

**Board Report
May 2018**

Thank you Chairman Whitehead.

And good morning members of the Idaho Transportation Board.

2018 is ITD's year of the employee, and on May 3rd and 4th the department hosted its first-ever Leaders Workshop.

It was designed to provide ITD's leaders with the tools and information they need to lead their employees toward achieving the department's strategic goals.

Approximately 200 ITD supervisors and managers attended the event.

Which was virtually every boss in the department.

The two-day event was hosted in Boise, and designed to do two things:

- **Clarify, reinforce, and align ITD's key organizational messages, and**
- **Address the importance of "Getting to Yes."**

Which is one of the department's five focus areas for 2018.

Here is some video from the conference showing what it was all about.

The Leadership Conference is only a start.

There will be more of this to come in the future, as we continue to promote and communicate the department's primary messages and focus areas.

I am pleased to report that the Broadway Bridge is continuing to win national awards for excellence.

The National Steel Bridge Alliance awarded the bridge its Merit Award in the 2018 Prize Bridge Competition in the Short-Span Category.

The award was presented to ITD on April 11 at the **World Steel Bridge Symposium** in Baltimore Maryland.

The Broadway Bridge was completed in nine months, and incorporated design and safety features requested by the public during an extensive outreach period prior to construction.

In April, the Idaho Press Club held the "Best of 2017" awards banquet.

Even though there was stiff competition, with more than 800 entries, ITD's Office of Communication set the bar high, winning 15 awards for excellence.

Including the five first place awards you see on the screen.

In the three years since Vince Trimboli joined the department, the Office of Communication has won 38 press club awards.

The highest three-year total in the history of ITD.

Winning 15 in one year is an amazing accomplishment.

And I congratulate everyone in the Office of Communication for working together as a team to not only win the awards, but to set the bar so high with the outstanding quality of their communication efforts.

2018 is the ninth year I have held Director Visits with employees in all areas of the department.

So far this year, I have visited with employees in:

- Districts 2 and 5
- The Division of Motor Vehicles
- The Division of Engineering Products and Plans
- and the Division of Engineering Services.

This year's visits are in the same format we used on 2017.

On the first day, I visit with the employees, and on the second day I visit with their supervisors.

I have received many favorable comments this year, and look forward to the remaining Director Visits.

The next one is in District 4.

In District 1, traffic engineers have installed a new kind of signal light to improve traffic flow at the Fourth Street on-ramp to Interstate 90 in Coeur d' Alene.

This is the first location in the state to use double flashing yellow arrows.

The signal allows two lanes of traffic to turn left, after yielding to oncoming vehicles and pedestrians.

This intersection is one of the busiest in Kootenai County, which is the fastest-growing county in the state.

The idea to install the new signal began with former traffic engineer Ryan Hawkins.

He noticed a similar signal while driving through Kennewick, Washington about three years ago.

After returning from his trip, he talked to signal manufacturers and introduced the idea to ITD working groups.

They selected westbound I-90 from Fourth Street as an informal test site for the rest of the state.

The signal is working well, and the district has not received any calls about it.

The signal is moving traffic better, and there have been no accidents.

Traffic engineers will continue monitoring the site to make sure it is safe, and to see if the technology should be implemented at other busy intersections around the state.

Installing new, more-effective traffic signals is one way we improve safety for drivers.

Another is the installation of guardrails.

And we have a new way of doing that as well.

Sometimes a seemingly small action by a district office can make a big difference in the local community.

Our Lewiston office recently donated a tired and well-used 2008 GMC pickup to Lewis-Clark State College's diesel technology program.

The truck had almost 184,000 miles on it.

It was still running, but it needed extensive repair work.

Professor and diesel instructor Andy Kuther, and Assistant Professor Jay Kimble said the donation is almost priceless. . .

. . . Because the current diesel trucks that are available for students to work on do not have modern fuel systems, and this truck does.

It carried equipment in the Orofino, Pierce, and Weippe areas for 10 years.

And now it will help student mechanics learn to repair modern diesel engines.

Lewis and Clark State College averages approximately 30 students per year in the mechanic program.

And more than 20 local businesses actively recruit students to fill open positions.

Lewis and Clark State College is not the only organization that will be benefitting from upgraded technology.

In August, the department will begin upgrading all 2,700 ITD PCs to Windows 10 and Office 2016.

We are upgrading because Microsoft will no longer support Windows 7, the operating system we are using now.

The upgrade is scheduled to begin in August and take about 12 months to complete.

Many county DMV offices have been running the new Windows 10 operating system for about five months.

Their transition from Windows 7 was relatively seamless.

And the transition at ITD is anticipated to be a fairly smooth process as well.

The upgrade will bring some significant benefits to the department, including improvements in speed, security, and a better user interface.

This year's **Work Zone Safety Week** was another opportunity to share important messages with the public about driving safely.

Especially in work zones.

Here is a news story by KMVT in Twin Falls.

The week-long events associated with Work Zone Safety Week are timed to coincide with the beginning of warm weather.

Which signals the beginning of the construction season.

The primary purpose is to remind drivers that work zone safety is everyone's responsibility.

There are a lot of moving parts in every work zone.

Trucks are entering and leaving construction areas.

Speed limits change.

Lane configurations change.

And construction crews are working mere feet away from moving traffic.

These workers are especially vulnerable because their focus is on the task at hand, rather than the traffic passing by.

The highway workers are there to keep our roads safe, but drivers need to do their part, too.

Here are some of the tips we are sharing to help people stay safe as they drive through work zones this summer:

- Plan ahead.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Avoid distractions.
- Pay attention to the drivers around you.
- Don't speed or tailgate.
- Obey road crews and signs.
- And last but not least, be patient and stay calm.

