

SOUTH DAKOTA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. CDT

Becker-Hansen Building/Commission Room - 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota

COMMISSIONER PRESENT: Austin Simons, Vice-chairman
Larry Nelson
Ron Rosenboom
Jaf Karim
Mike Vehle
Rick Vallery
Chris Frick

**COMMISSIONER PRESENT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Don Roby, Chairman
Lynn Jensen

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Mike Behm, Karla Engle, Mark Leiferman, Joanne Hight,
Steve Johnson, Christina Bennett, John Keyes, Sam Weisgram,
Ryan Johnson, Jon Suomala, Danny Varilek, and Kari Kroll

**DOT STAFF PRESENT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Craig Smith and Scott Rabern

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Mercer – KELOLAND Media; Michael Hammich; Chad Abel – City of
Lemmon; Craig Mizera – HDR, Inc. (HDR)

**OTHERS PRESENT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Toby Crow – Association of General Contractors (AGC) and Jason Reaves –
South Dakota Chapter/American Concrete Pavement Association

Chairman Roby called the meeting of the South Dakota Transportation Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 9:00 a.m. CT. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Roby passed the gavel to Vice-chairman Austin Simons to run the meeting since Simons was in the room and Chairman Roby was on the phone.

Simons opened the floor to the Commission members to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) chapters 3 – 23.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, reported on a potential conflict of interest Commissioner Ron Rosenboom shared with her immediately prior to the meeting. Engle explained that Commissioner Rosenboom has a potential conflict of interest regarding the request to modify the Lemmon State

Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan. Engle further explained that Commissioner Rosenboom's employer, West River Foundation, is engaged in negotiations with the City of Lemmon for a possible sale of land owned by the foundation. Commissioner Rosenboom will recuse himself from the discussion and vote concerning the SIB loan request.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Karim that the matters disclosed are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Rosenboom who abstained. The motion carried.

No other members of the Commission disclosed a conflict or requested a waiver.

Simons asked for a motion to approve the October 9, 2025 Commission meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Vehle and seconded by Vallery to approve the October 9, 2025 Commission meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, announced a public hearing on the Commission's consideration of proposed amendments to Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) 70:01:02:26 – Edmunds County speed zone rule and ARSD 70:01:02:52 – Moody County speed zone rule.

Engle explained the rule adoption process that had been followed to date for the amendments to the rules.

Engle proceeded to discuss the purpose and effect of the proposed amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:26 – Edmunds County speed zone rule. The Secretary of Transportation received a petition from a resident of Ipswich, Michael Hammrich, requesting the current 45 miles per hour (mph) speed limit on U.S. Highway 12 be extended westward through the intersection with 357th Avenue. After performing an engineering analysis, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (the "Department") agreed with the change and proposes the rule amendment. The rule change would extend the current 45 mph speed zone an additional distance of approximately 0.35 mile through the intersection of U.S. highway 12 and 357th Avenue. Engle discussed speed study results and the recommendation of the speed limit setting tool to reduce the speed limit to 55 mph. But the surrounding road context, which includes a residential development on the north side of US Highway 12, a golf course on the south side of the highway, and an accompanying uptick in pedestrian activity, weigh in favor of a speed limit reduction to 45 mph. The Highway Patrol and Edmunds County Sheriff concur with the extension of the 45 mph speed limit.

The Department also proposes to change distance measurements to the nearest one-tenth of a mile and replace legal descriptions with references or markers that will be easier to administer in the field and easier for the public to understand.

Engle stated the department received many written comments on the proposed speed limit reduction in Edmunds County, all in favor of the proposed rule change. Those comments were submitted by Emily Marcotte, Carol Lacher, Joe and Lacey Galbraith, Dan and Kelsey Knust, Cody Knutson, Cory Hammrich, Eric

and Angela Sieh, Christopher Gillick, Brandon Malsam, Nathan Oban, Lacey Weig, and Rachel Crissman, all of whom are residents of the housing development, Golf View Acres, that abuts the proposed new 45 mph speed zone. Their support for the speed zone change focused on safety, noting the residential character of the area, the presence of children and pedestrians, the difficulty of judging gaps in traffic at higher speeds (especially for inexperienced drivers leaving or entering the development), the heavy truck traffic on Highway 12 mixed with passenger and other vehicle types, the nearby golf course which draws motor vehicle movements, bicyclists and pedestrians, near-miss situations, and agricultural development. The written comments are reinforced by the department's own observations of the more urban residential character of the area and increased pedestrian activity.

