Buford Smith
Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award
*** Recipients ***

(revised 10/16/14)

Buford Smith Award

1966

Buford Smith served the NCDOT as a Division Traffic Engineer. He was an outstanding employee, a well-respected engineer, a good friend, and a very fine person. On April 10, 1982, Buford Smith and his wife were killed in a tragic head-on collision on NC 24 in Stanly County. To preserve the memory of this special man, each year an employee from traffic engineering or traffic services is recognized for their significant achievements and leadership qualities that parallel Buford's attributes. The tradition of recognizing an employee that exemplifies Buford's professional contributions and service, and the selection of the award recipient by his/her peers from Traffic Services and Traffic Engineering has been faithfully carried out since 1983.

Nominations for this honor are submitted by fellow employees and include a summary of the nominee's accomplishments and service highlighting the "key qualities" of the individual. The individual recipients listed in the following pages have exhibited the following qualities:

1972

- **Leadership** (Leads by example; Skillful in directing others to common goal; Builds trust and unity)
- **Safety Champion** (Emulates Safety in Everyday Work)
- **Innovation** (Creative Approach; Applying new technologies)
- **Development of Employees** (Provides persistent reinforcement and feedback on job performance to develop and motivate employees)
- **Technical Knowledge** (Recognized authority in field of work; Exhibits interest in continuing education and learning)
- **Professionalism** (Considers impact on DOT before making decisions; Excellent ethics and morals; Lives by the "Golden Rule")

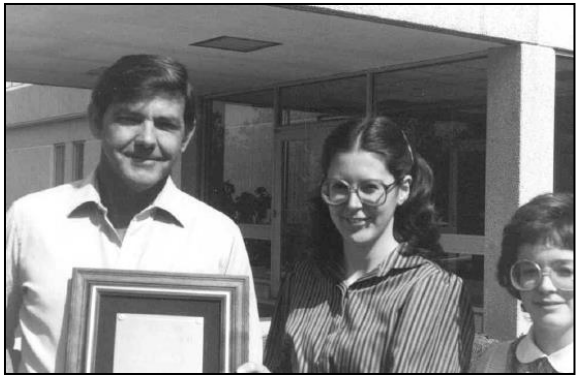
1983
Floyd Lawrence

Mr. Floyd Lawrence receives the first Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

<u>Pictured from left to right:</u>
Mr. Ronny Lawrence (the Lawrence's son), Mr. Carl Painter (Division Engineer – Division 5), Mrs. Celia Lawrence, Mr. Floyd Lawrence, Mr. W.S. Smart (Division Traffic Engineer – Division 5), Mrs. Susan Smith Feis (daughter of Buford and Lucy Smith who presented the award), Miss Kim Lawrence (one of the Lawrence's daughters), Mr. Jimmy Lynch (Manager of the Traffic Engineering Branch)

1983
Floyd Lawrence

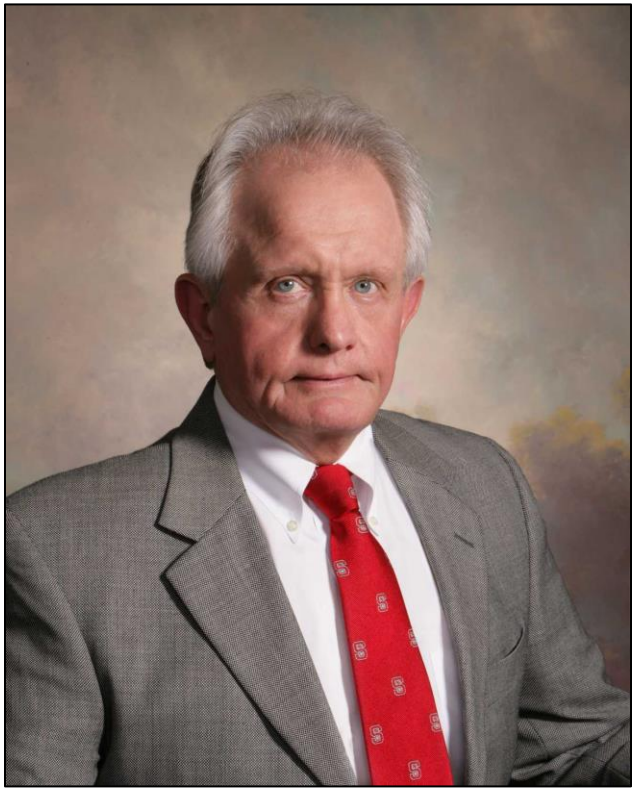
Floyd Lawrence was the very first recipient of the Buford Smith Award. He was the Division 5 Traffic Services Supervisor when he received this 1983 award.



