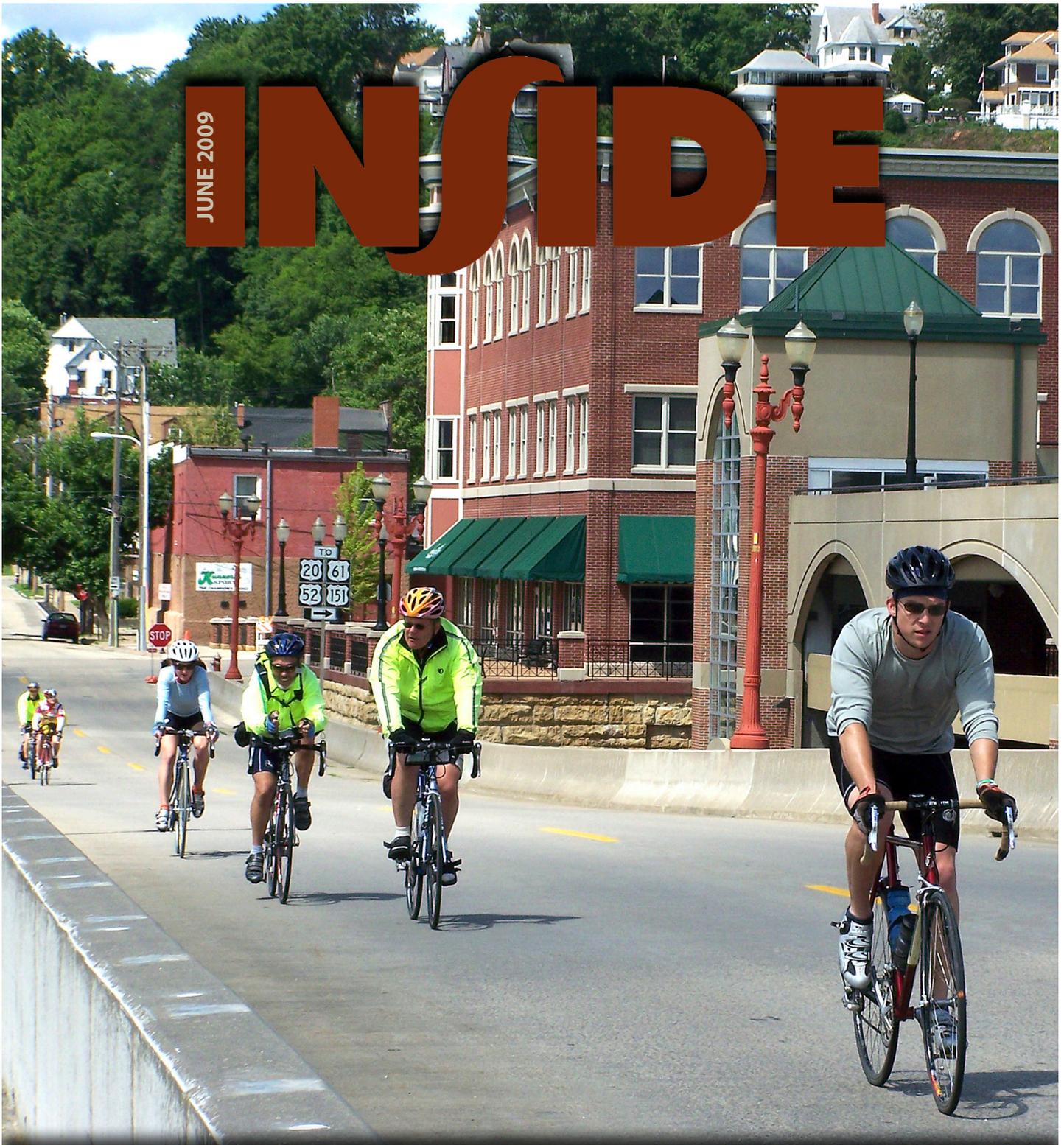


JUNE 2009

# INSIDE



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## ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

**A** funny thing happened to me last week on my visits to some of our work locations. Actually, lots of funny things happened...both funny-ha ha and funny-unusual, once again proving to me that we at DOT are a diverse and interesting cast of characters.

Over the course of two days, I drove 417 miles and visited two driver's license stations, one each in Fort Dodge and Sioux City, and two garages, a district office, a materials lab, a construction residency, and the district paint crew, all in Sioux City. Overall, every time I make field visits like this I am struck with the quality of employees we have at DOT. This agency is comprised of people who know their stuff, work hard, want to do a good job and are caring and likeable. Wherever I go, I am impressed with the level of commitment and energy I see DOTers bringing to their jobs. Are there exceptions? Sure. We're 3,200 strong, so there is bound to be an exception to every rule, but the vast majority of DOTers are good people and wonderful employees.

The most notable thing I did during the visit was congratulate and recognize Clint Zieman, engineering technician senior in District 3, on fifty (50!) years of service to the state and DOT. He was reminded at least once at his coffee that 1959, when he started at DOT, was before one co-worker or another was born. Clint was fortunate enough to have me there so he had at least one person old enough to have been born before his start date – actually, I'm sure there were others but I'm the only one who acknowledged it out loud. Congratulations, again, Clint!

I found the District 3 group of employees to be very "cosmopolitan." Four of us got into a lengthy discussion over our punch, first about college wrestling and then about art. Wrestling and art...just your normal range of small talk topics! We laughed at the wide difference between the two topics and how it might surprise people that the four of us all shared an interest in both. Conventional wisdom – or stereotypes – might have suggested our interests to be one or the other, but not both. Therein lies the problem with relying on stereotypes; you miss out on seeing a lot that people have to offer.

Speaking of art, if you're in the neighborhood, you should stop at the District 3 materials lab to see the plants. Seymour, a "large" houseplant of the pothos family, is a good example of life imitating art; let me explain. As you walk into the materials lab door, the first office to the right houses employees Baron and Daryl. Well, to be technically correct, the office houses "Seymour" and lets Baron and Daryl visit!

Seymour, as I understand it, was an unnamed hand-me-down from a former co-worker. Some Miracle-Gro came with the plant and Baron has religiously fed it. While you have to see it to fully comprehend, Seymour now completely lines all four walls of the sizable office, held up by cabinets, door jambs, netting, etc. And some of Seymour's leaves are ginormous! Seymour is so overwhelming and dominating that other plants seem unable to survive in "his" office.

