

MARCH 2009

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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

You have likely heard about the federal stimulus that Congress passed. The official name is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and Iowa will receive about \$395 million in additional formula transportation dollars, \$358.2 million for highways and \$36.5 million for transit systems. We will also have the opportunity to apply for additional funds in some competitive grant programs.

An early mentor told me “there is nothing harder than spending money.” At the time, I thought he didn’t know what he was talking about, but now I understand what he meant. Money comes with restrictions and requirements, there are often differing views about how to spend it and it almost always involves more work. The ARRA funds are no exception.

Don’t get me wrong; we’re delighted to accept the ARRA funds coming to Iowa for transportation. Of the \$358 million in highway funding, \$120 million is being suballocated to local governments with the remaining \$238 million being spent by us. With some money being put to trail projects, and a small amount set aside potentially for rail, the Iowa DOT has about \$228 million to spend on roads and bridges. We were already on track to contract for about \$490 million in highway work this year, so with the stimulus funds we will be letting a total of \$718 million this year, nearly a 50 percent increase! This is certainly a new record for Iowa DOT!!

The ARRA requires that 50 percent of the highway funding be obligated within 120 days, or by early July, with the rest obligated within one year. All of this urgency is because ARRA is not a bill about transportation – it’s about jobs and the economy. The whole focus of transportation funds in ARRA is to get the money working quickly so that it can boost our lagging economy. This meant we needed to look for projects that could be ready quickly and could hopefully be completed in one construction season.

As a result, the types of highway projects advanced because of ARRA are predominantly ones that improve the surface – overlays, inlays or reconstruction – of existing roadways. These are projects that could be quickly advanced because they don’t require significant environmental work, complicated design or purchase of right-of-way. Throw in some bridge work and some other miscellaneous work and Iowans will see some very meaningful highway and bridge work completed as a result of the ARRA funds.

In some instances, the ARRA funds were used on projects already in the letting queue to assure we would meet the 50-percent-obligated-in-120-days requirement. In those instances, the state or federal funds originally planned to fund those projects will now fund other projects that are being moved up to 2009 in the program. The bottom line is that Iowa DOT will obligate an additional \$228 million worth of highway projects this year as a result of ARRA.

Iowa also was required to use some of the highway funds for transportation enhancements projects, the most common of which is trails. The locals and Iowa DOT have identified about two dozen trail projects funded with just more than \$12 million in ARRA funds. Finally, Iowa received about \$36.5 million in transit formula funds which are being used to purchase new buses and make facility improvements for Iowa’s 35 public transit systems. These investments will also result in tremendous improvements to our trail system and public transit services across the state.

While there are no automatic formula funds for passenger and freight rail or airports, there are opportunities in ARRA to apply for funds through some competitive grants that are funded by the Act. We intend to seek funds for all three through these programs and are optimistic about our chances of bringing some additional ARRA transportation funds to Iowa.

Let me close by telling you about two efforts we launched this week to help us administer ARRA funds. The first is a Web site where we will post everything there is to know about ARRA transportation funds coming to Iowa – how much, for what purposes, requirements and restrictions, funding decisions, project lists, and status on projects until completion. You can find the Web site at www.iowadot.gov/recovery or by going to the official Iowa DOT Web site and clicking on the ARRA logo in the upper right hand corner.

We also created a DOT work group to oversee our ARRA implementation. This team will track our activities to assure we meet all deadlines, follow all rules, submit all required reports (and there are a lot of them) and keep the public informed of all that we do and the benefits Iowa gained. John Adam from the Highway Division, and Dan Franklin from the Operations and Finance Division are co-chairing the work group. Their first task is to come up with a name for the work group that is at least as clever as the Federal Highway Administration’s “Tiger Team.” Any ideas?

With all these additional funds comes extra work for many of our offices and employees. But, it will be worth it when we see the fruits of our labor – a much improved transportation system and a boost to Iowa’s economy. Thank you to all of you doing extra duty to help us maximize the benefits of ARRA funds for Iowans.

Nancy

Mr. Smyth goes to Washington



It was a whirling couple of weeks in January for Scott Smyth, electrician in the Grimes garage and sergeant first class in the Iowa National Guard.

Members of Smyth's Marshall-town-based unit found out Jan. 11 they were selected to be part of the security forces for President Barak Obama's inauguration in Washington, D.C. Smyth said, "We received our orders Jan. 11, went to Camp Dodge in Johnston to do paperwork Jan. 14 and flew out on an Air Force C-13 Jan. 18. All 1,000 or so Iowa troops bunked down in a closed elementary school, but besides the restroom facilities being child-sized, it wasn't bad."

Once in D.C., Smyth and his unit were deputized as Inauguration 2009 Washington D.C. Special Police. "The swearing in was just like you would see in

an old Western movie," said Smyth. "A bunch of people lined up, raising their right hands, reciting an oath and then receiving a special badge to signify their new responsibilities."