1974

The nomination noted the following about Mr. Lawrence: He was recognized for being very hard-working and dedicated to the job. His technical and administrative knowledge is excellent; and he can apply the necessary corrective principles to any situation involving signals, signs, and markings. He keeps close tabs on his budget and inventory balances to make sure he is living within his means. He works exceedingly well with everyday business and is receptive to innovations concerning equipment, material, and procedures and encourages his men to do the same. He is a gentleman at all times and does an excellent job of dealing with the public. He is always cheerfully available whenever he is needed. Many private individuals have given him much praise for his courteous, knowledgeable, and efficient handling of their problems and concerns.

1984
Troy A. Peoples



Troy Peoples was a Traffic Control Project Engineer when he received this 1984 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Peoples: "He has demonstrated a superior capability for bringing a group of people together and making them produce at maximum output. He is a team builder. His employees fully respect him and will go the extra mile in producing projects for him. He has taken a program "Preparation of Traffic Control Plans" which was totally new to us a few years ago and developed an organizational structure which is producing at a highly professional level. There is no other state that is out performing NC in this effort. He has developed an extremely good working relationship with all the Division Construction staffs across the state as well as with the other Units here in Raleigh. His work ethic and dedication to the Department are excellent.

1985
Woodie Warrick, Jr.

1966

Woodie Warrick was an Area Traffic Engineer in the Field Operations Unit of the Traffic Engineering Branch when he received this 1985 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Warrick: He is able to make a quick decision when quick decisions are needed and is able to dedicate time when deliberation is required for a decision. He very professionally deals with developers, consultants, politicians, governmental agencies, and of course, the public. There is no one more dedicated or more prideful in his work than Woodie. Employees with the Traffic Engineering Branch are constantly asking Woodie for help or advice. People go to Woodie because we trust his opinions and he always seems to find time to help everyone even though he is an extremely busy man. He handles his position in a professional and dignified manner that generates respect. In the most trying of circumstances, he always comes across as a warm, gentle, and very sincere person.

1967

1986
William Andrew (Andy) Ward

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Jimmy Lynch (Manager of the Traffic Engineering Branch), Mr. and Mrs. Andy Ward

1966

Andy Ward was the Assistant State Traffic Engineer when he received this 1986 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Ward: He has been actively involved in the practice of traffic engineering more than 30 years, and is considered one of the founding fathers of Traffic Engineering in North Carolina. He is respected and revered by the field traffic engineers and supervisors who have worked closely with him for so long. There is not one of us that has not benefitted from Andy's help on some tough problem in the past. When you ask for his help, he always comes to the rescue. He is a "work horse" and is able to turn out volumes of work. He doesn't mind meeting with the toughest individuals, developers, government officials, newspaper and television people. Many citizens in eastern North Carolina believe his is a co-anchor because he is on TV so much. Over the years, Andy has proven that a boss can handle employees without being harsh or intimidating and still get good production. He is known and respected by the Division Engineers and has worked exceptionally well with them over the years. He has adjusted well to changing times and is always eager to assist in implementing the latest techniques, concepts and policies of the Division of Highways.

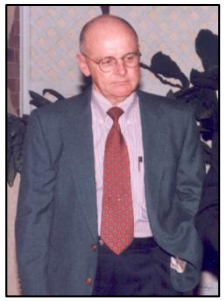
1987
Stephen William (Steve) Haynes

1974

Stephen William Haynes had recently retired from his position of Division 4 Traffic Services Crew Leader when he received this 1987 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Haynes: He began with Traffic Services as a Sign Painter in 1957. He has worked as a paint gun/curb machine operator, traffic line machine operator, traffic services foreman, and primarily as the crew leader charged with administering sign operations throughout Division 4. Mr. Hayes' technical knowledge and innovative approach to his work was based on a thorough knowledge of the Division Four road network and highway signing standards. His supervision and management skills were applied through a quiet demeanor and his technique of "let me show you", as opposed to "do what I say" gained him the respect of both co-workers and upper management. Former Chief Engineer Robert F. Coleman described Mr. Haynes as "a gentleman in the very strictest interpretation of the word".

1975

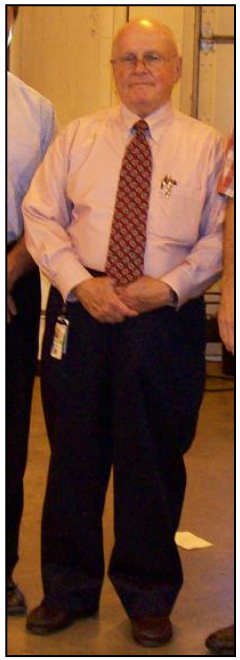
1988
Ray Goff



1995

2004

Ray Goff was the Division 6 Traffic Engineer when he received this 1988 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Goff: He was very innovative in originating and perfecting the writing and implementation of blanket purchase order contracts, now being used statewide, for the installation of traffic signals. He was the first DTE to utilize a contractor to successfully perform preventative maintenance on all signals in his Division. He was the first DTE to initiate, write, implement, and successfully administer a contract at the Division level for the refurbishment of interstate signs. His willingness to try new ideas and methods inspires his crews to be innovative in finding better and more efficient ways to perform their duties. He possesses the knowledge and ability to make effective split second decisions in emergency situations. He also encourages his supervisors and crew leaders to improve their supervisory skills by allowing them the independency to make decisions.



