



First District News

418 18th Avenue NE | PO BOX 1207 | Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: (605) 882-5115 | Fax: (605) 882-5049 | Web: <http://association.1stdistrict.org/>

January 2021	
Wellmark Grants Available	1
DOT Roadway Update	1
My Thoughts, Todd Kays	2
First District Welcomes New Staff	Insert
Revolving Loan Fund Terms	3
Governing Body	3
Funds Awarded	4
Upcoming Events	4

GO GREEN! If you would like the Newsletter emailed to you, please email suzie@1stdistrict.org

Wellmark Foundation Large and Small MATCH Grant Available

The Large MATCH grant application is now available. Large MATCH grant awards are up to a maximum request amount of \$100,000 for projects that will be successfully completed by December 2023. The grant must be matched dollar-for-dollar with cash or in-kind contributions. At least one-half of the matching support must be cash.

The Small MATCH grant application will be available in April. This grant is available for a maximum of \$25,000, and the project must be completed in one year. The grant must be matched at 50 percent with cash or in-kind contributions. At least one-half of the matching support must be cash.

For information regarding the Large MATCH grant and the Small MATCH grant, contact Greg Maag at greg@1stdistrict.org or call 882-5115.

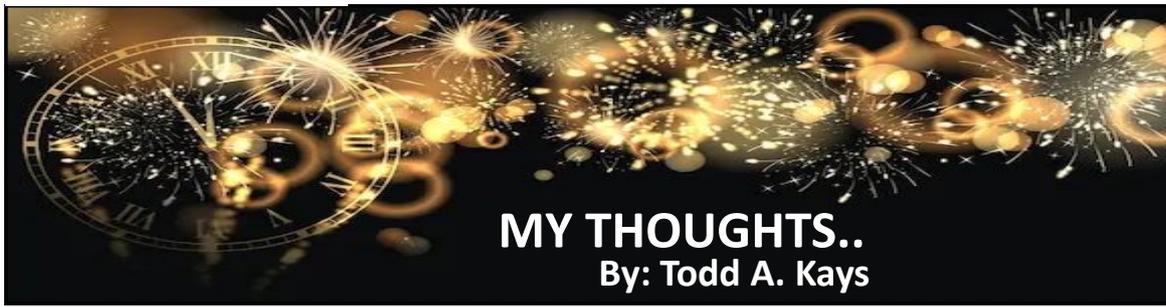
Annual DOT Roadway Update Getting Underway

Since 1995, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) in cooperation with the South Dakota Planning and Development Districts has been collecting city, county, township and federal roadway information using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. This information is utilized by the SDDOT for several purposes, including reporting mileage to the Federal Highway Administration and county auditors, as well as creating county and city maps.

Annually, on behalf of the SDDOT, First District staff contact individuals with jurisdiction over roads and ask for assistance in updating any changes in an effort to keep this roadway information current.

The assistance of county, city and township officials is critical to the accuracy and overall success of the SDDOT public road inventory. We believe that we will all benefit through this multi-agency cooperation.





MY THOUGHTS.. By: Todd A. Kays

2021 – You could not have gotten here any sooner. I will admit that I had several nice personal and professional highlights in 2020, but for the most part I just want to forget about last year. However, what I will not forget about is the more than 200 specific projects the District was involved with in the areas of planning, GIS, grant writing/project administration, small business finance and other community/economic development activities. We were fortunate to assist our members in obtaining over 15.4 million dollars in grants and 25 million dollars in low interest loans for various community and economic development projects. Since 2008 the First District has helped its members receive 86 million dollars in grants resulting in a return on investment of nearly \$28 for every dollar of membership dues paid.

Every year I like to take an opportunity to promote the First District Staff and remind our membership of the myriad of services that we have provided for more than 49 years. I am very grateful and proud of our team as they continue to provide a wide variety of technical services to our members with complete professionalism. Our 16 dedicated employees have over 200 combined years of experience working for our First District members. In addition, this year we had several important anniversaries – Ryan (25 years) and Jackie (20 years). Your staff 's expertise is in the following areas:

Planning for Community and Economic Development - The First District provides a large of variety of planning services including but not limited to Annexation Studies, Capital Improvement Plans, Utility Rate Analysis, Comprehensive Plans, Emergency Plans, Housing Needs Assessments, Policy Development, Special Purpose Ordinances, Strategic Planning, Tax Increment Financing and Zoning Ordinance Development. Your Community and Economic Development Planning contacts are Todd Kays, Luke Muller, Payton Carda and Adam Martin.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an important, inter-related component of all the services provided by the First District. Staff develops and maintains a wide variety of GIS data used for the creation of maps, policy development, project funding, GIS training and GIS webhosting. Your GIS contacts at the First District are Ryan Hartley, Darin Stein, Amy Arnold and Jackie Erickson.