The Office of Communication has a new **In Motion** that includes information about several topics, including Work Zone Safety.

This month's edition of the AASHTO Journal has an article about their three new fellows.

One of whom is our own Chad Clawson, from District 2.

He and two others, Eric Kopinski from Missouri and Anna Bosin from Alaska, are just beginning their year-long fellowships working on highway engineering, environmental, and policy issues for AASHTO.

The article states that AASHTO benefits from this 16-year old fellowship program by tapping into the front-line expertise and practical experience of its fellows as they develop technical documents and policy positions.

Chad began his fellowship on April 9, and will return to his engineering duties in Lewiston next spring.

Last fall, one of the teams at ITD's Leadership Summit addressed the issue of getting new employees up to speed, also known as onboarding.

A few sections of ITD were using onboarding at that time, but most areas of the department had little or no formal onboarding process for new employees.

Here is why that is important.

25 percent of ITD's workforce are new employees hired after January 2016.

And we need a way to standardize the hiring experience in the formative months after employees begin working here.

Supervisors need to make sure the employees have all the necessary access and equipment to do their jobs.

New employees need to feel comfortable and valued at work.

And they need to know they have access to someone who can help them along the way.

Onboarding is different from traditional new employee orientation in several ways.

Traditional employee orientation generally takes place on Day One, and often includes routine paperwork.

Onboarding is a longer experience that starts before employment begins all the way through the employee's first six to 18 months.

It focuses not only on the development of good employees, but also their retention.

We are improving and expanding the department's onboarding process.

And are excited about the difference it can make in developing and retaining employees.

And improving ITD's performance for Idaho taxpayers.

In 2013, the Division of Aeronautics set a performance goal of reducing the state general aviation accident rate by half over a five-year period.

And they have accomplished that goal, using a variety of tools, including:

- Developing standard operating procedures for airports
- Distributing welcome packets for pilots from out of state
- fly-in safety briefings
- Safety seminars
- And the annual safety stand-down event.

The Division of Aeronautics recently published the **Idaho Aviation Accident Scorecard**, containing accident data from the National Transportation Safety Board.

It takes about two years to complete accident investigations, so the most recent year with full data is 2016.

The report shows that in 2016, **73** percent of Idaho's aviation accidents were due to pilot error.

Only **nine** percent were caused by mechanical maintenance issues.

The remaining accident causes were listed as environmental, unknown, or are still under investigation.

The report also shows that aircraft accidents decreased from **28** in 2015. . .

to **22** in 2016

And aviation fatalities decreased from **9** in 2015. . .

to **1** in 2016.

The report shows that even with Idaho's rugged terrain and challenging flying conditions, the Division of Aeronautics safety program is working well, and saving lives.

The Division of Aeronautics isn't alone in saving lives and responding to crashes.

Near the Cotterel Port of Entry on Interstate 84, a van crashed into the back of a semi-trailer.

Port Inspector Julie Roseborough rushed to the scene and treated the van driver who was in shock and injured.

Patrick Gregory, with the assistance of the Idaho State Police, coned off the area to protect motorists from the wrecked vehicles and debris.

Because the crash happened near the entrance to the port, inspectors downloaded the port's video and gave it the Idaho State Police to assist in the investigation.

Julie and Patrick acted as first responders to assess and treat the accident victim and prevent secondary crashes

They acted quickly to make the situation as safe as possible and coordinate with emergency personnel.

Their actions and training were invaluable that day.

And I commend them for quickly jumping into action to help the injured driver, and for making the crash area safer for passing traffic.

The Division of Motor Vehicles should be very proud of them.

Unlike many other states, Idaho's DMV enjoys a great reputation with the public.

Here is a compliment about their vehicle-registration program from Jack Lyman, of Lyman Consulting.

He wrote, and I quote:

I received a registration renewal letter in the mail today.

And I just registered my car.

What a great system!

Quick, efficient, and easy to understand and use.

Please pass on my compliments to whomever is in charge of this ITD program.

You often hear jokes about the DMV in other states.

Not Idaho!

End quote.

The other message I would like to share with you this month is from Lieutenant Governor Brad Little addressing the U.S. 95 project from Payette to the Weiser River Bridge.

We are resurfacing 12 miles of that section of U.S. 95 in two phases.

Phase one began in early April, and phase two is underway right now.

The contractor is doing an excellent job.

Crews are working around the clock, Monday through Friday, to minimize impacts to the public.

They expect to complete the project near the end of this month.

And it is the kind of project we like to see.

Because, in the spirit of collaboration, its design incorporated input from many sources.

About two years ago, District 3 managers, the traffic engineer, and other staff met with stakeholders, including:

- Law enforcement personnel
- Local officials
- State legislators
- and local citizens. . .

. . . to get their input on safety concerns and other issues they wanted addressed for businesses, farms, and driveways on U.S. 95.

Which is Idaho's primary north/south corridor.

This was initially only going to be a simple pavement- preservation project.

But after receiving input from the public, it was designed to address additional local needs, and to add several safety and mobility improvements.

Including new turning lanes to provide access from U.S. 95 to local roads without slowing traffic.

And new turnout spaces so slow-moving vehicles and large equipment can pull over for faster-moving traffic.

Western Construction worked with ITD to develop a schedule that minimizes impacts to the public, large trucks, and farm equipment.

They are scheduled to complete the project before Memorial Day weekend.

And are doing a great job.

Here is the message about this project from Lieutenant Governor Brad Little I mentioned earlier.

He said, and I quote:

“Please pass along to your team what a GREAT JOB they did on the resurfacing on Highway 95 between Payette and Weiser.

Also, the contractor, I believe it was Western Construction.

Very nice, and the locals are happy.”

End Quote.

Mr. Chairman and members of the board.

This concludes my Director’s report for May.

