

Retirees



Sharon S. Day
35 Years of Service
Fleet Analyst



Bonnita F. McBroom
35 Years of Service
District Permits
Administrator



Glenda P. Faircloth
34 Years of Service
Purchasing Agent



James B. Kent
24 Years of Service
Project Management
Surveyor



James M. Kapinos
15 Years of Service
District Drainage Design
Engineer



George D. Holland
13 Years of Service
Transportation Planner



Emory R. Estes Jr.
8 Years of Service
Senior Land Title Specialist

YEARS OF SERVICE

Thirty Years

Stephen J. Benak, Materials & Research
David E. Bradford, Construction

Twenty Years

Michael S. Horton, Midway Operations
Sandra S. Moody, Midway Operations
Maria E. Townsend, Milton Operations
Michael K. Wittkopf, Panama City Operations

Fifteen Years

Billy J. Best, Roadway Design
Mathew D. Cook, Materials & Research
Emily R. Dodson, Procurement Services
John C. Duncan, Roadway Design
Jack D. Harrison, Construction
Anthony L. Mosier, Materials & Research
Eric J. White, Roadway Design

Ten Years

Jonathan D. Harris, Roadway Design
Howard A. Helms, Roadway Design
Jared W. Perdue, Traffic Operations
Kimberly A. Smith, Program Management

Five Years

Thomas M. Bush, Facilities Management
Rodney G. Chamberlain, Bridge Inspection
Marilyn M. Durrance, Procurement Services
Benjamin A. Harris, Milton Operations
Larry J. Holland, Milton Operations
Jason E. Holley, Ponce de Leon Operations
Vickie M. Kent, Program Management
John R. Laird, Ponce de Leon Operations
Teresa M. Shumaker, Roadway Design
Glen E. Turner, Milton Operations
David A. Vaughan, Midway Operations
James A. Walsingham, Facilities Management

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FDOT DISTRICT 3 UPDATE

District Three Employee Newsletter

JANUARY-MARCH 2014



FLORIDA PANHANDLE FROZEN

JANUARY 28 - JANUARY 30



See story on page 3

New, Not So New, and Applause



Miranda Glass, P.E. is the new District Drainage Engineer. Miranda is a civil engineering graduate from the Florida State University College of Engineering. She draws from over 11 years of experience in hydraulics, roadway and traffic design, and quality control as a Drainage Engineer, the District Roadway Design Engineer, and in the private sector.



Joshua (Josh) Riley, P.E. is the new Assistant Operations Engineer (Construction) at Ponce de Leon Operations. He is a civil engineering graduate from Florida State University. Josh brings over eight years of experience in road and bridge construction.



Cessna Melvin is the district's newest intern. The program allows students an exciting insider's view of the transportation industry and an opportunity to develop skills and techniques directly applicable to their professional development. Cessna is a student at Florida State University.

Dear FDOT:

I just completed a cross country trip from California to Palm Harbor, Florida. I would like to compliment the State of Florida on the condition of their highways. The roads were very smooth and the transitions onto the bridges were very level. The lack of litter was very evident and you can see that you try very hard to keep wild animals off the roadways. I also feel that you have the speed limit right, not too fast and not too slow. I enjoyed my trip through Florida very much.

Thank you,
Jerry Foster

Dear FDOT,

I'll appreciate it if you will share this article with those at FDOT. Although the article doesn't mention the FDOT experience; the video was produced with FDOT participation in the Summer Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program July 2013. The video is a feature story for Florida's STEM experiences and can be found on the United States Department of Education's website <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/progress/2013/12/bringing-stem-to-rural-scholars-in-florida/>. Thanks so much to you for working on the regional advisory board and to the entire FDOT team for providing this experience which is recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Regards,
Brenda Crouch, FloridaLearns Academy Consultant
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium

You voted and now the department has a new look. Secretary Prasad released the new FDOT logo December 2013. The transition to the new logo is a slow conversion that should not incur additional cost or waste. You can find the logo along with some additional resources at the following location <http://cosharepoint.dot.state.fl.us/sites/PIO/Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.



Employee's Thoughts



Now that Northwest Florida is thawing and summer is on the horizon; here is how some of your co-workers plan to enjoy the warmer weather.



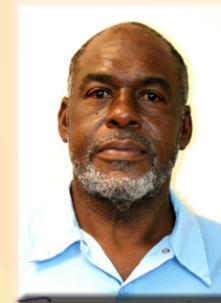
I plan to enjoy the warm weather with my friends and family as much as possible. You may see me at the beach, at the pool, at the park, on the lake, or maybe even mountain biking. Hopefully I'll catch a few fish along the way, and keep my new bait-caster reel untangled.

