

UDOT ROTATIONAL ENGINEER

BIO: Ryan Ferrin

Spring 2012

Where did you attend college and when did you graduate?

I went to Arizona State University right after I got out of the US Navy in July 2003. I served as a Sonar Technician honorably for 6 years on two different naval destroyers based out of San Diego. I graduated from ASU in the spring of 2009 with a BSE in Civil Engineering.

When did you join the rotational program at UDOT?

I was originally hired on at UDOT in November of 2009 as an Unbenefited Intern working at the Main Complex in the Materials Testing Facility in the Asphalt Mix Lab and the Asphalt Binder Lab. In May of 2011, after 1.5 years as an intern in the Asphalt Mix/Binder Labs, I was selected to go into the Rotational Engineer Program working out of Region 2.

What rotations have you completed?

My first rotation was at Region 2 with Tony Lau's Construction crew based out of a satellite office in Kamas, UT. Currently I am on my second rotation in Region 2 Maintenance. My next rotation is scheduled to be me going back to Mr. Lau's Construction crew for a second summer in Construction.

Please name a few of the projects you've been involved with and some of the skills or knowledge you've gained.

I have been involved with the I-80 Climbing Lanes project as an Inspector/Field Engineer. On that job I was inspecting and making field

changes for the new wild-life fence, the new concrete lined median ditch, and the replacement of old signing.

My second major construction project was the Weber River Bridge replacement job up in Echo, UT. There I also acted as an Inspector/Field Engineer inspecting new asphalt overlays, structural rebar placement, concrete placement and testing, soil compaction testing, and the inspection of the overall safety of the construction site. On both of these projects I learned that most times field changes are needed to alter the original design based on actual field conditions. I also learned that the job of an Inspector is an absolute necessity in order to obtain a quality product for the citizens of Utah.

What experience has challenged you the most? While working on the Climbing Lanes project I was inspecting and acting as the Field Engineer for the wildlife fence. The design for the fence was put together during the winter and was based on best available survey information at the time. The locations of the entire length of the fence had to be field fitted and changed from the original design because of



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actual site conditions in the summer without the snow on the ground. The coordination efforts between the subcontractor, the prime contractor, and the UDOT Right of Way people proved to be a great challenge for me which I dove into head on.

What are some of the advantages of the UDOT Rotational Program?

Rotational Engineers get to actually get out there in the field and “get their hands dirty”. We get to go out into the field and see first-hand what the Inspectors do. This ends up giving Rotational Engineers a very healthy respect for the Inspector’s importance and necessity to the Department. My biggest love of the program is the diversity of people that you get to meet and work with and the vast array of experiences that you can be involved in.

What are some of your career goals? During my career at UDOT I would like to become a Field Engineer, a Resident Engineer, and then we will see where it goes from there. I still have many more rotations in the program to go so as of yet I am unsure of which of the divisions I would like to find myself in once the program is over. Only time will tell!

Do you know your next placement or employment situation? I will be going back to Tony Lau’s construction crew this summer of 2012 and will be working on a cable barrier project on the I-80 near the UT/WY border.

Who are some of the people at UDOT who have provided guidance or assistance?

Kevin VanFrank at the UDOT Main Complex Materials Testing Facility provided me with the awesome experience of being an Intern in

his Asphalt Mix Laboratory. He constantly challenged me by assigning me to write technical reports about new asphalt technology and new asphalt testing procedures. He was, and still is, a great mentor to me and I am very appreciative of him giving me this wonderful opportunity to work with such creative and intelligent people of UDOT.

More:

I got married in June of 2010.....I love to snowboard with my wife and kids.