The life-imitating-art reference is to the genesis of Seymour's name. Baron explained it is a nod to the cult rock musical (used in this context, cult means weird), *Little Shop of Horrors*. For those not familiar with the cult favorite, the "star" of the film is a blood-eating plant named Audrey II and the human lead character is named Seymour. 'Nuf said. By the way, there's also a five-foot Christmas tree-shaped plant in the Materials Lab reception area; it gets decorated at holiday time. These guys should be advertising for Miracle-Gro!

I felt my age at the driver's license station as we have some great young people on those staffs. In fact, one was getting ready to celebrate a significant birth – her 21st! Good grief, it's been so long since I celebrated a milestone birthday that didn't end in zero that I can barely remember it. However, I did share the memory of my 21st birthday with a couple employees – one of my only real "adventures" growing up – and they've promised to keep it confidential. I've got to tell

you that the vibe and energy in the stations, partly because of the younger employees' influence, is noticeable. Sure makes me optimistic about DOT's future.

I also had a couple of small world experiences from visiting with the resident construction engineer about his old home town where I lived for about 15 years, to meeting the information technology associate whose younger brother is an Ankeny acquaintance of mine, to the private conversation a GOA had with me about our shared grief as mothers who have lost children. I once did a "small-world" column and I'm constantly reminded of how much we are all linked.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that I met mechanic Kirk Douglas, or so he says. When he introduced himself, I wasn't sure I heard his first name correctly so I asked, "Kirk, as in Kirk Ferentz?" He responded, "No, as in Kirk Douglas." I assured him that, while I typically don't remember many names from these visits, I would remember his, and I do. And then there is the compliment (or was it?) at the Hamilton garage, "You're better looking than your picture in Inside!" Only afterwards did I realize that is not the same as being told I'm good-looking...

The two days were great; I was welcomed everywhere I went; I learned a lot; and, most of all, I sure enjoyed meeting as many of you as I did. As I said at the outset, DOTers are a great and interesting group—great people first and great employees second.

*Nancy*

**Governor's I-JOBS:**

***Iowa's infrastructure investment initiative***

CULVER/JUDGE

**I-JOBS**

IOWA'S INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

In mid-March Governor Chet Culver unveiled details of a \$750 million plan to create jobs and invest in infrastructure throughout Iowa.

Called I-JOBS, the Culver/Judge infrastructure investment initiative is a three-year plan to create jobs, strengthen the state's economy and rebuild several critical areas of the state's infrastructure. A slightly modified \$830 million version of the plan was approved by the Iowa Legislature April 26.

Governor Culver visited Iowa DOT headquarters in Ames April 27 to kick off the program. Culver said, "I-JOBS will help rebuild a smarter, safer and stronger Iowa. It will allow us to speed up our recovery from one of the worst natural disasters in American history. It will put people to work. From transportation to housing, from education to technology, from alternative energy to water systems, no aspect of our public infrastructure will go untouched." He noted that Iowa DOT employees will be critical to meeting the I-JOBS mission.

The Governor also explained the I-JOBS plan dovetails into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. He mentioned the accolades the Iowa DOT is already receiving for the quick response to letting projects under this program, some the same day the Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama. Culver also noted the Iowa DOT has been heralded by the General Accounting Office as a model for transparency in handling Recovery Act funds. Culver said he expects the same level of accountability and transparency with I-JOBS funding.

**Financial details of the I-JOBS plan:**

**State vertical Infrastructure projects: \$300 million**

- \$185 million to improve public facilities across Iowa, such as the Iowa Veterans Home, correction facilities and community colleges.
- \$100 million for further investments in state public infrastructure, including state parks.
- \$15 million for Iowa State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Disaster rebuilding and prevention: \$290 million**

- \$118.5 million in competitive grants available for reconstruction of local public infrastructure and flood control in communities hit by last year's disasters.
- \$46.5 million in grants targeted for help to Linn County and Cedar Rapids, and to rebuild fire stations in Palo, Elkader and Charles City.
- \$25 million for water-quality projects, including flood prevention, and soil conservation practices.
- \$100 million for University of Iowa campus

**Improving Iowa's transportation infrastructure: \$115 million**

- \$50 million to improve the safety of Iowa's primary road system bridges.
- \$55 million to cities and counties to improve local roads, including many roads still damaged by last year's natural disasters.
- \$10 million invested in airports, rail, transit and trails.

**Sewer infrastructure improvements: \$55 million**

- \$35 million to help construct sewers in communities with populations less than 10,000.



*Governor Chet Culver*

- \$20 million in competitive grants for communities of any size for water improvement projects.

**Meeting Iowa's housing needs: \$35 million**

- \$20 million invested in affordable housing for elderly, disabled and low-income Iowans.
- \$10 million to construct or improve shelters for domestic abuse, emergencies and the homeless.
- \$5 million to repair homes damaged by last year's floods.

**Investing in telecommunications and renewable energy: \$35 million**

- \$25 million invested in improving access to technology throughout Iowa.
- \$10 million to create a revolving loan program for alternative energy projects that supports both new jobs and energy independence.

*I-JOBS, continued page 4*

*I-JOBS, from page 3*

## Project selection process:

### Transportation programming decisions:

- \$50 million for primary system bridges will come to the Iowa DOT and be programmed by the Iowa Transportation Commission (Commission) for projects in FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- \$45 million of the local funds will be distributed by formulas to cities and counties over FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- \$10 million of the local funds are available for programming by the Commission for city Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) projects.
- \$10 million for aviation, rail, transit and trails is available for programming by the Commission to various modal projects.

### Non-transportation programming decisions

The I-JOBS legislation established an Iowa Jobs Board to make non-transportation programming decisions. Projects will be selected using the following criteria.

- How quickly a project can be started and completed
- Number and quality of jobs created by the project
- Contribution to the lasting imprint on the state
- Amount of federal, state and private dollars to be leveraged
- Ability to fund depreciation costs
- Contribution to sustainability and energy efficiency
- Benefit to areas distressed by high unemployment
- Geographic distribution throughout the state

If these I-JOBS funds are not used within one year, the Iowa Jobs Board will reallocate them. All funds must be expended within three years.

