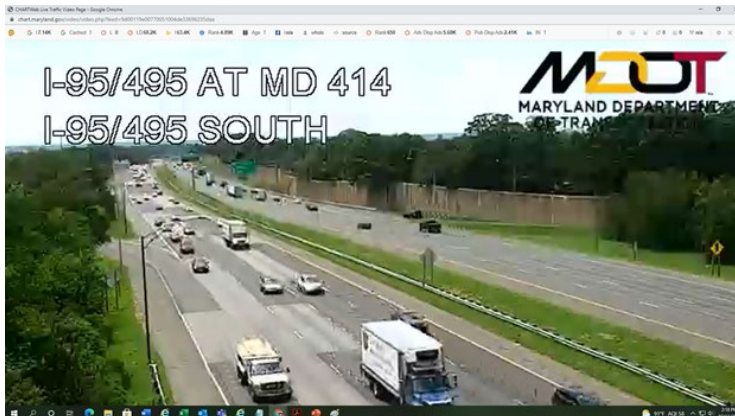




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MDOT SHA Wins Praise from Maryland Asphalt Association



District 3 is undertaking a major summertime project on the Capital Beltway from MD 5 to MD 414.

It takes a real partnership to improve and maintain our roadway system here in the state of Maryland. MDOT SHA, Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) and Industry Partners recognize the successful collaboration between the groups is important to everyone's success. Last month, MAA sent a letter praising



Team First

Hoping you are enjoying the summer season and have had a chance to watch or at least follow some of the Summer Olympic Games. Like the rest of the world, the global pandemic impacted the Olympics and needed to be pushed from 2020 to 2021. The Spirit of the Olympic Games can probably be best summed up in its creed: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well." The part of the Olympics that inspires me is regardless of whether the athletes are competing as individuals or with other players, they are part of one **Team** for their country. It is a

district operations and Andre Futrell, Deputy Administrator of District Operations.

“I want to thank the efforts of all the districts and especially Andre Futrell for their diligent work in maintaining the work on contracts as FY2021 ended and FY2022 began,” wrote MAA President Marshall Klinefelter. Adds Futrell, “Our cooperation with the asphalt community is extremely successful. We thank MAA and their partners.”

In the past, the fiscal years have started slowly for months of July and August with work gradually building up in September and October. This year, at Administrator Tim Smith’s direction, the Deputy Administrator and District Operations, Andre Futrell, worked intensively to plan work far ahead of the season to ensure close out of the fiscal year by spending the allocated budget, while continuing to preserve the roadway system.

“So, every district, in June, was nearly 100% programmed for FY22,” says Futrell. This shows progress.

For example, District 7 ended FY21 year with a much-improved ride condition along MD 140 in Westminster. In FY22, District 3 is undertaking a major summertime project on the Capital Beltway from MD 5 to MD 414. This project will improve riding surface on this heavily travelled interstate in Prince George’s County.

The districts typically perform work that include system preservation and rehabilitation on the roadway network. System preservation can include crack sealing, thin lift overlays, and patching. This selective work on sections of roads lets MDOT SHA stretch its dollars, while extending the life of roadways. Rehabilitation includes more extensive repairs such as patching, milling and resurfacing or overlaying a project location.

shining example that the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back of the jersey.

An interesting illustration of that involved this year’s US Women’s Gymnastics team. We had an incredibly strong team heading into the Olympics this year with arguably the best gymnast in the world on our squad. Before the competition began, she did not believe she could compete at her best and removed herself from competing in main events. She had the courage and self-awareness to put the team’s needs above her own because the team had other strong members. Just as important, her teammates did not shrink from that opportunity; they showed courage themselves and stepped up to deliver for the name on the front of their uniforms - USA. They could have chosen to say, “this was not my role,” or “I was not expecting this responsibility.” Instead, they delivered for Team USA with overall team medals and individual all-around gold medals, and many other individual medals without, arguably, their best gymnast. There is a powerful lesson for us about putting the Team First regardless of our role, the circumstances, or the current situation.

