

WVDOT Today!



October 2021—Volume 3: Issue 10

Celebrating Four Years



Roads to Prosperity

On Oct. 7, 2017, West Virginians voted 73% in favor of Governor Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity Program. Today, we celebrate.

"Roadwork has been underfunded for decades, and without Governor Justice's vision, we would have just been managing the decline of our roadway system," said West Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Jimmy Wriston, P.E.

Since passage of the bond vote four years ago today, West Virginia Division of Highways has completed significant Roads to Prosperity projects around the state. Passage of the program has also allowed a quicker pace on road maintenance activities such as ditching, repairing drainage structures, mowing and tree canopy cutting. Division of Highways has focused on getting workers the training and equipment they need to work efficiently. The Division also increased transparency by building Data Analytics Units in every District to report on the work completed and costs as well as serve as a data-driven decision making tool for managers on all levels looking at how to catch

up the underfunded maintenance needs most efficiently.

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused layoffs of state highway workers in other parts of the country, West Virginia Division of Highways continued the momentum of the program, shifts were staggered - beginning earlier, ending later, crews were divided and traveled in smaller groups, masks and cleaning supplies were provided, but not a single employee was laid off.

"This program has made a huge difference in the ability of the Division of Highways to do what it needs to do," said State Highway Engineer Alan Reed, P.E. Increased funding through Roads to Prosperity has brought a new pride to DOH that has affected all aspects of the organization. "I truly believe we have the right people to accomplish anything we set our minds to."

"The governor has given us the tools we need," said Secretary Wriston, "We used to kick the can, but we don't kick no cans no more. We can attack these issues."

Also in this issue...



Governor Justice Appoints Wriston

On Monday, October 4, 2021, Governor Jim Justice announced that his appointment of Jimmy Wriston, P.E., as Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation and Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Highways. always goes above and beyond to get the job done,” said Governor Justice in a news release. “Since he was named Deputy Secretary, our Department of Transportation has completed more maintenance work than at any time on record. He embodies the can-do attitude of our rejuvenated DOT, and I have all the confidence in the world that he will do an excellent job in this incredibly important role as our Transportation Secretary.”

Wriston steps into the role with a 25 year career with WVDOT; beginning his career in WVDOT’s District 9.

Wriston more recently served as Deputy Secretary and Deputy Commissioner with Secretary Byrd White and as Chief Engineer in charge of Special Projects under Secretary Paul Mattox.



“Jimmy has been a driving force behind our efforts to transform the DOT into an agency that prioritizes road maintenance and Welcome to your new role, Secretary and Commissioner Wriston. WVDOT is pleased, but not surprised.

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.**

West Virginia Division of Highways
Attn: WVDOT Public Relations
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 5, Room A-137
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Editors: Jennifer Dooley and Randy Damron;
Copy Editor and Staff Writer: Rusty Marks.
Proofreaders: Peggy Armstrong and Alanna Keller

Submit articles, letters, suggestions, and Vision Award nominations to:
Jennifer.J.Dooley@wv.gov.



New Webster County Headquarters Dedicated to Stephen Cogar

Friends and family of former West Virginia Division of Highways worker Stephen Cogar were on hand Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, to break ground on a new Webster County WVDOH headquarters building just outside of Webster Springs.

Cogar, 22, was killed when a fire broke out at the old DOH building in December 2017. District 7 District Engineer Brian Cooper, P.E., said a plaque would be installed at the new building in Cogar's memory.

"Remember this special day," said Brian Cooper, District 7 Engineer as he addressed those gathered at the groundbreaking. "I was troubled about what to say. I've got conflicting emotions. On one hand, I am excited to break ground on a new facility. Nearly four years ago, fire destroyed our old headquarters, left us without a home. We had to scramble around quickly and find an area we could lease and operate out of. Our employees adapted and continued to serve the citizens of Webster County, they're very deserving of a new facility that we're going to construct here at this site."

Cogar's father, mother and sister were in attendance at the ceremony. Cogar's father is a retired WVDOH employee, appreciated for his years of exemplarily service to the citizens

of West Virginia. The younger Cogar had already proven himself to be a diligent employee at the time of his passing, and is remembered by his co-workers throughout the state.



