

The INSIDE

LANE

A newsletter for employees of the Arizona Department of Transportation

JANUARY 2019

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honored for heroics

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ADOT

Dear ADOT employees,

It is hard to believe that we are about to say goodbye to 2018 and ring in 2019. But, before the calendar page turns to a new year, I want to take the opportunity to highlight just a few accomplishments we have achieved so far and to thank you for working together to do so. It's our "Connecting One ADOT" philosophy that exemplifies the true meaning of collaboration and that we work as a system to meet the needs of our customers every day.

So here is a snapshot of what we've accomplished in 2018:

- Implemented 5,791 kaizens in FY18 with a new agency goal of 7,200 kaizens
- Had more than 660 managers and supervisors participate in Arizona Management System training
- Reached halfway through the building of the South Mountain Freeway, the first public-private partnership construction project and the most expensive in ADOT's history
- Installed the first-in-the-nation wrong-way driver detection system on a 15-mile stretch of Interstate 17, garnering national attention and achieving the desired results of helping law enforcement stop wrong-way drivers faster
- Received the Government Innovation Award and Best of Class by GCN, an information technology industry magazine, and a runner-up award in the National Operations Center of Excellence inaugural Transportation Systems Management and Operations Awards for the wrong-way driver detection system
- Acknowledged by the National Operations Center of Excellence inaugural Transportation Systems Management and Operations Awards as the winner for the re-striping and signing adjustments on westbound US Route 60 at Interstate 10
- Began installing the first-in-the-nation dust detection system on Interstate 10 between Casa Grande and Tucson



John Halikowski
Director

- Continued the environmental study of the future Interstate 11 corridor
- Delivered safety campaigns in the form of the "Drive Aware, Get There" public service announcement and the ADOT Alerts app, along with another successful safety message contest that generated 2,200 entries and 2,500 votes statewide
- Established even shorter wait times at our Motor Vehicle Division offices than last year, expanded office hours, and offered new services — Permit Test @ Home and eTitle — with more innovative solutions coming next year

Continued on page 9

The INSIDE LANE

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A WEB VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND ON ADOTNET OR AT AZDOT.GOV/INSIDELANE.

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Share your best cover shot

Do you snap shots that show off the scenic side of transportation in Arizona? Share them with us and we might put your photograph on the next cover of The Inside Lane.

It can be a great picture of an MVD office, a beautiful highway shot or even an artsy photo of construction materials. Whatever the subject, the photo should highlight some aspect of the work happening here at ADOT.

Submit your original, digital photographs to InsideLane@azdot.gov in JPEG format (no larger than 10MB). Along with the photo, please provide a brief description and your name/title.

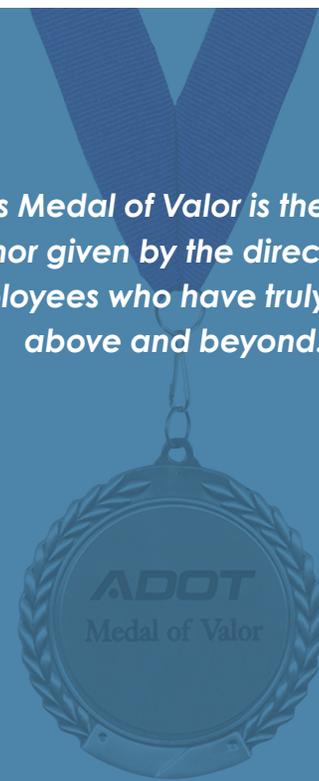


This photo, taken by John Dougherty of ADOT Communications, shows the ADOT Medal of Valor recipients, who received the highest honor given by the director to employees for their heroic actions, extraordinary service and sacrifice. (Left to right: Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Scott Omer, Medal of Valor recipients Zachary Moralez, Josh Miller, Lionel "Mac" McFarlane, Matthew Green, Kimberly Ross-Hensley, Ana Fernandez and Chris Fuller; and Director John Halikowski.)

18-444



ADOT's Medal of Valor is the highest honor given by the director to employees who have truly gone above and beyond.



View more photos in the [Medal of Valor ceremony album](#).



Zachary Moralez and Josh Miller

Infrastructure Delivery and Operations Division employees Zachary Moralez and Josh Miller were corralling a cow near Wickenburg when they noticed a torn fence near the roadway then discovered a car lodged in a tree 50 feet down. They found a seriously injured woman, who lost control of her car six days before, and they administered aid until DPS arrived.



Kimberly Ross-Hensley and Ana Fernandez

Motor Vehicle Division employees Kimberly Ross-Hensley and Ana Fernandez in Tucson took action immediately when a coworker suffered a life-threatening medical emergency. They provided aid and comfort until the paramedics arrived. The coworker called Kimberly and Ana her angels because their fast actions helped her survive.



Lionel McFarlane, Matthew Green and Chris Fuller

While driving back from northern Arizona on Interstate 17, Administrative Services Division employees Lionel McFarlane, Matthew Green and Chris Fuller assisted a motorist whose car was on its side off the roadway. The driver was unhurt but shaken up. They contacted her parents, and they stayed with her until DPS arrived to secure the scene.

