

**Director's Board Report
March 2017**

Thank you Chairman Whitehead.

Good morning members of the Idaho Transportation Board.

The new Broadway Bridge on U.S. 20 in Boise has received another award.

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho gave the Broadway Bridge Project their **2016 Leadership in Government Award**.

The annual award is presented to the individuals, businesses, and projects that demonstrate leadership supporting the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties, also known as **Communities in Motion 2040**.

Another of our bridge projects earned two awards in January.

The Precast / Prestressed Concrete Institute awarded the Payette River Bridge Project north of Cascade the **2016 Design Award** for bridges between 76 and 149 feet in length.

They also awarded the bridge an honorable mention for **ALL** precast concrete structures, regardless of length.

The bridge it replaced was 65-years old and heavily corroded.

The project was advanced from 2017 and completed during a single construction season to reduce impact to the public.

The bridge deck has a waterproofing membrane and two layers of asphalt to protect against deicing chemicals, water, and wear-and-tear from vehicles.

The exposed precast concrete was texturized and stained to match the surrounding rocks on the riverbank.

It is a bridge to be proud of, and Matt Farrar, our State Bridge Engineer, will travel to Cleveland in March to accept the award.

Another project to be proud of is the result of a successful collaboration with Keller Associates, Boise City, COMPASS, and the Ada County Highway District.

We worked with them on a \$3.7 million project to add a new section to the Boise River Greenbelt.

The project was so successful that the American Council of Engineering Companies of Idaho recently awarded it their **2016 Engineering Excellence Award**.

The project added approximately one mile of new Greenbelt pathway along the south side of the Boise River from Garden City to Ann Morrison Park.

With the completion of this project, the Boise Greenbelt is now a 26-mile path spanning the entire city on both sides of the Boise River.

The new segment includes:

- Two tunnels under Main Street and Fairview Avenue
- Hundreds of feet of concrete retaining walls
- A bridge across Settlers Canal
- And special lighting

The award will be presented on April 10 at the American Council of Engineering Companies awards luncheon in Boise.

Aaron Bauges, the Local Roads Services Manager for District 3, said, and I quote:

"I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this project and seeing it come to fruition, completing a vision that began five decades ago.

"Knowing the great many challenges this project overcame, and the tremendous impact completing Boise's iconic Greenbelt will have for all of its users really does make this something to be proud of."

End quote.

Award-winning projects like the three I have shared with you this morning are the result of good planning and great engineering.

ITD needs to have a constant and talented pool of people that we can hire to help us develop award-winning projects like these long into the future.

Toward that goal, we have a public outreach program for high school and college students designed to get them excited about engineering and other transportation fields.

Here is one example of the kind of things we do with the outreach program.

On February 8th, District 2 participated in the University of Idaho's Career Fair in Moscow.

More than 100 interested students stopped by the ITD booth, including several dozen who were looking for a summer internship to bolster their career chances.

District 2's Janet Zarate, Kerby Kirkham, and Joe Schacher were on hand to promote ITD.

And to promote the opportunity for an exciting and fulfilling career in transportation.

Two days after the job fair, Joe Shacher received a letter from a student named Braiden Markham, that I would like to share with you.

The letter says, and I quote:

"Thank you and Kerby for taking the time to talk with me at the University of Idaho career fair on Wednesday.

"I was pleased to hear about the innovative company culture at ITD and also about your takes on self-driving cars in Idaho and solar roads.

"I'm glad to hear that there are always new projects to work on in Idaho.

"I am excited to hear about upcoming engineering internship opportunities around the Coeur d'Alene or Moscow area this summer!

I am interested in ITD and hope we can keep in touch about these opportunities in the future.

Thanks again.

End Quote.

District 2 Engineer Dave Kuisti said that because of the wave of retirees, the district has been working hard to fill several vacant positions for the last few months.

In their efforts to fill these vacancies, Janet, Kerby, and Joe saw an opportunity to get a large group of qualified candidates at the University of Idaho to look into starting a career at ITD, and they took the initiative to make it happen.

The booth they set up at the career fair is a cultural success story, and Dave Kuisti is sure their efforts will pay dividends.

District 2's recruiting outreach efforts also include local high schools and county fairs.

As the new employees we hire bring new ideas into the department, we will continue to improve the way we work.

And improve some of the common materials we work with, such as pavement.

That is something we are working on right now.

In February, the department hosted a workshop funded by the Federal Highway Administration and the Asphalt Institute.

The purpose of the workshop was to find new ways to extend pavement life.

More than 100 interested people attended the event, representing the:

- Local Highway Technical Assistance Council
- the Federal Highway Administration
- the contracting industry
- and ITD

Dave Johnson, Senior Regional Engineer with the Asphalt Institute, told the audience that the least-costly way to extend construction and maintenance dollars is to use higher-density pavement.

The Federal Highway Administration's Senior Asphalt Pavement Engineer said there have been significant advancements in pavement design and construction techniques to increase density.

And that many of these advancements are already in use.

He also said that density standards have, in many instances, remained unchanged.

ITD is working with our partners, the Associated General Contractors, and the Federal Highway Administration to restructure the department's pavement-verification testing.