"On the other hand," said Cooper, "I have a feeling of reverence and sadness. Not only did that fire take our building. It took something that couldn't be replaced, and that was the life of one of our employees. Stephen Cogar, a young man who just started his career with highways, was very well liked, very well respected among the community,

and his co-workers."

West Virginia Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E.; State Highway Engineer Alan Reed, P.E.; Chief Engineer of Operations Greg Bailey, P.E.; and Operations Division Director Jake Bumgarner, P.E. joined other central office staff, Cooper and other Webster County WVDOH employees for the groundbreaking.

In July 2021, Paramount Builders LLC, of St. Albans, was awarded a contract for \$9,913,000 to build the new facility. Upon completion of the facility, a plaque will be installed in memory of the young man remembered so fondly by his peers.

Truck Driver Impressed with Highway Cleanup

I had a semi turn over in front of my this morning. It was on I-64/77 northbound at the 41 mile marker on the bridge. It was a horrible mess. He was hauling empty beer bottles. There was broken glass and bottles ankle deep for 100 yards.

I called 911 as soon as it happened. Help showed up almost immediately. The state troopers handled things in an excellent manner and were kind and professional. But the highway workers were amazing. I've seen many bad wrecks in my 30

years of truck driving, but I've never seen a crew of men like these. I wish I had pictures and videos to share with you. It was a real mess and I've seen lesser accidents take many, many hours to clean up. But these men had this all cleaned up and traffic rolling in 2.5 hours from the time the truck turned over. These men are great and deserve praise for the job they do. I hope my letter lets you know the value of these men. Thank you.

— Virgil, from Galena, Ohio



General Surplus Paving Roads In District 1

West Virginia Division of Highways is using additional funding requested by Gov. Jim Justice and approved by the West Virginia Legislature to pave 40th Street in Nitro and roads all over the five counties that make up WVDOH District 1.

In June, Gov. Jim Justice called a special session of the West Virginia Legislature to approve \$150 million in additional funding for state highway, bridge, and repair projects. Lawmakers agreed, allowing WVDOH to tackle paving, road repair, bridge, slip, and slide projects in every part of West Virginia.

Those projects are spread throughout all 55 counties.

District 1 decided to use part of the money to repave 40th Street, a major thoroughfare through the busy town of Nitro.

"Fortieth Street has a significant amount of daily traffic," said Kathy Rushworth, District 1 Maintenance Engineer. "We



patched earlier in the season, which creates a good base for the new pavement, so there are no old potholes to come through."

The estimated cost of the paving job is \$259,000.

Other projects in District 1 paid for through the supplemental funding include a project for \$65,526.03 to pave East Dupont Avenue in Kanawha County, a \$65,571.02 project to pave Hurricane Creek Road in Putnam County, and \$484,400.74 in

projects to pave Clay Main Street, Blue Knob Maysell, Ivydale Ridge, Hansford Fork and Upper Two-Mile in Clay County.

Supplemental funding will also pay for slip repairs on Groves-Wattsville Road in Clay County, Lower Midway Drive in Kanawha County, Hurricane Creek Road and Clymer Creek Road in Putnam County and Costa in Boone County. Total cost of the projects is \$1,384,046.

Gov. Jim Justice, WVDOH Award Contract for Former Hobet Mine Site

Governor Jim Justice and West Virginia Division of Highways have awarded a project to pave the access road into the former Hobet mine site in Boone County. The project is the first step in developing the old mine site into an economic driver for southern West Virginia.

S&E Clearing & Hydroseeding, Inc. was awarded a contract for \$4,295,709.65 to pave approximately three miles of access road up the mountain into the economic development site. The project includes resurfacing existing roadway into Hobet and new pavement on top of the mountain. The contract award came out of a bid letting held on Aug. 10.



Governor Justice directed WVDOH to come up with plans for a new interchange and improved access road into the site to open up Hobet, now known as Rock Creek Development Park, for development. WVDOH plans to put the second phase of the project, the interchange, out for bid later this fall.

