

SAVE THE DATE

**October 18-20, 2022**

RAPID CITY, SD

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
North Central Regional  
**LOCAL ROAD  
CONFERENCE**

**Innovation is Local**



# INNOVATION IS LOCAL

Noel Clocksin, SDDOT

Joe Conway, FHWA Local Aid Support Team

Leanna Emmer, NDLTAP

37<sup>th</sup> Annual North Central Local Roads Conference

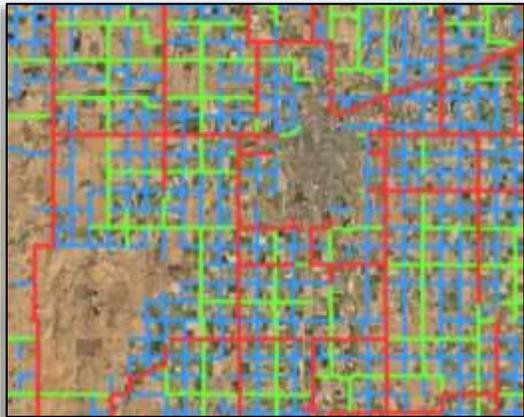
Rapid City, SD - October 18-20, 2022

“We do what we have to do!”

2021 CONTEST  
**INNOVATION  
CHAMPIONS**

ROAD TO  
INNOVATION





# INNOVATION IS LOCAL




**MSO  
Employee  
Portal**

How to Leverage the Office 365 Environment for  
Better Employee Communication



**Shop Clean Up: Squeegee**

**Innovator: Joe Wood**

Madison County Secondary Roads, IA  
(515) 462-1136

[jwood@madisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:jwood@madisoncounty.iowa.gov)

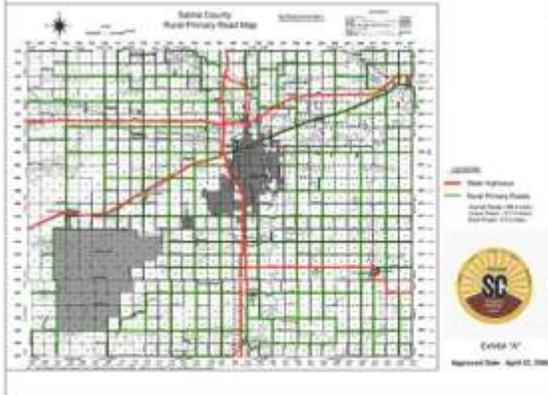


**Development of a Rural Primary Road System**

**Innovator: Darren Fisher**

Saline County Road & Bridge, KS  
(785) 826-6527

[darren.fishel@saline.org](mailto:darren.fishel@saline.org)



# INNOVATION IS LOCAL

## 2022 STATE WINNERS

**Hydraulic Side Disc**

**Innovators: Mark Davis; Oscar Haas**

Rolette County Highway Department, ND  
(701) 477-5249

[vmcccloud@nd.gov](mailto:vmcccloud@nd.gov)



**Grader Mounted Sod Mulcher**

**Innovators: Bon Homme County Hwy. Dept.**

**Motor Grader Operators & Supt. Matt Hauck**

Bon Homme County Highway Department, SD  
(605) 589-4216

[bhcohwy@hcinet.net](mailto:bhcohwy@hcinet.net)



**INNOVATION WEBSITES:**

South Dakota

<https://sdcountycommissioners.org/support/you-show-us/>

Iowa

<https://iowaltap.iastate.edu/iowa-innovations/>

North Dakota

<https://www.ndltap.org/events/innovation/>

Kansas

<https://kutc.ku.edu/build-better-mousetrap>

Colorado

[https://www.coloradoltap.org/ltap/Local Innovation Projects.asp](https://www.coloradoltap.org/ltap/Local%20Innovation%20Projects.asp)

FHWA: Build A Better Mousetrap

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/babm>



FHWA's Build a  
Better  
Mousetrap  
Showcase 2022 -  
YouTube

Build a Better  
**MOUSETRAP**

# Build a Better Mousetrap Program

*National Recognition Program*

Presented by: **FHWA Local Aid Support**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

Office of Transportation Workforce Development & Technology  
Deployment

**LOCAL AID SUPPORT**



# Build a Better Mousetrap

## Benefits

- Encourages collaboration
- Motivates others
- Improves the way of doing business
- Public benefits