2010

1989
W.E. (Bill) Hamlin

1974

1975

Bill Hamlin was the Division 13 Traffic Services Supervisor when he received this 1989 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Hamlin: He began working with Traffic Services in June of 1958 with the paint crew. He served as a sign erector, traffic sign shop foreman, Assistant Traffic Services Supervisor, and was promoted to his current position of Traffic Services Supervisor in January 1981. Mr. Hamlin carries out his responsibilities with very little direct supervision and shows good leadership abilities by utilizing a no-nonsense approach which has gained him the respect of all the Traffic Services personnel. He shows good innovation and management skills by getting the maximum work out of limited personnel. This was recently proven when two out of the three years the incentive pay program was in effect, Traffic Services received the second highest award in the State. Traffic Services enjoys a good working relationship with outside agencies, municipalities, and private companies as a direct result of Mr. Hamlin's positive attitude and ability to get along well with people. Mr. Hamlin promotes the NCDOT in all his dealings with the public and is respected by both the public and his fellow Traffic Services Supervisors.

1995

1990
W.E. (Pete) Edwards

Pete Edwards was the Division 2 Signal Technician Supervisor when he received this 1990 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Edwards: He started his career in June of 1950 and has always worked in Traffic Services. He served as a laborer, Paint Crew Foreman, Traffic Signal Technician, and was promoted to his current position of Signal Technician Supervisor in September 1978. Mr. Edwards has always strived to provide the safest possible environment for motorists on North Carolina's roadways. He has proven himself to be dedicated to serving the citizens of this state through his devotion to responding to emergency calls at all hours of the day and night. His technical knowledge of signal equipment installation and maintenance is unmatched in Division 2 and he is always willing to help when he can. He is well liked and respected by all his supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates.

1991
Glenn H. Johnson

1968

1975

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Charlie Sessoms, Mr. Glenn Johnson, and Mr. Hap Crowe

Glenn H. Johnson was the Division 12 Traffic Services Supervisor when he received this 1991 award. It is interesting to note that Mr. Johnson received two nominations from his peers in Division 13 and Division 14. The nominations noted the following about Mr. Johnson: He served the state for 37 years beginning his career as a sign erector. He has demonstrated a career of dedicated service going beyond the call of duty at all hours day and night. He has been an innovative supervisor recognizing when morale is down with his crew and working with them to increase the operational capacity of his Department Division wide. His management of personnel and budget has advanced his Department. He is a good public relations person working with individuals or municipalities.

1992
A.D. (Tony) Wyatt

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Tony Wyatt, Dr. Larry Goode (State Highway Administrator)

2007

Tony Wyatt was the Design Review Project Engineer when he received this 1992 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Wyatt: He has consistently and unselfishly put forth the extra effort his job and profession has required. He has earned the respect of all who have worked with him in both government and the private sector. On his own time, he has thoroughly investigated new computer software and after seeing the usefulness for those programs in his current job, Mr. Wyatt was very proactive sharing and teaching others how to use it. He has exhibited excellence in leadership skills and dedication in his work. By his positive leadership style he has created an atmosphere which encourages achievement in his work group. He is known for his ability to handle complex traffic engineering problems in in the area of design review and working effectively with private engineering firms as well as department officials. Mr. Wyatt has a rare admirable ability to interpret and understand very technical data and then relay that information in layman's terms. He is always willing to listen and give full consideration to solutions recommended by others.

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

1993
Terry Moore Hopkins

2007

2005

Terry Moore Hopkins was the Traffic Control Unit Head when she received this 1993 award. The nomination noted the following about Ms. Hopkins: She has diligently worked to ensure that many of the standard drawings, typical drawings, and special provisions were updated to reflect the most recent policies and practices in the Work Zone Traffic Control Unit. She has encouraged her staff to build close working relationships with Division Construction field personnel, Construction Unit personnel, and build a rapport with preconstruction design personnel as well. She has worked to develop and encourage the Unit's staff to observe construction techniques and get feedback on construction traffic control methodology to ensure quality of plans continually improve. She has put in long hours and carried out the responsibilities of a unit head with professional dedication. She has a strong work ethic, and emphasizes teamwork, and encourages staff to share technical knowledge and information readily to create a stronger unit.