Plans call for 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.

Estimated cost of the interchange is about \$25 million. DOH anticipates a two-to-three-year construction period.



VISION AWARDS

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

Joyce Dunbar—Secretary's Office

Erin Gardener—District 10

Shawna Goodwin—Executive Office

Jessica Taylor—Strategic Data Management

Josh McMillion—Traffic Engineering

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.

West Virginia On The DOT

transportation.wv.gov - click on *Podcast



The Mysteries of Insurance Benefits: Retirement

By Angia Hughes

Easily one of the most frequent statements I have heard in my position is, “How do I even begin the process to retire.” And that is understandable, because it is a process with several parts to be put together in the proper sequence to help your retirement process flow as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Retirement is one of the most momentous, yet monumental, events of life. It should not be filled with unnecessary stress and chaos, so let’s take a moment to look at this process together.

You’ve decided it is your time to retire. Here are the basic steps:

1. Contact the Consolidated Public Retirement Board at 304-558-3570 to set up a meeting with a Retirement Advisor.

- The Retirement Advisor will discuss your options clearly with you.
- Estimates will be compiled that will help you see how your choices work when plugged into difference scenarios (i.e., retirement dates, payout options, etc.)
- Your Retirement Advisor will give you a Retirement Packet to complete and return directly to their offices.

You have had your meeting and made some decisions about your options. Now what?

After you have decided what date you wish to retire, it is a preferred professional courtesy to compose a letter to submit to your local HR Manager/Supervisor. The letter should include details such as:

- What your last day of work will be
- Handling of Annual and/or Sick Leave benefits (Available options vary depending upon original date of hire.)
- Your signature. That may sound elementary, but it is important that your letter of retirement is signed by you.

2. Contact your local HR Associate who assists you with your Insurance Benefits.

- You will be given a set of Retirement Insurance Enrollment forms.

- Basic Life and/or Health Enrollment Form (2-page form with instructions)
- Optional and/or Dependent Optional Life Insurance Enrollment Form (2-page form)
- Termination of Coverage Form
- FBMC/Mountaineer Flexible Benefits Enrollment Form. This form is used to keep Dental, Vision, Hearing, or Legal Plan as a retiree. Even if you do not wish to keep any Health or Life Insurance Benefits when you retire, you will still need to complete the forms and mark the area on each form that indicates you are declining coverage as a retiree.

It is important to note that these Retirement Insurance Enrollment Forms are not to be sent directly to PEIA or FBMC. They should be given to your local HR Benefits contact for handling.

Perhaps now you are thinking, “Ok.... I’ve been to the Retirement Board, completed that packet, and submitted it to CPRB for handling. I have also completed my retirement insurance enrollment packet and submitted it to the appropriate person at my local HR Office for handling... but... now what? What happens next?”

What happens next is that CPRB, PEIA, and your Agency are working to process the paperwork that they have received for your retirement. Retirement is a multi-layered process and thus it does take appropriate time for care and attention to be given to finalize your retirement and insurance enrollment selections.

One additional note to consider: If you participate in the WV Retirement Plus/457 Deferred Compensation Plan currently—or if you have in the past and you have funds that remain in your 457 account—you should reach out to the WV State Treasurer’s Office or your 457 Plan representative to advise them of your upcoming retirement and discuss available disbursement options.

As with many things in life, there is no way to condense every scenario into one summarized article. Your local HR Office and the Central HR Benefits Section will be happy to guide and direct you in locating the answers to your questions.

Heads Up, Phones Down!



West Virginia DMV Wins International Excellence in Government Partnership Award through AAMVA

WV DMV Commissioner Everett Frazier is pleased to announce that the DMV received an "Excellence in Government Partnership" Award through the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) at its International Conference in Denver recently. According to the AAMVA website, www.aamva.org, "the Excellence in Government Partnership Award recognizes a successful project/program developed and implemented in cooperation with public or private sector organizations". One winner is chosen from the Regional winners, and WV DMV won for its streamlined process of offering vehicle registration renewals at all 55 West Virginia county tax offices.

