



First District News

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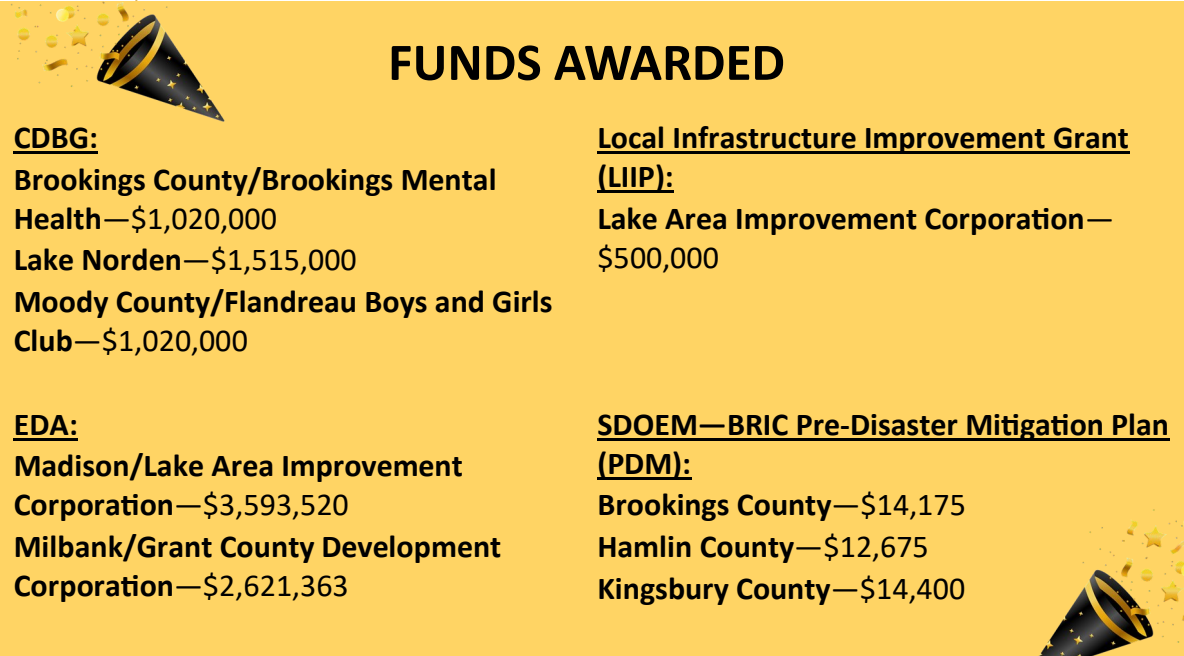
Annual DOT Roadway Update Getting Underway

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 contacts individuals with jurisdiction over roads and ask for assistance in updating any changes in an effort to keep 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 we all benefit through this multi-agency cooperation.



FUNDS AWARDED

<p><u>CDBG:</u> Brookings County/Brookings Mental Health—\$1,020,000 Lake Norden—\$1,515,000 Moody County/Flandreau Boys and Girls Club—\$1,020,000</p> <p><u>EDA:</u> Madison/Lake Area Improvement Corporation—\$3,593,520 Milbank/Grant County Development Corporation—\$2,621,363</p>	<p><u>Local Infrastructure Improvement Grant (LIIP):</u> Lake Area Improvement Corporation—\$500,000</p> <p><u>SDOEM—BRIC Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM):</u> Brookings County—\$14,175 Hamlin County—\$12,675 Kingsbury County—\$14,400</p>
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MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



2023 was another busy year here at the First District. Staff were 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 **\$19.9 million** in grants and **\$61.9 million** in low interest loans for various community and economic development projects. Since 2008 the First District has helped its members receive **\$260.9 million** in grants resulting in a return on investment of **\$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 we have provided for more than 52 years. I am grateful and proud of our team as they continue to provide a wide variety of technical services to our members with complete professionalism. Our 12 dedicated employees have over 144 combined years of experience working for our First District members. In addition, in 2023 year we had several important anniversaries – Amy Arnold (15 years), Luke Muller (15 years), Darin Stein (25 years) and yours truly, Todd Kays (30 years). Your staffs 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, and Jessica Tesch.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an important, interrelated component of all the services provided by 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 First District are Ryan Hartley, Darin Stein, Amy Arnold, and Kelli Henricks.

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 Alex Kahnke and Mason Weidenbach.

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 and Michelle Redfield.

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.