# National BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP Categories

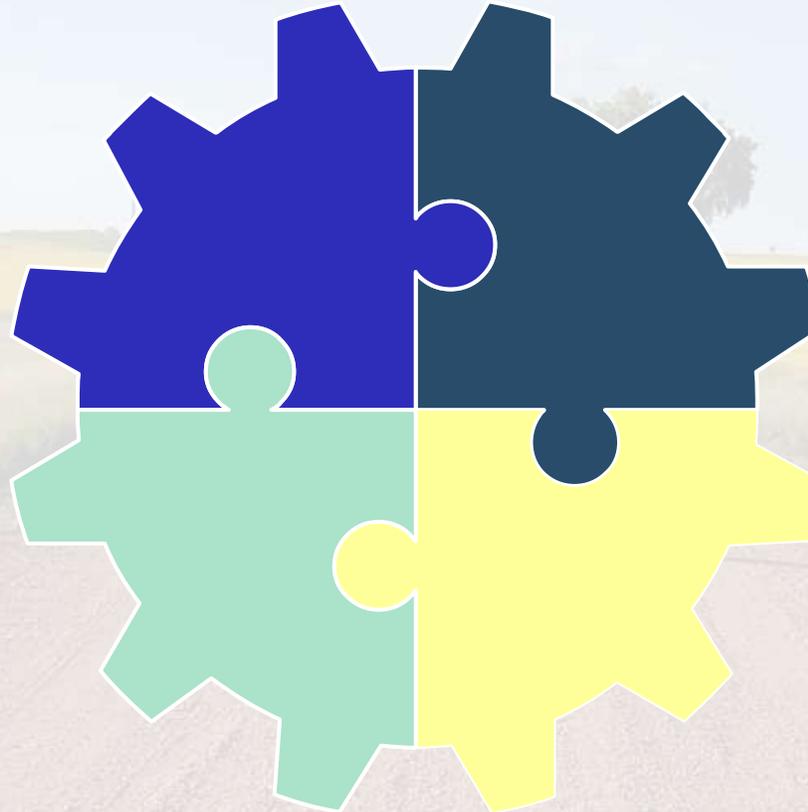


## 1 INNOVATIVE PROJECT AWARD

Any solution that addresses any or all phase(s) of the “project” life cycle—Planning, Design/Engineering, Construction, Operations, and Maintenance. This project shall introduce new ideas and be locally relevant, original, and creative in thinking.

## 3 BOLD STEPS AWARD

Any locally relevant, high-risk project or process showing a breakthrough solution with demonstrated high reward.



## 2 SMART TRANSFORMATION AWARD

A locally relevant, significant change in any transportation activity or process that is SMART, “Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time bound,” in nature that results in improved efficiencies.



## 4 PIONEER AWARD

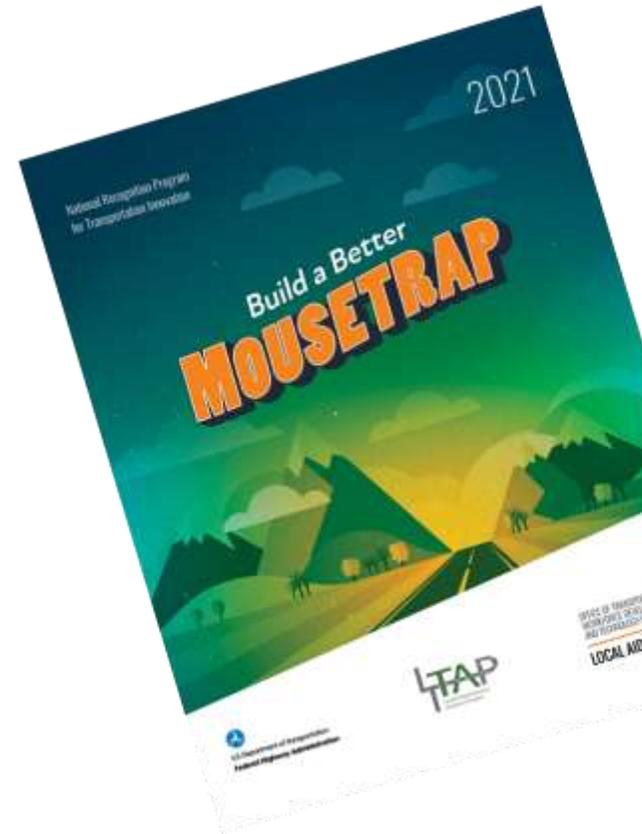
A locally relevant, product/tool that is among the first to solve a maintenance problem with a home-grown solution.

# Congratulations!

Build a Better  
**MOUSETRAP**

## Record number of nominations!

- **67** nominations
- Several states submitted nominations for the first time!
- Many thanks to the States who submitted nominations: CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MT, ND, NY, NH, NJ, NM, OH, PA, PR



# What's Next

Build a Better  
**MOUSETRAP**

- 2022 BABM Booklet
- Innovation Exchange Webinars (Sept and Oct)
- Social Media
- Local Aid Support Newsletters
- FHWA Public Roads Magazine
- Invite to participate in special events (ex. Conferences and FHWA webinars)

The screenshot shows a webpage with a dark green header. The main heading is 'LOCAL AID SUPPORT' in large white letters. Below it, there's a green box labeled 'E-NEWSLETTER'. To the right, there's a section titled 'Local Innovation' with the 'Build a Better MOUSETRAP' logo and the text 'National Recognition Program for Transportation Innovation'. Below this, there's a paragraph of text: 'The 2021 winners for FHWA's Build a Better Mousetrap have been announced: Seminole County, FL; Jones County, GA; Independent Highway District, ID; and the Sierra Tollway. The next four articles of the 2021 Build a Better Mousetrap series, visit <https://dot.fhwa.gov/2021/04/08/babm/>. For more information on Build a Better Mousetrap, visit <https://dot.fhwa.gov/2021/04/08/babm/>.