Unknown date

2009

1994
Fred Zeilman

Fred Zeilman was the Division 6 Traffic Sign Crew Leader when he received this 1994 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Zeilman: He joined NCDOT in 1980 after he retired from the US Army Special Forces after serving two tours in Vietnam. He worked his way up with a conscientious attitude and a strong work ethic to his current position of Sign Crew Leader where he began to organize the Unit into an efficient, dynamic workforce capable of responding to any emergency situation. He developed model detour scenarios which could be drawn from a file for use in any detour situation.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Fred Zeilman, Mr. Jimmy Lynch (State Traffic Engineer)

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Jimmy Lynch (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Fred Zeilman, Mr. Ray Goff (Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Bill Rosser (Division Engineer, Division 6)

He designed and supervised the fabrication of an emergency response trailer which was designed to store barrels, cones, barricades, and sandbags used for quick response to emergency traffic control situations. This trailer improved both reaction capability and crew safety, and has been used as a model for other maintenance and traffic services units across the state. He initiated the standardization of sign installation practices throughout the Division and helped develop signing study courses for the training of new sign erector employees and re-evaluation of sign erectors. He also developed crew sizing and scheduling guidelines that allowed for emergency response flexibility. He utilized his military experience to instill in his crews a professional attitude in performing daily work and responding to emergency situations.

1995
Kenneth J. Putnam

Ken Putnam was the Division 13 Traffic Engineer when he received this 1995 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Putnam: He has been a state employee for more than twenty years, ten of those as the Division Traffic Engineer. He has excelled as a Traffic Engineer, devoting much of his time to the technical aspect of the job, working with signals, signing and pavement markings, as well as driveway connections.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Bill Smart (Division Engineer, Division 13), Mr. Bill Hamlin (Traffic Services Supervisor, Division 13), Mr. Ken Putnam, Mr. Roger Lance (Division Operations Engineer, Division 13)

Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Janice Putnam (Ken's wife), Mr. Ken Putnam

He provides technical assistance to municipalities, deals with the public, and supervises the traffic services operation in a very professional manner. He manages overall operation of traffic services including budget, facilities, equipment, etc. He is a very dedicated employee, spending many hours before and after regular work hours attending meetings with town boards, county commissioners, civic groups, and schools. Mr. Putnam has served on many various statewide committees including the personnel study. He takes the initiative on any new ideas or challenges and works for a positive result. He has shown high quality leadership and works well with all levels of employees.

1996
J.D. (Pee Wee) Edwards

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator), Mr. Larry Stallings (Area Traffic Engineer, Area I), Mr. Pee Wee Edwards, Mr. Jimmy Lynch (State Traffic Engineer)

J. D. "Pee Wee" Edwards was the Division 5 Traffic Signal Technician Supervisor when he received this 1996 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Edwards: He handled the daily responsibilities of his position with a strong work ethic and devotion to the Department (administration of contracts, emergency repairs of traffic signals and other traffic control devices, on-site innovative solutions, and planning and management skills, and leadership in sometime dangerous situations). With the full support and approval of his managers, he also made significant contributions to the Traffic Engineering Branch by exploring emerging technologies, testing new equipment and materials, providing traffic signal equipment for testing, and training engineers and technicians in the Branch. He was described as providing any assistance in the most gracious manner. His cooperative spirit and willingness to help and educate everyone provided better service to the public and promoted excellence in the design and operation of signalized intersections.

1997
Larry N. Stallings

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator), Mr. Larry Stallings, Mr. Pee Wee Edwards (Traffic Signal Technician Supervisor, Division 5), Mr. Jimmy Lynch (State Traffic Engineer)

1972

1975

Larry Stallings was one of five Area Traffic Engineers in the Field Operations Unit of the Traffic Engineering Branch when he received this 1997 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Stallings: He served the Department in various positions throughout his career including Accident Investigation Engineer as well as Division Traffic Engineer. He has an unflappable nature that serves him well during times of short deadlines, and his coolness under pressure eases the stress on those around him as well. He has a wonderful rapport with each of the Division Engineers and Division Traffic Engineers in Area I, and is regularly consulted by the Board of Transportation Members in his area as well. He has good leadership skills and promotes good relationships with the general public.