Nancy,

*I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the opportunity to present a progress report on matters related to transportation in our state's just-passed "I-JOBS" initiative at the Iowa DOT headquarters in Ames. This, when coupled with the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009, means our state will now have expanded resources to repair and resurface our aging roads and bridges, which are vital to our state's economic development. Again, thank you for making the day a successful one and for your service to the state.*

*Chester J. Culver  
Governor of Iowa*

**(Editor's note:** While this note was sent to Director Richardson, she is quick to point out that it was the employees who did all the preparation for and those who attended this event that made it a success. She recognizes the hard work and diligence of DOT employees in finding ways to best use the Recovery Act and I-JOBS funding and keeping the public informed and up-to-date on where the money is being spent.)



*(top photo) Governor Culver, right, accepts a hard hat and safety vest from Iowa DOT Director Nancy Richardson during his visit to the Ames complex April 27.*

*(bottom photo) DOT employees gathered in the cafeteria to hear about Governor Culver's I-JOBS initiative. Several employees greeted the Governor following the presentation.*



# Does Ted Turner Twitter?

While none of the Ted Turners listed on Twitter's people search appear to be the media mogul, the media empire Turner founded at CNN definitely emits tweets from several Twitter accounts on a regular basis and has tens of thousands of followers at any given time. It is only fitting the organization that pioneered around-the-clock news coverage would have a large following in an up-to-the-minute world that is "social media" today.

While news in this information age caters to the individual, social media also allows us to fulfill a basic human need --- to feel included in a group. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn, Bebo or any number of other social or blog sites allow you to join groups with little or no fear of rejection. Passing information along in these groups creates an environment in which information spreads rapidly outside the control of the originator. This can be both positive and negative, depending on the validity of the information. This quickly spreading information flow provides an outlet for just about anyone to share just about anything from just about anywhere. Consequently, not being plugged in can feel like you are being left out. Even President Obama has admitted a strong attachment to the instant information provided through his Blackberry.

## Social media at the Iowa DOT

With more than 3,000 employees at the Iowa DOT, the amount of Internet bandwidth necessary to allow all employees to have casual access social networking sites on their work computers would significantly reduce the speed in which critical computing functions operate. As a result, social networking sites are blocked from DOT



Web access. Although these sites cannot be accessed from the DOT, much of the world outside the DOT depends on these sites for information. Recognizing this need, the agency now provides data feeds to several of the new social media sites to update the public on everything from highway projects to traffic incidents to teen driver safety promotions.

The Iowa DOT's Office of Media and Marketing Services and the Operations Support Center both use blog technology to get news to the media. News releases and traffic incident alerts are posted where media and other interested individuals can check the Web site, receive official DOT news through a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed or have the information sent directly to a phone or other handheld device as "tweets" from Twitter.

The Washington DOT (WSDOT) leads the country in the use of social media. Lloyd Brown, WSDOT communications director, said, "We're at more than 4,200 followers on Twitter. It's a critical part of our daily communication. I can tell you that the power is not just in the followers, but the potential for exponential reach of your message thanks to the ability of folks to 're-tweet' your message. Plus, if you build your messages strategically, you can measure click-throughs to add to your campaign metrics.

We built a large part of our following during heavy winter storms last winter. We keep those followers by being real people. Each of our four agency Twitter feeds (and our public information officers have started personal feeds, which I support) has a real person behind it. Our goal is to get government out of the way and let the public engage in a nearly real-time, two-way conversation. We're thrilled with Twitter."

The Iowa DOT has three Twitter feeds "iowadot," "iadot" and "Iowa-TeenDriver." The DOT's news feeds have more than 750 followers, including other state DOTs; Iowa local governments; state, regional and national news organizations; Iowa businesses, including construction contractors and trucking companies; and other groups and individuals interested in Iowa transportation issues.

Some of the Iowa DOT Twitter followers have sent thank you tweets. Courtney Jontz said, "Kudos to iowadot tweeter --- so helpful to know updates and road reports. Great way to use Twitter!"

*Social media, continued page 6*

## Social media, from page 5

Paul Yeager from Iowa Public Television says, "I don't get to read the Associated Press wire anymore. Twitter is my new AP wire. It is constant, the good stuff floats to the top and there is lots of information out there. During winter weather, the Iowa DOT stream helped during travel days to see what roads were open/closed, road reports, areas that are getting hit, that sort of thing. So, following the DOT was great for me. I also wasn't able to get to the DOT Web site and the tweets helped fill in information. If I was still an assignment editor, this would have been a great tool for me in my job."



*Since Facebook is designed to be a social site, spreading information very rapidly is the norm. According to the Press Room at Facebook.com, there are more than 200 million active users and each user averages 120 friends, but it is not unusual for some power users to number friends in the thousands. Worldwide, more than 3.5 billion minutes are spent on Facebook and more than 1 billion pieces of content are shared weekly.*

## Facebook, not just for kids anymore

Istrategylabs.com lists 35- to 54-year-old users as the fastest growing demographic on Facebook. While Facebook statistics show 46 percent of users are under 25, for the first six months of 2009, istategylabs.com found users in the 35 to 54 age group grew nearly 300 percent, roughly doubling every two months. The organization also found that the 55+ demographic is also logging on to Facebook at a nearly 200 percent growth rate over the same period.

This year, the Iowa DOT developed a Facebook presence to market Iowa's teen driver safety contest, Restrain Yourself. In addition to initiating a Facebook page and event with the contest, the Iowa DOT advertised the contest on Facebook. Cherice Ogg, team leader of the Office of Media and Marketing Services' Web team, said, "The cost of advertising on Facebook is very reasonable, and the ability to specifically target a geographic location and age group means we reach our exact target every time."

## Video and Web streaming

With tight budgets and travel restrictions in place, the Iowa DOT is turning more and more to Web-based video conferencing for meetings. You read about the DOT's use of Acrobat Connect Pro in the February INSIDE, and the Research and Technology Bureau has been using Vimeo to share video of research projects. Vimeo supports video sharing and user comments on each video page. As listed on their Web site, Vimeo has more than 1.3 million members and an average of 13,000 new videos uploaded daily.

## Do you really need to keep up?

When you fire up your home computer, where do you spend your time? For many of us, just keeping up on E-mail is a chore, let alone communicating with Facebook friends we have not seen since high school, and tweets from our kids and grandkids. The overwhelming influx of electronic media can be overwhelming. Here is where a sage piece of wisdom from a bygone era still applies, "all things in moderation."