**Build a Better Mousetrap: Smart Transformation Award**  
Seminole County, FL



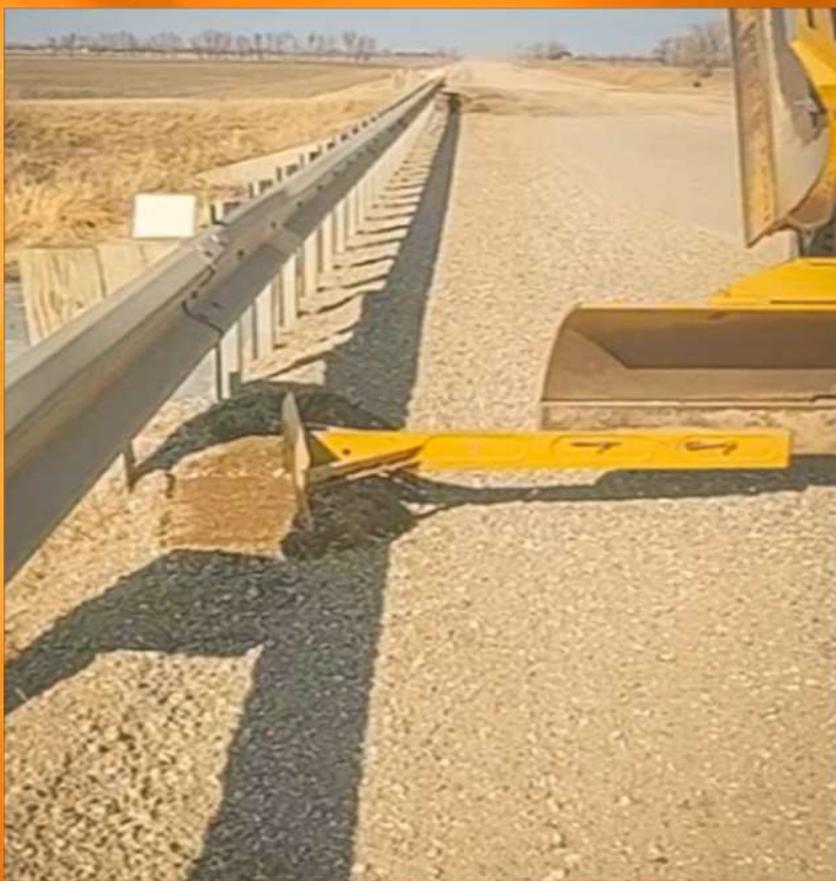
Build a Better  
**MOUSETRAP**

2022

**Bold Steps Award**

**Walsh County Highway  
Department**

**North Dakota**  
*Guardrail Maintainer*



# 2022 National Winners

Build a Better  
**MOUSETRAP**

- **Innovative Project Award**  
**South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County (PA)**  
**Sidewinder Truck Attachment**
  - Saves money
  - Saves time
  - Improves safety
  
- **Smart Transformation Award**  
**Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja (PR)**  
**Public Survey Tool for Emergency Events**
  - Improves efficiency, Improves safety, Saved time due to self-reporting
  - Saved money (no external resources were needed)
  
- **Pioneer Award**  
**Washington County Department of Public Works (NY)**  
**Culvert Cleaner**
  - Improves efficiency
  - Improves safety





# North Central Region Bold Steps Award National Winner Walsh County Highway Department ND





# WHY Innovations?

Safety



Efficiency/  
Effectiveness



Savings



SD State Winner

Blade Disc – Grader Mounted  
Sod Mulcher



# Bon Homme Co Hwy Dept (SD)

Innovators: Jim Sedlacek, Ron Zimmerman, Shane Sutera, Tim Souhrada and Matt Hauck (not pictured)











