

Milestone Achievement: First Project to Complete All PDN Phases Under the IPD Initiative



BlueOval City
Electric Vehicle Center
Tennessee

The Blue Oval Project, extending from Hebron Drive to Thorpe Drive and including the I-40 interchange at Exit 42, marks a significant achievement as the first project to complete all phases of the Project Development Network (PDN) since the implementation of Integrated Program Delivery (IPD). This accomplishment showcases the exceptional capabilities of our project team, who delivered this infrastructure project 8-13 years faster than the average project delivery time prior to IPD.

The project team launched in September 2022, and just a month later the team held its kick-off meeting, setting in motion critical activities such as roadway design, geotechnical investigations and early utility coordination. In December 2022, a project scoping meeting and site visit took place, where

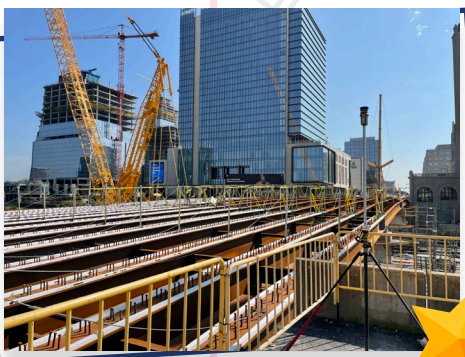
the team effectively defined the project’s goals and established a clear path forward.

With a focus on maintaining momentum, the team swiftly moved through Stage 1 and entered Stage 2 of the PDN workflow, demonstrating their ability to progress efficiently. By July 2023, less than a year from the project’s start, plans were developed and submitted for footprint establishment. During this time, the team began right-of-way and permitting activities in parallel with finalizing roadway and traffic signal design, successfully completing Stage 3 by December 2023.

Throughout this period, the project team exemplified exceptional coordination and project management skills by handling multiple project components simultaneously. As the project advanced, the team developed the plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) package, with all plans finalized by May 2024. This efficient planning phase enabled the project to be scheduled for a special letting on July 26, 2024, with construction awarded just four days later.

Project Blue Oval’s accelerated timeline is a testament to the effectiveness of the IPD approach, which maximizes resources and streamlines processes to achieve faster project delivery. Despite being state-funded, the project encompassed a broad scope, including roadway and ramp widening, utility relocation, right-of-way acquisitions, environmental permitting and signal design. Delivering this project in less than 24 months demonstrates the remarkable efficiency of our project team and highlights the transformative impact of IPD on project delivery. This success story underscores the importance of collaboration, innovation and strategic planning in achieving outstanding results.

TDOT Recognized for Award-Winning Broadway Bridge Replacement Project



We are thrilled to announce that TDOT’s Broadway Bridge Replacement project has been awarded the “Best Use of Technology & Innovation” (Medium Project) at the 2024 America’s Transportation Awards in the SASHTO region. Selected from 25 projects nominated by eight state DOTs, this competition showcases how state DOT projects strengthen local communities and improve the quality of life for everyone, regardless of their mode of travel.

The Broadway Bridge Replacement project, completed in 2023, was a remarkable achievement that not only improved safety and accessibility but also finished on budget and two weeks ahead of schedule. The project involved replacing the 75-year-old Broadway Viaduct using the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery method. This approach fostered a genuine partnership between TDOT, the designer and the contractor, allowing the team to mitigate risks, meet the project schedule and enhance constructability.

To minimize the impact on the traveling public, the team employed accelerated bridge construction techniques, resulting in the complete replacement of the bridge superstructure during an eight-week full closure. The new structure was designed to complement the historic Union Station hotel and the city’s modern developments nearby, striking a balance between preserving the area’s heritage and embracing progress.

Congratulations to all the TDOT employees whose hard work and dedication made this project an award-winning success! Your efforts have truly demonstrated the importance of transportation in enhancing community life and ensuring safe, accessible infrastructure for all. If you haven’t already, be sure to share this great news on your socials:

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This Month at TDOT: Highlights from the 2024 SASHTO Conference

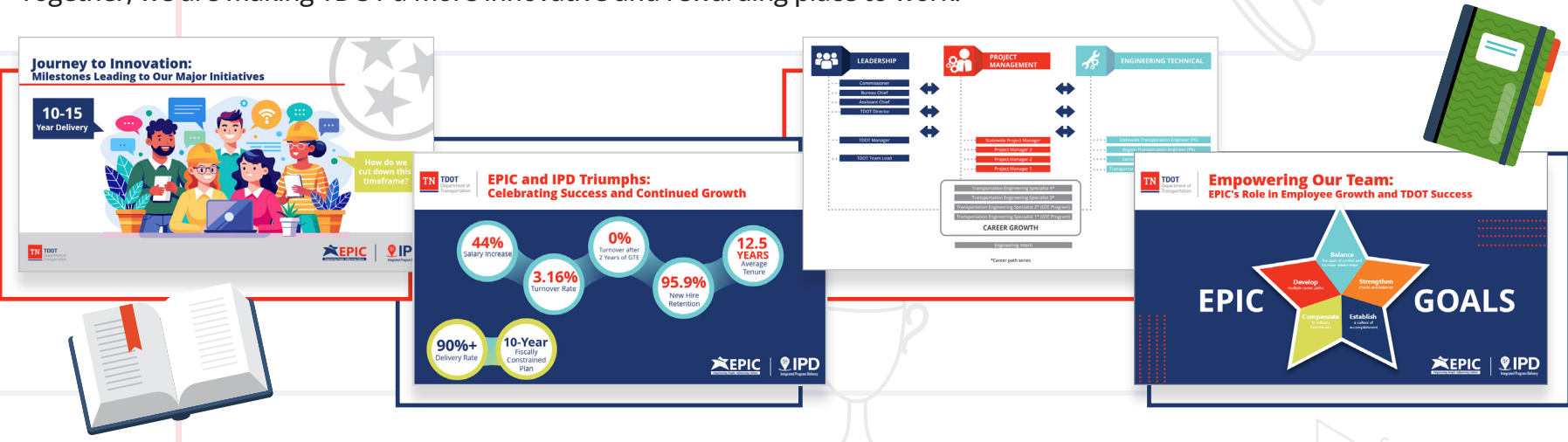


This month, TDOT’s Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, Will Reid, and Assistant Chief of Human Resources, Delaine Linville, represented our department at the 2024 SASHTO conference, the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. SASHTO brings together the departments of transportation from across the Southeast, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