## Risk versus reward

Sharing all this information is not without risk. If you are using social networking sites at home, the best advice is to be aware that everything posted to the Internet immediately takes on a life of its own and may show up again in places you never intended. Colleges, employers and others search these sites to compare whether the person portrayed on the resume or application is the same person on display on the Internet.

The main reasons the DOT locks down these sites is to avoid protected data being inadvertently shared through these sites, and to protect against spam and malware attacks. Also, by locking down access to the site, employees are protected from cyber stalkers, hackers and other evildoers who cause trouble for users of social networking sites.

## Steier to head national identity theft recognition training group

**M**ajor Paul Steier of the investigations unit in the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) has been actively involved in combating identity theft for many years. Steier, now considered one of the nation's leading authorities on identity theft and fraudulent document detection, was recently named to chair an American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) committee on the issue.



Steier, a 17-year veteran of the Iowa DOT, takes on the additional responsibility of serving with AAMVA because of the impact the organization can make by detecting and stopping identity fraud. Motor Vehicle Division staff and law enforcement officers can take steps to prevent the public from being victimized by identity thieves. He said, "By detecting fraudulent documents we can stop escaped fugitives from hid-

ing behind false identities, we can stop people from obtaining a driver's license with a false identity when they are barred or revoked in their true identity, we can stop someone from having their credit or driving record destroyed, and we can potentially prevent a terrorist attack."

Since 2002, Steier has worked with committees and other groups from AAMVA on the issue of identity theft, and how to train motor vehicle staff and law enforcement officers to recognize fraudulent documents. Over the years, the AAMVA group has changed, but the focus of training motor vehicle staff and law enforcement has stayed constant. In 2003, Steier was part of a working group tasked to develop a Fraudulent Document Recognition (FDR) plan based on the AAMVA Fraudulent Identification Prevention Program. The first draft of the materials was completed May 28, 2003, and was utilized in a pilot capacity during three of the 2003 AAMVA regional conferences to evaluate the materials for modification and further development. Steier taught two of these pilot sessions.

In teaching these sessions, Steier said, "I learned that the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Division is a leader in combating identity/document fraud. We have law enforcement officers within the division and can more effectively respond to the division's enforcement needs directly. Many states rely on local law enforcement that has other pressing priorities. I gained an appreciation for the challenge of teaching people from diverse backgrounds and experience. I learned the importance of looking at issues from different viewpoints and how one way is not always the best way, and came across many tips and tricks of how to detect fraud that I could share with people in Iowa."

Following the pilot sessions and subsequent FDR revisions, a very useful work product was ready to roll out to motor vehicle and law enforcement agencies around the country. In the fall of 2003, AAMVA began conducting 40-hour train-the-trainer programs to teach trainers from most states and Canadian provinces. Steier and two other trainers were chosen to conduct classes in Missouri, Utah, Florida, Rhode Island, and Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The goal was to educate these trainers and send them back to teach staff in their home jurisdiction. Steier said, "We also taught this class in Cedar Rapids where we instructed several Iowa DOT Driver Services and MVE staff, who then taught all Iowa DL issuance staff (state and county) and MVE officers." We also had instructors from South Dakota and Illinois attend.

### **Fraudulent document recognition two-level training**

**Level I training** is designed for all motor vehicle and law enforcement personnel, and focuses on the authentication of government issued identification documents utilizing the senses (look, touch/feel). It is designed with the premise that employees must first learn to authenticate genuine identification documents.

**Level II training** is designed for all motor vehicle and law enforcement supervisors, document examiners, fraud investigators, etc., and concentrates on the authentication of government issued identification documents utilizing tools (e.g., UV lighting, magnification, online systems, etc.). Level II training is designed with the premise that high-level employees must first learn to authenticate genuine identification documents with the assistance of advanced tools and an awareness of covert security features.

## 22 days, 50 volunteers and 151 bags of litter



Just 22 days elapsed between the time Jerome Steward, engineering office assistant 1 in Cedar Rapids maintenance, contacted possible sponsors for a cleanup effort on Interstate 380 (I-380) and the event to remove trash from the roadside.

"In the past, the area solid waste agency led a very large annual cleanup event," explains Steward. "In 2009, there was no sponsor and no hope of a spring cleanup taking place. With a few phone calls and a lot of E-mails, a spring cleanup did happen, although not on the scale we've seen it in the past."

A smaller level of sponsorship came from Beckett's Public House, a Cedar Rapids restaurant. Two area Hy-Vee stores allowed volunteers to gather in store parking lots. The turnout was much lower than years past when free T-shirts, pizza and other giveaways drew large crowds, but the 50 volunteers who showed up April 25 in less than perfect weather were ready to work. Between 8 a.m. and noon they retrieved 151 bags of someone else's litter from the roadsides along I-380 in Cedar Rapids.

Steward says, "I'm proud of the work that was accomplished in this year's cleanup. The Iowa DOT is here to help and support any individual or group who wants to do a special one-day cleanup on I-380 or any state highway," and he reminds all Iowans that "Litter is Everybody's Responsibility."

## What's new in the motor pool?



### Help finding "green" fuel stations

To assist in finding E-85 fuel stations, employees reserving an E-85 fueled vehicle also have the option of checking out a global positioning system (GPS) unit pre-programmed with all E-85 fuel locations in the state. The Office of Transportation Data has provided the information and will periodically update the GPS units. This pilot program will test the database that may eventually be placed on the Office of Energy Independence's Web site for downloading by any interested person.



### "Greener" way to get around Ames

Ames complex employees needing to get around Ames for business purposes have an even "greener" option to checking out a car from the motor pool. An electric-motor-assisted bicycle previously used to monitor recreational trails construction was recently obtained by the motor pool for use by employees needing transportation in Ames. The bicycle has a top speed of approximately 25 mph and

even has cruise control. The bike can be checked out using the Operations and Finance Application Menu, motor pool reservations, and specify BICYCLE in the comments section. An employee checking out the bicycle must provide a helmet to be worn when operating the vehicle. Because this is a 21-speed bicycle, you do not need a motorcycle license to operate it. When checking out the bicycle, the employee's cost center will be charged for one mile.



## Leading by example

Green Team formed to explore earth-friendly options at DOT and beyond

**M**ore than a year ago, Governor Culver challenged all state agencies to lead by example in conserving resources. "Iowans have made tremendous strides in recent years to find new forms of renewable energy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil," said Governor Culver. "Now, we must go one step further, and improve energy efficiency throughout the state. I believe state government can -- and must -- be a model for greening Iowa's homes, schools and businesses, and my sixth executive order will help us do just that."

