



SANTA H AND HIS MERRY ELVES

Read a holiday
message from Director
John Halikowski

PAGE
2



◀ ADOT Calendar Brings
Safety Home
PAGE 3



◀ Annual Customer Service
of the Year Award
PAGE 4



◀ Adopt an Angel Program
PAGE 4

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Dear Santa: I know you are very busy this time of year, checking the wish lists of the many good boys and girls in Arizona. One wish you won't have to worry about is the condition of our highways. I have a dedicated group of men and women who will have the roads ready for your use, just in case Rudolph and the reindeer decide to use surface travel rather than air travel.

This year has been another one of milestones for the employees at ADOT. I couldn't be prouder of the work we have performed in making transportation personal and building a culture of Continuous Improvement. Here is just a brief list of what's been accomplished so far:

- Streamlining the commercial vehicle inspection process and improving safety with the new International Border Inspection Qualification program
- Reducing wait times at MVD offices statewide and increasing use of self-service kiosks
- Constructing the largest freeway project in the Phoenix region
- Expanding I-10 at Ina Road in the Marana/Tucson region
- Improving the I-19/Ajo Way interchange for better mobility
- Breaking ground on a much-needed railroad crossing overpass on SR 347
- Opening the Loop 303/I-10

interchange and Bell/Grand projects on time

- Installing the first of its kind wrong-way driving detection system with the use of thermal cameras with lighted signs, larger signage at ramps and digital messaging on I-17
- Implementing more than 4,440 kaizens — from graffiti shields to refurbished herbicide trucks, to process improvements at our ports of entry
- Having more than 200,000 followers on Twitter — the most of any state agency in Arizona
- Obtaining grant monies to help install a dust-detection warning system along a key stretch of I-10 between Eloy and Picacho Peak
- Building more roundabouts in communities such as Yuma and Camp Verde
- Sponsoring a safety message contest with the general public that garnered over 6,700 entries
- Hosting the annual meeting of AASHTO with a great group of volunteers leading the way
- Continuing the studies of SR 189, I-11, North-South corridor and SR 30
- Installing the first prefabricated bridge on old Route 66 near Oatman
- Using facial recognition technology to reduce the chances of identity theft
- Maintaining the current infrastructure with preservation efforts especially on I-40
- Receiving state and national



John S. Halikowski
Director

awards — I-15 Virgin River Bridge No. 6, Arizona Highways, ADOT Communications, Route 66 specialty license plate of the year, binational initiative, and AAMVA and Granicus for MVD customer service and communications

- Serving Arizona citizens with new travel IDs by 2020 (Santa — don't forget to get yours)

Santa, I know my fellow ADOT employees have worked very hard this year and deserve to have their wish lists come true. You can send your wish lists to Santa@azdot.gov; wishes will be displayed on the monitors throughout the Capitol Complex and on the ADOTNet home page until the end of the month.

Finally, I do have one wish this year: Wishing you and your families a very safe holiday season!

The INSIDE LANE

ADOT DIRECTOR
John S. Halikowski

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLICY
Kevin Biesty

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Timothy Tait

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Kathy Boyle, Assistant Communications Director
Angela De Welles, Senior Communications Specialist
Michelle Fink, Administrative Support
Danelle Weber, Senior Communications Specialist
Randy Sasaki, Graphics Project Manager
John Walradt, Graphic Designer
Elena Diaz, Graphic Designer

EDITORIAL BOARD
Eddie Edison, HR
Lt. Gary McCarthy, ECD
Gregory Byres, MPD

Lt. James Warriner, ECD
James Windsor, TSMO
Jennifer Bowser Richards, MVD
Larry Clark, MVD
Lisa Danka, FMS
Mj Vincent, OCI
Steve Boschen, IDO
Ted Howard, ASD

The Inside Lane is published monthly for the employees of the Arizona Department of Transportation by ADOT Communications.

Address all comments and suggestions to InsideLane@azdot.gov.

A web version of this newsletter can be found on ADOTNet or at azdot.gov/InsideLane.