1998
Jim Kellenberger

Jim Kellenberger was working with the State Highway Administrator as a Training Coordinator when he received this 1998 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Kellenberger: He began his career with the Location and Surveys Department working in Division 8 in December 1966. He started in the Traffic Engineering Branch in June 1969 and worked in the various Units of Accident Studies, Area Traffic Engineering office, Signals, and Work Zone Traffic Control.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Stuart Bourne (Work Zone Traffic Control Engineer), Mr. Jim Kellenberger

He is dedicated to his employees making him an unsurpassed leader, team player, and friend. He could patiently take a work zone traffic control plan and help the employee visualize the stages of work to complete the project. His mantra is "Blood Raw Sled Dog Headed North". He was never afraid of hard work. He was the creator of the Pavement Marking Rodeo which brought in vendors, material manufacturers, contractors, and municipalities, other DOT employees to train, educate, and improve the pavement marking processes used on projects. This training initiative won a Continuous Process Improvement award for "Internal Communications". Jim has excellent technical knowledge, and is the only government official on the American Traffic Safety Services Association's (ATSSA) Pavement Marking Committee. Jim's goal is to share his traffic engineering knowledge with the next generation of DOT managers to keep the Department moving forward at a time when experience is leaving.

1999
John F. Permar

Pictured from left to right: Mr. John Permar, Mr. Stuart Bourne (Work Zone Traffic Control Engineer)

Mr. and Mrs. John Permar

John Permar was the Traffic Field Operations Unit Head when he received this 1999 award. The nominations noted the following about Mr. Permar: He began working for NCDOT in 1965 as a Project Engineer in Planning. He amassed very diverse experience working in the Accident Investigation Section, Signals and Geometrics Section, and in the Area Traffic Engineering offices. His extensive technical knowledge and experience in traffic engineering has been invaluable. He is very conscientious, and has always been committed to doing things the right way. His work ethic is commendable and a model for other State employees.

1972

2007

2000
Jimmy Lynch

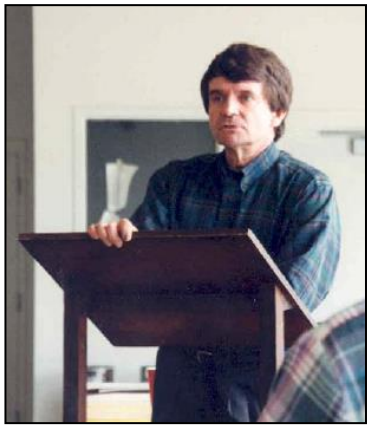
Jimmy Lynch was posthumously presented the Buford Smith 2000 Award at the 2003 Traffic Engineering Conference. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Lynch: He began his career in 1965 and devoted 36 years to the field of traffic engineering and highway safety. He served as the State Traffic Engineer for 19 years. Under the direction of Jimmy Lynch, the Traffic Engineering Branch evolved from an era of drafting tables, mechanical pencils, and electric erasers to a highly technical diverse world of intelligent transportation including advanced coordinated signal systems, solid state equipment, electronic surveillance, computerized and systematic traffic engineering accident analysis, and traffic control centers.

He was a national leader and innovator in highway and traffic safety and was also actively involved in numerous National AASHTO, TRB, and ITE committees and panels addressing the nation's most important transportation issues. He instituted advances in the following areas: improved delineation through use of wider pavement marking lines, median barrier installations through a freeway across median safety initiative, railroad crossing safety, and elderly driving improvements including larger and more reflective signs, and wider pavement marking lines. He emphasized importance of his staff helping smaller communities in the State that did not have professional transportation engineers to manage their traffic safety and signalization issues.

2000
Jimmy Lynch

1995

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Troy Peoples (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Roy Lynch (Mr. Lynch's son), Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator)



1994

1975

1972

As a result of his work and leadership, Mr. Lynch was honored by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, receiving a "Safety Excellence Award". The Award, from GHWA Regional Administrator Leon Larson and NHTSA Regional Administrator Tom Enright, cited Mr. Lynch for "resourceful leadership in improving roadside safety and traffic control devices in North Carolina." At the Traffic Engineering Conference in August 2000, Mr. Lynch was presented a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from a previous Buford Smith Committee that wanted to recognize his lifelong contribution, dedication, and accomplishments in the field of traffic engineering.

1986

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2001
Gary Faulkner

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Troy Peoples (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Gary Faulkner, Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator)

Gary Faulkner was the Access Management Engineer when he received this 2001 award. The nominations noted the following about Mr. Faulkner: He began his career in September 1974 as an Engineering Technician I and steadily gained experience in various positions in Roadway and Traffic Engineering. As the Design Review Engineer, he guided the recommendations of the Plan Review Squad for improved traffic operations on the Roadway Design Plans and has been a guiding force in Development Requirements for driveway permits across North Carolina. His technical knowledge is excellent, he has been affectionately called the Godfather of Access Management", and is known for putting the welfare of the traveling public above the popular decisions or least resistance paths. He has positively influenced and trained so many young engineers and technicians by sharing his technical knowledge and influencing them with his work ethic and dedication to the Department.