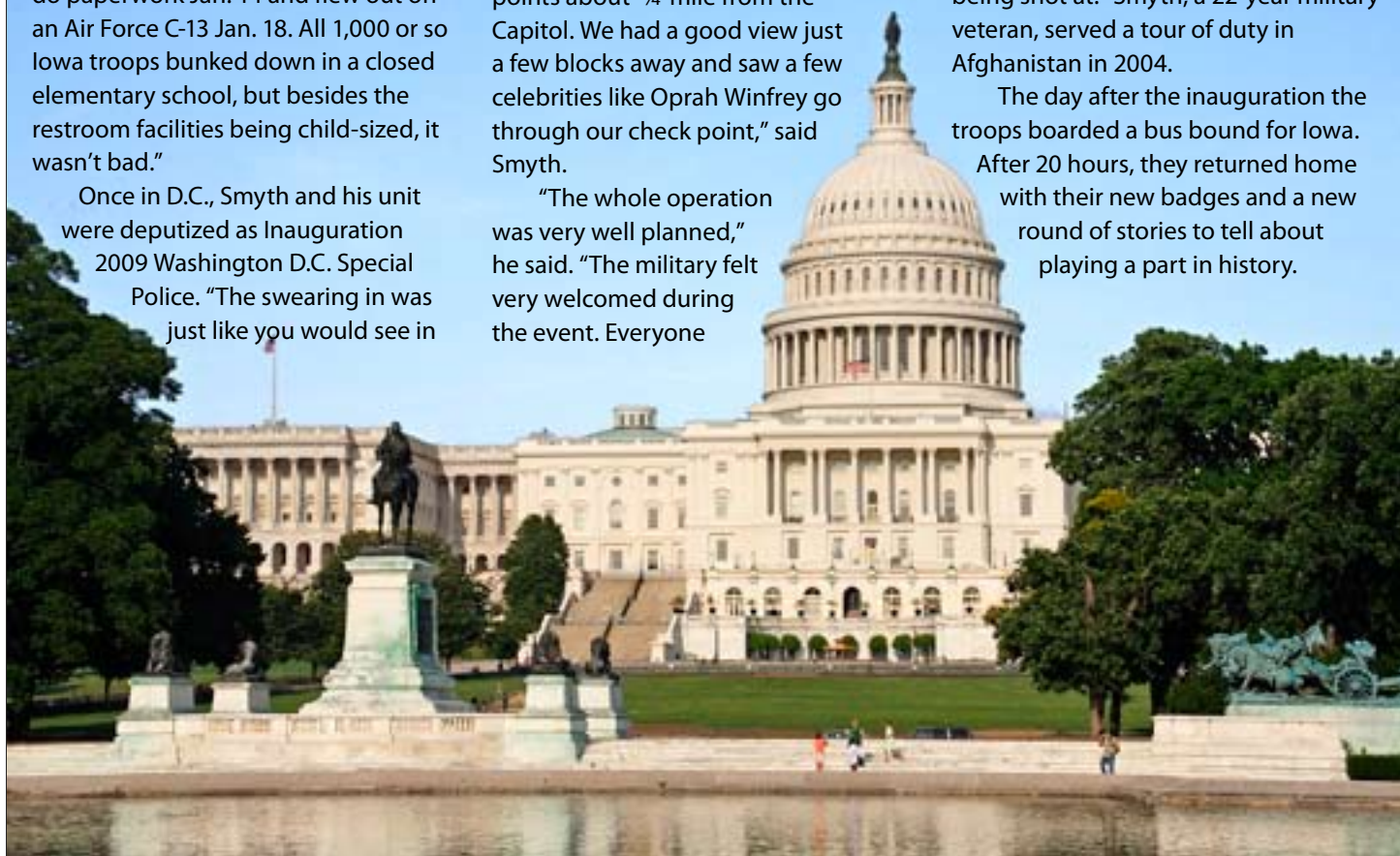
With the platoon Smyth leads duly sworn, their duties included traffic control, road closures and public safety. "Our group was in charge of five check points about ¾-mile from the Capitol. We had a good view just a few blocks away and saw a few celebrities like Oprah Winfrey go through our check point," said Smyth.

"The whole operation was very well planned," he said. "The military felt very welcomed during the event. Everyone

SFC Scott Smyth (second from the left) with members of his platoon in front of the U.S. Capitol building, site of the inauguration of President Barak Obama.

wanted a picture taken with a member of the military. It was amazing to be part of history, and to work a mission where you don't have to worry about being shot at." Smyth, a 22-year military veteran, served a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2004.

The day after the inauguration the troops boarded a bus bound for Iowa. After 20 hours, they returned home with their new badges and a new round of stories to tell about playing a part in history.





The 45th Annual Concrete Paving Workshop was held Feb. 4-6 in Des Moines. Five Iowa DOT projects received awards at the "Blue Ribbon" awards banquet Feb. 5.

Special Recognition Awards



Interstate projects category

I-80, Cass County – I-80 and U.S. 71 interchange

(Left to right) Kenny Alexander, Manatt's Inc.; Mitchell J. Dillavou, Iowa DOT, Engineering Bureau; Tom Lynam, Iowa DOT, Creston construction

Concrete pavement rehabilitation category

Iowa 13 in Clayton County – Strawberry Point north to Elkader

(Left to right) Ron Loecher, Iowa DOT, New Hampton construction; Mitchell J. Dillavou, Iowa DOT, Engineering Bureau; Mark Rhinehard, Iowa Erosion Control Inc.



Excellence in Concrete Paving Awards



Divided highways category

U.S. 34, Jefferson County – Fairfield bypass

(Left to right) Jeff Johnson, Iowa DOT, Mount Pleasant construction; Allen Munsterman, Snyder and Associates; Mitchell J. Dillavou, Iowa DOT, Engineering Bureau; Gary Hoffman, Flynn Company Inc.



State projects category

U.S. 34, Union County – west corporate limits of Creston east to Cedar Street

(Left to right); Gary Forristall, Cedar Valley Corp.; Mitchell J. Dillavou, Iowa DOT, Engineering Bureau; Lee Shepard, Iowa DOT, Creston construction

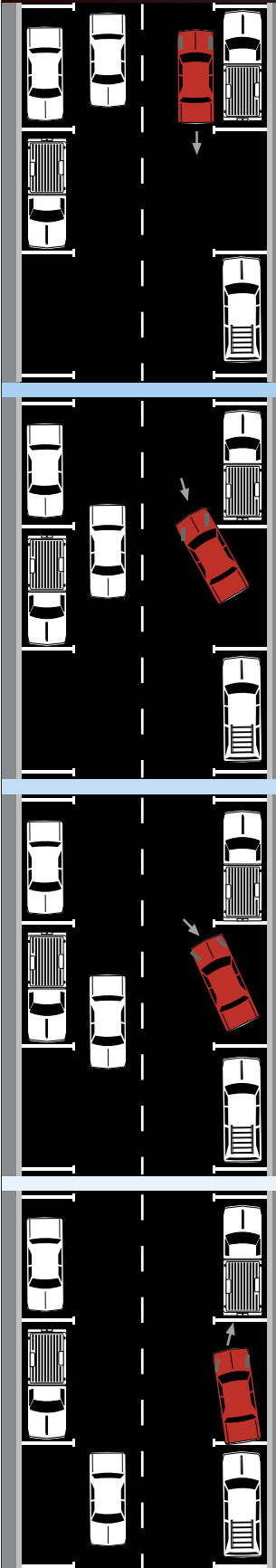
Traffic Management category

I-35/80, Polk County – Bridge approach repair from Iowa 141 east to I-35/80/235 interchange

(Left to right) Jose Herrera, Iowa Erosion Control Inc.; Mitchell J. Dillavou, Iowa DOT, Engineering Bureau; Greg Mulder, Iowa DOT, Des Moines construction



Waller named DL Examiner of the Year



Charlene (Char) Waller, driver's license (DL) examiner in the Ottumwa DL station, has a passion for helping younger drivers. This passion, as well as her dedication to the safety of drivers of all ages, earned Waller Iowa's Driver's License Examiner of the Year award. While being named Iowa's top DL examiner is an honor, this award reaches further as Waller's Iowa nomination qualifies her for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators International Driver Examiner Certification's Hall of Fame.