Photos by **John Dougherty**, ADOT Communications and stories by **Angela DeWelles**, Senior Communications Specialist



Left to right: Deputy Director Scott Omer, Jenna Brooks, Rylee Janae Bailey, Rylee Duran, Dalilah Abdullah, Jacob Douglas, Wyatt Allen, Hollie Allen, Lily Kaye, Ramon Leon, Harley Golson, Rohini Kar, Ania Hernandez, Abraham Julio Ramos and Safety Administrator Robert Stolz.

THEY MAY not be old enough to drive, but their artistic talents could help keep you safe on the road.

Fourteen children's creative safety messages are featured in the 2019 Safety Calendar, "Be a Safety Superhero." It's quite an honor to be included in this calendar, which will be viewed daily by ADOT's 3,600 employees.

The children, whose parents and grandparents are ADOT employees, received awards on Dec. 6 at a special celebration that included lunch, visits from ADOT mascots Safety Sam and Highway Hound, photo booths and goodie bags. Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Scott Omer and Safety Administrator Robert Stolz presented the awards and Community Relations Project Manager Jerry McCoy was master of ceremony.

In the calendar, kids share tips for staying safe while working or driving on roadways.

Traffic Operations Center Operator Khaleel Abdullah's 8-year-old daughter, Dalilah, advised, "The hotter it gets on the outside, the more water you need on the inside" accompanied by a drawing of ADOT workers and first responders outside.

Transportation Engineer Manager Kohinoor Kar's 11-year-old daughter, Rohini, drew a dog next to a car saying "Stay alert. Stay alive."

"When you're driving, just pay attention. Don't look anywhere else except the road," Rohini explained.

Community Relations Project Manager Laura Douglas' 11-year-old son, Jacob, warned, "Life is short. Don't make it shorter by texting and driving," accompanied by a drawing of a car going over a cliff.

Douglas said ADOT's safety messages resonate with kids, especially those whose parents or relatives work at ADOT.

"The children offer all of us with a fresh perspective on why it's so important to drive safely and stay alert behind the wheel," she added.

Right of Way Project Management Manager Richard Erickson's grandchildren, Hollie and Wyatt Allen, have safety messages in the calendar. Hollie, 10, wrote "Be as clever as a fox and wear your hard hat" while Wyatt, 5, shared "Drive safe and think or you will go extinct."



Safety Calendar art award winners and their families enjoyed the celebration.

Erickson said the children's messages are "truthful, simple, direct and to the point. Children can say things sometimes that are amazing."

Administrative Services Division Administrative Assistant Melissa Sanchez's 9-year-old daughter, Ania Hernandez, wrote "Under construction, safety first. Helping



Pizza was served during the award ceremony.

everyone. Every day. Everywhere," with a drawing of construction workers.

"It is wonderful for our kids to have a voice and the ability to use their lively, positive imaginations to put safety first," Sanchez said.

The annual Safety Calendar contest, open from pre-K through sixth grade children who are related to an ADOT employee, began in 2002. At the time, there were three different calendars for employees and a decision was made to have one calendar focused on safety featuring children's artwork, said Administrative Services Division Director Sonya Herrera.

This year's celebration was sponsored by Peter Piper Pizza, OneAZ Credit Union, McDonald's, Sweet Tomatoes, CorVel and Trench Share Rentals.

See more photos of the event in the [2019 Safety Calendar Ceremony gallery](#). Check out the 2019 Safety Calendar's winning drawings on the [Safety and Risk Management page](#). ■

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist

Photos: **John Dougherty**, ADOT Communications

Abandoned Vehicle Unit earns Innovation Award for process change

INNOVATIONS, even when they start out to make one job easier, have the potential to effect positive change for others. When the Abandoned Vehicle Unit members tweaked their process for handling abandoned vehicle notices, the positive impact cascaded in directions they did not expect and has been far more effective than first hoped. For that reason, the AVU was honored with the ADOT Innovation Award.

Previously, the process for notifying customers of abandoned vehicles and transferring titles to tow companies was two pronged: the tow companies would submit an electronic notice to ADOT through ServiceArizona, and later, they would send in the appropriate documents by mail. However, this process created a lot of waste — in time, in resources, and ultimately, in money for the customer.

As soon as an electronic notice was submitted, the clock would start ticking. By law, customers have 30 days to respond and claim their vehicle once it's been reported abandoned. However, because the documents that go with that report would not have reached ADOT yet, the notice to the customer would have to wait.

Further, tow companies would often let the titles stack up — why go to an MVD field office with one title 50 times, when you could wait and go once with 50 titles? And if the paperwork the tow companies provided was incomplete, ADOT would have to send a request for more information — again by mail — and have to wait for the response.

Often, customers might not be notified that their vehicle had been reported abandoned until only days away from the 30-day deadline. By that time, they would have

accrued prohibitive storage fees from the tow companies holding their vehicle.

