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WVDOH Holds State ROADEO at Jackson's Mill



**WVDOT Announces Bridge
Strike Awareness Campaign**

August 2025, Volume 7: Issue 8



WVDOH Announces Winners of State ROADEO

West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) held the state equipment operators "ROADEO" at Jackson's Mill in Lewis County, West Virginia. Seven events were held: single axle truck, tandem axle truck, lowboy trailer, motor grader, backhoe, skid steer, and tractor mower. There was a great display of skills that ended with a luncheon and an award ceremony on Wednesday July, 16, 2025. Each of the first place winners will get a chance to display their skills at the Southeast Regional ROADEO held in Lexington, Kentucky later this fall.

We would like to recognize and congratulate each of the winners:

Backhoe



1st Place: Jason Fisher (District 1), 2nd Place: Hunter Kite (District 5), and 3rd Place: Warren Suck (District 3)

Tractor Trailer with Lowboy



1st Place: Chad Loudin (District 4), 2nd Place: Michael Simpson (District 8), and 3rd Place: Walt Westrope (District 10)

Tandem Axle Dump Truck



1st Place: Joseph Hawkins (District 9), 2nd Place: Darren Roth (District 8), and 3rd Place: Joshua Barkely (District 1)

WVDOT Today!

is a monthly newsletter published by the West Virginia Department of Transportation's Public Relations Division. The purpose of this publication is to facilitate connection across the diverse worksites and professions represented among WVDOT employees to empower us to function as **one West Virginia Department of Transportation**.

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ROADEO Winners Continued

Single Axle Dump Truck



1st Place: Jeffrey Waddell (District 1), 2nd Place: Ellis Strickland (District 9), and 3rd Place: Nick Southern (District 8)

Skid Steer



1st Place: Juan Cruz, Jr. (District 5), 2nd Place: Joey Smith (District 3), and 3rd Place: Daniel Shepherd (District 10)

Motor Grader



1st Place: Chanc Swecker (District 8), 2nd Place: Danny Porter (District 1), and 3rd Place: Wayne Smith (District 6)

Tractor Mower



1st Place: Alan Roth (District 8), 2nd Place: Chad Thoms (District 4), and 3rd Place: William Garretson (District 9)

Overall District Winner



(District 1)

USDOT, Governor Morrisey and Transportation Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh Celebrate SMART Technology Grant in Huntington

Transportation Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh joined USDOT Director of Strategic Initiatives Shaz Umer and Gov. Patrick Morrisey on Thursday, August 7, 2025, to celebrate the state receiving an \$820,000 grant to install a Structural Health Monitoring system (SHM) on the 31 st Street Bridge in Huntington.

The grant was administered through Stage 1 of the federal Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant program. West Virginia is the only state in the country to use a SMART grant to install SHM technology on a bridge.



The SHM system is a network of sensors to provide real-time data that allows engineers to quickly detect stress, movement, or potential structural damage. It includes accelerometers, crack meters, tilt sensors, and vessel collision detectors. These tools provide continuous data that allows engineers to quickly address threats that could go undetected for months or even years.

"This technology gives us a clearer picture of what's happening on our bridges at any given moment," said Rumbaugh. "It's a smarter, safer, and more cost-effective way to manage infrastructure and it helps us target our resources where they're needed most."

West Virginia is also in the running for a Stage 2 SMART grant, which could provide up to \$15 million in federal funding to expand SHM technology to other state bridges.



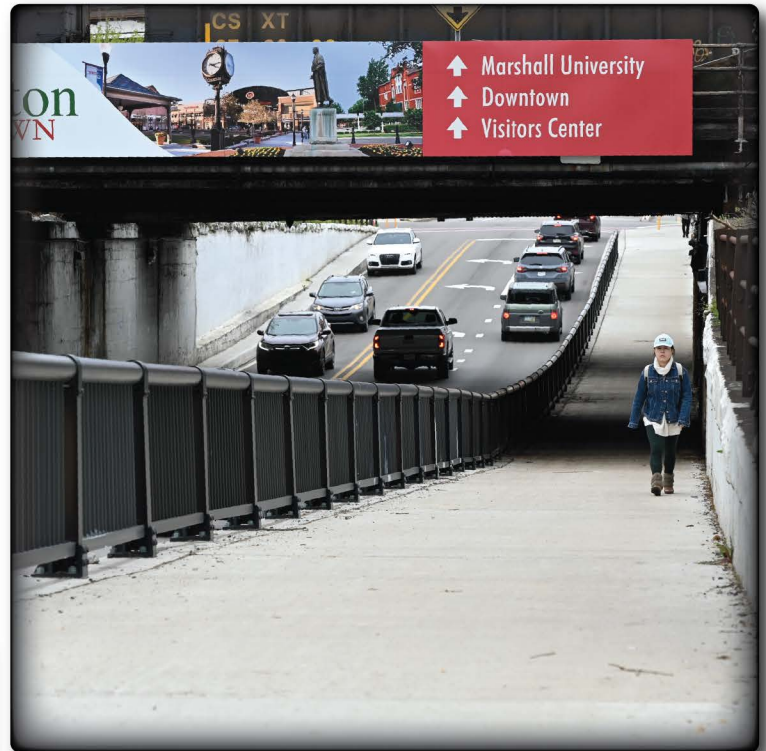
WVDOT Takes Home Two Regional America's Transportation Awards