© 2017 Arizona Department of Transportation

17-346



Happy holidays

This issue's cover was drawn by ADOT Graphic Designer John Walradt. The cartoon features members of the agency's executive leadership team, including Director John Halikowski, Scott Omer, Kevin Biesty, Dallas Hammit and Kristine Ward.



Casey Miller, ADOT Communications

Better luck next time!

Last month's "Where (and when) in AZ???" photo contest must have been too tough because we didn't get ANY correct answers. For the record, the photo was taken back in August 2012 at the site of the then-under-construction I-10/Loop 303 interchange.

ADOT CALENDAR BRINGS SAFETY HOME

SUNDAY

It'll be a while before any of them can get their driver license, but the young artists who illustrate ADOT's Safety Calendar already know plenty about avoiding hazards out on the road.

Year after year, relatives of ADOT employees in the pre-kindergarten to sixth-grade age range translate important safety topics into works of art. Their masterpieces are used to fill the pages of a calendar that has become an end-of-the-year highlight for ADOT employees.

"Everyone really looks forward to getting their calendars," said Administrative Services Division Director Sonya Herrera during an event held Dec. 5 to recognize the artists and their families. "It has become a beloved holiday tradition and a safety tradition."

Including young relatives of ADOT employees gives the calendar a special significance, said Devin Marquez, a firefighter at ADOT's Grand Canyon National Park Airport whose son Christian is featured in the 2018 calendar.

"I think (the calendar) provides a good opportunity for employees to see every day what's most important about staying safe at work — that at the end of the day, we get to go home to our families," Marquez said.

Find more details about the calendar, and get a head start on next year's contest, by visiting the [Safety and Risk Management page](#) on ADOTNet. 🇺🇸

~ Angela De Welles, Senior Communications Specialist

MONDAY

TUESDAY



▲ The 2018 Safety Calendar award ceremony was sponsored by CorVel, OneAZ Credit Union, Sweet Tomatoes, Safety Trench Rentals and Costco.

WEDNESDAY



▲ Each year, the call is put out for artwork from children related to ADOT employees. Every submitted drawing is loaded onto ADOTNet, where employees vote for their favorites. Once the field is narrowed, a panel of judges selects the top 14 winning artists.



▲ Nine-year-old Frank Rodriguez, Jr., whose father works as a graphic designer for ADOT Communications, said he participated because he likes art. He was proud to be at the Dec. 5 awards event. "I feel happy that my hard work paid off," Frank, Jr., said.

THURSDAY



FRIDAY

▼ The winning artists and their families were invited to an award ceremony, held Dec. 5 at ADOT's Human Resources Development Center in Phoenix.



▲ Artwork from Harley Golson, 6, is featured in the 2018 calendar and focuses on fire safety. Dad Ian Golson, who performs highway maintenance in the Williams area, said the calendar is popular in the workplace. "Everybody looks at it," he said.

SATURDAY



▲ The awards event included lunch, goodie bags, a special awards presentation and plenty of photo opportunities for proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.



Photos: Michael Harris, ADOT Communications

ADOT employees turn out for coworkers in need during annual Adopt an Angel program

THE HOLIDAYS aren't always that merry, especially for families experiencing financial hardship. The Adopt an Angel program allows employees experiencing financial troubles to ask for help anonymously, and every year, individuals and groups across the agency step up to help their coworkers in need.

In November, applications to receive donations are submitted and filed. From those submissions, the Awards and Recognition office creates an e-tree, where wish lists are posted.

Disguised as ADOT employees, Santa's elves sign up to donate presents, food and other necessities to help these families have a happy, healthy holiday.

Every year, toys, toiletries, clothing, food or other essentials find their way to the families that need them most. But those families aren't the only ones who benefit from the program. The people who choose to help out often decide

Adopt an Angel



to do it again. The thrill of giving to others going through a tough time can be addicting.

Creative Services Project Manager Cyndi Striegler, who participates in the program every year, said, "I like doing it knowing I can help other people. And I love getting to go shopping for kids!"

Striegler also has some advice for anyone considering participating for the first time next year. "I definitely suggest trying it. It feels good to know you're helping someone have a better Christmas." The only way the program could be better, Striegler said, is if the presents could wrap themselves automatically.