This includes providing incentives for contractors to continue to innovate and improve in areas such as pavement density.

Extending pavement life is just one of the many ways we are seeking to improve our performance.

The improvements we make are being noticed not only by the public, but by our elected officials.

Government Affairs Manager Mollie McCarty received a letter from **State Representative Judy Boyle** about a week ago that I would like to share with you.

Representative Boyle wrote, and I quote:

"Thank you Mollie!

"I know this has been a horrid winter for ITD.

"Please let your road crews know how much we appreciate their work under miserable weather conditions.

"You all are doing a remarkable job!"

End Quote

Our winter maintenance crews are doing great work and making a difference in the lives of Idahoans across the state.

Especially those who live in out-of-the way areas.

District 3 Engineer Amy Revis received a letter from Maryl Shellman, who owns the **Running Bear Lake View Resort**, off Idaho 20 near Anderson Ranch Reservoir.

She was writing about the winter maintenance work performed by the District 3 crew in her area, led by Carl Vaughn.

Here is a portion of the letter she wrote, and I quote:

"We live in an unincorporated area of Elmore County, 32 miles from the city of Mountain Home.

"We have one neighbor, and are basically isolated during the winter when our camping park is closed.

"This has been a particularly disastrous winter in terms of snow and ice, making the road from our park to the highway and down to Mountain Home dangerous and often impassible.

"Thanks to the diligent efforts of our road crew, we have been able to get in and out when necessary.

"Yes, there were times when we were completely stranded.

"But it was expected with the storms and high winds.

"And we knew that the crew would eventually come to make sure we could get out, which they did.

"We also are very aware that we choose to live here and there are more populated areas which, necessarily and obviously, come first.

"However, we have nothing but praise for these men who brave dangerous conditions to ensure that people like us are able to use the roads safely.

I cannot emphasize enough how much we appreciate the efforts made by the crew of the transportation department in Elmore County, and want you to know that we hold them in the highest esteem."

End Quote

Last week we celebrated a major milestone for the Idaho Transportation Department, and a 10-year anniversary for someone in this very room.

Ten years ago, on February 26, 2007, **Scott Stokes** transferred from his job as District 1 Engineer to a new job as Deputy Director here at headquarters.

Scott is probably beginning to sink into his chair right now, because he knows he is not going to get out of this easily.

Sorry Scott, this is going to take a while.

Because celebrating a 10-year anniversary of this importance requires me to expound on the lengthy history of Stokes at ITD.

Scott is not the first Stokes to work at the department.

The story begins with Scott's father, Eldon Stokes.

Eldon graduated from Salmon High School in 1943.

And the following year began his career with the department as a yardman, making \$260 per month.

36 years later, in January of 1984, Eldon retired from ITD as the Salmon and Challis area supervisor, completing a long and successful career with the department.

Eight short years after his father retired, a young Scott Stokes began his own career at ITD, when he became a staff engineer in the bridge section at Headquarters.

In 1993, he moved north to become a project development engineer in Coeur d'Alene.

18 months later, he returned to Boise to become the state bridge engineer.

Then in 1996, Scott accepted the position of District 1 Engineer, and moved back to Coeur d'Alene.

To bring the story full circle, as I mentioned earlier, on February 26, 2007, Scott transferred from his job as District 1 Engineer to a new job as Deputy Director here at headquarters.

He stepped up to serve as interim Director from July 2009 to January 2010.

From my perspective, I have never known an ITD without Scott Stokes.

But the truth is, except for the eight short years between when his father retired and Scott began his career with ITD, there has been a Stokes doing great things at this department since 1944.

That is quite a streak, and I ask that you join me in applauding all Scott and his father Eldon have done for this department.

Because Scott is considered family around here, on the day of his 10th anniversary, some well-meaning ITD employees put together a small show of their affection for Scott.

If you visited the second floor of the headquarters building that day, you may have seen this.

A life-sized poster commemorating the mighty deeds Scott has done over the years, in his many roles at ITD.

They didn't stop there.

This gift basket commemorates Scott's fabled taste for all things Mountain Dew.

Including Mountain Dew Muffins.

Mr. Chairman, I am just realizing that our Chief Deputy does bear a striking resemblance to Clark Kent, especially when he has his glasses on.

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Last week I announced that we had hired Travis McGrath as the new ITD Chief Operations Officer.

But until now, that was just a name without a face.

I am pleased to announce that Travis is here this morning, attending his first Idaho Transportation Board meeting.

Travis, would you please stand up?

We hired Travis from the private sector.

He worked for Golder Associates for nearly 20 years.

For last past seven years he was their **Pacific Northwest and Alaska Operations Leader**.

Golder Associates is a global company with 6,500 employees in 165 offices around the world.

They provide consulting, design, and construction services to major oil, gas, mining, manufacturing, power, and transportation companies.

Travis is a strong communicator and consensus builder, with extensive decision-making experience, a deep understanding of engineering operations, and a diverse business background.

Please join me in welcoming Travis McGrath.

I would now like to Introduce our Chief Deputy, Scott Stokes, for his March report.

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Mr. Chairman and members of the board, this concludes my Director's report for March.