



First District News

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FUNDS AWARDED

EDA: City of Watertown \$2.5 million

FEMA BRIC Grant: Grant County \$15,637; Moody County \$14,175

SDDANR CWFCP Grant: White \$1,724,000

SDDANR CWSRF: Bryant \$1,240,000 loan; Garden City \$488,000 loan with \$187,000 principal forgiveness; White \$1,105,000 loan

SDDANR DWSRF: Bryant \$1,314,000 loan with \$1,035,000 principal forgiveness; Grant Roberts Rural Water System \$8,300,000 with \$8,300,000 principal forgiveness; White \$1,452,000 loan with \$700,000 principal forgiveness

SDDANR Small Community Planning Grant: Big Stone City \$18,000; Toronto \$18,000

SDDANR Solid Waste Management Grant: \$68,000

SDDOT TAP Grant: Milbank \$298,042

First District Assisting with Pre-Disaster Plans

For the past year, the First District has worked with Brookings, Clark, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Miner, and Roberts counties in the development of their Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans (PDM). The PDM serves as a strategic planning tool for use by counties and communities in efforts to mitigate future natural disaster events.

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

The District is pleased to announce that it was successful in assisting Grant County and Moody County in acquiring grant funds to assist those entities with the development of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation plans. The planning process for those two counties started last month.



MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



Well its April and winter is giving us one more reminder that we live in South Dakota where it can be 70 degrees on Friday and four inches of snow on Saturday. One thing about April is that you can now see the legislative session in the rearview mirror. Similar to previous years, the legislature dealt with legislation that has some level of impact on local units of government. The following is a recap of some of those bills related to planning, economic development and local government.

SB 98. This bill was a simple act to update references from the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) to the 2024 code. This usually occurs every three years. Counties and municipalities are not required to adopt the IBC, but if they do, the State establishes which code is to be adopted. The bill was sent to the 41st legislative day (defeated) because it conflicted with SDCL 11-10-13 which required a “working group” to review the most current IBC code prior to legislative adoption change. That did not occur in 2024.

HB 1261. This bill was introduced to provide certainty in the development process (County Zoning). Counties have sole authority for issuing zoning permits in the unincorporated areas of a county. Some of the uses associated with those zoning permits often need to utilize township and municipal rights-of-way. The bill provided permissive language, which if adopted by a county, would grant specific authority to a county, after adopting an amendment to its zoning regulations, to allow for the use of “non-county” rights-of-way for a related county-issued zoning permit. For example, a manure drag line utilized by a CAFO with a county zoning permit in a township right-of-way. The bill would require two notices to township and municipalities prior to the issuance of a zoning permit. The bill passed the House but was defeated on the Senate floor.

HB 1052. There were six different bills that dealt with the issue of Eminent Domain. However, only HB 1052 was passed and signed by the Governor. The one sentence bill eliminated the ability to use of Eminent Domain in obtaining right-of-way for transporting carbon oxide. This bill was signed by the Governor.

HB 1132. This would have created a program to provide a workforce childcare benefit to eligible childcare workers. The bill passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor.

HB 1157. For those counties that enforce a drainage ordinance, counties can now charge up to \$500 for a drainage permit (was only \$100). This bill was signed by the Governor.

SB 84. This bill extended the time frame for county commissioners to appoint a person to fill a vacancy on the county commission. The new law provides the board with 35 days to fill the vacancy. This bill was signed by the Governor.

HB 1219. This bill would have required county governments to contract with any person or political subdivision for the provision of ambulance services within its jurisdiction. This bill was sent to the 41st day.

HB 1087 This would have set up a process to recall a county commissioner. This bill would was sent to the 41st day.

SB 97. This bill would allow for governing body of a first or second class municipality, by ordinance, to authorize a change in the use of municipally owned park land. This may only be authorized if the land is to be used for a public purpose. This bill was signed by the Governor.

HB 1218. This bill removed the ability for counties and municipalities to prohibit or restrict an individual who is a city or county employee, officer, or volunteer, from lawfully possessing any concealed firearm and compatible ammunition, while the individual is within any township building, facility, or vehicle, or while on any real property, owned or leased by the township. This bill was signed by the Governor.

If the winter of 2024/2025 is any indication of global warming, I am okay with it. Weather was good for traveling to meetings and we didn't have a snow day until last week. There are several important events happening between now and fall. Please mark your calendar with the following dates: April 24th (Governing Body Meeting), June 25th (SDDOT STIP meeting) and September 25th (Governing Body/Annual picnic). Have a great Spring!

DOT Maps Due

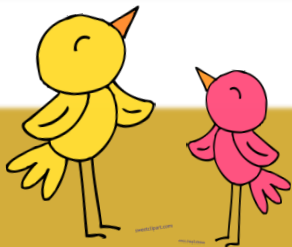
Since 1995, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) in cooperation with the South Dakota Planning and Development Districts has been collecting city, county, township, road district, tribal, state, and federal roadway information using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. This information 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.



On behalf of the SDDOT, First District staff mailed maps to individuals with jurisdiction over roads and asked for assistance in updating any changes in an effort to keep this roadway information current.

We encourage everyone who received a map to return their maps to First District by April 19th even if there have been no changes.

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



First District Governing Body Meeting

The next First District Governing Body meeting with lunch provided will be on Thursday, April 24th at 12 p.m. at our office located at 418 18th Ave NE, Watertown. Agendas will be mailed at a later date.

**First District
Governing Body Officers**

Mike Bartley.....Chairperson
Brookings County At-Large
Gary Jaeger.....Vice Chairperson
Deuel County At-Large
Myron Johnson.....Secretary
Codington County Commissioner
Todd A. Kays.....Executive Director

Upcoming Events

April 18, 21—Easter, Office Closed

April 24—Governing Body Meeting

May 26—Memorial Day, Office Closed

June 19—Juneteenth, Office Closed

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

STIP Meeting

On June 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., representatives from the SD Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will be in the First District Office to give a preliminary look at the 2026-2029 tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Agendas will be sent out to the auditor at a later date.