Executive Order Six establishes a Green Government Initiative, and calls for each executive branch agency to appoint a coordinator to support this effort. In February, the Iowa DOT's Management Team set up a department Green Team to create awareness of environmental opportunities that foster a sustainable future leading to social and economical improvements in our work and home communities.

Members of the Green Team are:

- Kermit Wilson and Lee Hammer, Operations and Finance Division (co-chairs)
- Bill George, Information Technology Division
- Barb Smith, Highway Division
- Stan Peterson, Planning, Programming and Modal Division
- Renee Jerman, Operations and Finance Division
- Phoumine Baccam, Motor Vehicle Division

*Kermit Wilson, Procurement and Distribution, and Barb Smith, Highway Division, pick up litter on the Ames complex grounds April 22.*

***"I believe state government can—and must—be a model for greening Iowa's homes, schools and businesses, and my sixth executive order will help us do just that."***

Governor Chet Culver

The Highway Division added district representatives who will work with Barb Smith as extensions of the team. These individuals are:

- Maria Hobbs, District 1
- Lu Mohorne, District 2
- MaryBeth Banta, District 3
- Beth Schroder, District 4
- Sharon Brown, District 5
- Jerome Steward, District 6

Once the team was established, a mission statement was developed. The statement reads, "Our mission is to create awareness of environmental opportunities that foster a sustainable future leading to social and economical improvements in our work and home communities." While the committee is small, the idea is to plant a seed with employees that can be carried over. The Green Team is in place to help the DOT, and us as individuals, take advantage of environmental opportunities. If an employee has an idea on how to save resources, bring that idea to a Green Team member. We'll look into it and share the idea with other employees to get more widespread participation."

Co-chair Lee Hammer said, "While this committee is focusing on what the DOT can do to reduce our energy consumption, and reuse and recycle as much as possible as an agency, we are

***Leading by example, continued page 10***



**Leading by example, from page 9**

hopeful this catches on with employees and leads to everyone doing a better job of leaving less waste behind, both at work and at home.”

With this focus in mind, the Green Team developed initiatives to involve employees. To celebrate Earth Day April 22, employees were encouraged to turn off their computers overnight as an experiment to see how much energy could be saved by this action. The statistics from the Ames complex were inconclusive, but the District 3 Office showed a 33 percent decline in energy use; District 4 Office posted a 17 percent reduction in energy use and the Motor Vehicle Division building in Ankeny reduced energy use by 17 percent when the computers were shut down. Hammer said, “It appears we could save approximately 20 percent on our electrical use if we shut down every computer each night. To be truly successful, we would need every employee to participate and we will need to coordinate with the Information Technology Division, as they often perform critical updates overnight.”

Another green activity was in full swing on Earth Day as the Office of Procurement and Distribution’s purchasing section held an Office Supply Exchange and Share Day. Central complex offices were encouraged to bring unused of-



*Julie Brown, David Doolittle, Mary Zimmerman, and Jean Gustafson, all from the purchasing section of Procurement and Distribution, worked long hours to prepare for the office supply swap.*

fice supplies to purchasing in the weeks prior to April 22. Purchasing staff then categorized, organized and displayed the materials in the north lobby on Earth Day for employees to take advantage of the surplus in an effort to use the supplies and reduce waste. Wilson said, “Preparing for the office supply exchange was a lot of work, but well worth the effort. The day was a great success with 22 offices participating in the exchange of supplies. Hundreds of items to be exchanged filled 10 large tables. There were only a few items leftover that were sent to the DOT auction.”

While the Iowa DOT is focusing on organizing green initiatives, the agency has long been a proponent of good stewardship of its resources. Here are a few statistics from recycling efforts coordinated by Mary Kay Solberg in the Office of Location and Environment and paper recycling efforts coordinated by Sue Brekke in Equipment Services.

*Office supplies available for swapping lined the north lobby in Ames.*



**Since 2000, the Iowa DOT has recycled the following items.**

- 105,000 pounds of computer equipment
- 25,000 pounds of batteries
- 53,000 fluorescent light bulbs
- 10,000 pounds of ballasts
- 40 pounds of mercury
- 183,000 gallons of waste oil

In addition,

- Between 2001 and 2007, 58,000 tons of concrete were crushed and re-used (not including what was crushed and used as part of projects).
- In 2008, 24.4 tons of paper were recycled.
- Since 2003, the Iowa DOT has purchased more than 1,300 retreaded tires.

# Iowa Quality Initiative Structures Awards

The Associated General Contractors of Iowa and Iowa DOT announced the winners of their Iowa Quality Initiative Structures Awards program April 1. The awards were presented in conjunction with the Structural Design/Construction Quality Workshop held in Ames.

This awards program recognizes those structures built in Iowa that demonstrated superior quality of workmanship in their construction and design. Those honored included the contractor, contractor's foreman, inspector, structures designer, and owner. The subcontractors and material suppliers were also recognized for their superior support and quality contributions to each project. The following four Iowa DOT projects received recognition.

## Special Structure on Primary Road System 24th Street bridge over Interstate 80/29, Council Bluffs



(From left) Phil Rossbach, HDR Inc. and Robert Cramer, Cramer and Associates Inc.

**Contractor:** Cramer and Associates Inc.  
**Contractor's foreman:** Mark Leusink  
**Inspector:** Greg Mowery, Council Bluffs construction, Iowa DOT  
**Designer:** HDR Engineering Inc.

## Research Merit Award

**Jakway Park bridge in Buchanan County**  
*(no photo)*

**Contractor:** Taylor Construction Inc.  
**Contractor's foreman:** Pat Krapfl  
**Inspector:** Ned Johnson, Buchanan County  
**Designers:** Dean Bierwagen, Bridges and Structures, Iowa DOT, and Dennis Waugh, IIW Engineers and Surveyors P.C.