Jeff Kerwin,
Midway Operations



I plan to spend time camping, hunting, and enjoying my grandkids.

Edward Balliet,
Marianna Operation



Well, since the weather has warmed up a lot recently, I am going to slow down a little at FDOT (I'm approaching retirement) and at home with my honey do's. I am going to get my bream busters, my wife and my grandkids and do some serious fishing.

Tony Smith,
Ponce de Leon Operations



Who wasn't enjoying the cold weather? This spring, I am looking forward to working around the house with my new husband and exploring the woods and dirt roads with my daughter at our new home with him.

Natalie Nelson,
District Office



I will probably be getting outside a lot more, working in the yard, maybe going fishing, just enjoying the outdoors.

Doug Carlisle,
District Office



I am going to enjoy watching my son pitch for the Mosley High School baseball team and my daughter cheer as she closes out her final year of middle school. I am also looking forward to my new role as umpire for the Lynn Haven Recreational Sports Complex during this baseball /softball season.

Mike Wittkopf,
Panama City Operations



Warm weather for me is what Florida is all about. I plan on spending a lot of time at the beach with family and friends, lounging around the pool and lots of yard work. This is the perfect time of year.

Rhonda Root,
Milton Operations



Sick Leave Pool Open Enrollment is around the corner, from July 1 to July 31, 2014. Start saving your leave now. This will be a great time to join if you have missed your chance or changed your mind without the required doctor's statement.

Same Requirements Apply:

1. Assigned to District Three and not have another sick leave pool available to you.
2. You have been an employee of the state for over a year.
3. You have over 64 hours of sick leave.
4. And you are able to donate eight hours of sick leave to the pool.

The enrollment form should be completed and submitted before the end of open enrollment. Once your application has been approved

by the committee, you will be notified and the eight hours of sick leave will be transferred from your account to the district Sick Leave Pool.

You can find the enrollment form and valuable info on our website: <http://dotsd3cpweb01.d3.dot.state.fl.us/Resources/sickleavepool.htm>

REMEMBER – The Sick Leave Pool is a “Last Resort” type of assistance to be utilized after Employee Leave and Donated Leave is exhausted. Contact Aixa Corbitt at (850) 330-1458 for further information.

It's ITP Time

The annual Individual Training Plan (ITP) process will end Friday, April 11. There is a new course catalog for District Three this year as well as an automated ITP form. The catalog has been categorized to make courses easier to find with required courses listed at the top. Once you complete and print your ITP and all signatures have been obtained, please make sure to forward it to your Unit Training Coordinator (UTC) for entry into TRESS.



Everyone is encouraged to make sure to list all courses on your ITP that you need or would like to take. The more requests received for a course, the better chances of delivered training to our employees. If you have any questions or need assistance in using the new form, please do not hesitate to contact your UTC or Doug Salter, District Three Training Manager at (850) 330-1376.

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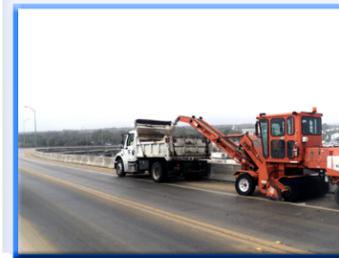
The Ice Team

I guess you could say that District Three has seen some extreme weather conditions, but who would have guessed a wintery mix in January 2014. Believe it or not, photographs can not tell the story of how each employee in District Three rose to its newest challenge - ice.

It is no secret that our engineers, emergency team and employees can help author a book on hurricane preparation, recovery and cleanup. In the past, we added a few lines to wildfire and drought sections and most recently a few chapters to the flooding manuals. After dealing with the recent winter storm that froze over bridges and roadways, causing Interstate 10 and several arterial routes to remain closed for twenty-four hours; we are leading the way by writing a new chapter on ice storms. Each employee played a part in writing and facilitating a successful event.

In a personal note to all employees, District Emergency Command Officer Mark Thomas wrote, "I wanted to thank each person that participated during the recent weather related events over the past couple of days. Even if you were not directly assigned emergency duties, you were involved. You were involved in making sure the department functioned at a high level in the absence of those assigned specific storm related duties. This event highlights the decision to make all District Three personnel essential during emergency events and reinforces the need to keep our offices open even when other state offices may have been given permission to close for a day. The district is successful only because of the dedication of its employees day in and day out. We may be few in numbers but mountainous on accomplishments. Thank you for your accomplishments during this event."