2002
Tom Thrower

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Troy Peoples (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Tom Thrower, Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator)

1995

Tom Thrower was the Division 10 Traffic Engineer with 36 years of service to the Department when he received this 2002 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Thrower: During the most recent 20 years, he has worked with the Lowe's Motor Speedway to develop and refine the traffic plans over the years by utilizing counter flow lanes, pedestrian lanes and special signage. He analyzed how the plan worked and began thinking about ways to improve operations before the next event. He worked on the design for one of the first signal systems in North Carolina. When he meets with the public or media concerning decisions he has made, he uses each opportunity to help educate them on traffic safety and operations. He has served on numerous statewide committees and has excellent work ethic and leadership skills.

2003
Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson was the Division 5 Assistant Division Traffic Engineer when he received this 2003 award. The nominations came from several colleagues in his Division and noted the following about Mr. Johnson: The nomination emphasized his professionalism especially when maintaining positive public relations.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Michael Johnson (Steve's son), Mrs. Crystal Johnson (Steve's daughter-in-law), Mrs. Maggie Johnson (Steve's wife), Mr. Steve Johnson, Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer)

He is recognized as an authority in design and operational issues and continues to remain interested in learning new technologies. He is cited as having the ability to be straightforward and empathetic at the same time; and is able to maintain very strong public relations skills. Steve is a dedicated employee and leads by example with his outstanding work ethic and easy going manner that positively motivates and influences his employees.

2004
L. Franklin Bullock

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Greg Burns (Division Operations Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Kent Langdon (Assistant Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Franklin Bullock, Mr. Lee Jernigan (Deputy Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Ray Goff (Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6)

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Bullock

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Bill Rosser (Director of Field Operations), Mr. Greg Burns (Division Operations Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Franklin Bullock, Mr. Terry Gibson (Division Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Steve Varnedoe (Chief Engineer), Mr. Ray Goff (Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6)

Franklin Bullock was the Division 6 Traffic Services Paint Supervisor when he received this 2004 award. He was nominated for this award by his entire work unit. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Bullock: He has a strong technical knowledge, a willingness to look for alternative solutions, a willingness to experiment with various pavement marking materials over the years and his excellent leadership skills. He stresses on the job skills training for newer employees that evolves into allowing staff to work independently as they become knowledgeable with assignments.

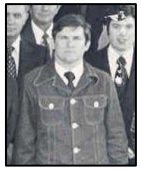
Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2005
Roger Hawkins

Roger Hawkins served as the Division Traffic Engineer in Division 3 for 29 years until his retirement in August 2005. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Hawkins: As a Division Traffic Engineer, he received pressures from politicians and general public to lower speed limits, install traffic signals, and approve major development plans and driveway encroachments.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Roger Hawkins, Mrs. Janice Hawkins (Roger's wife), Mr. Len Sanderson (State Highway Administrator)

Roger let strong moral and ethics combined with good engineering judgment be his guiding light in making decisions and not letting outside pressures sway his decision. Since his retirement, he has pitched in on a temporary basis doing what he loves, helping perform traffic engineering studies and making recommendations to improve the safety of the traveling public.



1975

1995

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2006
Vance Barham

Vance Barham began his career with the Traffic Services Unit as a Signal Electronics Technician and was promoted to the Division 7 Traffic Engineer position in 1991. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Barham: He has extensive technical expertise and is quick to incorporate innovative ideas in projects. He is respected by his peers, and is frequently called upon for his opinion or advice. He has been a strong safety advocate and his contributions to traffic safety and traffic operations are an inspiration to the profession.

1975

2007
Mark Harrison

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Steve Varnedoe (State Highway Administrator), Mr. Mark Harrison, Mrs. Diane Harrison (Mark's wife), Mr. Travis Harrison (Mark's son), Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer)

Mr. Mark Harrison was a Signal Equipment Design Review Engineer in the Signals Management Section when he received this 2007 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Harrison: He is a recognized technical authority in his field. Even with the knowledge he possesses, he always wants to learn more so as to provide the best functioning and cleanest designs possible. He has rarely been stumped by questions from the field and is always willing and able to provide his expertise to find solutions to problems posed from our signal technicians, signal design engineers, consultants, and even the companies that build the signal equipment NCDOT uses. He has saved hours of trouble shooting time for signal technicians not to mention safety related issues that would possibly adversely affect the motoring public. His knowledge, attitude, willingness to serve, share, teach, and give of himself in an unconditional manner marks him as a true professional.