"Remedial interviews for young drivers are one of my favorite things," Waller said. "I hope the information I provide may in some way prevent that young person from making a wrong choice. And it is always interesting to hear what the young driver has to say about his or her driving and the situation that led up to receiving the ticket or cause of the accident."

Waller, an 11-year DOT veteran, started as a transportation aide working a temporary summer job in 1997. Later that year she was hired full time as a driver's license clerk. In January 1998, she was promoted within the clerk series and then to examiner in March 1999. When the Oskaloosa and Ottumwa DL stations merged in January 2000, she became an examiner in Ottumwa.

"I have traveled to other teams to assist them and have enjoyed working with each and every one," Waller said. "Each team has their own way of doing things and you can obtain some good ideas of what will improve the function of your home-based team. I always enjoy seeing everyone at examiner in-service meetings and seeing the new faces."

Kim Snook, director of the Office of Driver Services, said, "Char is a proud and dedicated employee of the Office of Driver Services. She has worked to become a Certified Driver Examiner and Certified Motorcycle Examiner. Her number one goal of highway safety is always the foremost consideration in her licensing decisions. Char's calm demeanor and patient approach are assets as she works with young drivers and their parents during the remedial interviews for Iowa's graduated driver's license program. She uses common sense when working with driver's license customers and other driver's license employees. Her licensing decisions are marked with a high degree of fairness and uniformity, in accordance with established laws, department rules and practices."

Waller said, "I am honored for this recognition, but it would not have been possible without my team and co-workers. I will share this honor with my team at DL26. Thank you very much."

Waller and her husband, Joe, have been married for 28 years and have a son, Josh, 22. Joe is co-owner of Newburg Construction and Josh is a 2007 graduate of Indian Hills Community College with a degree in business/finance. He is currently employed at Wal-Mart in Oskaloosa.

For fun, the Wallers enjoy camping and remodeling their 110-year-old home. Char likes to garden, crochet and spend time with friends and family.



"I am honored for this recognition, but it would not have been possible without my team and co-workers. I will share this honor with my team at DL26. Thank you very much."

Char Waller
DL examiner
Ottumwa DL station

Iowa DOT launches Recovery Act Web site

The Iowa DOT recently launched a new Web site focused on the state's implementation of the transportation programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

The Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama on Feb. 17, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. Funding made available through the Recovery Act will assist Iowa in strengthening its transportation systems, including Iowa's rail, transit, aviation, highways, waterways, and other modes of surface transportation.

Director Nancy Richardson said, "The Iowa DOT is committed to investing Recovery Act funding with a high level of transparency and accountability so Iowans and other American taxpayers know where their tax dollars are going and how they are being spent. The DOT's new Web site is a major initiative aimed at helping accomplish this goal."

The new Web site offers a number of features, including:

- Lists of projects (by mode) awarded funding.
- Information for local governmental agencies and planning organizations.
- Details about each of the transportation programs receiving federal funding.
- Federal reports.
- How to apply for funding or bid for highway contracts.
- Public announcements.
- Facts about the Recovery Act.
- Links to key federal agencies and other resources.

Go to www.iowadot.gov/recovery/index.htm for more information.



Because Iowa families are in need all year round, the central complex Food Drive and Toys for Tots committees have combined to resurrect the "All for One" fundraising group. The phrase "All for One" had been used at the DOT several years ago to serve as an umbrella group for all fund-raising and other volunteer activities.

The committee will continue to plan a week of Toys for Tots events in December and a week of Food Drive events in April, with smaller "All for One" fund-raising opportunities throughout the year. The proceeds of the "All for One" events in February, June and August will go to the Food Drive. An additional event in October or November will be held to benefit Toys for Tots.

Field office participation

Iowa DOT field offices are encouraged to designate a volunteer to serve on the All for One committee. This person would join committee meetings via telephone or video conference and have committee support in holding fund-raising activities in the field to benefit that office's local area.

Auction changes

The way the Iowa DOT conducts online, fund-raising auctions has also been updated. The April Food Drive auction will be the last event of this type held in conjunction with a specific

fund-raising campaign. Beginning in October 2009, an annual "All for One" auction will be held with proceeds split between the Food Drive and Toys for Tots. The committee hopes that by combining the auctions and scheduling the event in October, local business participation will increase. To transition into the annual auction, the April 2009 Food Drive auction will be scaled-down, with no area business coupons and discounts. Employees are encouraged to continue donating items for each auction. Bidders will have an opportunity to specify one charitable opportunity over the other.

Parking spaces

Donations accepted for central complex preferred parking spaces in the April auction will be good through October 2010. This 18-month time frame will only be available for the April 2009 auction. In October 2010, parking spaces will again be available for one year. Parking spaces will not be offered in the October 2009 auction.

2009 activities

One "All for One" event, candy bar sales for Valentines Day benefitting the Food Drive, began the first week of February. Other "All for One" events in the planning stages for 2009 are:

- June – walking taco lunch to benefit the Food Drive
- August – ice cream scoop-off to benefit the Food Drive
- October or November– soup lunch to benefit Toys for Tots

Check out the new All for One page on DOTNET for a description of committee activities, duties and how you can join the fun. For questions or comments on the All for One committee, contact Tracey Bramble at 515-239-1314 or tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov.

2009 Food Drive *April 6-10*



Events

(all events in the north lobby of the central complex)

- Cinnamon and caramel roll sale – **April 7**
- Books and popcorn – **April 8**
- DoBiz cookies – **April 9**
- Online auction begins at **noon April 6** and continues through **noon April 9**

New this year

"Cram the Cube"

A cubicle will be constructed in the north lobby at the central complex with the goal of "cramming" the space with donated items by April 9. Last year, generous DOT employees donated enough food, paper products and toiletry items to fill four paper boxes for each of the 17 area food pantries. Along with the items donated, \$12,886.94 was collected. To get an idea of how important the DOT Food Drive is to some of the smaller community pantries, the \$758.06 check to the Woodward pantry doubled its earnings for the year.