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) took home two America's Transportation Awards recently at the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

West Virginia won an America's Transportation Award for Best Use of Technology and Innovation for a medium project for the Interstate 79 widening project, a \$72.5 million project to widen heavily traveled I-79 to six lanes from Harrison County almost to the Pennsylvania state line, replacing the twin northbound and southbound South Fairmont West Virginia Arch bridges, each carrying two lanes of traffic, with a single, six-lane span, with minimum impact on traffic on the busy section of interstate. The bridges span the Tygart River near the White Hall exit and expanding the crossing to six lanes will increase the roadway safety for travelers while allowing the community room to grow.



West Virginia won a second America's Transportation Award for Safety for the Hal Greer Boulevard Bike and Pedestrian Improvement project in Huntington. The \$13.5 million redesign of the Hal Greer corridor realigned intersections at 10th Avenue and Charleston Avenue, widened sidewalks, added bicycle lanes, installed new lighting, reconfigured traffic lights, and added greenspace along the Hal Greer corridor, all to help make the area more user-friendly for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike.



The two West Virginia winners were selected from 30 projects submitted by 10 states in the SASHTO region. Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and North Carolina also took home America's Transportation Awards.

Regional winners will go on to compete in the national America's Transportation Awards, sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

LET'S GO WVDOT!



30 WVDOT-SASHTO Scholarships Awarded in 2025

Each year, West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT)-SASHTO scholarships are awarded to help support the educational goals of our employees' children. The scholarship is available for use at either in-state or out-of-state educational institutions and is paid directly to the school to be applied toward tuition, fees, books, or other related expenses.

Eligible applicants must be dependent children of active full-time WVDOT employees with at least two consecutive years of credited service.

Winners were selected through a random drawing held by the second Friday in July, and both the employee and applicant were notified after the drawing.

Congratulations to this year's winners, and thank you to all who applied. Supporting the next generation of learners is one more way that WVDOT is investing in our future.

Winners:

Camryn Harvey, Evan McClure, India Lewis, Laina Hamner, Paige Wallace, Gage Tawney, Andrew Dempsey, Hailey Ervin, Josi Ervin, Jenna Grose, Gracie Williams, Lucas Wykle, Marissa Adkins, Carter Pack, Allison Leatherman, Elizabeth Greathouse, Faith Wu, Luke Boram, Trenton Bush, Aubrie Abbott, Kylie Carr, Samuel Keller, Waylon Kisamore, Luke Deaton, Rylea Ables, Reece Westfall, Joshua Mance, Conner Hudnall, William Bennett, and Alison Holmes.



Human Resources Holds Luncheon to Announce Co-op Scholarship Award Winners

The West Virginia Department of Transportation's (WVDOT) Human Resources division held a luncheon on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at District 1 headquarters in Charleston. The event was to formally announce the winners of the Transportation Co-ops Scholarship Award winners.

Transportation Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh, P.E., presented each winner with their award and spoke about how important the Co-ops program is to help train and gather new talent within the department. Rumbaugh himself was a summer Co-op before his long career at the WVDOT, and he spoke on how that experience helped to mold him into the person he is today.

We just want to congratulate all the scholarship winners and thank them for all their hard work.



Ashleigh James



Katie Howard



Sydney Moore



Jesse Ellison



Erinn Keohane

WVDOT Presents Check for WVU Tech Scholarship Fund

Recently, state Transportation Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh, P.E., presented the West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a \$10,000 check for the university's Beckley campus.

In October 2024, the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) won the 2024 America's Transportation Awards People's Choice Award for the Wellsburg Bridge project. Sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the America's Transportation Awards recognizes the positive impacts of state department of transportation projects have on communities across the nation.

West Virginia was one of 12 finalists in the national competition for the America's Transportation Award. The People's Choice Award was determined by public vote, and carried a \$10,000 prize to be donated to a charity of the winning state's choice.

The previous administration decided that the \$10,000 should go to Tech's Beckley campus to be used for a scholarship fund at his alma mater.

Transportation Secretary Rumbaugh, a Tech engineering alumnus, recently presented the check to Civil Engineering Professor Steven Leftwich, an instructor at Tech for the past 38 years.