Engle reported the purpose of the Edmunds County rule change is to enhance safety, facilitate accurate speed zone signing, and promote understanding of speed limit locations.

Engle then discussed the amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:52 – Moody County speed zone rule. The Department is proposing to change the speed limit on State Trunk Highway 34 in and around the Interstate 29 interchange in Moody County. Currently, there is a 55 mph speed limit for vehicles traveling on Highway 34 through the interchange. The Department proposes to replace the 55 mph speed limit with a 45 mph speed limit, while also shifting the reduced speed limit slightly westward to better accommodate two truck stops on the west side of the interchange. The proposal came about because of public comments received at a reconstruction project public meeting. The reconstruction project will narrow the driving lanes and install a median at the turn lanes into the truck stops. Engle discussed the results of the Department's speed study and reported that the narrower driving lanes and additional turn lanes are likely to cause drivers to naturally reduce their speeds. In addition to the speed limit change, the Department is also revising measurements to the nearest one-tenth of a mile in this rule.

Engle reported the purpose of the Moody County rule changes is to enhance safety, facilitate accurate speed zone signing, and promote understanding of speed limit locations.

Engle stated the Department received no written comments on the proposed rule changes in Moody County. Engle also stated that Legislative Research Council's changes to both proposed rules had been incorporated into the rules.

Simons asked for public testimony in favor of or opposed to the proposed rule amendments. Michael Hammrich, a resident of Ipswich, testified in person in favor of the speed limit reduction on U.S. Highway 12 west of Ipswich in Edmunds County. He discussed his experience as a first responder coming upon accident scenes and his belief that a speed reduction would enhance safety in this location. The Commission asked Mr. Hammrich several questions about the reasoning behind the proposed Highway 12 speed limit change. No other members of the public testified in favor of or opposed to the proposed rule amendments.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Karim and seconded by Vehle to approve the proposed amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:26 – Edmunds County speed zone rule. All present voted aye by roll call vote the motion carried.

Simons asked for public testimony in favor of or opposed to the proposed rule amendments for Moody County. No members of the public offered testimony in support of or in opposition to the rule changes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Roby and seconded by Jensen to approve the proposed amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:52 - Moody County speed zone rules. All present voted aye by roll call vote the motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 10.1 was adopted.

Engle requested the Commission set a hearing date of November 25, 2025 to consider amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:44 - Lincoln County speed zone rule.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Rosenboom and seconded by Karim to set the administrative hearing date of November 25, 2025, for consideration of amendments to ARSD 70:01:02:44 - Lincoln County speed zone rule. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 10.2 was adopted.

Simons opened the floor to public input.

No members of the public addressed the Commission or offered any input.

Simons gave kudos to Secretary Joel Jundt for his 40 years of service to the Department.

Secretary Jundt presented the following items to the Commission in his Secretary's Report:

- **Federal:** Although the federal government shutdown is now entering its fourth week, thus far the Department has been minimally impacted. Primary reason is that FHWA employees are considered "essential", meaning they are not furloughed and serve by performing critical functions such as executing state reimbursements requests. For other federal agencies, such as those considered resources agencies, federal government employees are currently furloughed. So, depending upon how long the shutdown lasts, we could see slippage of our projects from a bid letting standpoint as the federal government is not able to perform reviews and other necessary functions.
- **FHWA:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has sent out correspondence regarding State DOT's funding obligation, in essence informing us that although there is no limitation currently in place, once Congress passes a Continuing Resolution (CR), obligation limitation will be enacted based on the duration of the CR set in legislation. For example, if a CR was approved for the time period of September 30, 2025 through November 30, 2025, we would receive funding obligation for 0.167 of the yearly total limitation, based on 2025 funding amounts.
- **State:** Proposed agency bills have been submitted to the Governor for his concurrence. We will know whether we have approval to file these bills with Legislative Research Council (LRC) sometime in November.

Jundt then presented for Commission approval the proposed 2026 Commission meeting dates.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Karim to approve the 2026 Commission meeting dates as proposed. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Commissioner Ron Rosenboom recused himself from the discussion of the City of Lemmon SIB loan request and sat in the gallery at 9:35 a.m. CT.

Jundt presented for Commission consideration a request from the City of Lemmon to increase its current SIB loan from \$1.5 million to \$3 million payable over 10 years, rather than the standard 7 year period set out in the Commission's guidance.