Grant/Loan Application & Project Administration - One of the most common areas of assistance the First District provides to its members is identifying, acquiring, and administering funding sources for local community and economic development projects. Such projects range from sewer and water infrastructure to community facilities like community centers or fire halls. Your Grant/Loan Application and Project Administration contacts are Greg Maag and Christina Crouse.

Business Development - Our sister organization the First District Development Company is a Small Business Administration Certified Development Company which promotes economic development and job creation by providing long-term commercial loans. Your Business Development contacts are Paula Hulscher, Amy Waite, Shelby Kraemer, Brittany Rost and Samantha Jondahl.

Office Management - The person that directs the daily traffic and takes care of us is our Office Manager, Suzie Zirbel – who coincidentally will be celebrating her 5-year anniversary in 2021.

continued on page 3

First District Welcomes New Economic Development Officer

I'm Christina Crouse, previously Lovett (5th cousins to Lyle Lovett even! Which means I was once related to Julia Roberts, haha). I was born in California, my mom still lives there, and I try to go back at least once a year, but I was moved to Minnesota when I was in 5th grade. I went to Winona State University, where I acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. After college, I moved to Sioux Falls and joined the National Guard in South Dakota, becoming a member of the 147th Army Band. I joined as a flute player, but I also am the Unit's Public Affairs Representative as well as a sound and light technician for SGT Rock. Last year, I went on a deployment to Iraq with the 152nd CSSB, but I was able to go back to the band when I came back. I married into the Crouse family. If you go to Kranzburg for 4th of July, you may know of the clowns that partake in the parade every year (they do 5-6 parades every summer in various towns) but that is the Crouse Family, so I literally married a clown: Tim Crouse. We live on Lake Kampeska with our 4 dogs and 2 cats.

I look forward to working with the District members in the area of grant writing and project administration.



First District Welcomes GIS Intern

Hi, my name is Adam Martin, and I began as a Planning/GIS Intern at First District in October of 2020. Growing up, I split my time between Sioux Falls, SD, and Chandler, MN, while attending school at Murray County Central in Slayton, MN. After graduating from high school, I attended Dakota State University, obtaining an associate's degree in Business Management. After DSU, I decided to continue my post-secondary education at South Dakota State University majoring in Community and Regional Planning with a Land Use emphasis and a minor in Geographic Information Sciences; the current plan is to graduate with this degree by December of 2021. This degree has piqued my interest in becoming a city planner and allowed me to develop my cartography and land use analysis skills. In my coursework, I have worked on water management projects for the City of Waubay, as well as historic analysis, walkability, and traffic safety studies for the City of Brookings. During the first three months of my internship, I have worked on land use surveys for Grant and Lake Counties, as well as a series of zoning, existing land use, and future land use maps for the City of Milbank.

In my spare time, I live in Brookings with my cat, Boogie. I also judge high school speech tournaments and enjoy attending concerts and spending time with friends and family.



Before we get too far into the new year, here at the office we are continuing to be closed to the general public. Our members may schedule an appointment to meet face to face with staff. However, you will be required to wear a mask and accept established social distancing standards. Further, staff is not traveling and having face-to-face public/private interaction with the membership, unless absolutely necessary and Social Distancing guidelines are implemented. Hopefully, this all will change by late Spring and definitely by July when we plan on celebrating the District's 50th Anniversary and open house/picnic. Details will be in our next newsletter.

Reflecting upon 2020 and all we have gained and lost and having hope that the worse is behind us, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to give thanks. First, thank you to the staff for their hard work throughout the year. I was very proud of the way you adapted to the situation around us and found new ways to provide service to our members. Also, on behalf of the entire First District staff, we want to thank the membership for their continued support. It is always a privilege serving you.

So, as we look to this new year and think about what has happened; our boundless opportunities for growth; and the need to adapt and change; I leave you with my mantra for 2021 from one of my favorite lyricists - Neil Peart, "No changes are permanent, but change is."

First District Revolving Loan Funds – New Favorable Terms

First District has obtained an additional \$1.56 million in Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) assistance through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). These new loan funds (along with First District's current RLF funds of approximately \$2 million) are being offered at attractive terms to businesses in Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Moody, and Roberts. The revolving loan funds and favorable terms are the result of the mission of the CARES Act to alleviate the sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and to provide permanent resources to support economic resiliency.

Money can be used for:

- Land/Buildings
- New Construction
- Equipment
- Inventory/Working Capital

Loan terms will depend on use of funds (5-20 years) with an interest rate of 2.5%. Private lender participation may be required, depending on the financial condition of the borrower, the nature of the project, and the loan amount. These terms will expire in early 2022. Applicants will be considered under normal underwriting criteria. Contact Paula at paula@1stdistrict.org to discuss your project and to obtain a loan application.

Upcoming First District Meetings

The next First District Governing Body meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 25th at 5:00 p.m. Followed by a 50th Anniversary Open House/Picnic in July. More information to come!