Focusing on providing the best customer service possible, DMV worked closely with NIC West Virginia to develop and implement a streamlined program for customers to renew their vehicle registration renewals at their local tax office. This process has been available for many years, but previously, counties relied on third party software to track renewals in a paper-based process. Through a collaborative effort with counties, this project modernized renewals performed at tax offices into a streamlined process that results in registrations

being completed in 24 hours versus 30 to 45 days. County transactions are now managed through a DMV-provided solution eliminating all software costs for the counties. The process is now fully digital with instant status checks and registration updates.

Through this process, the DMV is able to eliminate mailing requirements between county and state for registration reporting, creating a fully electronic solution. Additionally, citizens are provided a 100% finished vehicle renewal on all transactions including multiple year renewals and address changes, as well as being able to renew additional license classes including personalized plates, special plates, alternate fuel vehicles, and special purpose vehicle plates.

Customers wanting to take advantage of this award-winning platform opportunity need only to bring their vehicle registration renewal form with them when paying county personal property taxes, along with proof of insurance, to do both services at one time!

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

Q&A with Jonathan Schaffer, MS, MBA

When people think about Human Resources, I think it is important to debunk or demystify some common stereotypes. We are not the principal's office (like in grammar school), we do not constantly watch for employees to make a mistake and subsequently discipline them, we are not the "fun police," but rather a dedicated group of employees who found a passion in helping others, and our organization reach our desired outcome.

With that being said, I want to talk about the section of Human Resources where I discovered my niche, Employee Relations. Yes, we do handle discipline, but that is only one component of our much broader scope and effect. We are here to assist any employee injured on the job or in need of a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act, we are



here to lend a helping hand if you feel you are being treated unfairly due to your religion, race, sexual orientation, or disability, just to name a few.

I want to highlight a few characteristics that we value most in our Employee Relations team. First, the ability to listen. Before drawing a conclusion, it is important to listen to every and all sides of the story. Second, the inherent trait of reason. By this, I am referring

to the ability to ask yourself: what would a reasonable person do in this situation? Thirdly, objectivity and impartiality.

Predetermined bias is our worst enemy, it can lead to poor decision making that negatively impacts the organization, and our most valuable assets: our employees.



WVDOH Debuts New Wellness Program

By Lydia Bunner

I am excited to announce the launch of the new Employee Wellness Program beginning this month! The Employee Relations Section in DOH Human Resources had a vision for what employee wellness could look like for DOT. After collaborating with others in Employee Relations, I brought this vision to life through a wellness website, a monthly journal, and several ideas and goals for continuous improvement. The website can be found on the DOH HR page on SharePoint or in the link below! The website has a variety of wellness related information and resources on physical health, nutrition, recipes, stress

management, mental health, and more. The website will also include a journal archive where you can refer back to previous journals. We encourage you to explore the website at your own pace and learn something new!

This program is for employees, for you. You can always provide suggestions and/or feedback through the Google Form on the website. I look forward to the start of this program and to see it develop and grow! If you have any questions or feedback, you can email me at lydia.j.bunner@wv.gov.

<https://sites.google.com/wv.gov/wellnessresourcecenter/home>

Meet Your Director of Operations: Jake Bumgarner

Jake Bumgarner, P.E., is Director of the West Virginia Division of Highways Operation Division, an office which used to be called the Maintenance Division. As Director, he oversees about 100 employees.

“We support the maintenance and operations people in the districts and at central office so they can complete their jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible,” Bumgarner said.

Bumgarner, 39, grew up on a 235-acre farm in Elizabeth, WV, where he lives today with his wife, Jill; and children, Adelyn, 10; Lylah, 8; and Levi, 3. A proud graduate of Wirt County High School (“Go, Tigers!” he said), Bumgarner graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in civil engineering.

He has been with WVDOH for 15 years.

Unlike some DOH engineers, who have been with the organization since leaving college, Bumgarner first tried his hand

in the private sector upon graduation, working for Triad Engineering for about a year after college.