Back by popular demand

In 2001, the Iowa DOT compiled a cookbook. The cookbook is being re-printed for the 2009 Food Drive. If you have not pre-ordered your cookbook yet, contact Kathy LaRue at 515-239-1081 or kathy.larue@dot.iowa.gov



Here's a "shopping list" to help us "Cram the Cube"

- ☐ Canned fruit
- ☐ Canned meat
- ☐ Peanut butter
- ☐ Jelly
- ☐ Boxed meals
- ☐ Canned pasta (ravioli, etc.)
- ☐ Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- ☐ Boxed meals
- ☐ Crackers
- ☐ Chili beans or other canned beans
- ☐ Cake or cookie mixes
- ☐ Frosting mix
- ☐ Powdered milk
- ☐ Sugar
- ☐ Flour
- ☐ Condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.)
- ☐ Juice
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Soup
- ☐ Canned or boxed potatoes
- ☐ Tomato sauce or tomato paste
- ☐ Dry pasta
- ☐ Canned or jar pasta sauces
- ☐ Paper plates, towels and napkins
- ☐ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ☐ Bar soap
- ☐ Shampoo and hair rinse
- ☐ Diapers and wipes
- ☐ Baby formula
- ☐ Baby food
- ☐ Laundry soap
- ☐ Dish soap

Note: Food pantries cannot accept out-of-date items. Please check expiration dates prior to donating items from your pantry.



Where does the snow go?

When snow falls overnight and most DOT central complex employees are sound asleep, the snow removal crew is out and about cleaning sidewalks and parking lots. Depending on the amount of snowfall, the central complex snowfighters from the Office of Facilities Support and repair shop are called in between 1 and 2 a.m. to get parking lots and sidewalks ready for the arrival of nearly 1,000 employees. In a significant snowfall, this process can take up to six hours to remove snow from all building entrances, sidewalks and parking lots, and apply salt as needed. Snow from central complex parking lots, an estimated 12,000 cubic yards so far this winter, is moved to the DOT's auction lot, where it remains until it melts. As of Feb. 5, the snow pile measured approximately 210 feet by 150 feet and was 10 feet deep.

"A big thank you goes to our mechanics for being able to work on our equipment when it breaks down," said Joe Pitts, facilities maintenance coordinator. "Without their help, there could have been delays in getting snow removed as quickly as possible. Repair shop staff assisting with the process stepped forward to help with this added duty."



DOT central complex snow fighters

*(Left to right) Darwin Williams, Tom Miller, Mark Johnson, Craig Mansfield, Doug Wiseman, Dave Hansen, Tim Kuhn, Joe Pitts, Dave Hunt, and Jason Holland
Not pictured: Terri Hull, Milo Nelson, Nathan Parker, and Scott Nelson*

Better than a rainbow?



Dixie Harrison, highway maintenance supervisor, took this photo of sun dogs shining brightly over the Correctionville garage Wednesday, Jan. 14. She was able to find a positive amidst all the wind, snow and ice.

Are there tracks below?



This Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) train got stuck in the snow Saturday, Jan. 24, south of Nora Springs in northern Iowa. The drifts were so high, the train had to be dug out by hand and was stranded from midnight Friday to noon Sunday. Photo courtesy Craig Williams, IANR.

DOT logo guidelines

The service mark or logo is one of the Iowa Department of Transportation's most valuable assets. As a service mark, it is registered with the Iowa Secretary of State's office and cannot be altered or used in a way not identified in the registration documentation. If the mark is used in an altered state, the DOT can take legal action and seek damages for any misuse.

The logo's value in identifying the department increases when it is used properly and consistently. It unites the department, its divisions and offices, under one global umbrella. By providing a uniform symbol wherever visual identification occurs, the DOT logo projects the quality and professionalism the Iowa DOT has come to represent.

Following these logo use guidelines will provide the consistency and direction that will help the Iowa DOT maintain its rights to this mark.

Rules for using the DOT logo

Use the logo exactly as it appears in the original file. In other words, don't change the colors or distort the proportions. If your document will be printed in black-and-white, use a black-and-white version of the logo. Leave some clear space around the logo so other design elements and text don't run into (or over) the logo.

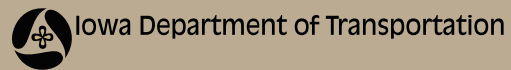
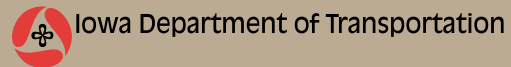
The DOT logo has been designed for optimal flexibility in use, and there are several variations to meet your needs. There is only one simple rule to follow when using the logo. Do not alter it. If DOT staff members begin adjusting the type, proportions, colors, and other characteristics of the logo, our efforts to create a consistent, high-quality brand image will be jeopardized.

Size, proportion and spacing

The logo must be reproduced only from authorized originals and cannot be redrawn, re-proportioned or modified in any way.

Whenever possible, the logo should be reproduced from authorized electronic sources, rather than physically cut and pasted from a paper copy original.

Nothing may be superimposed over the DOT logo. The logo may be used as a transparent bug or watermark on Web pages, slides or overheads, provided that nothing is overprinted on it.



Examples of proper use of the DOT logo

When using the DOT logo on the same document with a DOT office logo, the main agency logo should always be larger and placed in a more prominent position.

The electronic version may be reduced or enlarged proportionately by up to 25 percent, but the proportions may not be changed. (To avoid changing the proportions unintentionally, it's best to enlarge/reduce the logo by percentages rather than by clicking and dragging the logo across the page.)

The logo should be used in a size large enough to ensure clarity and legibility when the document is reproduced. Lynn Purcell in the Office of Media and Marketing Services is available to produce the logo in a size appropriate for your intended use.

To obtain an electronic copy of the DOT logo, contact Lynn Purcell at 515-239-1730 or send an E-mail to lynn.purcell@dot.iowa.gov.