Chad Abel, Finance Officer for the City of Lemmon, and Craig Mizera, HDR, discussed the request and the reasoning behind it. They explained the single bid received for the project as originally planned and how that bid exceeded the engineer's estimate by thirty-three percent. They discussed their investigation into how to invite additional competition and lower bids, and their decision to pursue a larger project as a means of enhancing competition and improving bids.

The Commission discussed the request, including the rationale behind its loan guidance and how the City might prove its ability to service a larger debt. The Commission posed questions to the City representatives and Department staff regarding loan history, SIB fund availability, and security for loans.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Vehle to amend the City's current loan agreement to provide a \$3 million loan, amortized over 7 years, with interest at the rate of 2.5%.

After further discussion, A MOTION WAS MADE by Vallery to table the current motion and request additional financial information from the City of Lemmon.

Vallery and other Commission members discussed the type of financial information that might satisfy the Commission, including tax revenue and expense information, potential contributions from Perkins County, assets, audited financial statements, and overall ability to service the debt.

Simons called for a second to the pending motion to table and Frick seconded the motion. Commissioners Frick, Jensen, Karim, Roby, Vallery, Vehle, and Simons voted aye and Commissioner Nelson voted nay by roll call vote. Commissioner Rosenboom abstained. The motion carried.

Commissioner Rosenboom returned to the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Jundt then presented for Commission consideration a request transfer jurisdiction of a portion of US385 to Wind Cave National Park. The Department and Wind Cave have been jointly working on this transfer for over 10 years. The primary purpose for transferring the highway section is for safety, both for the traveling public and the buffalo within the park boundary.

Below are the reasons for the request:

- There is currently a cattle guard near the current park boundary to keep wildlife in the park.
- The cattle guard is in an area that has limited sight distance due to two horizontal curves on either side.
- The buffalo frequently congregate at the cattle guard.
- Because of the limited sight distance along the highway (just coming off a horizontal curve at both ends), there is a real potential that a crash could take place, endangering both the buffalo and the occupants of the vehicle.
- The proposed solution is to move the park boundary 0.41 mile southeast, closer to the actual park boundary and at a much better location (tangent section).

With the transfer, the Department will transfer a 0.41 mile section of US385 to the National Park Service by quit claim deed. Legislation will need to be introduced to remove the segment from the State Trunk Highway System. The Department will relocate the cattle guard from approximately MRM 42.72 to approximately MRM 42.32 (approximately 0.4 mile south of its current location), repair the road where the cattle guard was removed, and install dark sky friendly lighting along US385 near the relocated cattle guard in accordance with federal highway standards. Finally, the Department will widen US385 on the south side of the new cattle guard to allow snowplow drivers a safe location to turn around, thus limiting road salt entering the park.

The National Park Service will take over ownership, repair and maintenance responsibilities of the 0.41 miles of roadway and will support legislation to remove the transfer segment from the State Trunk Highway System. Lastly, the National Park Service will provide all necessary electricity, maintenance and replacements, in kind, of all parts, poles, and apparatus of the lighting system installed by the Department, to ensure the continuing operation of said system.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Rosenboom and seconded by Vehle to authorize the Secretary or his designee to execute all documents necessary to transfer to the United States of America the South Dakota Department of Transportation's ownership interests in, jurisdiction over, and operational and maintenance responsibilities for a segment of U.S. Highway 385 from its intersection with the existing Wind Cave National Park boundary to a point approximately 0.41 miles from this intersection. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

The Commission took a short recess from 10:51 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.

Craig Smith, Division Director of Operation, presented the following informational Construction Change Orders (CCO) to the Commission.

CCOs completed in September contain an increase of \$1,142,054.48. Over the past 12 months, the total change to the original contract amounts is an increase of 1.70%.

The following projects have a CCO with a change of more than \$100,000 or a change of more than 25.0% to the contract.

ABERDEEN REGION

There are no CCO's with a change over \$100,000 or over 25.0% for this region this month.

MITCHELL REGION

1. Project: IM-NH-P 0023(69), Clay & Union County, PCN 097F

Location: Various locations in the Yankton area

Contractor: Knife River Midwest LLC

Type of Work: pavement preservation

Original Contract Amount:	\$	782,386.86
\$ Change on CCO No. 2:	\$	651,424.84
% Change on CCO No. 2:		83.3%
Net Change to Date:	\$	774,778.92

Explanation of Change on CCO No. 2: This increase is the result of SDDOT increasing the locations of PCC repair. The original survey was completed 2 years ago, and additional deterioration has developed since. This type of change is common for pavement preservation projects.