# Iowa State Winner Shop Clean Up Squeegee

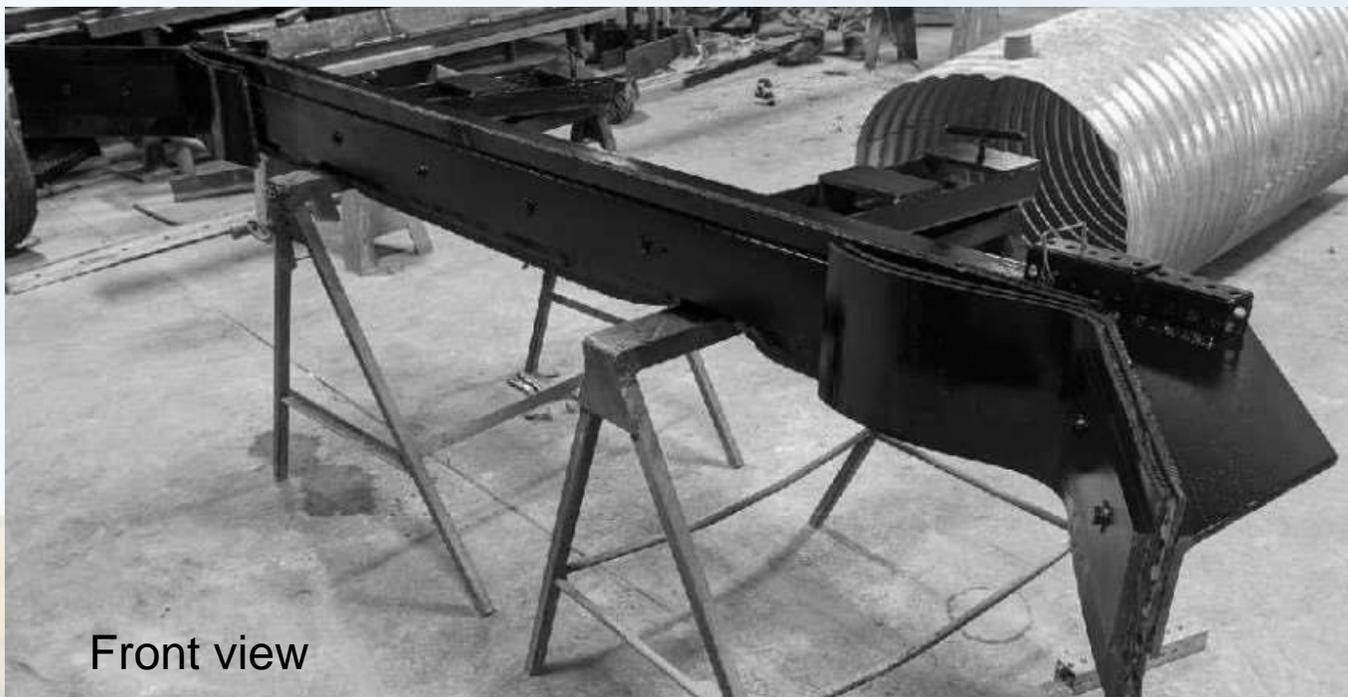


# Madison County Secondary Roads (IA)

Innovators: Mark Hanrahan, Mike Hackett, Joe Wood







Front view