Thank you to everyone who donated time, funds and gifts to the program! ■

~Dani Weber, Senior Communications Specialist



Last year, employees from ADOT's Bridge Group and Safety and Risk Management got together to wrap the gifts they'd collected for the families they adopted. If your team adopted a family this year, take some pictures of the wrapping party and send them to InsideLane@azdot.gov.

David Egliskis: Customer Service of the Year Award

ALL ACROSS the Arizona State Highway System, there are dynamic message system (DMS) boards that alert the traveling public to everything from the estimated time it'll take to reach a certain off-ramp or destination to events that might impact traffic to reminders to drive safely. But those messages don't just appear out of nowhere. Traffic Management Coordinator David Egliskis is always there, making sure the right messages get to the public in a timely manner

"What I do is I try to prepare, plan, coordinate, schedule and try to eliminate any conflicts," Egliskis said, describing the work he does.

When big events like the Super Bowl or Arizona Coyotes games come to town, Egliskis works closely with the Arizona Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement to



David Egliskis works closely with DPS and other law enforcement agencies to make sure traffic going to and from big events like the Super Bowl moves as quickly and safely as possible.

determine the best way to direct traffic, keeping the traveling public safe and moving. Thanks to their efforts, they're able to spread traffic around and mitigate queueing on on- and off-ramps, both before and after big events.

"It's a challenge to keep up with the information that comes and goes," Egliskis said. "We have a great working relationship

with the folks at DPS, state and federal agencies."

For his continued effort and commitment to keep Arizona's freeways safe around big events, Egliskis was awarded the first-annual ADOT Customer Service Award earlier in 2017.

"I nominated David Egliskis because he is a trusted agent," said former Emergency Manager Kim Campbell. "People go to David when they know that he goes the extra mile to get the job done. David is just an outstanding individual who has a very hard work ethic, and he deserves the award."

To learn more about how Egliskis serves Arizona drivers, be sure to check out the video featuring him on the [What You Need to Know album](#) on ADOTNet. ■

~Dani Weber, Senior Communications Specialist

Tis the season

ADOT continues annual tree lighting tradition



▲ The official tree lighting took place in the early afternoon after Director John Halikowski addressed employees with a message of thanks. "All of you are making a difference," he said.



▲ During the event, Director Halikowski awarded several Director's Pins, with the help of some "elves."



◀ ADOT employees volunteered to help decorate the tree in the morning while enjoying a variety of treats.



▲ Keep an eye on The Inside Lane Online for more photos of the tree and details on the Director's Pin recipients.

▲ The Director's Pin award recognizes employees who embody the ADOT values of accountability, integrity and respect.

Photos: John Dougherty, ADOT Communications

HOLIDAY JUMBLE

(Hint: all words are related to Know Snow)

1) ATCO ____ ○ 2) LEGSOV ○ ____

3) WENTIR ____ ○ ____

4) LOWS DONW ____ ○ ____

5) REFZEE ○ ____ ○ ____

When it comes to delivering presents, Santa Claus is ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ .

The INSIDE
LANE



For as long as there have been roads in Arizona, there have been people who plan, build and maintain them. It's those skilled women and men who have made this state's transportation history a remarkable one. From 1912 when the Arizona Highway Department was first established, to right now, right here at ADOT, state employees have continuously done the work necessary to keep Arizona moving. Take a look back at some of their stories.

GEOLOGISTS and researchers may argue over the Grand Canyon's exact age, but nobody is questioning that the Grand Canyon National Park Airport terminal recently turned 50.

Dedicated on Oct. 20, 1967, the terminal was completed two years after the airport opened on the site of a landing field originally built in 1925.

The state-owned airport is operated by ADOT and has undergone many changes over the last five decades. Improvements have included a runway and taxiway expansion project in 1972 and the much more recent construction of an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Maintenance building, which opened in 2010.

An article in the November 1977 issue of Newsbeat, ADOT's employee newsletter of the time, gives a glimpse of what it was like to work at the airport in the early days ...

According to Newsbeat, Jack Phillips became the airport's manager in 1969. At that time, he was the airport's only employee.

"I cleaned the toilets, plowed the runway and swept the floors," Phillips told Newsbeat.