PIERRE REGION

2. Project: EM 0012(206)112, Corson County, PCN 05HW

Location: US12 from Morristown 9 miles east

Contractor: Martin Construction, Inc

Type of Work: grading, interim surfacing, replace structures

Original Contract Amount:	\$	23,617,916.00
\$ Change on CCO No. 21:	\$	101,149.00
% Change on CCO No. 21:		0.4%
Net Change to Date:	\$	1,720,236.11

Explanation of Change on CCO No. 21: This increase is the result of SDDOT adjusting contract quantities to match the quantities used of items such as flagging hours, water for compaction, and blading.

3. Project: NH 0033(41), Bennett, Gregory, & Tripp County, PCN 08RN

Location: Various routes in the Winner & Mitchell areas

Contractor: Border States Paving, Inc.

Type of Work: joint & spall repair, joint seal, asphalt concrete surfacing of shoulders

Original Contract Amount:	\$	15,068,007.00
\$ Change on CCO No. 12:	\$	151,459.04
% Change on CCO No. 12:		1.0%
Net Change to Date:	\$	164,483.82

Explanation of Change on CCO No. 12: This increase is the result of SDDOT paying a grinding smoothness incentive in accordance with the contract.

RAPID CITY REGION

4. Project: NH-P 0041(183), Lawrence & Pennington County, PCN 09KQ

Location: Various locations in the Rapid City area

Contractor: Highway Improvement, Inc.

Type of Work: rout & seal

Original Contract Amount:	\$	131,810.21
\$ Change on CCO No. 1:	\$	55,260.86
% Change on CCO No. 1:		41.9%
Net Change to Date:	\$	55,260.86

Explanation of Change on CCO No. 1: This increase is the result of SDDOT adjusting contract quantities to match as built quantities for traffic control and additional crack sealing needed on the project.

5. Project: PH 0040(347), Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade & Pennington County, PCN 06U5

Location: Various locations in the Rapid City region

Contractor: The Truesdell Corporation

Type of Work: high friction surface treatment

Original Contract Amount:	\$	2,068,068.00
\$ Change on CCO No. 2:	\$	150,568.00
% Change on CCO No. 2:		1.3%
Net Change to Date:	\$	118,630.30

Explanation of Change on CCO No. 2: This increase is the result of SDDOT adjusting contract quantities of spall repair to match the quantities performed. The repair work was identified and performed prior to placing the high friction surface treatment.

Smith presented for Commission consideration the 2025 – 2026 Winter Highway Maintenance Plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Vehle and seconded by Karim to approve the 2025 – 2026 Winter Highway Maintenance Plan requested by the Department. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Sam Weisgram, Office of Project Development, presented to the Commission the following bid letting results:

October 15, 2026

Structures (276.5' Steel Girder, 313' Steel Girder, 11x10 CIP RCBC), Grading, PCC Surfacing, Storm Sewer, Pavement Marking, Lighting, Signal, Sidewalk

1	06JQ, 07D0 EM 0292(88)73, IM 2292(104)0 T&R Contracting Inc I29 - 85th St Interchange; 85th Street (270th Street) - Fm Sundowner Avenue E 1 to Tallgrass Ave in Sioux Falls	Lincoln County \$53,313,089.85
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Watermain

2	X06R CIP 11017() T&R Contracting Inc. 85th St - Fm E of Sundowner Ave to W of Tallgrass Ave	Lincoln County \$1,130,885.15
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Grading, Asphalt Concrete Surfacing, Structure (12x5 CIP or Precast RCBC), Curb & Gutter, Lighting

3	04K7, 080L NH-PH 0050(116)354, P 0037(168)19 Foothills Contracting, Inc. SD50, SD50 E & W - Fm W of SD37 S Jct to E of Tyndall	Bon Homme County \$10,954,103.21
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Cold Milling, Asphalt Concrete Resurfacing, Pipe Work

4	09HV P 0027(16)198 BITUMINOUS PAVING, INC. SD27 - Fm US12 N to Day/Marshall Co Line	Day County \$4,268,703.50
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Asphalt Concrete Surfacing

5	05Q7 P 0028(43)355 BOWES CONSTRUCTION, INC. SD28 - Fm Estelline to SD15	Deuel, Hamlin County \$5,711,509.92
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Structure (3-12x8 CIP RCBC), Approach Grading