Side view – note pinch bolts for quick install & removal



Detachable wing – baler belting

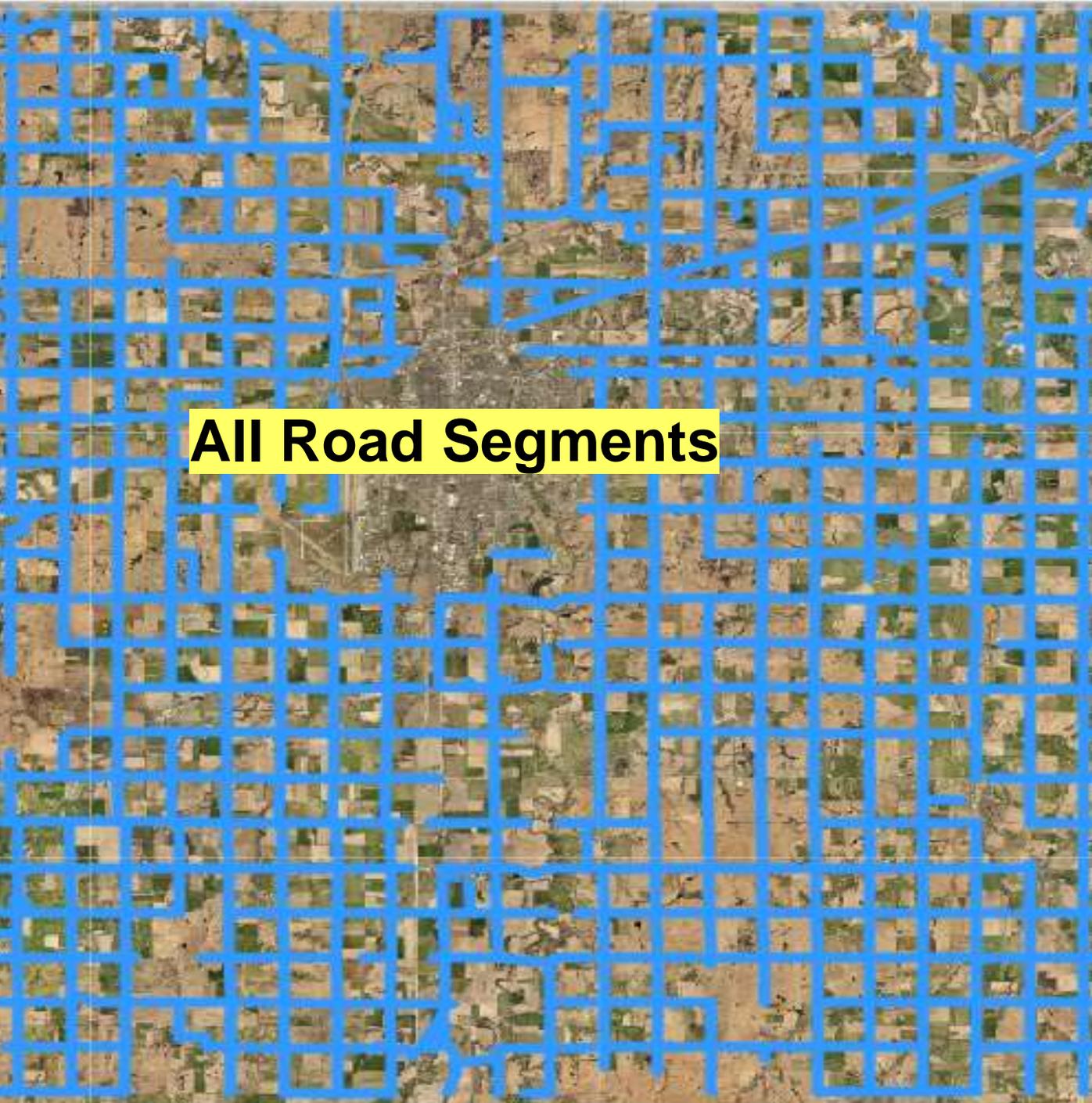




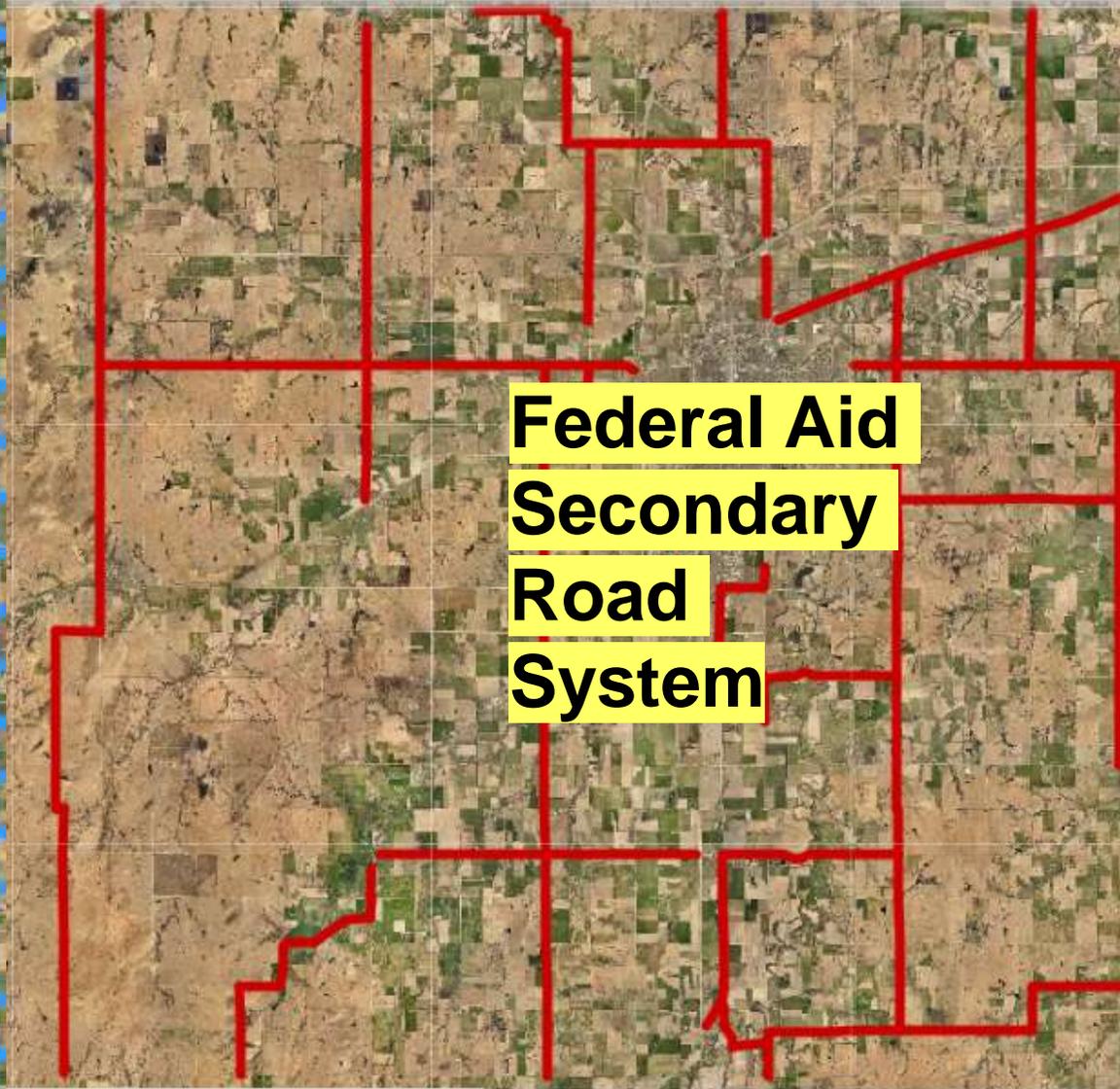
# Saline County Road & Bridge (KS)