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2008
Meredith M. McDiarmid

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Steve Varnedoe (State Highway Administrator), Mr. Danny McDiarmid (Meredith's husband), Mrs. Meredith McDiarmid, Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer)

Mrs. Meredith McDiarmid, PE was a Project Engineer in the Work Zone Traffic Control Unit when she received this 2008 award. The nomination noted the following about Ms. McDiarmid: She uses the knowledge and expertise gleaned from numerous national level committees and her extensive professional network of contacts and applies it to NCDOT policies and programs to benefit our Department. She was instrumental in putting together an incentive pay program for Traffic Services paint crews to earn extra pay for increased productivity and quality. This initiative has increased the knowledge of the Division employees and has benefited many of them financially. Every year she plans and executes both the Work Zone Traffic Control Rodeo and Pavement Marking Rodeo. These rodeos, in addition to training others in proper installation and safety practices, have become a skill block for many Division Maintenance and Traffic Services employees. Meredith's technical knowledge, leadership skills, and dedication for safety of all our employees, shows how she strives to make the Department a better place.

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2009
Sam Nichols

Sam Nichols was the Division 12 Traffic Engineer when he received the 2009 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Nichols: He began his career at DOT as a General Utility Worker in the Traffic Services Department in 1973. With his vast experience and technical knowledge he often plays the role of advisor to the younger traffic engineering professionals within the NCDOT as well as in the private engineering industry. He embraces this role graciously and is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with anyone seeking his advice. He demonstrates grace and patience when training new employees.

Sam leads by example. He will not ask an employee to do something that he would not do himself. And when he investigates something in the field, he likes to find the citizen's house and go knock on their door to discuss the issue. He exhibits an excellent work ethic and genuine care for people.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Mark Stafford (Division Operations Engineer, Division 12), Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Sam Nichols, Mr. Mike Holder (Division Engineer, Division 12)

Sam shows an interest in family and has never failed to be there to support others through life's hard times. He cares for the people he works with and exhibits true leadership qualities and strong work ethic.

2010
Elbert Edge

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Greg Burns (Division Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Ray Goff (Division Traffic Engineer, Division 6), Mr. Elbert Edge, Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer)

Elbert Edge was retired when he was recognized with this 2010 award. The nomination noted the following about Mr. Edge: He began his career with NCDOT as a temporary General Utility Worker. Through an outstanding work ethic and interest in improving technical knowledge and using improved technology; he became the Electronics Technician III in Division 6 in 2003. He worked for 39 years with the Department and retired in July 2008 after serving North Carolina citizens so well. Elbert had excellent technical knowledge of traffic signals, various ITS devices and electronic equipment. He continually volunteered his resources in Division 6 to implement cutting edge technologies as a test arena for traffic signal innovations statewide. He provided countless hours testing, evaluating and debugging the traffic signal maintenance software which is now used by all Divisions. His hard work led to improved traffic signal equipment and practices throughout all the Divisions statewide. He developed the 1-800 emergency pager number for all emergency responders to use Division wide for after-hours emergency traffic signal response. He also developed blanket purchase order contracts to provide scheduled and emergency traffic signal maintenance. His willingness to look for new solutions and make things better has improved the Department's efficiencies and safety processes.

2011
Brian K. Mayhew

Mr. Brian Mayhew, PE was the Traffic Safety Systems Management Section Head in the Traffic Safety Unit when he received this 2011 award. He was recognized for his excellent leadership qualities, integrity, professionalism, and exceptional technical knowledge and a passion for developing his staff's expertise. Brian leads by example with his work ethic and his intense dedication to his job and DOT. He takes great pride in quality work that is critical to NCDOT's data driven business decisions.

↑ *Pictured from left to right: Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Brian Mayhew, Mr. Jon Nance (Deputy Chief Engineer)*

← *Pictured: Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Aileen Mayhew and their two children*

He works diligently to keep his staff informed and engaged, and actively listens and encourages them when they have concerns or have suggestions for making things better. He also recognizes the importance of his staff having challenging technical work and routinely checks with employees to ensure they are challenged and that they know their work is meaningful to the Division and to the citizens of North Carolina. He also is very engaged in research projects and is sought out for his opinions from other states. Brian is an Eagle Scout and was raised in the mountains of North Carolina. He began his career at DOT as a temporary technician in the Pavement Management Unit. He has very diverse traffic engineering experience in Signing, Access Management, Plan Review, HSIP group, to his current position as the Traffic Safety Systems Management Section Head.