“In college they tell you if you work for a contractor you’ll make more money,” Bumgarner said. “I didn’t find that to be the case.”

Bumgarner went to work for DOH District 3 in Parkersburg, where he rose through the ranks and eventually became District 3 Maintenance Engineer. In 2018 he became statewide Director of the

Maintenance Division, now known as the Operations Division.

Bumgarner is very active in his church and is on the administrative board of the Elizabeth United Methodist Church.

“I like to hunt, fish, play golf and watch Mountaineer sports,” he said.

When not cheering on the ‘Eers, Bumgarner also likes to take his family camping in his 38-foot pull-behind camper.



District 7 Is On the Move

West Virginia Division of Highways District 7 is on the move, with 21 major paving projects either already complete this summer or scheduled for completion this fall.

In all, District 7 is paving almost 83 miles of road this paving season, at a total cost of \$13,086,500.

“Through the Governor’s Roads to Prosperity Program, our normal annual allocations, and the additional General Revenue surplus funding provided by our Legislature, the DOH has been able to resurface more miles of roadway than we have ever been able to do in the past,” said District 7 Engineer Brian Cooper, P.E. “District 7 is excited to deliver these much-needed projects, which will help provide a safe and pleasurable driving experience for the citizens of West Virginia.”

In June, Gov. Jim Justice called a special session of the West Virginia Legislature to approve \$150 million in additional



funding for state highway, bridge, and repair projects. Lawmakers agreed, allowing WVDOH to tackle paving, road repair, bridge, slip, and slide projects in every part of West Virginia. Those projects are spread throughout all 55 counties.

Major paving projects on the schedule for the fall include a \$1 million project to pave a 3.22-mile section of US 250 between Belington and Philippi Road, a \$1.15 million project to pave a 4.22-mile section of US 250 between Junior and Belington Road and a \$1.79 million project to pave an

11.17-mile section of WV 4 between Duck and Frametown Road.

Over the summer of 2021, District 7 completed more than \$5.3 million in paving projects on WV 92, WV 20, Brushy Fork, Broad Run, Rocky Fork, Tallmansville Road, and WV 15.

What If I Have a Question?

One of the hallmarks of West Virginia Department of Transportation’s business model in recent years is that all levels of management, from the Governor’s office to Crew Chief’s on each project are empowered to make decisions because we are in such close communication with one another that we know what to do. But, what if you don’t know what to do? What if you have questions?

Hussein Elkhansa, and his team of top notch poster makers who have made posters of everything from the West Virginia’s first legal U-Turn to logos with blue hazy glows around them, recently decided to solve the problem of people just not knowing what to do.

Starting with a portrait quality photo of State Highway Engineer, Alan Reed, P.E., which was taken by the Public Relations Division’s own Rusty Marks, Elkhansa devised a headset for Reed and devised wording that presents both the problem and the solution while making use of color, style and formatting tips.

Any questions? You know who to call.





National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 17-23, 2021. The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to help empower parents and caregivers to discuss the importance of driving safety with their young drivers.

It is never too early, or too often, to discuss safe driving habits with your teen. You can start the conversation during National Teen Driver Safety Week, but don't be afraid to continue the conversation every day throughout the year. Even if it seems like they're tuning you out, keep reinforcing these rules. Teens are listening — your constant reminders about these powerful messages will get through.

Be Empowered to Set Driving Rules

Remember: You are a parent first. As such, your job is to protect your teen. Use this motivation to keep your teen safe as they start navigating their new role as a driver. Remind your teen that driving is a privilege, not a right. As the parent, you are in control. If they aren't following the Rules for the Road, they don't need keys to the car.

Have a conversation with your teen driver about driving laws and safe driving habits. Your desire to keep them safe will never fade, so make sure to always keep the lines of communication open. Believe it or not, your teen is listening, and they depend on you to guide and be there for them. Become familiar with West Virginia's nighttime driving restrictions, passenger restrictions, and all the graduated driver licensing (GDL) restrictions. Self-reported surveys show that teens with parents who set and enforce firm rules for driving typically engage in less risky driving behaviors and are involved in fewer crashes. By knowing and enforcing the laws with your teen, you will help promote their safety and the safety of those around them.

