut down egress times after football games from three hours to about 45 minutes.

The Mileground Road widening project has been in the works since 2019. Work to widen the 1.08-mile section of road was paid for through Gov. Jim Justice’s \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program.



Mountaineer Contractors Inc. of Kingwood was awarded the \$8.7 million construction contract. Mountaineer has until late fall to complete work on the widening project, but all remaining work – including drains, final signage and electrical work – will be done on the shoulders and should not affect traffic.

Mileground Road is one of more than three dozen paving projects on the schedule in Monongalia and surrounding counties, some of it done by District 4’s own paving crews.

District 4 recently finished paving Dupont Road near Morgantown, and will be paving Mineral Road and Bleigh Run Road in Harrison County. District 4 includes Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties.

Other paving projects in the works in Monongalia County include a six-mile section of US 19 near Morgantown, a four-mile section of Days Run Road, and sections of Brewer Road and Carl Zinn Road.

WVDOH Good Samaritans Shine in Tucker County

From: Harry Peck

Subject: Tim Blizzard

My brother and I were going through Tucker County last Wednesday about closing time for most businesses. His car broke down at the highway split in Harman. He was losing control of the Jeep and pulled over into the parking area at one of your DOH workshops. He asked one of your employees if there was any mechanic close by who could help. That employee’s name is Tim Blizzard. Tim looked under the hood and immediately knew what was wrong. A broken pulley and the belt was shredding. Tim tried to fix it himself but did not have the parts needed. He tried to call a few local and regional mechanics shops but they were all closed. We finally decided to call a wrecker and Tim contacted a wrecker service in Elkins. It took about an hour for the wicker to arrive and make

arrangements to have the Jeep dropped off at an auto repair shop in Elkins. When we arrived at the DOH workshop, Tim’s wife and daughter has just arrived and were about to take Tim home for the night. Tim stayed with us for over two and a half hours and after the Jeep was towed away Tim took all his stuff out of his wife’s car and put it in his truck. He then loaded our golf clubs into his wife’s car (SUV) and drove us to our overnight destination in Canaan Valley. My brother Bill and I are very grateful for Tim’s good Samaritan qualities. He deserves recognition for such outstanding service to his fellow West Virginians. If you guys have an employee of the month program, with this email my brother and I nominate Tim Blizzard... OUTSTANDING WEST VIRGINIAN.



District 9 Celebrates Co Ops

District 9 Headquarters held their annual COOP appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

Current and retired district office staff enjoyed a buffet of smoked barbeque pork, chicken and cowboy beans with salads and other fixins brought in by the staff.

This was an opportunity to celebrate the contributions made by our young engineers, accountants, IT and environmental staff who participated in the summer coop program.

District 9 Engineer James Moore took time to recognize each department for their contributions and thank all district office staff for their dedication to fulfilling the agency's goal.

Using the analogy of the Roman legions, he reminded everyone that it takes every individual pushing in the same direction at the same time to move the opposition in front of us, but we



continue to be successful because everyone is doing their part.

The luncheon events escalated with a couple team building games for the coops and permanent staff. The event culminated with a grand finally Water Balloon Barrage at a brightly clad District Engineer.

The Engineering COOP and Summer Worker programs have been extremely

beneficial in providing temporary workers to support summertime operations and to provide real world experience to the students. Adding collegiate accountants, IT and environmental resource students had been a recent improvement to the program. These programs are intended to give students an introduction to the various West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) operations so that they might consider permanent employment upon their graduation.

EPTA Grateful for Assistance in RAISE Grant

In June, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-WV, announced a \$10.3 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA) to build a new multimodal transit center in Martinsburg. The facility will include a transfer center, administrative building, fuel station, maintenance facility, bicycle parking, and charging stations for electric buses and cars.

The grant was one of three grants totaling nearly \$26 million that also included a nearly \$11 million RAISE grant to widen and make improvements on WV 14 in Parkersburg, and another \$4.6 million RAISE grant for the West Virginia Department of Public Transit, Grant County: Potomac Highlands Hydrogen Fuel Initiative. The project will design a solar-powered hydrogen fuel plant in two main phases. Phase I will include the construction of a Photovoltaic Array to provide the electricity for an Electrolysis Hydrogen Production Plant. Phase II will include the

development of facilities that will support the compression and storage of hydrogen on site and its delivery to onsite stations for hydrogen fuel cell powered transit vehicles.

We received the following from Elaine Bartoldson of EPTA:

“Secretary Wriston,

A huge thank you for your support of our RAISE Grant submission. We thank you and our partners for their valuable contributions to the EPTA Multimodal Transit Center Project RAISE grant submission. We are honored that the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) chose our project for submission and recognized the immense benefits that this transit center will bring to the eastern panhandle. We are also grateful to (consultant) AECOM staff and WVDOT for their unwavering support of our vision to make this project a success.”