## Innovator: Darren Fishel





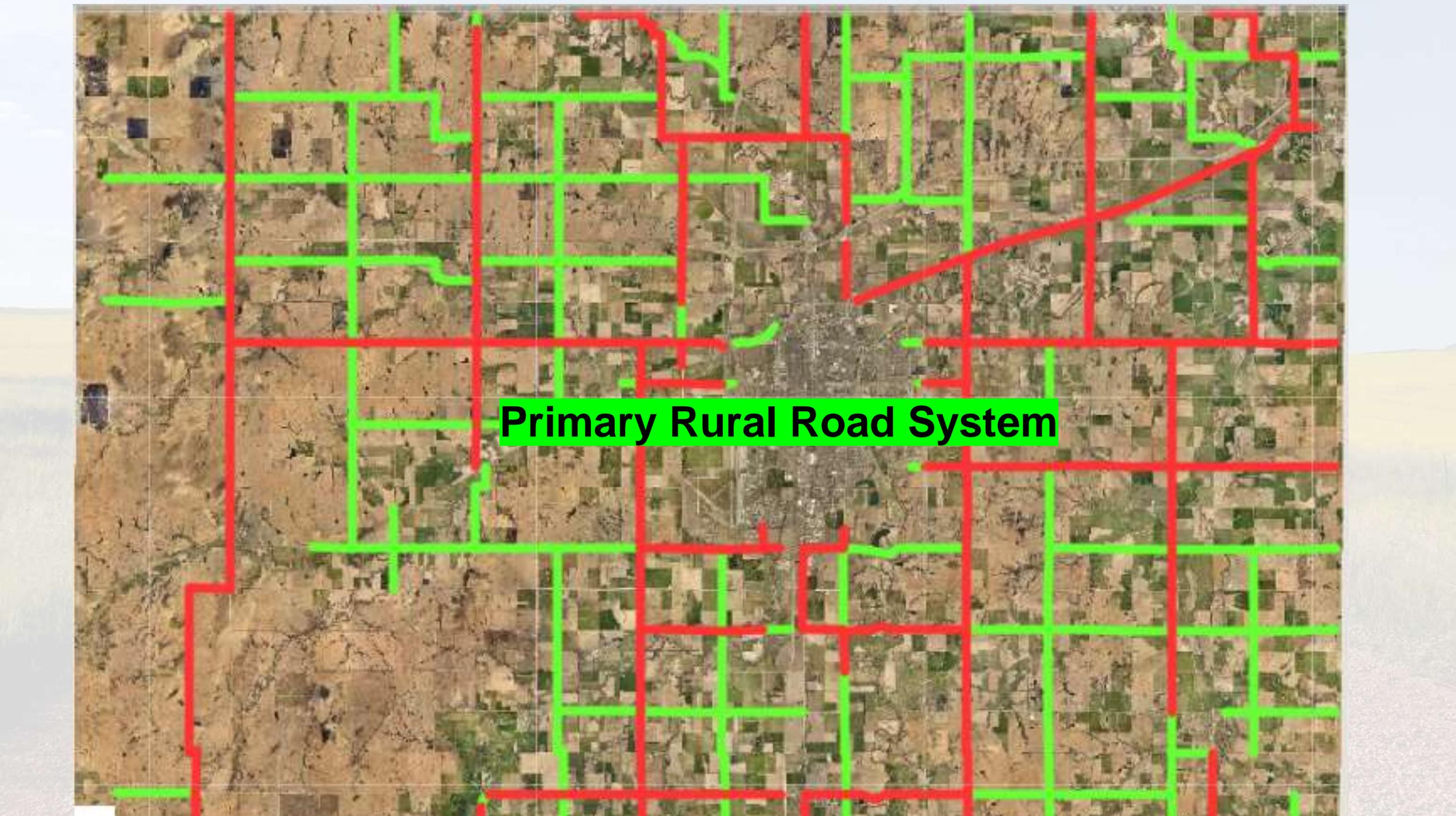
**All Road Segments**



**Federal Aid  
Secondary  
Road  
System**

# Development of Rural Primary Road System

- 2006-2008
  - Driven by bridges
  - Improvements
    - High Traffic volume
    - Agric. use
    - Structures
  - Closed structures and roads
    - Sell to general public
- Created \$2 million 10 year bridge replacement program
  - \$1 million roads

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, likely agricultural, with a grid of roads overlaid. The roads are color-coded: red lines form a primary grid, while green lines form a secondary, more detailed grid. A central area appears to be a town or village. The text 'Primary Rural Road System' is overlaid in a green box in the center of the image.

**Primary Rural Road System**



“I wish more people would share their ideas  
and innovations”

Darren Fishel, Saline County Road & Bridge (KS)