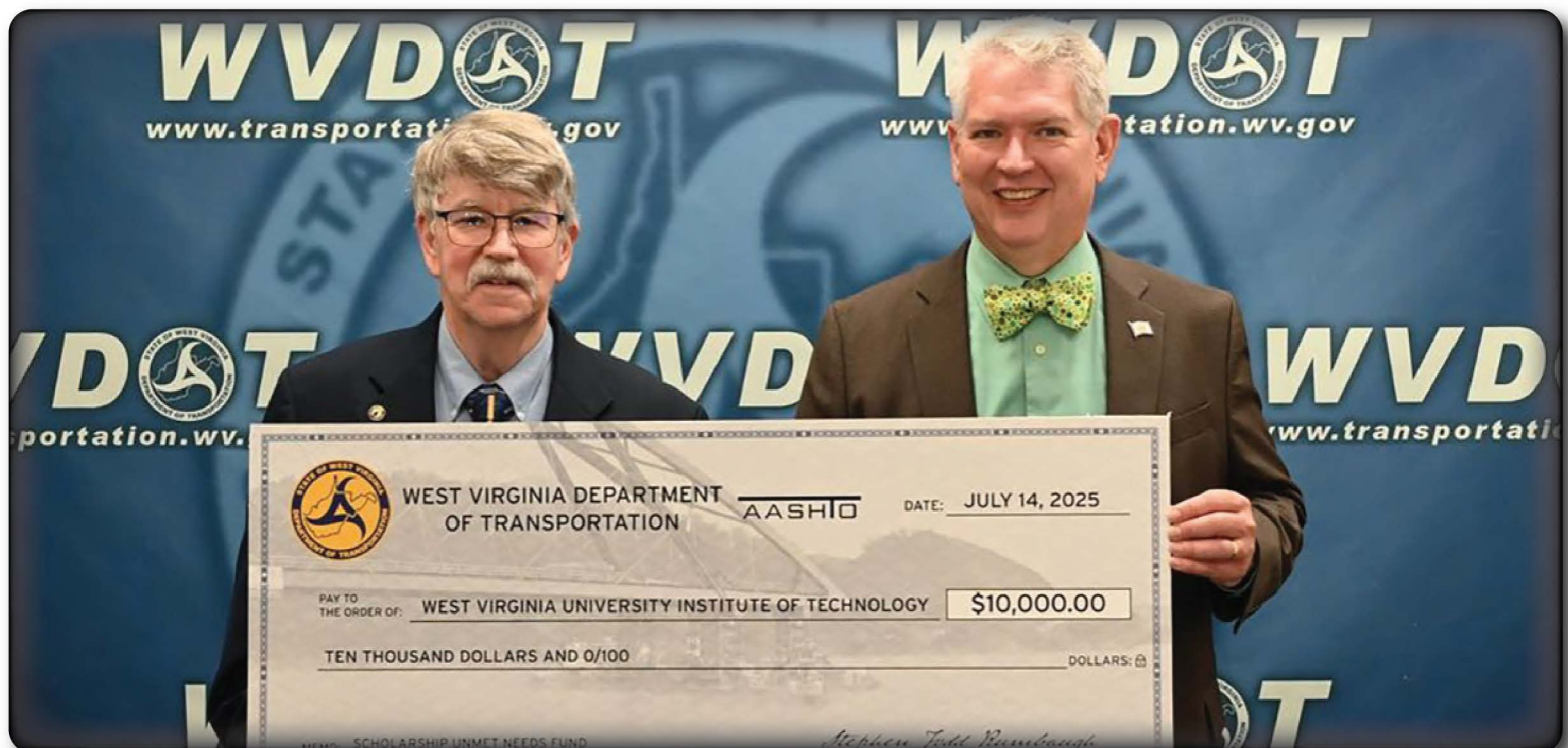
"A lot of students can't afford to go to college," Leftwich said. "I wasn't able to get all my degrees without scholarships."

"This is really going to help our students," he said. "We need more scholarships like this."

Rumbaugh said he was proud to be able to present the check to help train a new crop of engineers.

"They're our future," he said.

The Wellsburg Bridge, which connects the communities of Wellsburg, West Virginia, and Brilliant, Ohio, opened in September 2023 to a fanfare of marching bands, confetti, and fireworks, completing a project that residents of the two communities had been pursuing for a century. An estimated 2,500 people turned out for the bridge grand opening.