Be a good role model for your teen driver and set the example with your own safe driving habits. Talk to your teen about cell phone use while driving. Encourage them to stow their phones, designate a texter, or to pull over before answering phone calls, texting, or engaging with any social media apps. Remind your teen that it's not only unacceptable to post on social media while driving but illegal.

Know the Facts About Teen Driver Fatalities

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for teens (15-18 years old) in the United States. In 2019, there were 2,042 people killed in crashes involving a teen passenger vehicle driver (15-18 years old); 628 of the deaths were the teen passenger vehicle driver. Parents, YOU can be the biggest influence on your teen's choices when they are behind the wheel. Take the time to have a conversation with them about some of the biggest driving risks for teens, including:

- **Impaired Driving:** All teens are too young to legally buy, possess, or consume alcohol. However, nationally, in 2019, 16% of teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes had alcohol in their system. Alcohol isn't the only substance that can keep your teen from driving safely: marijuana affects a driver's ability to react to their surroundings. Driving is a complex task and marijuana slows the reaction time. Remind your teen that driving under the influence of any impairing substance — including illicit or prescription drugs, or over-the-counter medication — could have deadly consequences. It is critical that teen drivers understand why they shouldn't drive impaired — strict penalties may apply, such as losing their license or facing additional consequences for breaking rules they agreed to follow when they started driving.
- **Seat Belts:** Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for everyone to stay safe in a vehicle. Yet too many teens aren't buckling up. In 2019, 45% of the teen passenger vehicle drivers who died in crashes were unbuckled. Even more troubling, when the teen driver involved in the fatal crash was unbuckled, nine out of 10 of the passengers who died were also unbuckled.
- **Distracted Driving:** Distractions while driving are more than just risky — they can be deadly. In 2019, among teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes, 10% were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.
- **Speeding:** In 2019, more than one-quarter (27%) of all teen drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash. Males were more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than females.

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- **Passengers:** Teen drivers transporting passengers can lead to disastrous consequences. Research shows that the risk of a fatal crash dramatically increases in direct relation to the number of passengers in a vehicle. The likelihood of teen drivers engaging in risky behavior triples when traveling with multiple passengers.

Remember the Rules for the Road

- **Don't Drive Impaired.** Set a good example by not driving after drinking or consuming marijuana or other impairing substances. Remind your teen that drinking before the age of 21 is illegal, and alcohol and/or marijuana and driving don't mix, no matter your age. Also, remind them that driving under the influence of any impairing substance — including illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs — could have deadly consequences.
- **Buckle Up — Every Trip. Every Time. Everyone — Front Seat and Back.** Lead by example. If you wear your seat belt every time you're in the car, your teen is more likely to do the same. Remind your teen that it's important to buckle up on every trip, every time, no matter what (both in the front and back seats), even while in taxis or ride-sharing services.
- **Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel. All the Time.** Remind your teen about the dangers of texting, dialing, or using mobile apps while driving. Require your young driver to put their phones away and turn on the "Do Not Disturb" or similar phone features when on the road. Distracted driving isn't limited to phone use. Other passengers, vehicle audio and climate controls, and eating or drinking while driving are all sources of dangerous distractions for teen drivers. Know your state's law regarding mobile phone and texting while driving restrictions; 37 states and Washington, DC ban all cell phone use by novice drivers. Parents, take note: These laws aren't just for teen drivers. See the Distracted Driving Law Chart. Set up a contract with your teen before they start driving. If your teen disobeys, don't hesitate to enforce the penalties.

- **Obey All Posted Speed Limits.** Speeding is a critical issue for all drivers, especially for teens who lack the experience to react to changing circumstances around their cars. Obey the speed limit and require your teen to do the same.
- **Limit Passengers.** With each passenger in the vehicle, your teen's risk of a fatal crash increases. Review your state's GDL law before your teen takes to the road; it may restrict the number of passengers in the vehicle during the initial novice driver permitting stage or further dictate who can ride in the car.