We frequently find ourselves on our own Team SHA in these same predicaments as the US Women’s Gymnastics team faced during these

“We are off to a good start,” writes MAA’s Klinefelter. Noting the departure of bad weather on the day he was writing, he adds, “I hope that the remainder of the year continues to improve. After the storms last night, clear skies are ahead.”



D 7 ended FY 2021 with a much improved MD 140 in Westminster

Olympics. Lord knows the past 18+ months are not what anyone expected heading into 2020. And we will continue to see changing conditions and situations moving forward that will force us to decide whether we put the Team first. The mission and task at hand does not change based on these unexpected situations. How we face these challenges and the decisions we make regardless of our role on Team SHA will show what and who we are as an organization and will also impact the loyalty of our fellow teammates. Are we stepping up when the team needs us to move outside our comfort zone and deliver an innovative solution to a challenging problem, or are we retreating?

Our elected officials in DC are nearing consensus on an infrastructure bill that will provide us a better opportunity to deliver great services and roadway improvement projects for our customers. We have spent the past 18 months throttling back on our expenditures. Now we need to adjust again. Luckily, our Northbound 10 team focus on [Filling our Capital Shelf with System Packages](#) has a Roadmap that will aid in our adjustment. It will be essential as we move into the future and take on this new challenge of a federal infrastructure bill. That Northbound 10 team has identified the next steps for us building a foundation for our existing processes,

setting standards and defining project involvement with internal/external stakeholders and then refining our project life cycle built on efficiency, quality and rapid delivery for our customers. They have laid out a roadmap for us to follow on our journey with the infrastructure bill.

We will need that Team First approach as we continue to adapt to our hybrid work environment the rest of the year. This approach is even more true as we face a growing workload to deliver innovative solutions to connect people to life's opportunities. We have to be courageous enough to put the needs of the team above individual wants. I will leave you with a quote from 1960 Team USA gold medalist Olympian Muhammad Ali: "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."

In D6, They Rappel Down Mountains

Yes, we have mountainous terrain and windy roads in Western Maryland, but we don't expect to drive past workers gliding down slopes like climbers on a Tibetan peak.

Left: Preventing rock slides onto MD 135 in Western Maryland requires rappellers going downhill and a bulldozer going uphill.



“People ride by and wonder what’s going on, seeing contractors working on the side of a mountain,” says Project Manager Craig Diehl.

Welcome to the project in D6 on MD 135, where the district employs a contractor based out of Switzerland and workers who flew in all the way from Colorado and California.

The McCoole Westernport Road slope protection in Allegany County is reducing rockslides at six locations from McMullan Highway to the Garrett County line. In this proactive approach, contractors are installing slope stabilization devices, including steel wire mesh, shotcrete, rock dowels, grading, drainage, and soil nails.



“We have a lot of slides in this area,” explains Diehl. “It’s an ongoing issue.”

In the past, rockslides have closed this road and led the district to contract out emergency repairs. These measures need to be installed to prevent future rockslides and ensure the safety of the traveling public.

Local contractors can’t reach the side of the mountain using traditional equipment; hence, the specialists with their specialized gear and equipment. Each day begins with one worker climbing and pounding anchors into a mountainside. Then he throws fastened ropes down to his colleagues, where they make their way up the mountain sides and begin their repairs.

One of the crew is Dean Dayton, a bulldozer operator who specializes in moving his track hoe carefully – and slowly – down steep slopes. He clears loose material, digs, and adds riprap so water doesn’t pool in the surrounding area. He is adding a trench drain that will be four feet wide and four feet deep into the mountain. He works alone, which means he must transport loads of material, including loose soil, by himself.

The dirt provides support. “Moving a steel track loader on rock is like operating on ice; there’s no traction,” explains Diehl.

