Picture This - Camera Tips
John Saiki, PE
Morton County Engineer

Reaching New Heights

34th Annual North Central Local Roads Conference
Rapid City, SD - October 16-17, 2019
Photography

• Brief History
• How photography has changed
• Stayed the same
• Technics anyone can use
  • Documenting events (work related)
  • Make aesthetically pleasing photographs
My story

• It all started in 1976 at age 15
  – Pinhole camera (Oatmeal Camera)
• Saved to buy a Nikkormat Ft-3
• Built a Darkroom
• Photographer through College
• Made change to digital in 2000
• 2012 - Ten percent of all the photos taken in all of history were taken in the previous 12 months. (Amy Hobbs)
NUMBER OF PHOTOS TAKEN EACH YEAR

- Red: All photos
- Pink: Analog photos


Values: 0, 1B, 3B, 10B, 25B, 57B, 86B, 380B
Significant Cameras

• Circa 1850 - Daguerreotype
• 1860s - Wet Plate Photography
• 1880s - George Eastman develops film
  – Black and White film
  – Color
• Circa 1900 - Kodak Brownie
• 1930s - 1959 Graflex Speed Graphic
• 1959 Nikon F
• 1976 Canon AE-1
• 1980s and on
Techniques Anyone Can Use

- Documentation
  - Don’t try to encompass everything
Breakdown the scene
Include something of scale
Include something of scale
Include something of scale
Maintain level horizon
Avoid “dramatic effect”
Check the Background
Aesthetically Pleasing

• Rule of Thirds
Lighting

- Avoid photos with a clear blue sky
- Clouds add contrast and depth
Avoid photos at high noon
Patience
Avoid over/under exposure
Avoid over/under exposure
Avoid over/under exposure
Emphasize movement
Emphasize movement
Emphasize movement
Emphasize movement
Control Depth of Field
Control Depth of Field
Control Depth of Field
Control Depth of Field
Cell Phones
Questions?