## Steel Beam Bridge on Primary Road System Keosauqua bridge



(From left) Tom McKay (retired), Mount Pleasant construction, Iowa DOT; Keith Cadwell, Design, Iowa DOT; Rick Harlan, A.M. Cohron and Son Inc.; Brian Morrissey, District 5, Iowa DOT

**Contractor:** A.M. Cohron & Son Inc.  
**Contractor's foremen:** Greg Clancey and Jason White  
**Inspectors:** Tom McKay and Ann Glover, Mount Pleasant construction, Iowa DOT  
**Designers:** Stuart Nielsen, Kimball Olson and Dave Claman, Bridges and Structures, Iowa DOT; Bob Stanley and Keith Cadwell, Design, Iowa DOT

## Concrete Beam Bridge on Primary Road System U.S. 169 bridge over East Fork Des Moines River, Algona



(From left) Roy Gelhaus, Britt construction, Iowa DOT; Gene Pavelka, Britt construction, Iowa DOT; David Peck, Christensen Brothers; and a representative from WHKS

**Contractor:** Christensen Brothers Inc.  
**Contractor's foremen:** Al Lytle and David Peck  
**Inspector:** Gene Pavelka, Britt construction, Iowa DOT  
**Designer:** WHKS



## Kudos!

*These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.*

To: Major Ned Lewis, Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: Mark Molo, Molo Oil Company, Dubuque

Just a quick note to commend Captain Kevin Steele, who I understand works under your command. This past week, a sting was being conducted on U.S. 20 just across the Julien Dubuque Bridge in East Dubuque, Illinois, with both Iowa and Illinois DOT motor vehicle enforcement.

When we found a discrepancy with the inspection that was performed on our vehicle, Captain Steele was very responsive to our concerns. He arranged to meet with our driver that very same day and took care of the issue right away.

He was very courteous and helpful, and his professionalism impressed us so much that we wanted to make sure you were aware of what an asset he is to the State of Iowa.

To: Mark Lowe, director, Motor Vehicle Division  
From: Timothy J. Healy, Terrorist Screening Center, Washington, D.C.

On behalf of the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), I want to thank you and commend Motor Vehicle Officer Drew Donscheski of your department on the exceptional work he did during a traffic stop Sept. 8, 2008. During the course of his investigation, Officer Donscheski followed the appropriate protocol that determined the individual encountered was a positive match to a known or suspected terrorist on the TSC watch list. Through Officer Donscheski's investigative efforts, he was able to collect intelligence that may prove to be of great value to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the Intelligence Community.

The TSC appreciates your leadership and the entire department's dedication to protecting our nation.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: J. Scott Raecker

My daughter recently celebrated her 16th birthday and, of course, the first item of the day was to visit the driver's license renewal office on Euclid in Des Moines. I am writing to tell you that from the person who greeted us at the front desk, to the clerk who processed her license, to the officer who handed her the license and went over the parameters of the license, all were genuinely friendly, courteous and very efficient. It was a milestone day for our daughter, and the employees of that office helped make it a great memory for our family. Please pass along my thanks to the employees at the Euclid DL station.

To: Shirley Andre, director (retired),  
Motor Vehicle Division  
From: Shirley McGuire, division administrator,  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

On behalf of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership of the Motor Vehicle Division of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Under your leadership, the Iowa Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Division has come to be recognized as an example of excellence in motor vehicle services, including the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP), Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) and commercial drivers license (CDL).

Iowa DOT has been a leader in developing, testing and utilizing new technologies. As a lead pilot state in the development of PRISM, Iowa helped forge the path to linking motor carriers' safety performance with the ability to register vehicles. This effort, done in conjunction with our agency, ensures that we are doing what we can to keep unsafe vehicles and drivers off the roads. With the development of TraCS, Iowa once again demonstrated its commitment to technology by using available technology to eliminate extra data entry, thus making the tasks associated with commercial vehicle stops more efficient. Thanks to your leadership in the Iowa DOT, the CDL, PRISM, SafeStat, and hazardous materials programs have flourished. We also greatly appreciated your skill and ability to work with the motor carrier industry and other state and local agencies involved in these activities.

I wish you the best in your retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you throughout the years. You can retire knowing that you made a difference to the people of Iowa and the nation. Congratulations!

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Brad Cunningham, Marion

In reviewing the new 2009 Iowa Transportation Map, I noticed mile marker icons have been added for the interstates and most four-lane highways. This is a great idea!

## Family happenings

**Design**  
*Judy Lensing*



Dung Ta, transportation engineer intern in the urban section, recently gave birth to her second daughter. Mai Anh Bao Nguyen was born April 16 weighing 6 pounds, 11.5 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Baby Mai joins big sister An-Chi, 5, at home.



With more than 33 years of service, Marian Gisel, secretary 1 in the District 3 materials office, rode off into the sunset April 30. Gisel began working for the Iowa State Highway Commission in June 1964 as the district office secretary. She took time off in 1968 to raise her family and was re-employed

in November 1979 as a temporary clerk typist 3, assigned to the Sioux City resident maintenance engineer. She was reassigned as intermittent clerk typist 2 in February 1980.

In September 1980, Marian was hired on a permanent basis as a secretary 1, assigned to the Sioux City resident maintenance engineer's office. Due to restructuring in June 2002, Marian was assigned to the District 3 materials office. She then began pulling double duty for the district, helping out in both the materials and Sioux City field offices.

Gisel and her husband, Deane, live in Sioux City. Their grown children are Pam of Omaha and Greg of Sioux City. Gisel is a proud grandmother to Sean, who keeps her very busy.

### District 3

*MaryBeth Banta*



Al Mouw, mechanic in the Ashton garage, retired April 3 with 20 years of service. Mouw began in the Sheldon garage in 1988, after owning his own auto mechanic business. Best wishes to Al in his retirement!

## In memory

Kenneth P. McLaughlin, 84, of Ames, died Dec. 19, 2008. McLaughlin was born March 15, 1924, in Rock Rapids, to Cyril Martin and Marguerite Alida (Partch) McLaughlin. In 1928, the family moved to Sioux City where he attended Sioux City schools, graduating from East High School in 1942. McLaughlin was a three-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving in the South Pacific during World War II. He married Darleen Wegher June 14, 1946. McLaughlin graduated from Iowa State College in 1950 with a degree in civil engineering. He started working for the Iowa State Highway Commission in 1950, and spent 37 years in various design and construction engineering positions. McLaughlin was heavily involved in the design and construction of the interstate system in Iowa. He retired in 1987. He was a member of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Public Works Association, Iowa Engineering Society, and Anson Marston Chapter of the Iowa Engineering Society. He was recognized for his engineering work in both design and construction. He enjoyed his grandchildren, meeting weekly for coffee with other DOT retirees and playing golf.

