



# First District News

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## December 2022

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## 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.

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding for Disasters 4656 & 4664

South Dakota received a Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of June 2022 statewide severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding. Subsequently, approximately \$1,254,600 of funding is now available for local governments and certain private non-profit organizations to apply for hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of future disasters.

If you are interested in finding out more about the eligibility of mitigation projects or applying for these funds, please contact Greg or Christina at First District.

**The deadline for application submittal is March 8, 2023.**

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 2023 GOED Conference will be hosted from April 24 to April 25 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Visit <https://sdgoed.com/partners/2023-goed-conference/> for more information.





## MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



Wow. As I was reflecting over the past year, I realized that this will be my 30<sup>th</sup> Christmas working here at the District. I didn't see that in my Christmas stocking in 1993.

2022 was another busy year here at the First District. Staff was involved with more than 225 specific projects 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 **\$145.9 million** in grants and **\$261.9 million** in low interest loans for various community and economic development projects. Since 2008 the First District has helped its members receive **\$239.5 million** in grants resulting in a return on investment of nearly **\$65** for every dollar of membership dues paid.

Every year I like to take the opportunity to promote the First District Staff and remind our membership of the myriad of services that we have provided for more than 51 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 13 dedicated employees have over 178 combined years of experience working for our First District members. In addition, this year Greg Maag celebrated his 30-year anniversary with the First District. Your staff 's expertise is in the following areas:

**Planning for Community and Economic Development** - The First District provides a large 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, and Payton Carda.

**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 Levi Jayom.

**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 Amy Waite, Shelby Kraemer, and Brittany Rost.

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**Office Management** - Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention our Office Manager, Suzie Zirbel. Suzie directs the daily traffic, takes care of us and keeps the operation of the office moving smoothly.

As you are thinking about your upcoming 2023 projects that involve the expertise listed above, just remember to give us a call.

In closing, I want to recognize those Governing Body members who will not be returning to the Board in 2023. (Fred Weekes–Aurora, Marshall Dennert–Madison, Dick Reints–Clark County, Aaron Johnson–Lake County, Kari Jo Carlson–Miner County, and especially Brenda Hanten–Codington County). I have appreciated your service and guidance over the years.

Although this last year we had to deal with Covid waning (but still around), the economy and inflation, and another period of election year torment, I still wanted to reflect on all of the positives in my life (personally and professionally). In doing so I had to ask myself why is it that when reflecting on any given year, it always seems that work is at the forefront? In reality, shouldn't we be focusing on what is truly important – family, friends, relationships and maybe another dozen things that aren't always work-centric?

For those of you that know me well, you know that music has consumed a large share of my life and identity and when I am looking for solace, purpose or direction, I find it in song. Last year my mantra was "thankful", and as I approach my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the District, I look to song to find this year's mantra and it is "hope". With that I leave you with a few words from John Rzezniak, "And you ask me what I want this year, And I try to make this kind and clear, Just a chance that maybe we'll find better days."

On behalf of the entire First District staff, we want to thank the Governing Body and our membership for their continued support. It truly has been a privilege serving you and we look forward to a prosperous new year. Merry Christmas!!

## Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning

For the past year, the First District has worked with Codington and Lake County in the development of their Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). The PDM Plan serves as a strategic planning tool for use by the counties and communities in efforts to mitigate the impacts of future disaster events.

In order to be the recipient of certain FEMA funding, counties are required to develop a PDM plan, review it annually, and complete a comprehensive update every 5 years.

The First District is pleased to announce that it was successful in assisting Clark, Miner, and Roberts Counties in acquiring grant funds for those entities to update their PDM plans. The planning process for those counties will begin in January 2023.



**Pre-Disaster Mitigation**

**First District  
Governing Body Officers**

Brenda Hanten.....Acting Secretary  
 Codrington County Commissioner

Gary Jaeger.....Chairperson  
 Deuel County Commissioner

Mike Bartley.....Vice Chairperson  
 Brookings County Commissioner

Todd A. Kays.....Executive Director

# Upcoming Dates

**December 23, 26**—Christmas, Office Closed

**January 2**—New Years Day, Office Closed

**January 16**—MLK Day, Office Closed

**February 20**—Presidents’ Day, Office Closed

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS OFFICE MAY BE PRIOR TO DEADLINES LISTED HERE. CONTACT GREG OR CHRISTINA.**

**March 8**—Deadlines for FEMA-HMGP Applications

**April 30, July 31, Oct. 31, & Jan. 31**—Deadlines for Local Infrastructure Improvement Program

**April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, & Jan. 1**—Deadlines for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Applications

**April 1 & Oct. 1**—Deadlines for CDBG Applications

**May 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, & Feb. 1**—Deadlines for State Water Plan (SWP) Applications

## FUNDS AWARDED

**LWCF Grant**—Egan - \$23,620, Watertown - \$71,485

**Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grants**—  
Clark County - \$14,625, Miner County - \$13,068.25, Roberts  
County - \$14,310

**Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness**—Clark County -  
\$4,000; Deuel County - \$4,000

**Economic Development Administration Grant**—Watertown -  
\$1,100,000; SDSU \$1,900,000

**ARPA Grant**—Watertown - \$400,000