Buford Smith Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

2012
Vickie L. Embry

Pictured from left to right: Mr. John Button (Regional Traffic Safety Engineer, Triad Region), Ms. Vickie Embry, Mr. Brian Thomas (Regional Traffic Safety Engineer, Triad Region)

2007

2009

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer), Ms. Vickie Embry, Mr. Jon Nance (Deputy Chief Engineer)

Ms. Vickie Embry, PE was the Triad Regional Traffic Engineer when she received this 2012 award. She was recognized for her excellent leadership qualities, technical knowledge, integrity, professionalism and her keen interest in the development of NCDOT's next generation of engineers. Vickie began her DOT career as a Technician I in a Division office, and became the first CADD operator there in the late 1980's. Vickie has worked in various technician and engineer level roles on Division Survey party, Division Design Construct (DDC) office, and in the Division Traffic Engineer's office. She has worked tirelessly with the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) and other local partners to develop the highly successful PART Professional Forums. Vickie served as the chairperson of a National Transportation Research Board project panel to provide overall counsel and technical guidance for development of a national unsignalized intersection guidebook. She worked closely with Local AARP representatives to get their participation and perspective on possible engineering solutions at locations that had a disproportionate numbers of elderly driver crashes. She leads by example, and recognizes that great accomplishments come from collaboration with other people. She provides inspiration and sets expectations, and created a mission focused team that worked independently to exercise their own judgment.

2013
D.D. (Bucky) Galloway

Mr. Bucky Galloway, PE was the Western Regional Field Operations Engineer when he received this 2013 award. He has worked closely with Divisions 10 – 14, local governments, and NCDOT staff over the years coordinating with division management and researching, developing, implementing and improving safety projects, as well as actively pursuing traffic engineering and safety solutions. Bucky has been heavily involved in a wide range of traffic engineering and transportation safety efforts including pedestrian accommodations, work zones, safety edge, STAA oversight, guardrail and school speed zones, among others. He is currently serving on the AASHTO Technical Committee on Roadway Safety focusing on Roadway Departure Crashes and is the Research Chairman on a TRB committee evaluating in service performance evaluation of W-beam guardrail placement at various heights.

Pictured from left to right: Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer), Mr. Bucky Galloway, Mrs. Karen Galloway (Bucky's wife), Mr. Graham Galloway (Bucky's son)

Pictured from left to right: (A) Mr. Bucky Galloway, Mr. Tony Wyatt (1992 recipient), Mr. Sam Nichols (2009 recipient); (B) Mr. Scott Collier (Regional Traffic Safety Engineer, Blue Ridge Region), Mr. Bucky Galloway; (C) Mr. Bucky Galloway, Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer); (D) Mr. Larry Stallings (1997 recipient), Mr. Bucky Galloway

Bucky received several nominations from peers noting how he consistently exemplifies excellent leadership qualities, technical knowledge, integrity, professionalism and a passion for improving highway safety and doing the right thing for the motoring public. One of the nominations mentioned "Bucky's honesty, dependability, and integrity are character traits that inspire me to try to do a better job and to try to make a difference in people's lives." Bucky's Certified Public Manager project studied and made significant recommendations to the Mobility and Safety Division's Regional Traffic fatal investigation process, and implemented an exclusion policy that, based on circumstances of the fatal crash, reduced the number of field investigations required. This change in the process has increased the time Regional Traffic Staff can invest on other promising safety locations and projects. Bucky is a Clemson University graduate, an avid hunter, and a family man who shares his love of God through his service on the Deacon board at his church, and in his community.

2014
R.J. (Jeff) Jaeger

Mr. Jeff Jaeger, PE was the Mobility and Safety Information Engineer when he received this 2014 award. He exemplifies excellent leadership qualities, excellent work ethic, technical knowledge, integrity, professionalism and a willingness to always look for the best solution for the Mobility and Safety Division, not just for the betterment of his Unit. He is always able to place the importance of others needs above his own, he is a very selfless individual. Jeff has taken Safety Coordinator to an entirely different level with the seriousness he approaches every Safety Meeting, Safety Audit, and any rewrite of Safety Manuals. He is in a very elite group of environmental, safety and health professionals and has earned his Manager of Environmental, Safety, and Health (MESH) certificate from NCSU, the Safety and Health Council of NC, and the NC Department of Labor. He has been referred to as a work horse "Getting more work done in an eight hour period than most can do in double the time". One nomination mentioned how he works seamlessly in the background handling so many issues so his Unit can efficiently operate. He handles himself with professionalism, grace, competence, politeness, and good judgment.

Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Amy Jaeger (Jeff's wife), Mr. Jeff Jaeger, Mr. Kevin Lacy (State Traffic Engineer)

When the Traffic Safety Unit realized that consultant utilization would become a requirement we had to formulate a solution, and Jeff quickly looked for work to contract out for his section as well as the Unit to help others. He became a contract manager that understood the process, the contract language, and has helped others in the Unit and Division as they put contracts together and manage them. He has shared his knowledge of Budgets and the Work Management System with the other Unit Heads in a training environment set up to share his knowledge. Jeff began his career in Bridge Maintenance in 1989, and was hired to the Traffic Engineering Branch in 1996. He is a NCSU graduate, a Safety champion 24/7, and a family man who exemplifies his love of God through decisions in his daily work, his service on the Deacon board at his church, and in his community.