6	09MH BRO-B 8042(53) A & R Construction Inc Structure 1.8 S & 4 W of Canton on 476 Ave over S Fork of Beaver Ck, SN 42-120-158	Lincoln County \$580,850.29
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Structure (2-11x9 CIP RCBC) & Approach Grading

7	06XL NH-B 014A(26)29 Complete Concrete Inc dba Complete Contracting Sol	Lawrence County \$3,489,226.10
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US14A - Str. 0.2 E of Cheyenne Crossing Over Ice Box Ck

Bent Cap & Bearing Repair

8	08HX P-B 0013(166)114	Moody County
	BX CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION, INC.	\$284,914.48
	SD13 - 4.1 S of Brookings Co Line over Spring Ck	

Erosion Repair, Slide Repair, Pipe Work

9	08QP PT 0047(124)51	Lyman County
	Schweigert Construction Inc.	\$297,099.20
	SD47 - Fm 7 S of SD49 S 5	

Weigh Scale Pit Repair

10	0A45 IM 0291(143)12	Union County
	Hulstein Excavating LLC.	\$73,141.00
	I29 N - Jefferson Port of Entry	

Modify Signals

11	09VN NH 0044(249)44	Pennington County
	MUTH ELECTRIC, INC.	\$522,858.00
	SD44 – Fm I190 (West Blvd) to Maple Ave in Rapid City	

Polymer Chip Seal

12	090X NH 0012(312)173	Corson County
	The Truesdell Corporation	\$335,335.00
	US Highway 12 - 6.6 & 8.2 NW of SD20 over Deep Bank Ck & Grand River	

A MOTION WAS MADE by Frick and seconded by Vallery to approve all bids presented by the Department. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

John Keyes, Program Manager for the Office of Right of Way, presented the following item for Commission consideration:

1. Request Transportation Commission approval to dispose of the following DOT excess property in accordance with the procedures provided by SDCL 31-2-27 and ARSD chapter 10:02:01.

Lot "V" in the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 15, Township 128 North, Range 53 West of the 5th P.M., Marshall County, South Dakota. (contains 4.63 acres)

Appraised value: \$37,000

Lot "V" was acquired in 1973 for a DOT stockpile site and is located on the north side of SD Hwy 25 on the east side of Veblen.

The property is triangle shaped rolling land with a floodplain designation of low wetland area running from the southwest corner to the southeast. Lot "V" is in city limits and zoned for residential use.

A 15" clay tile sewer line is located within the property. Utilities are available nearby and access is from SD Hwy 25.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Frick and seconded by Vehle to authorize the sale of the property in Marshall County. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Mark Leiferman, Program Manager for the Office of Project Development presented the following Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revisions for the Commission's information:

FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL

(to add or delete a project in the 4-year construction STIP)

REV 26-001 This revision will add a FY2026 modify a turn lane on the south bound lane of SD115 north of Tiger Way in Harrisburg in the Mitchell Region.

FY 2026 Plus \$260,000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Vallery to approve REV 26-001. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

REV 26-002 This revision will add a FY2026 testing equipment purchase project for estimating pavement thickness due to SDDOT receiving State Transportation Innovation Councils (STIC) grant.

FY 2026 Plus \$323,000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Rosenboom to approve REV 26-002. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL REVISIONS FOR THE COMMISSION

(work type change, cost update, move fiscal years within the 4-year construction STIP)

REV 26-SC-001 This revision added "spot grading" to the work description and increased the cost of a FY2028 mill, AC resurfacing project on SD44 from 8 miles east of US18 to west of SD19 in Parker in Turner County in the Mitchell Region. (Sequence # 938, Page 181 in the 2026-2029 STIP Book).

FY 2028 Plus \$733,000

Original = \$4,637,000; Updated = \$5,370,000

REV 26-SC-002 This revision split a FY2026 Slide and erosion repair project on SD46 E of US81, to move forward with the slide repair in 2026 and erosion repair to be constructed in 2027. This project is located within the Mitchell Region. (Sequence #970, Page 186 in the 2026-2029 STIP Book).

FY 2026 No Change
FY2027 \$734,000

Steve Johnson, Chief Bridge Engineer, and Joanne Hight, Program Manager for the Office of Administration, presented information on the state of structures for South Dakota.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Vice-chairman Simons declared the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. CT.