As a district we worked tirelessly to draft a plan, assemble players, equipment and material to conquer the fast moving storm. Upon reaching the western border of the state, the storm quickly swept through all sixteen counties. District three executed the plan with minor improvisations. Roads and bridges were open, new equipment was added to the fleet, and valuable data documents were created to assist in preparation for future extreme weather related events.



U.S. 331 is Connecting Communities



U.S. 331 Ground Breaking Ceremony, Sec. Tommy Barfield (far left), Secretary Prasad 3rd. from left and Senate President Gaetz 4th. from left.

Multi-laning on U.S. 331 in south Walton County is underway. In December 2013, Secretary Prasad, Senate President Don Gaetz, and District Secretary Barfield joined local officials in celebrating the start of work on the sister structure to the Clyde B. Wells Bridge over Choctawhatchee Bay. Senator Gaetz and Secretary Prasad both spoke on the importance of mobility in the area and how the project will improve hurricane evacuation and economic growth for the region. The new \$118.5 million bridge east of the current Clyde B. Wells Bridge will feature two northbound travel lanes with accompanying shoulders. The new bridge is scheduled to be ready for traffic in summer 2015, with final completion of the project set for a year later. Upon completion of the new bridge, the current structure will be used exclusively for two lanes of southbound traffic. In addition to the new bridge, a dedicated park and recreation area will be built beneath the southern approach. Additional U.S. 331 expansion projects include a \$47 million design-build project which extends from north of State Road (S.R.) 20 to I-10. Construction began fall 2014 with completion scheduled for summer 2016. The 4.6-mile section of U.S. 331 from the north end of the Clyde B. Wells Bridge to south of S.R. 20 began in September 2012 and is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.



Artist rendering of future park and recreation area.

All U.S. 331 projects are part of a continuing effort by the department to improve safety along the hurricane evacuation route, ease congestion along the corridor from U.S. 98 to I-10 and encourage economic development opportunities in Walton County. More information will be available via [facebook.com/USHighway331](https://www.facebook.com/USHighway331). Dennis Thomason and Bill Timpner are the FDOT project managers.

Safety and Leon County CTST host 600



Kate Sullivan Elementary held their first Health Fair in February 2014. District Three Safety worked with the school, the Leon County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), and the Leon County EMS to set up the "Bike Rodeo/Health Fair". The Health Fair's purpose was to educate children on the importance of healthy food choices, health safety and prevention, and physical activity. The "Bike Rodeo" is a hands on approach intended to teach children how to operate a bicycle safely and the proper way to wear a bike helmet. Over 600 children participated, were fitted with helmets, and learned proper bicycle maintenance, obstacle avoidance and the rules of the road.

FROM THE SECRETARY

On January 29, Governor Rick Scott presented his \$8.8 billion "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget." A key component of the budget is strategic transportation improvements throughout the state. This new budget will fully fund the Florida Department of Transportation's Work Program and continue vital investments in port, construction, bridge and other transportation infrastructure improvements.

Gov. Scott and FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad have stressed that investment in transportation is essential to the growth of Florida. Every project in District Three is essential to Florida's growth. In the short-term, transportation projects create construction jobs, and long-term they'll improve capacity by moving commerce and commuters for years to come. I am certainly appreciative of the Governor and the Secretary making transportation in Northwest Florida a priority.



Tommy Barfield
District Secretary

The budget makes the following investments:

- \$3.8 billion for construction of highway projects
- \$138.9 million in seaport infrastructure improvements
- \$324.6 million for aviation improvements
- \$192.5 million for scheduled repair of 51 bridges and replacement of 15 bridges
- \$843.3 million for maintenance and operation
- \$528 million for public transit development grants
- \$134.3 million for safety initiatives

Some of the investments Gov. Scott highlighted in District Three include \$50.1 million to add lanes and reconstruct I-10 in Escambia County and \$14 million in airport expansion projects to support the establishment of ST Aerospace, a major maintenance, repair and overhaul service provider at the Pensacola International Airport. This will service large aircraft such as Boeing and create 300 new jobs over the next few years.

We have many ambitious projects slated for the third district in our work program this year, and I know each of you is prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead. Every employee plays a valuable role in the Governor's and FDOT's mission to provide an effective, safe, well-maintained and continually improved transportation system.

I encourage you to look over the Governor's It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget for FY 2014-2015 online at www.FLItsYourMoney.com.

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