Iowa 60 completed to the Iowa border

The final Iowa piece of the Iowa 60 project was completed in the northwest corner of the state and into Minnesota Oct. 21. The Iowa 60/Minnesota 60 Bigelow bypass was a joint Iowa/Minnesota project with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) taking the lead.

The 4.9-mile project included 1.5 miles of Iowa roadway from near Sibley to the Minnesota state line. The entire project to expand Iowa 60 to four lanes in Iowa consisted of 55 miles of roadway at a cost of \$227 million. Planning began in the 1990s, with construction starting in 2002.

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the Le Mars to Bigelow portion included speeches from the president of the Highway 60/Action Corporation, and state and local dignitaries from Iowa and Minnesota.

After work began, bypasses were added around Iowa communities like Le Mars, Alton, Sheldon, Ashton, and Sibley. Construction also occurred on Minnesota's portion of Minnesota 60, which is the four-lane improvement now being developed from Bigelow to North Mankato. The MnDOT's Web site lists completion of the four-lane corridor from Bigelow to Worthington as 2013.



(Left to right) Larry Pedley, Sibley City Council; Bill Imhoff, Osceola County Board of Supervisors; Richard Michaelis, former Iowa DOT District 3 engineer; Debi Durham, Iowa Transportation Commission; Maureen Wilson, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin's Office; State Senator David Johnson; David Ehlers, U.S. Congressman Steve King's Office; Rich Vande Hoef, former Iowa Legislator; and Tony Lazarowicz, Iowa DOT District 3 engineer

Research seminar April 7

The Research and Technology Bureau is pleased to announce the latest program in a series of seminars. Every few months the bureau plans to provide an opportunity for employees to see and hear about important



Research and Technology Bureau

A DRIVING FORCE OF INNOVATION

www.iowadot.gov/research



research being done for the Iowa DOT. Researchers will spend an hour presenting ongoing or recently completed projects, giving employees the chance to see

how research results can be implemented into their daily work.

Professional development hours (PDHs) are offered for these sessions, which can be used to meet some of the annual requirements for professional engineers.

The next seminar will be Tuesday, April 7, 2009, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Materials east conference room. The seminar will be offered on the Internet as well for field offices. Field office locations will receive an E-mail with link information prior to the presentation.

For the April seminar, Terry Wipf from Iowa State University will give an overview of on-going bridge research in Iowa. Research is currently being conducted on bridge design, maintenance, testing, and instrumenting. Dr. Wipf is a professor at ISU and also works closely with the Iowa DOT's Office of Bridges and Structures.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Engle, edward.engle@dot.iowa.gov or 515-239-1382.

Memory jogger

Forget about tying a string around your finger: Now you can use a free service called EmailFuture.com to send reminders that will keep you on schedule.

How it works

Visit the Web site at www.emailfuture.com and write an E-mail message. Add one or more E-mail addresses and specify when you want the message sent—the next day or the next decade. The service is automatic from that point.

You can use it to jog your memory regarding important dates such as employees' service anniversaries, deadlines, goal checkpoints, and more. Because you can add up to four E-mail addresses per message, you can use emailfuture.com for your team, too.

— From the Communication Briefings editors, February 2009.

Family happenings

District 3

MaryBeth Banta



Doug with a gift suggestion of how to spend his time off

Douglas "Buck" Buckholdt, District 3 survey party chief, retired from the Iowa DOT Jan. 8. with more than 38 years of service. Buckholdt began working for the Iowa State Highway Commission in June 1970 by attending a 12-week engineering aide training program while assigned as a temporary engineering aide I. In September 1970, he began permanent employment as an engineering aide I assigned to the Creston construction office. In May 1972, Buckholdt was promoted to an engineering aide 2.

Buckholdt made the move to Sioux City in January 1973 when he transferred to the Sioux City construction office to continue working as an engineering aide 2. He completed a lateral transfer to the District 3 Office in October 1980 to work with the right-of-way land survey crew. In July 1988, Buckholdt received a promotion to assistant survey party chief in the district ROW crew. His position was reallocated to survey party chief in August 2007.

District 2

Lu Mohorne



Anita Wiebke with Kevin Costner. Anita is the wife of Dean Wiebke, engineering technician senior in the District 2 office.

Dean Wiebke, engineering technician senior, and his wife, Anita, spent the afternoon of Feb. 28 in a barn near Leland. The barn was also crammed with a couple hundred others for a special concert by actor and musician Kevin Costner and his band, Modern West. While the concert was free, donations were collected to benefit local community projects.

The group was invited to perform in Leland by a local radio station because one of the songs on their current album is about Leland, the hometown of a bandmember's wife. Costner told the crowd the song was written several years ago when the bandmember was in Iowa with Costner while he filmed "Field of Dreams." Following the musical set in the barn, the band moved into town to do a few songs at a local pub and then moved on to play in Des Moines Jan. 30.

Thank you

Thank you to the Office of Employee Services for a memorable send-off, including a prized gift of a framed print that I have thought about for years. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed in many ways to an unforgettable career at the DOT, and thank you for the cards, E-mails and gifts. I appreciated them all.

Barb Mallon

Office of Employee Services

In Memory



Harold Whitmore, 73, died in Des Moines Friday, Jan. 23. Whitmore started at the Iowa DOT in November 1968 as a highway maintenance

man; he was promoted in his job class in August 1973 and then again in September 1974. He became a maintenance management assistant in 1983. In 1989, he was promoted to highway maintenance supervisor 1 at the Des Moines-west garage, where he remained until his retirement in July 1997. After he tried out retirement for a few years, Whitmore returned in March 2003 as a dispatcher at the Highway Helper I-235 office in Des Moines, where he worked until his death.

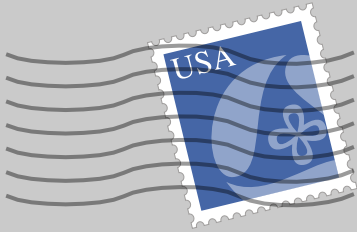
Whitmore requested no funeral, but an open house to celebrate his life was held at his home Monday, Jan. 26. Everyone attending the open house was invited to receive a beautiful wood clock



hand made by Whitmore. This was quite an honor since Harold and his wife, Irene, have won several ribbons at the Iowa State Fair for their scroll art in woodworking.

District 1 Operations Manager Lance Starbuck presented Irene with an Iowa DOT memorial clock at the open house.