Engage in safe driving conversations year-round. Get creative! Having a conversation is just one way to discuss safe driving. You can also write your teen a letter, send email or text reminders, leave sticky note reminders in the car, or use social media to get your message across.

Create a parent-teen driving contract that outlines the rules, incentives, and consequences for your teen driver. Hang the signed contract in a visible place as a constant reminder about the Rules for the Road.

If you and your teen are going somewhere together, let them drive. This is a great time for you to evaluate their driving progress, and to discuss safe driving habits. Make sure they're following the rules you set.

Finally, be empowered. Driving — for everyone, teen and adult alike — is a privilege, not a right. If your teen is having a difficult time following the rules, it may be time to take away the keys and review the basics. Safe teen drivers can mean the difference between life and death — for themselves, their passengers, and other people on the road.

A little info about the GHSP: 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 mission is to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on West Virginia's roadways. We do this through concerted media and enforcement efforts in an attempt to change driver behavior. We want YOU to be safe on the roadways so that we are ALL safe on the roadways. For more information, please visit the dmv.wv.gov/ghsp.



District 1 Working On Their Night Moves

The problem with trying to work on bridge decks during the day is that cars tend to drive on them.

So work crews in District 1 often do their bridge work at night.

“Traffic volumes here in the Charleston area have gone way up,” said WVDOH State Bridge Engineer Tracy Brown, P.E. “If you shut one or two lanes down on I-64 during the day it’s going to back up traffic bad.”

District 1 work crews usually work during the day. But Brown said sometimes they’ll switch to night shift for a week or two to

catch up on maintenance during the night, when there is less traffic.



“Here in town where we’ve got larger traffic volumes we do the work at night when we can.” Brown said.

Night shifts typically run from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. So if you’re on the interstate late at night and see a crew hard at work, now you know why. They’re out there to get your roads and bridges fixed while at

the same time minimizing the inconvenience to the general public.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive

State Government Workers WV State Capital Bldg 7

Caperton Training Center - Capitol Room
1900 Kanawha Blvd East
Charleston, WV

Wednesday, October 13
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit

RedCrossBlood.org and enter: sgw to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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**COVID-19 IS STILL A
THREAT AND IT
CONTINUES TO CLAIM
LIVES.**

**WVDOT TAKES THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND
EMPLOYEES ABOUT THE
IMPORTANCE OF STAYING
VIGILANT AND
PROTECTING
EACH OTHER.**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



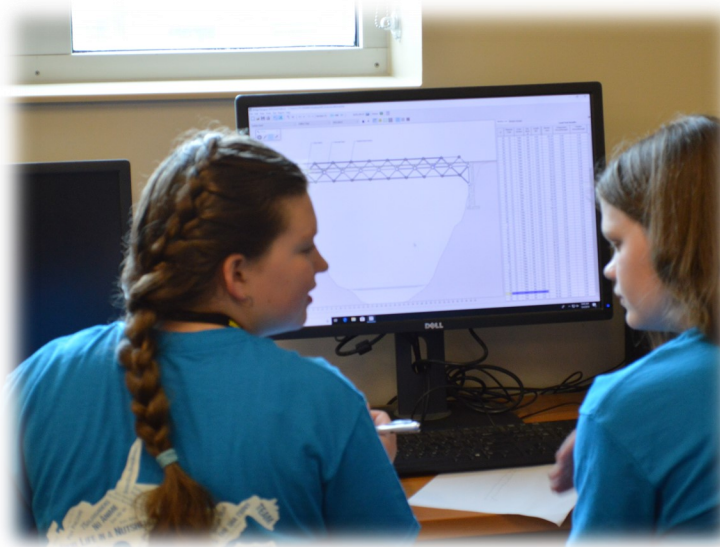
Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers Today

The 21st Annual West Virginia Bridge Design & Bridge Contest kicks off Monday, November 1, 2021, with hundreds of middle school and high school students expected to compete in this year's event.

The competition pits teams of high school and middle school students from all over West Virginia against one another to see who can come up with the best bridge design. West Virginia Division of Highways sponsors the contest to encourage and inspire a new generation of engineers through fun, hard work and cash prizes.