The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been in the spotlight recently for launching the “first in the nation” digital title process.

DMV Commissioner Everett Frazier, along with Director of Vehicle Services John Springer, were recently invited to participate in a nationally featured podcast with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), to discuss digital titling. The podcast is produced weekly and sent out to every jurisdiction across the country, and highlights different motor vehicle law and enforcement topics.

Frazier and Springer touched on the details of the digital titling process and what is next in DMV’s plans for growth in technology and customer service improvements.



Delegate Charlie Reynolds, R-Marshall, sent this text to Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., after seeing a Facebook post praising West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT) crews in Marshall County:

“Jimmy, this is Delegate Charlie Reynolds. Like to congratulate you! You have a DOH crew in Marshall County that is doing great things. I just happen to see the post on Facebook. I’m gonna share it with you. I hope these men get recognized for all their hard work. I know it’s going on all over our great state. And people are starting to recognize it.”

VISION AWARDS

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

Troy Morgan—Public Relations

Steve Monroe—DMV

Jerry Rush—Budget and Procurement

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.



The podcast is on apple!

Apple Podcasts, that is.

It’s also still on SoundCloud.

And transportation.wv.gov

Catch a new show every week!





Rock Creek Interchange Update

Construction is underway on a new interchange to serve a massive economic development project in Boone County.

In 2021, Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) announced a construction contract to build a new interchange on Corridor G at Rock Creek to provide access into the Rock Creek Development Park in Boone County. Triton Construction Inc. bid \$19,547,500 for the project.

Triton is building a diamond intersection at Corridor G and Rock Creek. A bridge will be built over Corridor G and a second bridge will be built crossing the CSX rail line and the Little Coal River to connect with the access road into the development.

"This project will absolutely bring the business community into

this part of southern West Virginia," Gov. Justice has said. "We're going to create opportunity and jobs beyond belief."

In August 2022, WVDOH awarded a contract for \$4,295,709.65 to S&E Clearing & Hydroseeding, Inc. to build the three-mile access road that will run from the new interchange, up the mountain, and into the development site.

Triton is currently moving earth and breaking up rock to make way for the new interchange.

Dirt and stone from one side of Corridor G is also being moved to the other side to serve as fill material. Temporary traffic signals have been installed to allow trucks to cross Corridor G.

The project is expected to be complete in 2026.



Governor, DMV Announce Parent's Supervised Driving Program

Gov. Jim Justice and West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Everett Frazier just introduced the Parent's Supervised Driving Program, a new initiative to help parents teach their teens to drive.

"This program is designed to get kids interested in getting their driver's licenses," Gov. Justice said. "I remember counting down the days to get my permit and then my license. That was an important time in my life. Nowadays, kids have so many things going on, and we want to give them a reason to get excited about getting their licenses. This program is one of the innovative ways we're encouraging kids to learn how to drive."

The Parent's Supervised Driving Program offers expert-guided, quality curriculum providing parents and guardians with a simple, easy-to-follow plan designed to help teens develop safe driving habits. In addition, the program includes the popular RoadReady® mobile app for iPhone and Android.

"Keeping all West Virginians safe on the road is a priority to me, and as a parent myself, I value the knowledge and guidance this program provides," said Commissioner Frazier.

Teens who test for their Level 1 or Level 2 GDL across the state will be provided a copy of the guidebook. The program is also available online, via digital curriculum as well as pdf download, at PSDPonline.com . You can download the free app from your phone's app store by searching RoadReady. The RoadReady app logs and manages hours spent behind the wheel so families can easily keep track before testing for their driver's licenses.

Nationally, the app is downloaded more than 1,000 times per day. The guidebook itself is divided into lessons that make it easy to focus on specific skills that become more advanced as time goes on.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), crashes are still the leading cause of teen deaths. The organization recommends that parents become familiar with the restrictions placed on your teen's license and encourages parents to be more involved as their teen learns to drive. Also important is establishing ground rules for teens by restricting night driving and passengers, requiring seat belt use at all times, and prohibiting any use of cell phones or other electronic devices while driving.

"Parents are the key to ensuring the safety of teen drivers," said Safe Road Alliance President Emily Stein. "The more involved the parents are at this important phase when teens are learning to drive, the more likely that these teens will avoid being in a crash once they are driving on their own."

The Parent's Supervised Driving Program, now in use in 24 states (including Washington D.C.) nationwide, features a high quality, magazine-style printed instruction guidebook. More information about Graduated Driver's License (GDL) and the Program is available online. The RoadReady mobile app provides a fun and useful way to track the required 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience; available for iPhones at the App Store and for Android on Google Play.