So, as you are thinking about your upcoming 2024 projects that involve the expertise listed above, 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 2024 and thank them for their service to this organization. Glen Villhauer (Codington County Municipal Representative) and Jason Aho (Hamlin County Municipal Representative).

Throughout 2023, my newsletters were always talking about change here at the office. We were adapting to new programs, projects, and specifically, personnel not only our staff but new state, county and city elected officials and their respective staff. Sometimes it felt a little bit like speed dating. I was glad my 2023 mantra was “hope”, as I was constantly hoping for better days. Ha. In retrospect, things were better at the end of 2023 than they were at the beginning of the year. We experienced personal, professional, and organizational growth which was due primarily to the people working here in the district and our membership. We learned to be more adaptive, flexible, and most importantly, patient. So, as I look to 2024, my two most recent annual mantras of “thankful” and “hope” have evolved into 2024’s mantra of “believe”. Believing in myself, this organization, and others will guide me through the next year. As always, I leave you with a few words for the new year to reflect upon. These come from my favorite lyricist, Neal Peart.

“Hold your fire; Keep it burning bright; Hold the flame; 'Til the dream ignites; A spirit with a vision; Is a dream with a mission.”

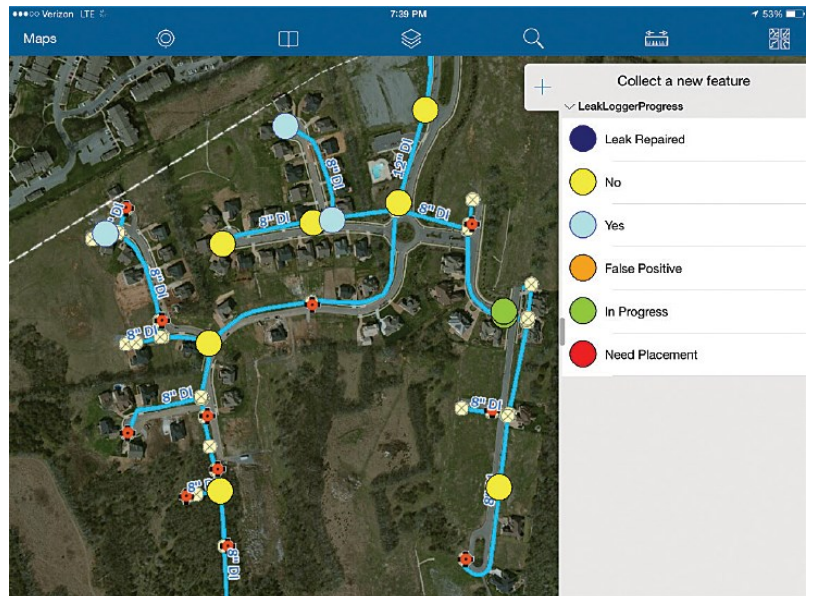
On behalf of the entire First District staff, we want to thank the Governing Body and our membership for their continued support. It truly has been a privilege to serve you and we look forward to a prosperous New Year.

Community Utilities Data Viewing and Collecting with First District GIS

First District is working with communities in our region to develop utilities data (water, sewer, sanitary sewer, power, gas, etc.) to improve record keeping and location of these services. Through our long-standing partnership with our GIS software provider ESRI, the District can digitize these services into layers, or convert them from AutoCAD.

These utilities layers can then be used in conjunction with other GIS data (streets, land ownership parcels, zoning districts). The digital maps are pushed out to city employee mobile devices for quick access through our secure web hosting portal, providing them with the most current data, and reducing the need for paper maps in the field. City workers can even collect new information or make updates to existing features using their own GPS-enabled hand-held devices such as cell phones or Trimble units.

First District is happy to provide this service to our members at rates not being offered by other GIS providers.



If you are interested, please contact Ryan Hartley at 605-882-5115 or ryan@1stdistrict.org.

**First District
Governing Body Officers**

Mike Bartley.....Chairperson
 Brookings County Commissioner

Gary Jaeger.....Vice Chairperson
 Deuel County

Myron Johnson.....Secretary
 Codington County Commissioner

Todd A. Kays.....Executive Director

Upcoming Dates

January 15—Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed

February 19—Presidents’ Day, Office Closed

April 25—Governing Body, First District Office

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS OFFICE MAY BE PRIOR TO DEADLINES LISTED HERE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE.

October 15—Bridge Improvement Plan Deadline

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

Governing Body Meeting

WHEN: April 25, 2024 at noon

WHERE: First District Office

Agendas will be mailed out soon!