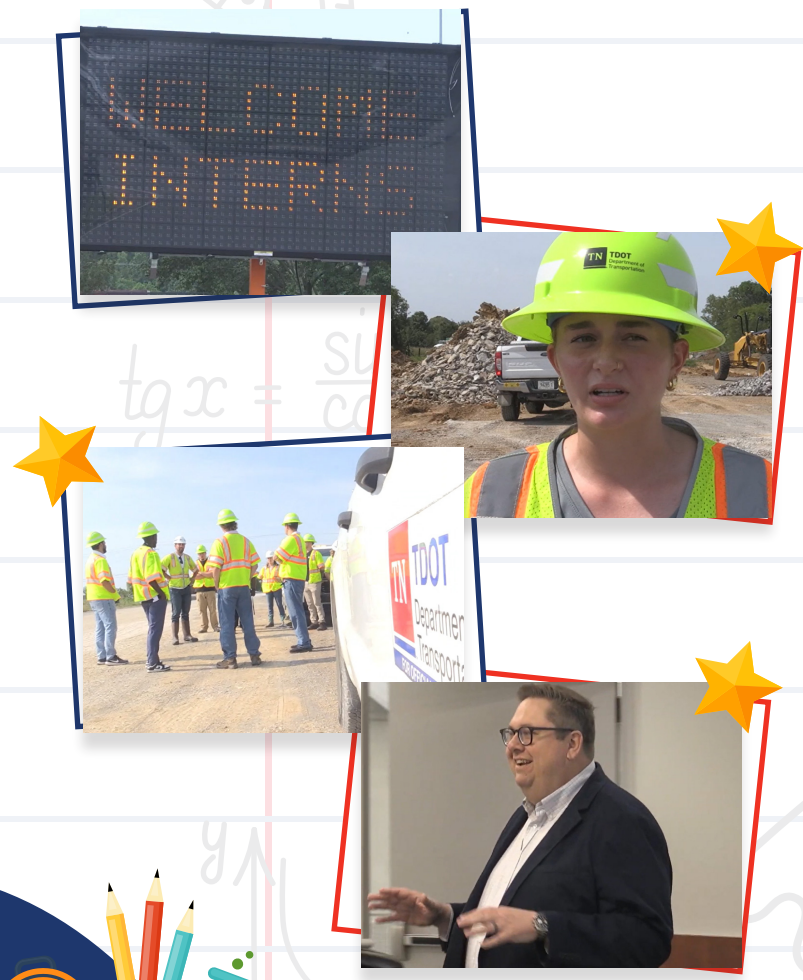
Will and Delaine had the opportunity to share our department’s journey with two of our largest internal initiatives: **Integrated Program Delivery (IPD)** and **Empowering People and Influencing Culture (EPIC)**. They spoke candidly about the challenges, successes and lessons learned while implementing these departmentwide changes. Their presentation highlighted how leadership commitment, clear communication, perseverance and a cultural shift have been crucial in driving innovation and efficiency in project delivery, as well as creating more growth opportunities for all of us at TDOT.

It has been two years since we began implementing these initiatives and the results speak for themselves. We have significantly improved our project delivery, going from hitting 50% of our performance measure goals to now achieving 90% or greater. Additionally, our employee turnover rate has impressively decreased from 16.9% to 3.4%. These numbers are a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone at TDOT.

We are proud of these achievements and grateful for the efforts of all team members who have embraced these changes. Together, we are making TDOT a more innovative and rewarding place to work.



TDOT Summer Internship Program: Cultivating Future Leaders in Transportation



This summer, TDOT welcomed 44 talented interns as part of our paid internship program, which introduces college students to the vital world of transportation and civil service. From May to August, these interns represent various academic disciplines, including aeronautics, public administration, civil engineering, construction management, environmental science and urban planning and development.

Over the 13-week program, interns gained hands-on experience by working on active projects, participating in site visits and engaging in networking opportunities. Our program not only provides practical experience but also fosters professional growth. According to recent surveys, 97% of interns reported making significant progress on their professional goals and 86% expressed interest in pursuing future opportunities with TDOT.

The feedback from the interns shows that the TDOT Summer Internship Program offers a valuable and impactful experience, prompting many of these talented students to return for additional summers at TDOT. One of our recent success stories comes from Will Stokes, a 2023 and 2024 intern, who recently joined TDOT full-time in the Headquarters Traffic Design division.

“Both of my internships were extremely valuable professionally and personally,” Stokes shared. “I was given the chance to gain relevant professional experiences, and my projects were engaging and required creativity and problem-solving. The work I did was valuable to the office and directly contributed to my new role. This is the first experience I’ve been able to gain outside of the classroom setting, and I’m immensely thankful to TDOT for laying the foundations for the career path I’m now on.”

As we reflect on this summer’s program, we’re already looking forward to the next wave of interns who will join us in building a brighter future for Tennessee’s transportation system. For more highlights and stories from our interns, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Want to get involved or have feedback? Click here!