Whitmore was cremated and his ashes will be spread in the Colorado mountains. Besides the love of creating beautiful wood clocks and wood scroll art, the Whitmores loved camping and boating. Whitmore's favorite animal was the American Bald Eagle and he often contributed to The American Eagle Foundation.



Kudos!

These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Stuart and Carol McDaniel, retired DOTers

Earlier this winter we were unfortunate enough to experience a winter storm in South Dakota. We were traveling to the Black Hills to see our daughter and her family. We knew we were headed into snow conditions. However, being from Iowa and accustomed to excellent winter storm maintenance by our DOT, we decided to start out anyway. We discovered quickly just how good of a job our Iowa DOT employees do during a storm. We never once saw a snowplow out preparing for the snow that every broadcast said was on the way. Interstate 90 in South Dakota ended up being closed for two days. We just want to express our gratitude for a job well done by Iowa employees during snowy weather. We didn't truly appreciate them until we found out what life on the road can be like in other states. Hats off to the men and women at the Iowa DOT working to keep us safe and on the roads during bad weather. We did learn one lesson. Don't try traveling in South Dakota if it's snowing!

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Gerry Schnepf, director
Keep Iowa Beautiful

With this note, I have enclosed the new Keep Iowa Beautiful brochure. I think Lynn Purcell did a great job!

(Editor's note: Lynn Purcell is an information specialist 3 in the Office of Media and Marketing Services. He designed a new brochure for the Keep Iowa Beautiful program.)

TO: Iowa DOT
From Tammy Cooper

It has been a tough winter thus far and I want to thank the crews that clear I-235 and I-80 to Altoona. It always amazes me how great the roads are shortly after the snow has fallen. GREAT JOB and very much appreciated!!

(Editor's note: The garages in charge of Interstate 235 are Des Moines and Grimes. The Altoona and Des Moines shops maintain I-80 from Des Moines to Altoona.)

To: Iowa DOT
From : David Brown

I would like you to pass along to the road crews that take care of I-80 from Newton to Des Moines our thanks for having the roads in such good conditions for my wife and me to travel to work each day. I work for a regulatory agency, so I know that a thank you does not come along very often. But I want to say thank you for the great job you all do.

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Brent Willett, Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce

On behalf of the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfield Economic Development Association, our hundreds of members, and thousands of Fairfield residents, thank you for your participation in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Fairfield bypass. Though the scale of the ceremony was miniscule when compared to the massive 165 miles of roadway your department has completed, it nevertheless meant very much to all of us for you to take the time in your schedule to talk to us and for all that the DOT does for our state.

(Editor's note: As you read in the January edition of INSIDE, the last of the six priority corridors was completed with the Fairfield bypass. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Nov. 17 to celebrate project completion.)

To: Iowa DOT
From: Cammy McDermott, Minneapolis

On a recent trip home from Minneapolis, I was driving on I-35 and I-80 after a major snow storm the previous day and noticed a certain section of my drive that was particularly impressive. Growing up with a father who works for the DOT, I am aware of the great pride employees have when caring for the roads. I inquired who was responsible for this particular section of the road. I found out the area west of Stuart on I-80 was taken care by Kurt Reason and his crew in the Adair shop. I wanted to let you know the exceptional job that they did with the road given the recent conditions the day before. The highway and shoulders were clear, which gave me comfort as I continued on my trip. This was not the case on some of the previous roads I had traveled. I know you probably receive many complaints, but I wanted to take the time to let you know that this particular section of the highway was excellent and to please pass along my thanks to Kurt and his crew. Again, thank you to the DOT for keeping the roads safe and clear so I can make it home when I need to.

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Mike Ralston

Just a quick message to thank you and your team for excellent service. I commute to Des Moines from Nevada every day. And, like you, I travel the state quite a lot. Despite the incredibly awful weather, the roads have been terrific. I usually leave the house between 4:45 and 5 a.m. each morning, and it struck me this morning that I have never had to change my plans because of road conditions. When I drove home last night at about 6:30 p.m., the wind was terrible and there were white-outs on I-35 ... but the road surface was in great shape. When I drove in this morning at the usual time, the road surface was immaculate. I don't know how your crews do it, Nancy!

To: Chief David Lorenzen, Motor Vehicle Enforcement
From: Chief Jeff Olson, Cedar Falls Police Department

Our department requested training from the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement for our officers during the month of January. Sergeant Jeff Jones was assigned the task of presenting during each of our three in-service sessions. He was prompt, professional and informative. It was quite apparent that Jones was well versed in the information he was teaching and was more than willing to assist our officers in any way he could. I would like to extend my thanks to Sergeant Jones and your agency for your assistance.

To: Iowa DOT
From: Barbara Greiner

On Jan. 29 at 4:50 p.m., I had a tire blowout on I-235 in Des Moines. When I could, I pulled over out of the lane of main traffic at the 8th Street exit ramp in West Des Moines with a shredded tire. A DOT maintenance truck with a blade pulled up behind me to help warn the traffic of my disabled vehicle and helped me get roadside assistance. I did not get the DOT gentleman's name that helped me, but want to thank him for all he did in the stressful situation. If you know who was running the maintenance truck in the eastbound lane that day, let him know how much I appreciated his help!

(Editor's note: The DOT employee involved was Ben Howell, highway technician associate, Grimes garage.)

To: Nancy Richardson
From David P. Miller, Fairfield

I wanted to write and express my thanks and other people's thanks for the installation of the deer fence on the Fairfield bypass. I have received several calls commending the DOT for doing this. I certainly want to express my thanks to you and the local engineers for it. The public reaction has been very good and I'm sure it will be a tremendous help for safety purposes. Hopefully, it is something that will work out and can be replicated in other areas of high deer crossings. You are doing a fine job and good luck in the coming year.

To: Iowa DOT
From: Melissa Ballagh

I wanted to send a message to show my appreciation to one of the plows for helping me after I was in a car accident. The accident occurred Jan. 10 on I-80 by the east mixmaster in Des Moines. The plow was already assisting another motorist that went off the road when I was hit by another driver, causing us to hit the median. We were most afraid of being hit again by oncoming traffic as another motorist was bound to spin out like we did. The plow driver positioned his truck in front of my vehicle as sort of a shield until the authorities came. The driver also got out several times to check on us and assist with moving the vehicle out of the way. I felt like he went beyond his duties and I am grateful for it. Please forward this on to the necessary department. Unfortunately, I did not get his name.