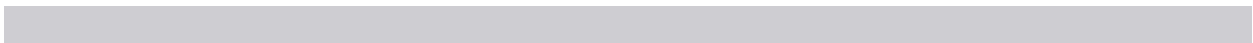
Dayton examines the steep mountain grade and determines how he can work the dozer at an angle that is so precise. One wrong choice could see Dayton and his equipment tumbling downhill. He does some things that no other operator would attempt. His advantage: He knows his equipment’s limitations, and when to stop.

He knows its dangers from experience.

“I once went from sitting flat to upside down in a matter of seconds,” recalls Dayton, the fear still in his voice.

The project is about 40% complete. It's expected to conclude by next June 2022.

“The Litter Couple” Step Up to Win WMAR Award



Linda Reger (left) and her husband Ed were the subject of a WMAR-TV feature by reporter Megan Knight (center).

Linda and Ed Reger had to be celebrated eventually, but it took a day when Linda Reger managed to single-handedly lift a sofa bed onto her truck and haul it to the dump. This act set their recognition into motion. On July 30, 2021, WMAR [aired a presentation](#) on the couple; they were awarded the TV station's Chick-fil-A Everyday Heroes Award for the month of July.

The Regers, together with their volunteer organization Community Cleanup, have become partners with MDOT SHA District 4, local shops, and Baltimore County to clear litter not only from their neighborhoods, but from State and county roadways.

“They took it upon themselves,” says District 4 Resident Maintenance Engineer (RME) Jason Neiderer. “The Regers tell me where they’ve done pickups, identified graffiti and flagged anything seen when they are out and about. We support them with pickups and repairs.”

Linda Reger, whose family ingrained service in her when she was a child, places a strong emphasis on individual and communal responsibility. “The trash belongs to all of us,” she says, and she maintains that all of us should clean our own litter rather than relying solely on government agencies.

Community Cleanup counts as its partners individuals who participate in the cleanup. Along with restaurants and other local businesses, Chick-fil-A, Chesapeake Catering, and Bakery Express often donate food, shirts, and prizes to make it all more fun for the volunteers.

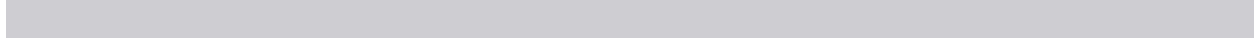
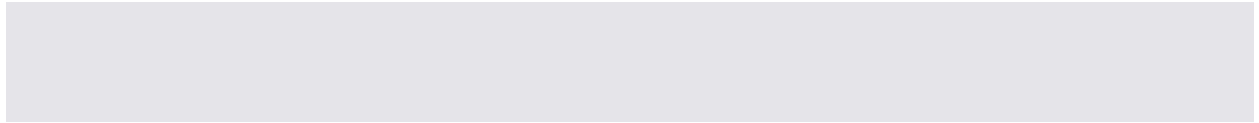
The organization schedules several events a year. Volunteers of more than 75 people put on their gloves, open their large plastic bags, and fill up on what's been discarded on State and local roads, ramps, and grassy areas within the community. Recently they focused on Arbutus near I-695, where they spent time cleaning waterways near Regina Drive and adjacent alleys and roads.

Linda says they make it a family affair, encouraging girls and boys, including Eagle Scouts, to participate in Community Cleanup.

And as for that sofa bed that Linda Reger hoisted on that truck? The local American Legion posted a call for help disposing of it on NextDoor. Their representative, Pat Miller, was so impressed by Linda's response that she nominated Linda for WMAR's award.

Linda is perfectly happy to share the glory.

When the reporter called, Linda emailed MDOT SHA's RME Jason Neiderer, "I want you to know I will be mentioning all of you, Jason, Kathy Ochrzcin and [Baltimore County's] John Milano, for always helping me, getting me to the right departments when needed and for ALWAYS COMING out to pick it all up the next day for ME and Our community. It's appreciated!!"





SOCIAL MEDIA OF THE MONTH

Make sure to retweet video about the Triple Bridges and TSMO projects in District 4, which will reduce congestion on the Baltimore Beltway and beyond.

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roads.maryland.gov
Larry Hogan, Governor | Gregory Slater, Secretary | Tim Smith, P.E., Administrator

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