Thankfully for Phillips, by 1977, he had a staff of four employees to assist with the airport's maintenance and an increasing amount of traffic.

"Early in my tenure, around 100 airplanes a day used the airport during the peak summer season and about 40 to 50 a day during the winter," Phillips told Newsbeat. "Now [in 1977], we average around 200 aircraft a day during the summer and 100 or more during the winter if the weather is good."

Current-day operations manager Michael Cockrum says those numbers have increased a bit.

"Most of our traffic here is from tour flight companies that are based at the airport," said Cockrum. There are more employees now, too — 14 people currently work at the airport, including several firefighters.

Today, the Grand Canyon airport is one of the top four busiest airports in Arizona. Beyond the air tour companies that operate out of the main terminal, Cockrum says that the airport also facilitates special charters and military training exercises throughout the year. In 2009, when President Barack Obama and his family visited the state, Air Force One landed at the Grand Canyon airport.

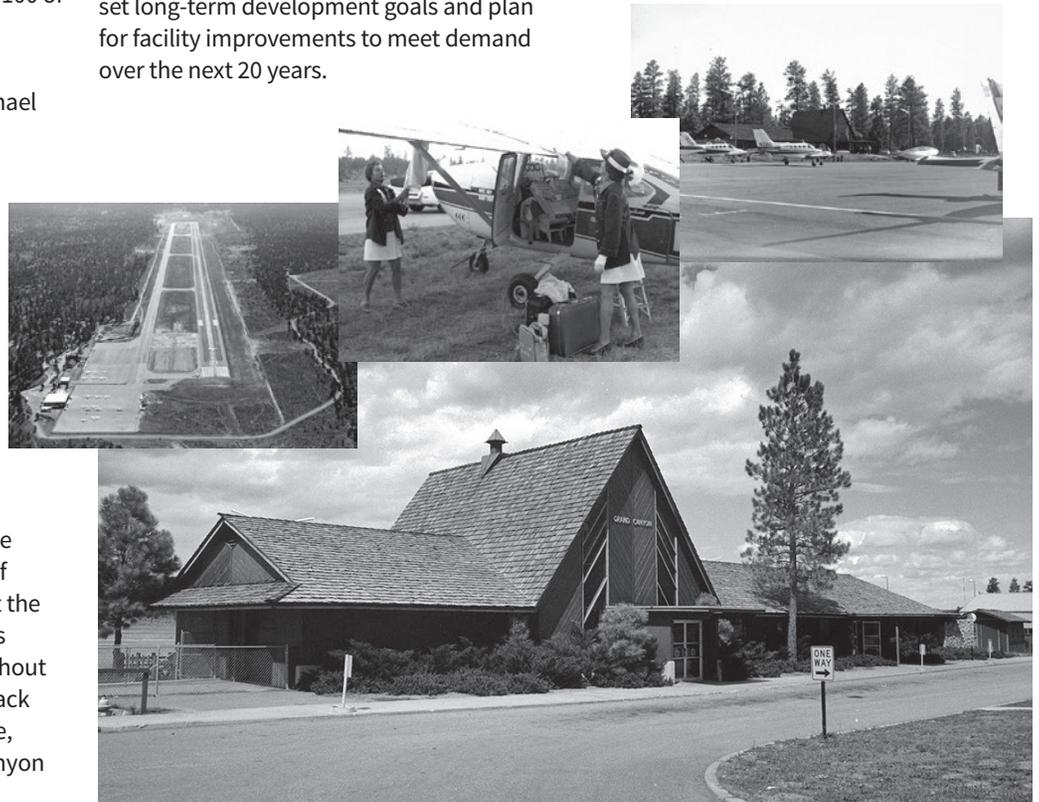
The airport also had its share of famous visitors in the 1970s. According to Newsbeat, Lady Bird Johnson, Tricia Nixon,

Nelson Rockefeller, Sen. Barry Goldwater and John Wayne all made stops at the Grand Canyon National Park Airport.

Currently, ADOT is working to update the airport's master plan, a document that will set long-term development goals and plan for facility improvements to meet demand over the next 20 years.