(Editor's note: The operator involved is Khashi Reyes, highway technician associate, Des Moines garage.)

To: Tom Welch, Traffic and Safety
From: Leslie Deo, Maxwell

Pastor Scott shared from the pulpit this Sunday that the cable system on the interstate saved his life, and his wife's, a few weeks ago. They were headed south. There was a car on the other side of the interstate that was being moved and many cars backed up by that process. A UPS semi was going too fast and swerved into the median to avoid hitting the cars in his own lane. He came across the median and hit the guard cables, taking out many, many posts, but was diverted back into the median. We are very thankful to still have our pastor. Please thank the "powers that be" at the DOT for us.

To: Iowa DOT
From: Bryant Stump, Des Moines Water Works

Please give your staff a big pat on the back for us! On Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 9:30 p.m. we had a main break on U.S. 69 that iced up the southbound lanes making a bad situation very dangerous. Ron Waugh from your staff gave us prompt service. He bladed the ice off the road and then sanded it. He re-checked on the situation a couple more times throughout the night sanding/salting as needed. He was very helpful and our repair crew was very appreciative of his efforts. Please give him our sincere thanks.

(Editor's note: Ron Waugh is an equipment operator senior out of the Grimes garage.)

Personnel Updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Dec. 26, 2008, to Jan. 22, 2009

New hires

Joe Brennan, highway technician associate, Tipton garage; **Samuel Essien**, transportation engineer intern, Design; **Marilyn Henderson**, driver's license examiner, Des Moines DL station; **Zachary Jolma**, transportation engineer intern, New Hampton construction; **Jennifer Macklem**, executive officer 1, District 3 maintenance; **Verlin Miller**, highway technician, Ottumwa garage; **Martin Scharff**, highway technician, Ottumwa garage; **Rick Sieck**, highway technician, Urbana garage; **Nathan Steffen**, transportation engineer intern, Design; **Lonnie Wessley**, highway technician associate, Coralville garage; **Ross Wood**, highway technician associate, Denison garage; **Michael Young**, information technology specialist, Information Technology Division

Promotions

Stuart Anderson, from transportation engineer executive, Systems Planning to transportation division director, Planning, Programming and Modal Division; **Michael Athey**, from motor vehicle investigator to motor vehicle captain, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Timothy Elliott**, from design technician to design technician specialist, Design; **Paul Flattery**, from transportation engineer to transportation engineer manager, Design; **Donna Kelso-Roush**, from motor vehicle investigator to motor vehicle captain, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Curtis McIntosh**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Fairfield garage; **Steven Peters**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Dubuque garage; **Tina Shea**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Marshalltown construction; **Lucas Weigel**, from highway technician to survey party chief, District 1

Transfers

Joseph Colman, motor vehicle sergeant, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Denny Eppert**, bridge inspector 2, within Bridges and Structures; **Michael Littlejohn**, clerk specialist, from Vehicle Services to Driver Services; **Debra Thompson**, information technology specialist 4, within Information Technology Division

Retirements

John Abrams, transportation engineer manager, Design; **Larry Cihacek**, highway technician associate, Council Bluffs-north garage; **Jacqueline Dobson**, driver's license clerk senior, Ottumwa DL station; **Randy Dunkelberger**, highway technician associate, Ashton garage; **Russell Fithen**, highway technician associate, Shenandoah garage; **James Hemberger**, transportation engineer specialist, District 2 Office; **Monte Hough**, highway technician associate, Neola garage; **David Keczy**, administrative assistant 2, Driver Services; **Roy Leeper**, highway technician associate, Williams garage; **Barbara Mallon**, management analyst 3, Employee Services; **Thomas McGinty**, motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Cheryl McGraw**, driver's license examiner, Driver Services; **James Moreland**, motor vehicle officer, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Joseph Ness**, highway technician associate, Leon garage; **Steven Olson**, information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Howard Reischauer**, executive officer 1, District 1 maintenance; **Craig Russell**, public service executive 2, Contracts; **LaVerne Schossow**, motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Georgina Sebben**, equipment operator senior, District 5 paint crew; **David Smith**, highway technician associate, Martinsdale garage; **William Stroud**, highway technician associate, Coralville garage; **Neil Volmer**, transportation division director, Planning, Programming and Modal Division; **Roger Workman**, information technology specialist 3, Information Technology Division

Service Awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for March 2009

35 years

Carol Foley, Vehicle Services; **Norman Miller**, Design

30 years

Farrokh Fattahi, Design; **Mary Beth Kiner**, Right of Way; **Cheryl Norris**, Employee Services; **Richard O'Brien**, Design; **Johnnie Peek**, Burlington DL station

25 years

James Abbott, Pacific Junction garage; **Douglas Clemenson**, Ames garage; **Bradford Huso**, Mason City garage; **Larry Visser**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

20 years

Kevin Anderson, District 4 Office; **Hope Arthur**, Document Services; **Dean Bierwagen**, Bridges and Structures; **Donald Drake**, Design; **Bonnie Ford**, District 5 Office; **Lynn Gemmer**, District 6 materials; **Marc Greenfield**, Gowrie garage; **Roxanne Jackson**, Hanlontown garage; **Deborah Kroeger**, Davenport construction; **Kathy LaRue**, Local Systems; **Korene Launderville**, Sioux City construction; **William Morgan**, Pacific Junction garage; **Margaret Muxfeldt**, Contracts; **Kim Nobiling**, Maintenance; **Nancy Paulson**, District 2 materials; **James Raasch**, Motor Carrier Services; **Judy Schlotter**, Information Technology Division; **Thomas Stolen**, Sioux City construction; **Lawrence Wheeler**, Waverly garage; **Maury White**, Ames garage; **Michael Wiedmann**, Martinsdale garage

15 years

Cathy Aplara, District 5 materials; **Rodney Baker**, Materials; **Thomas Muhlenbruch**, Information Technology Division; **Chengsheng Ouyang**, Materials; **Thomas Storey**, District 6 field staff; **Susan Wallace**, Policy and Legislative Services

10 years

Dennis Baker, Des Moines garage; **Chase Colton**, Document Services; **Scott Groat**, Right of Way; **Barbara Honkomp**, Spencer DL station; **Shad Kent**, Osceola garage; **Barbara Reth**, Cedar Rapids DL station; **Ryan Ridout**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Kirby Salisbury**, District 6 materials; **Dean Schweitzer**, Rock Rapids garage

5 years

Sarah Doser-Sansgaard, Finance



The following habits are annoying because they happen all too often. Here is a list of etiquette tips to encourage better behavior:

- Do not use the speakerphone option on a cell phone in public.
- Turn off the ringer on a cell phone while in the workplace. This tip is especially important if the phone has an unusual or provocative ring tone.
- Skip forwarding non-business E-mails, even if the person who sent it urges you to forward the message to everyone you know.
- Stick to business when sending messages from your work E-mail account, and avoid smiley faces and other emoticons.

