



LUKE MURPHY

District Geotechnical Engineer

Q. How did you become interested in working at IDOT?

A. Originally, I was in IDOT's co-op program. Afterward, I worked for the city of Galesburg for a while. When an opportunity was available for employment with IDOT, I was able to come on board full time. I returned to IDOT because I knew that it had good people, a good culture and, overall, was a good place to work.

Q. What aspect of engineering are you focused on?

A. My focus is bridge and embankment foundations and subgrades for pavements – basically, anything that pertains to soil.

Q. Is there a creative solution you developed to solve a problem for a project you were working on?

A. An embankment on Illinois 106 failed and was causing mudslides onto the roadway. I designed a solution to create a wall to stabilize the embankment with three rows of buried drill shafts. With this design, invisible from the road, the drill shafts are taking on most of the load. Once the design was completed, several bureaus, especially District 6 Construction staff, helped to make it a reality.

Q. How do you see engineering changing in the next five, 10, 20 years?

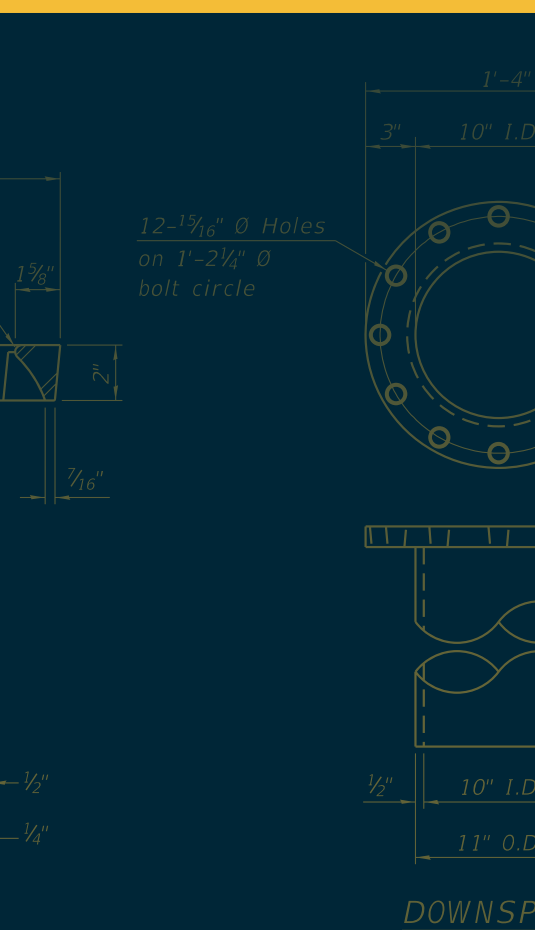
A. More technology such as 3D modeling is being developed to help speed up the process and help with maintenance. However, at the end of the day, it will still have to be people doing the actual work.

Q. What advice would you give to young aspiring engineers who may not be thinking of starting a career at IDOT?

A. IDOT is a good place to work, especially if a work-life balance is important to you. At IDOT, you are working with nice people and there is a positive culture.

Q. One thing you'd like the public to know about your work?

A. My work is not visible to the public, so I would like them to be aware of the technical aspects it takes to design a project.



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