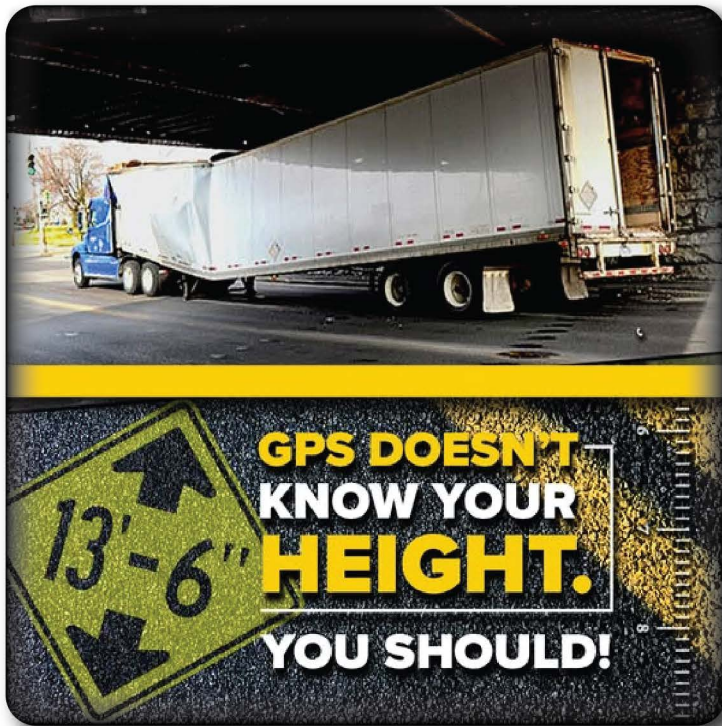
WVDOT Announces Bridge Strike Awareness Campaign: 'Check Your Height, Know It's Right'

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) held a public awareness campaign aimed at helping drivers avoid striking low-clearance bridges, from Tuesday, July 22, 2025, through Saturday, July 26, 2025.

The campaign, titled, "Check Your Height, Know It's Right," urged drivers to make sure their vehicle is not too tall, to pass safely beneath overpasses on state and local roadways. Collisions with low-clearance structures – commonly known as bridge hits – can damage vehicles and infrastructure, cause major traffic delays and pose risks to the public and emergency responders.

Drivers are responsible for knowing the height of their vehicles and for complying with posted bridge clearance signs. Relying solely on navigation apps without checking physical signage can result in costly and dangerous crashes.

The WVDOT's campaign was shared across its official social media channels and features graphics, with safety reminders.



The effort targets all types of drivers, including commercial driver's license (CDL) holders, as well as those driving leased or rented box trucks – such as delivery vans and moving trucks – and recreational vehicles.

Crash data show drivers don't always consider vehicle height when planning routes. For instance, a standard 26-foot moving truck may range from 11 to 13 feet, 6 inches in height, which can exceed the clearance of many older or lower bridges.

The WVDOT is one of several transportation agencies participating in this regional initiative, which is supported by The Eastern Transportation Coalition – a partnership of 19 states and Washington, DC. Working to improve transportation safety and efficiency across all modes of transportation.

For more on The Eastern Transportation Coalition's bridge hit initiative, contact Marygrace Parker at mgparker@tetcoalition.org.

Significant Improvements Made on I-64 Dip Near Nitro

Motorists are seeing major improvements to a notorious dip on eastbound Interstate 64 near the Nitro exit now that work is complete to readjust the approach slabs.

Contractors Brayman-Trumbull, a Joint Venture, recently spent about two weeks raising the approach slabs to the bridge over US 25 between the Nitro and St. Albans exits. Contractors drilled holes in the bridge approaches and injected foam underneath them to raise the slabs to nearly the same level as the bridge.

The dip has been almost completely eliminated.

Contractors removed traffic control devices from the work zone the evening of Thursday, July 24, 2025.



A Blast From The Past



East Huntington Bridge under construction in 1984

West Virginia DMV Encourages Everyone to Get Their Mobile ID

DO YOU HAVE MOBILE ID?



Convenience

Have your ID at your fingertips!

Security

Mobile ID is secured using FaceID or TouchID

Privacy

Verify your age without sharing details like your birth date or address.

Download WV Mobile ID on the Apple App Store or Google Play today!



More Than Just Tech Support: IT's Role in Managing Surplus Equipment

Most of us interact with the IT division when we need help with a computer issue, software setup, or a password reset. But there's another important role they quietly play behind the scenes—helping sort and process the organization's surplus technology equipment.

When computers, monitors, printers, or other devices are no longer needed or reach the end of their service life, it's the IT team that steps in to manage the transition. They evaluate the condition of each item, ensure all data is securely removed, and help determine whether the equipment can be repurposed internally, donated, recycled, or properly disposed of. This process isn't just about clearing out storage—it's about protecting data, staying compliant with disposal policies, and supporting sustainability efforts.



It's detailed, methodical work that often goes unnoticed—but it makes a big difference. Thanks to the efforts of staff across IT, we're able to maintain secure systems, reduce clutter, and make the most of our resources. It's just one more example of how IT supports the entire organization—not only by keeping our technology running but also by managing the full life cycle of the tools we use every day.



New Guests Each Week!



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