— Adapted from “Top 10 Communication Gaffes in Business,” No Bull Business Blog, <http://pbp.typepad.com/nobull>. Reprinted from Communication Briefings, February 2009

Reaching the 35-year milestone

Policy 240.07 allows employees reaching 35 years of service to have a photo printed in INSIDE. Having a photo taken and printed is voluntary. Depending on when the employee chooses to have the photo taken, the photo will not necessarily appear in the same month the employee reaches the 35-year service milestone.



Gary Osby
District 4 Office
December 2008



Dale Vander Schaaf
Policy and Legislative Services
October 2008

INSIDE

INSIDE is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov.

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE

On the cover: The sculptures at the westbound Interstate 80 rest area near Wilton portrays the common thread of life with an emphasis on Iowa harvest.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1	Kay Ridgway , Des Moines	515-986-5729
District 2	Lu Mohorne , Mason City	641-423-7584
District 3	Mary Beth Banta , Sioux City	712-276-1451
District 4	Marlene Jensen , Atlantic	712-243-3355
District 5	Brenda Hadley , Fairfield	641-472-6142
District 6	Sandi Byers , Cedar Rapids	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures	Judy Whitney , Ames	515-233-7917
Construction	Nancy McMenamin , Ames	515-239-1353
Contracts	Peg Muxfeldt , Ames	515-239-1422
Design	Judy Lensing , Ames	515-239-1469
Driver Services	Noralee Warrick , Ankeny	515-237-3253
General Counsel	Chris Crow , Ames	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division	Colette Simpson , Ames	515-233-7728
Local Systems	Kathy LaRue , Ames	515-239-1081
Location and Environment	Susie McCullough , Ames	515-239-1225
Maintenance	Cindy Shipley , Ames	515-239-1971
Materials	Brian Squier , Ames	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division	Mary Kay Reimers , Ames	515-239-1661
Motor Carrier Services	Diann McMillen , Ankeny	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	Anthony Batcheller , Ankeny	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division	Sheri Anderson , Ames	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau	Tami Bailiff , Ames	515-239-1646
Right of Way	Linda Kriegel , Ames	515-239-1300
Traffic and Safety	Linda McBride , Ames	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services	Becky Sawatzky , Ankeny	515-237-3182

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE

As the third part of the Iowa DOT's plan to reduce its carbon footprint, a group of DOTers is studying the life cycle of items purchased and used by the agency to find new ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

So what does it look like when the Iowa DOT evaluates purchases using a life-cycle approach? Pat Harmeyer, director of the purchasing section of the Office of Procurement and Distribution, says some of the environmental attributes the group looks for are non-toxic components, recyclable materials, recycled content, remanufactured parts, and reusable items. She said,

"Environmental preferability is not just determined by how a product impacts human health and the environment when used and discarded. Rather, the impact of the item can and should be demonstrated at many stages of the product's life cycle --- for example, product design, raw material acquisition, product manufacturing, packaging, transportation, distribution, maintenance, and disposal. There is always room for continuous improvement."

The days of simply considering the lowest bid are over for some products. Through appropriate application of life-cycle cost analysis, the DOT can minimize waste, reduce energy consumption and costs, and lower pollution. The goal is to identify the best long-term value, not just the lowest purchase price, by factoring in a product's estimated life span, as well as its energy use, maintenance, consumable supplies, and disposal costs.

To get the best life-cycle cost, the DOT is now considering leasing and renting some equipment. Equipment lease/rental contracts for the upkeep of items like computers and copiers give vendors the responsibility of managing the equipment at the end of its useful life. Businesses that lease equipment tend to manufacture more durable items; salvage reusable parts; and refurbish, recycle, or donate used equipment that can no longer be leased.

Some vendors will work with the DOT to plan for the end of the product's useful life. Harmeyer said, "Some vendors will buy or take back used items such as carpeting and toner cartridges when purchasers buy new products. Several carpet manufacturers have sophisticated recycling facilities that turn old carpet into new carpet or other goods. Toner cartridges are disposed of properly or sent to be recharged and sold at a lower cost. It is also generally less expensive to buy remanufactured toner cartridges than to buy new ones. Recharged toner car-

tridges typically save the department 30 to 50 percent per sheet of paper. The DOT program for selected printers guarantees printer replacement if damaged by a toner cartridge."

The DOT is also beginning to require vendors to assume responsibility for some of their shipping materials, such as wooden pallets and excess packaging materials. "Many of our bids now require packing materials to be specified," said Harmeyer. "We are buying bulk products, products with less packaging or those packaged in returnable containers. For bulk purchases, the DOT is working with Iowa State University to use cooperative purchasing, reducing both cost and excess stock."

Examples of other environmentally preferred products used by the DOT include:

- Re-refined lubrication, hydraulic oils and antifreeze.
- Recycled plastic outdoor-wood substitutes, including plastic lumber, benches, fencing, signs, and posts.
- Recycled content construction, building and maintenance products, including plastic, lumber, carpet, tiles and insulation.
- Recycled concrete and asphalt.
- Cement and asphalt concrete containing broken glass, recycled fiber, plastic, crumb (tire) rubber or fly ash.
- Compost, mulch and other organics, including recycled bio-solid products.
- Paint that has been re-manufactured and/or contains little or no volatile organic compounds.
- Cleaning products with lowered toxicity.
- Energy-saving products.
- Waste-reducing products.
- Energy Star rated computers and appliances.
- Rechargeable batteries.
- Water-saving products.