McLaughlin is survived by his wife, Darleen; their sons, Michael (Jan) of Norwalk, Gregory (Sue) of Ames, and Scott (Diana) of Boone; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many other friends and relatives.

\*

Marion Hayden, 88, of Port Richey, Florida, died Feb. 1. He worked for the Iowa DOT for nearly 36 years, starting in the Iowa Falls garage in January 1947 and moving on to Fort Dodge, Gowrie and then Williams, where he retired as a highway maintenance supervisor in October 1982. Hayden enjoyed hunting, fishing and caring for his large garden. He was an avid card and bingo player and loved having coffee with friends. Left to celebrate his life are his wife of nearly 69 years, Geneva, and their two grown daughters.

## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for March 20 to April 16, 2009.

### New hires

**Angela Evans**, transportation engineer intern, Design; **Mark Lowe**, transportation division director, Motor Vehicle Division; **Teresa Salak**, highway maintenance supervisor, Altoona garage; **Jan Webb**, transportation engineer, Design

### Promotions

**Jay Carolus**, from highway technician associate, Oskaloosa garage, to equipment operator senior, District 5 paint crew; **Terri Delaney**, construction technician to construction technician senior, Mount Pleasant construction; **Eric Johnsen**, from transportation engineer, Contracts, to transportation engineer specialist, Highway Division – specifications; **Jason Maahs**, from motor vehicle officer to motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Jason Schnorenberg**, from motor vehicle officer to motor vehicle sergeant, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Norbert Shoumaker**, from motor vehicle officer to motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

### Transfers

**Lori Fiscus**, transportation aide, from Highway Division to Research and Technology Bureau; **Stacey Huston**, transportation aide, within Transportation Data

### Retirements

**Shirley Andre**, transportation division director, Motor Vehicle Division; **Gregory Brown**, motor vehicle officer, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Jerry Davis**, materials fabrication inspector 1, District 5 materials; **John Godwin**, transportation planner 1, Systems Planning; **Anna Hartwig**, engineering office assistant 1, Ames maintenance; **Dennis Henry**, highway technician associate, Urbana garage; **Richard Linderwell**, construction technician, Manchester construction; **Allan Mouw**, mechanic, Ashton garage; **Gregory Tue**, construction technician senior, Britt construction; **Patty Valline**, reproduction equipment operator 2, Document Services; **Linda Wild**, highway technician associate, De Soto garage; **Fred Williams**, highway technician associate, Fort Dodge garage

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for June 2009.

### 45 Years

**John Smith**, Contracts

### 40 Years

**Jerry Giebelstein**, Procurement and Distribution; **Dennis Lohrer**, District 6 materials

### 35 Years

**Randy Bentzinger**, Donnellson garage; **Kenneth Bierman**, Muscatine garage; **Steven Doepcke**, Elkader garage; **Douglas Johnston**, Right of Way; **Michael Kinyon**, District 1 field staff; **Belinda Merritt**, Right of Way; **Richard Mescher**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Gary Meyer**, Grundy Center garage; **Patrick Page**, Materials; **Nancy Richardson**, Director's Office; **Russell Sinram**, Location and Environment; **John Whited**, Research and Technology Bureau

### 30 Years

**R. Adams**, Bridges and Structures; **Laura Brown**, Right of Way; **Thomas Jacobson**, Construction; **Robert Kinnick**, Jefferson garage; **Mark Masteller**, Design; **Philip Meyer**, Storm Lake garage; **Kelly Morris**, District 1 maintenance; **Craig O'Riley**, Systems Planning; **Roxanne Oerman**, Davenport garage

### 25 Years

**Michael Athey**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Victoria Dumdei**, District 2 Office; **Jerry Hinders**, Marshalltown construction; **John House**, De Witt garage; **Tony Lazarowicz**, District 3 Office; **David Little**, District 2 Office; **Gary Mehmen**, Osage garage; **Richard Millard**, District 2 materials; **Robert Mingus**, Design; **Terry Morse**, Design; **Martin Sankey**, Right of Way

### 20 Years

**Anthony Batcheller**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Darwin Bishop**, Sioux City construction; **Suezet Cain**, Contracts; **Len Hill**, Contracts; **Janet Lawrence**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Mark Negrete**, Des Moines-north garage; **Kevin Patel**, Design; **Janet Wastenev**, District 4 Office; **Nancy Woody**, Newton garage

### 15 Years

**John Clute**, Bridges and Structures; **Eric Diedrich**, Design; **Robin Halpin**, Cedar Rapids DL station; **Brandie McCuen-Burgos**, Driver Services; **Thomas McDermott**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Andrew Short**, Transportation Data

### 10 years

**Mary Bahr**, Davenport DL station; **Michael Bennett**, Design; **Anthony Blint**, Mount Pleasant construction; **Tracey Bramble**, Media and Marketing Services; **Keven Cary**, Council Bluffs construction; **Jason Choate**, Design; **Barbara Coon**, Maintenance; **Richard Denner**, New Hampton garage; **Dennis Dobson**, Right of Way; **Dennis Drabek**, Garner garage; **Kurt Estrem**, Design; **Bradley Garside**, Adair garage; **Jamie Giannetto**, Marshalltown construction; **Patricia Harmeyer**, Procurement and Distribution; **Annette Henning**, New Hampton construction; **Doug Hirsch**, Dubuque garage; **Jenny Hoskins**, Design; **Darla James**, Design; **Jamie Kilker**, Davenport DL station; **Brandon Kimble**, Design; **Edward Launderville**, Denison garage; **Ron McDaniel**, Traffic and Safety; **Troy Moraine**, Council Bluffs construction; **Harold Parke**, Donnellson garage; **Krista Rostad**, District 2 Office; **Marcus Ryan**, Information Technology Division; **Carey Seuntjens**, Denison garage; **Norman Shepard**, Creston construction; **Teresa Siebels**, Cedar Rapids DL station; **Nathan Westphal**, Cherokee construction; **Layton Zbornik**, Information Technology Division; **John Zimmer**, Bridges and Structures

### 5 Years

**Rosalyn Berrett**, District 1 Office

## TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM



**F**or Ames residents and visitors, CyRide's Fare Free Summer promotion continues through Aug. 15, 2009. This is an opportunity for anyone who lives or works in Ames to try CyRide's services at no cost for as many times throughout the summer as you'd like.

In addition to saving you a lot of cash, riding the bus means cleaner air for everyone.