Find more about the airport and the master plan update on the [ADOT website](#). ■

~ Angela De Welles, Senior Communications Specialist



The Grand Canyon National Park Airport has undergone some pretty big changes over the last five decades. These photos, all taken in the 1970s for Newsbeat, show what the airport looked like in the early days.

Let's all do our part to make sure 2017 ends on a **safe note**

THIS IS the final Driving Safety Home message of 2017, and as I look back over the past year, I am reminded of the many ways this agency has encouraged employees and the public to make safety a priority.



Dallas Hammit

From a clever safety message [contest](#) at the start of the year to the widely attended [Safety Stand Down Day](#) earlier this fall, 2017 has been filled with campaigns and initiatives that have put an emphasis on safety both on the road and in the workplace.

As I do every year at this time, I encourage all of you to revisit the Driving Safety Home [archives](#) for ideas to consider when you're making any New Year's resolutions — hopefully, at least one of your goals includes a focus on safer driving. At this point, we have five years' worth of messaging for you to consider. It's hard to believe that the Driving Safety Home campaign has been in place for that long. The goal for the program has always been to increase awareness about transportation-safety issues and to ultimately motivate positive changes in driver behavior.

Certainly, there is still work to be done, but I'm hopeful that, with your help, we'll continue to get vital safety messages out to motorists across the state in the years to come. One way you can help is by signing the Driving Safety Home pledge. You can find it on [ADOT's website](#) and on the last page of this newsletter. Please read it,

sign it and hang it up in your workspace as a reminder of the promise you are making to yourself and other drivers in 2018.

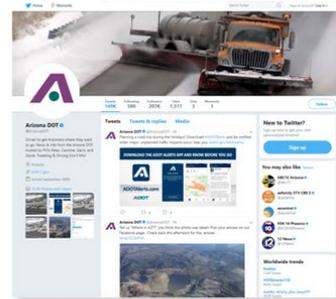
But before the New Year begins, let's make sure that 2017 ends on a safe note.

As you and your loved ones travel to all the festivities that seem to take over the calendar during this time of year, be sure that you're wearing your seat belt and avoiding all distractions while driving. And if you're attending a holiday party or New Year's Eve celebration, make sure you have a safe and sober ride home.

Of course, if you need additional safety tips this holiday season, there are plenty of places to find that information. Visit ADOT's Travel Information site at [az511.gov](#) or call 511 to get the latest highway conditions before you get on the road. ADOT's Twitter feed ([@ArizonaDOT](#)) is also an excellent source of information, as is ADOT's new free app that sends critical information directly to app users in affected areas — find details at [ADOTAlerts.com](#). And, if you're headed into snowy conditions, be sure to check out [azdot.gov/KnowSnow](#) for information on how to prepare.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season! 🇺🇸

~Dallas Hammit, Deputy Director for Transportation



KAIZEN COUNT

The number of Kaizens submitted by ADOT employees so far in the new fiscal year is:

1,942

For a complete breakdown by division, visit the [Office of Continuous Improvement page on ADOTNet](#).



Driving Safety Home Pledge

I pledge to set a positive example by making safety my priority every time I travel and modeling the safe behaviors I want others to follow. I encourage my family, friends, coworkers and others to do the same.

I AM >>



ALERT I drive sober and well rested. I know alcohol and other drugs, medication and fatigue impair my abilities and make me a danger to myself and others.



CONSCIENTIOUS I wear my seat belt and ensure all of my passengers are properly restrained. I wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or motorcycle and encourage others to do the same.



CONSIDERATE I operate my vehicle at a safe and prudent speed, avoid aggressive behaviors, and always watch out for other road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.



FOCUSED I avoid distractions that divert my attention from driving, cycling or walking safely.



CAUTIOUS I avoid dangerous weather conditions like dust, snow, ice and heavy rain. I am extra careful in work zones and move over or slow down when driving by vehicles with blinking or flashing lights on the roadside.



SMART Arriving alive is the most important thing for me, my family, my friends and others. I strive to maximize my own safety and the safety of everyone around me.

Signature

Print your name, Unit name/number and city

Dallas Hammit

Dallas Hammit/Deputy Director for Transportation