2022 Kansas Build a Better Mousetrap Winner

Saline County - YouTube

# ND State Winner Hydraulic Side Disc

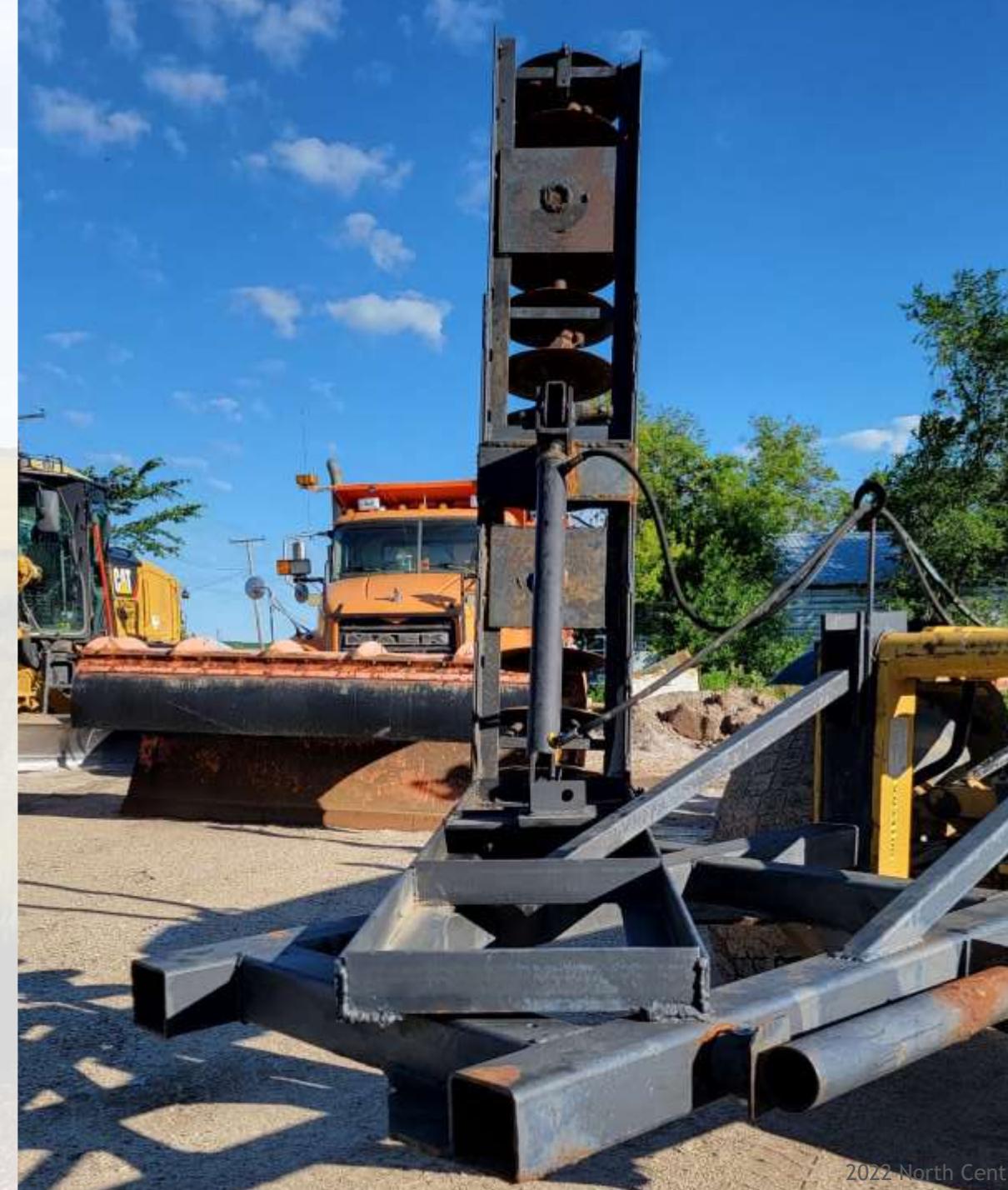


# Rolette County Highway Dept (ND)

Innovators: Oscar Haas, Mark Davis



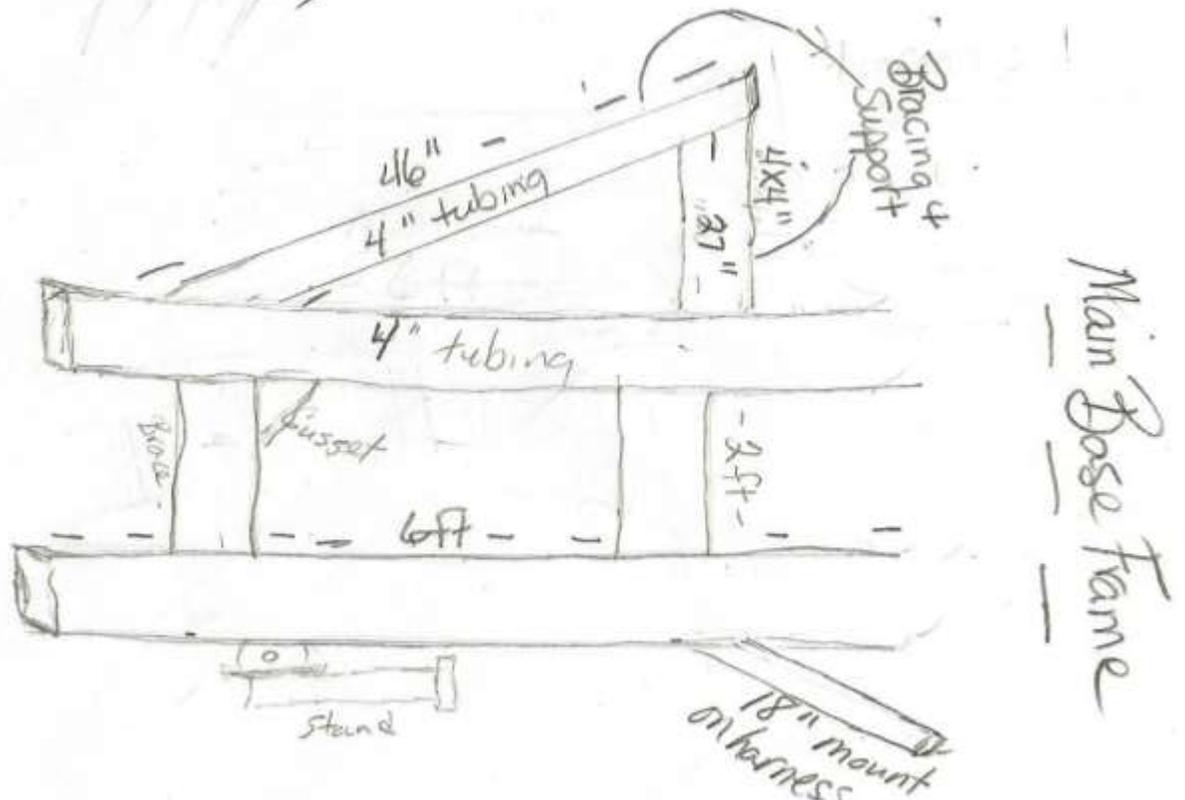
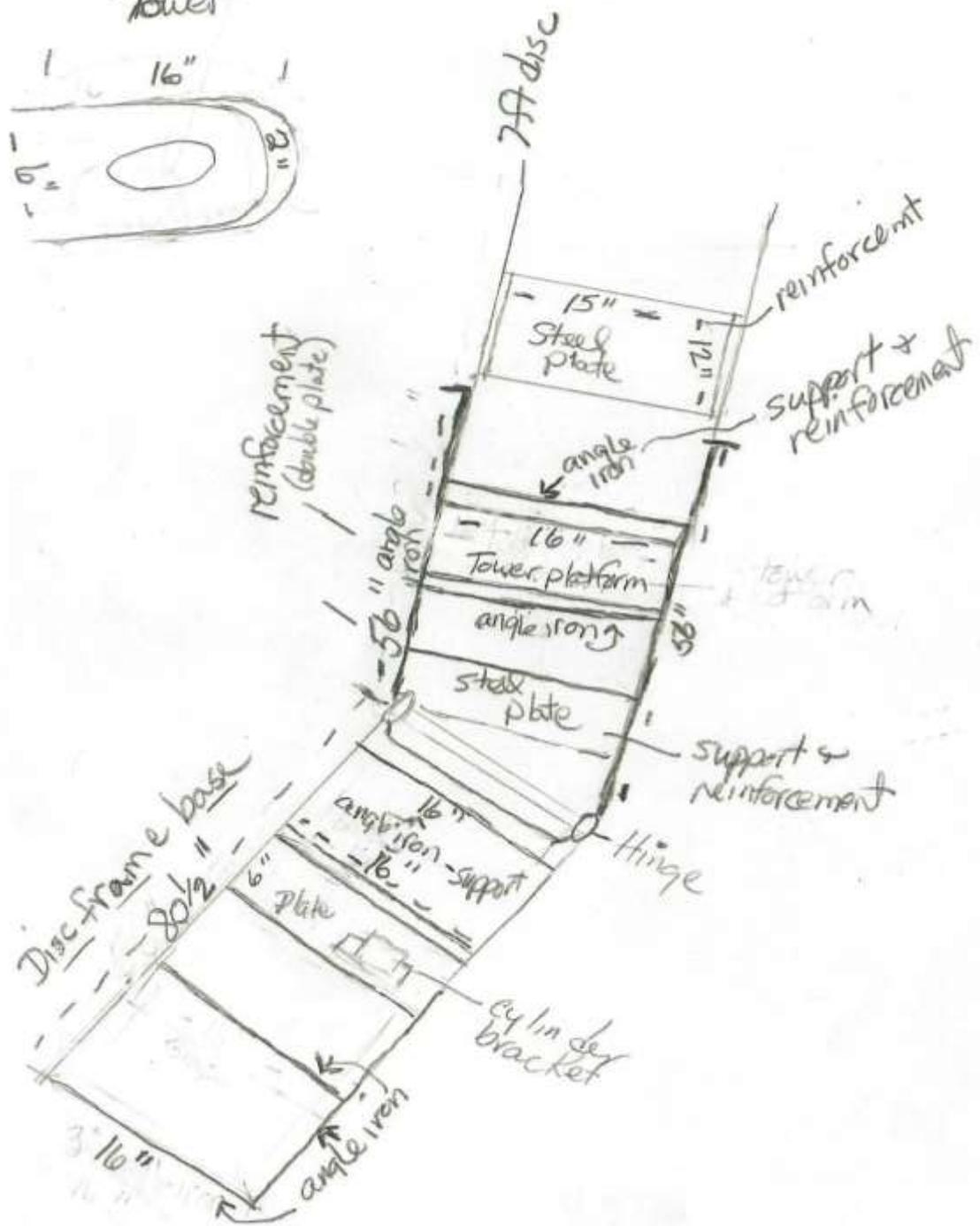
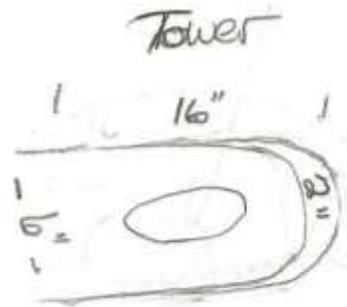








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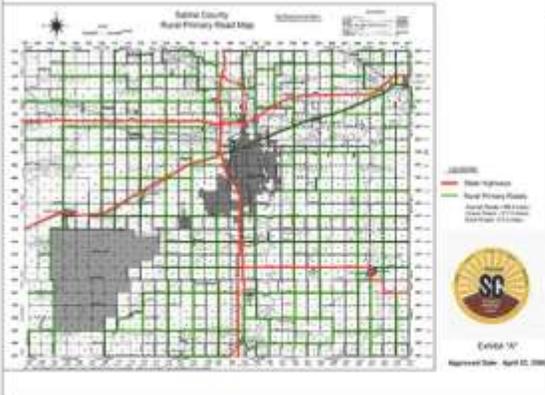


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<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/babm>

# Innovation is Local Panel of Judges

- **Tim Blow, Pierre Region Equipment Shop Foreman**
- **Gary Brennan, Brosz Engineering Managing Principal**
- **Marc Hoelscher, FHWA SD Division Structures Engineer**
- **Jim Hyde, SDDOT Region Operations Engineer**
- **Travis Sparks, SDDOT Highway Maintenance Supervisor / Former County Highway Superintendent**

# Categories

- Safety
- Operational Efficiency
- Innovation
- Implementation by Others
- Cost Savings

# 2022 Regional Winner is:

- Hydraulic Side Disc, Rolette County Highway Department, ND



# Innovation is Local

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Leanna Emmer, NDLTAP  
701-405-4502  
[Leanna.emmer@ndsu.edu](mailto:Leanna.emmer@ndsu.edu)

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