Other sponsors of the contest include WVU Tech, BridgeWalk and the West Virginia Department of Education.

"The WVDOH Bridge Design & Build Contest provides a great opportunity for us to showcase bridge engineering to our state's middle and high school students," said DOH State Bridge Engineer Tracy Brown, P.E. "The students will be introduced to some of the science involved in designing a bridge using software specifically developed for the contest, with the end



goal being a bridge that will be strong enough to pass a simulated load test while also being the lowest cost to build.

"Not only will they have a chance to learn something new and win some nice prizes, but they could very well discover the beginning of the pathway to a rewarding career in bridge engineering," Brown said.

Ninety-nine teams competed in the 20th annual contest, which was held remotely because of COVID-19. A total of 27 teams made it to the finals, which were held Saturday, March 27, 2021.

It is anticipated that this year's competition will be held in person in the spring, but if adaptations are necessary to protect participants from COVID-19 those will be in place and the competition will switch to virtual if needed. The planning committee is already dreaming up something special for the final event. To find out more about the competition, register to participate, download bridge design software or access student resources, visit wvbridgedesignandbuildcontest.com.

October 8-11: Operation Crash Reduction Click It Or Ticket

From 2010 to 2019, October was the most dangerous month on West Virginia's roads, with a total of 314 traffic fatalities during that time period. To help drivers and passengers stay safe on the roads, the WV GHSP is joining with NHTSA for the Operation Crash Reduction enforcement and education effort. The campaign runs from October 8–11, 2021, and the purpose of the campaign is to save lives and prevent injuries. During this time, law enforcement will conduct a high-visibility enforcement and

awareness campaign, educating drivers or passengers observed driving unbuckled.

This campaign will run in conjunction with the West Virginia's October Click It or Ticket state enforcement mobilization, running from October 8 through October 24. During this time, law enforcement will conduct a high-visibility enforcement campaign, pulling over and ticketing drivers or passengers who are unbuckled.



Photo Feature: Maintenance Around WVDOH



District 10



District 8



District 9



District 7



District 4



District 2



District 1



District 6



District 3



District 5



National School-Bus Safety Week

October 18-22, 2021 is National School Bus Safety Week. School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. Their design is meant to be safer than any passenger vehicle in avoiding crashes and preventing injuries. Teaching children to follow safety rules on the bus is just as important as informing drivers about the laws regarding school buses.

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. When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch for students who may be walking to or from school or their bus stop.

October is Pedestrian Safety Month

More than 6 in 10 people walk for transportation, exercise, relaxation, or for other activities. The benefits of walking extend beyond personal and physical, to environmental benefits that can lead to healthier, quieter, cleaner, and safer streets. Walking can also improve local economies and enhance social and community engagement, leading to more vibrant, resilient, and livable spaces.

Unfortunately, in 2019 there were 6,205 pedestrians killed and 76,000 injured in traffic crashes in the United States. In West Virginia, 31 pedestrians were killed in crashes in 2019.

Drivers

Look for pedestrians everywhere!

Always stop for pedestrians in crosswalks!

Stay focused and slow down where children may be.

Pedestrians

Walk on a sidewalk or path where available.

Walk on the shoulder, facing traffic, if there is no sidewalk.

Stay alert and be visible. Wear bright clothing.

Dooley Noted: Tips for Enjoying the Season

It's the time of year when the food is good and leaves are turning orange and celebrations are everywhere, so here are some... **Tips for Enjoying the Season**

***It's life. Remember there's a lot of good stuff in it.**

***Everyone is really tired, so just be nice to them.**

***Look, it's pumpkins —>**

***Also, there are kitty cats.**

***Did you go to the car show?**

***Do your work as well as you can and enjoy it.**

***You'll get there just as quick if you drive safe.**

***There are only a certain number of days.**

***Steal the wording, change the font, swap the picture for a pine tree and still... everyone is really tired, so just be nice to them... it's life, remember there's a lot of good stuff in it.**