Each time you choose the bus, you prevent hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides from polluting our air. If you ride CyRide to and from work this summer, you can prevent 750 pounds of carbon monoxide from entering our air. If just 10 percent of Ames residents ride the bus this summer, more than 3.8 million pounds of pollutants can be stopped from going into our environment.

## Reaching the 35-year milestone



Policy 240.07 allows employees reaching 35 years of service to have a photo printed in *INSIDE*. Having a photo taken and printed is voluntary. Depending on when the employee chooses to have the photo taken, the photo will not necessarily appear in the same month the employee reaches the 35-year service milestone.



*Nancy Richardson*  
DOT Director  
Director's Office



*Charles Dighton*  
Highway technician associate  
Manchester garage

# INSIDE

**INSIDE** is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail [tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov).

**Nancy J. Richardson**, Director

**Tracey Bramble**, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Editor  
**Lynn Purcell**, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Desktop Publisher  
**Christina Andersen**, Media and Marketing Services, Staff Writer  
**Keven Arrowsmith**, Media and Marketing Services, Photographer/Writer  
**Printing Staff**, Office of Document Services, Printing



800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 • 515-239-1372



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE**

**On the cover:** These bicyclists make the best of a nice day in Dubuque.  
*Photo by Roger Larson, Systems Planning.*

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1 .....	<b>Kay Ridgway</b> , Des Moines .....	515-986-5729
District 2 .....	<b>Lu Mohorne</b> , Mason City .....	641-423-7584
District 3 .....	<b>MaryBeth Banta</b> , Sioux City .....	712-276-1451
District 4 .....	<b>Marlene Jensen</b> , Atlantic .....	712-243-3355
District 5 .....	<b>Brenda Hadley</b> , Fairfield .....	641-472-6142
District 6 .....	<b>Sandi Byers</b> , Cedar Rapids .....	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures .....	<b>Judy Whitney</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7917
Construction .....	<b>Nancy McMenamin</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1353
Contracts .....	<b>Peg Muxfeldt</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1422
Design .....	<b>Judy Lensing</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1469
Driver Services .....	<b>Noralee Warrick</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3253
General Counsel .....	<b>Chris Crow</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division .....	<b>Colette Simpson</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7728
Local Systems .....	<b>Kathy LaRue</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1081
Location and Environment .....	<b>Susie McCullough</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1225
Maintenance .....	<b>Cindy Shipley</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1971
Materials .....	<b>Brian Squier</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division .....	<b>Mary Kay Reimers</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1661
Motor Carrier Services .....	<b>Diann McMillen</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement .....	<b>Anthony Batcheller</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division .....	<b>Sheri Anderson</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau .....	<b>Tami Bailiff</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1646
Right of Way .....	<b>Linda Kriegel</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1300
Traffic and Safety .....	<b>Linda McBride</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services .....	<b>Becky Sawatzky</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3182

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

# DOTers honored as Transportation Heroes



## SPAULDING CENTER for TRANSPORTATION THE HEROES CENTER

The Iowa Transportation Museum heralded the Transportation Heroes Center at a ceremony May 1 in Grinnell. The interactive and educational Web-based exhibit, [www.TransportationHeroes.org](http://www.TransportationHeroes.org) pays tribute to individuals who have made significant contributions to Iowa's rich transportation heritage, seek to inspire the next generation of transportation innovators and motivate students to pursue careers in transportation. The online exhibit serves as a centerpiece for the Iowa Transportation Museum, currently in development in Grinnell.

Nominations for the inaugural Heroes induction were submitted from across the state and reviewed by a selection committee co-chaired by former Governor Robert Ray and Iowa DOT Director Nancy Richardson. Heroes are classified in three categories:

- **Heroes by Example:** Transportation workers who have accomplished their everyday job in an extraordinary way.
- **Heroes of Industry and Technology:** Individuals who have made significant breakthroughs or contributions in transportation-related industries or technologies.
- **Heroes of Valor:** Transportation workers who have placed their life at risk while on the job, or citizens who have contributed selfless acts within the field of transportation.

Two current and one former DOTer were inducted as Transportation Heroes at a ceremony May 1 at the Grinnell High School.

### Hero of Industry and Technology

#### Michael D. Pawlovich, Ph.D., P.E.



Michael Pawlovich and DOT Director Nancy Richardson

As a safety engineer with the Iowa DOT, Pawlovich co-developed the Safety, Analysis, Visualization, and Exploration Resource (SAVER) program, Iowa's primary traffic safety analysis resource. Using this geographic information system-based software program, safety professionals throughout Iowa can identify and analyze crashes along Iowa's roadways. With this information, transportation-related changes or upgrades can be made in a continuing effort to keep roads

safe and traffic moving. The software also provides county- and/or city-specific data, such as where impaired driver-, motorcycle-, animal-, or speed-related crashes occurred. The data can then be used to encourage individuals to become safer drivers and open discussion of appropriate driver safety practices. In accepting his award, Pawlovich acknowledged safety champions who laid the groundwork for his system. "If it weren't for people like Dr. Joyce Emery, John Nervig and others who both laid the groundwork for and assisted my efforts, much of this would not have been as directly possible."

Pawlovich, a Minnesota native, has lived in the Ames area for 20 years. He and his wife, Vanessa, and their five children live in Nevada. He is a 1994 graduate of Iowa State University in civil engineering and earned a master's degree and doctorate in 1996 and 2003.

### Heroes By Example

#### Doug Heidke



DOTer Doug Heidke (right) receives his award from Iowa Transportation Museum Board President Gerry Schnepf

Working for the Iowa DOT's Grimes garage, Heidke, highway technician associate, helps plow roads and keeps up the highways across the state. One of thousands of committed servicemen, his dedication to the job and roads made it possible for countless Iowans to travel across the state both safely and efficiently, especially during those long snowy winters.

Heidke has also been awarded the Governor's Lifesaving award for an incident where he assisted in saving the life of a motorist following a crash on a snowy 2005 night.

#### Harry Nelson

A native of Manchester, Iowa, Nelson graduated from the University of Iowa and served in the U.S. Navy with the Seabees during the Korean conflict from 1951 through 1957. He found his way back to Iowa and became a respected district maintenance engineer for the Iowa DOT in District 3. Here Nelson was tasked with keeping Iowa's roads clear for motorists; his responsibilities included ongoing snow removal and road repairs. Nelson retired in 1993 after 37 years of service.