This process put enormous pressure on all parties involved. From the customer service representatives in field offices to tow companies losing precious storage space to customers having to choose between paying steep fees or letting their car go. By eliminating the paper-only process and allowing tow companies to submit needed documentation at the time of the report, that pressure virtually disappeared.

The new, fully electronic process reduced the AVU's mail volume by almost 95 percent, and the call volume to the office dropped dramatically. The backlog went from 40 days to four. Because customers are now being notified sooner, the number of claimed cars has risen. Tow companies are able to clear their yards faster and sell to

scrap yards sooner. And CSRs in MVD field offices can focus on getting other customers out of line and safely on the road.

The new process has another positive effect. “We were able to start prioritizing how best to improve the office,” said West Region Manager Kyle Ulibarri. “We could restructure job duties to help the CSRs in the field offices. In fact, we had a vacancy open up recently, and we realized we didn't need to fill it because everything was running smoothly.”

Ulibarri is proud of how the positive effects of this process change continue to compound. “It's incredible how much this 10-person unit can have a cascading effect on other parts of the agency.” ■

~ Dani Weber, Senior Communications Specialist



Left to right: Kyle Ulibarri, Anahi Villalobos, Liliana Meza-Alba, Erica Cragin, Luanda Totress, Eva Galindo, Adalberto Ochoa, Mayra Garcia, Vanessa Razo-Aguilar, Lucia Dominguez and Mike Cryderman who presented the awards and certificates to the team. Photo: Kathy Boyle, ADOT Communications

ADOT TSMO takes home first and second place for Best TSMO Project Award

In November, the National Operations Center of Excellence announced its annual awards, including the coveted Best TSMO Project Award ... and two ADOT projects took home top honors!



Best TSMO Project

A segment of westbound US Route 60 at Interstate 10 that travels through the East Valley had one of the highest rates of traffic incidents. After weeks of study and planning, ADOT's Traffic Systems Management and Operations Division decided on a two-pronged approach: restripe the roadway and make the signs bigger. Five of the new signs were the biggest ever fabricated by ADOT's Interstate Signing crews.

In mid-July, crews worked around the clock to obliterate existing striping, install new striping and remove/replace the existing overhead signs with new lane designation signs. During the closure, crews were also able to upgrade curve warning signs and advisory speeds along the ramp. After test driving the new lane configurations, the roadway was reopened to traffic about 18 hours ahead of schedule.

Effects of the project were immediately realized, with more even traffic speeds and no more back-ups during peak traffic times. Comparing the two months prior to the project and the two months afterward, there was a nearly 90 percent reduction in crashes during afternoon peak hours.



Best TSMO Project runner-up

After a series of high-profile, wrong-way driving incidents, ADOT set to work with the Department of Public Safety to institute new countermeasures to curb the rise in such incidents. Part of the trouble was response time — DPS troopers rely on someone seeing the wrong-way driver and calling it in, which takes time. ADOT and DPS needed something to alert them from the point of entry to respond to the incident immediately.

Along a stretch of Interstate 17, thermal cameras were installed to detect every single wrong-way driver from the point they entered the freeway. These cameras trigger a series of warnings with flashing lights trying to get the wrong-way driver's attention to turn around. They also are able to initiate a law-enforcement response with one click from the Traffic Operations Center, saving valuable time.

In addition to the thermal cameras, DPS has stationed state troopers in the TOC, colocating them with ADOT staff to further reduce response time. In one incident, these countermeasures allowed DPS and TOC staff to be alerted immediately to a wrong-way driver, and a response was initiated four minutes before the first 911 call. Law enforcement was able to stop the vehicle six minutes after being alerted, avoiding possible casualties.

"It's an honor for the agency and TSMO to receive these types of awards," said TSMO Director Brent Cain. "Many were involved and it took a creative, passionate and dedicated team to deliver, which I'm extremely proud of. It's great to be recognized nationally for the efforts to meet our agency goals to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, improve transportation reliability, and increase mobility for Arizona." ■ ~ Dani Weber, Senior Communications Specialist

A FITTING *tribute* TO A TRANSPORTATION LEADER



Charles Cull, ADOT Communications

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and ADOT Director Mary Peters and ADOT Director John Halikowski cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the Mary Peters Room.

RESPECTED. Trailblazer. Problem solver... These are the words that begin to describe the legacy of Mary Peters, here in Arizona and across the nation. In a ceremony held earlier this year, Peters cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the Mary Peters Room and meeting space in the 206 Administration Building in Phoenix.

Tribute to Mary E. Peters

Peters' career in transportation began in 1985 as a contract administrator at ADOT. She worked her way up to deputy director for administration and then ADOT's deputy director. In 1998, then-Gov. Jane Hull appointed Peters to serve as the director of ADOT, the first female director in the agency's history. She served until 2001.

Her achievements caught the attention of federal leaders. In 2001, President George W. Bush tapped Peters to lead the

Federal Highway Administration. She served from 2001 to 2005. On Sept. 30, 2006, Peters was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 15th secretary of transportation, the greatest achievement for a leader in the transportation industry. She served as secretary until 2009.

There are many employees who have had the pleasure and honor of serving with Peters at ADOT. She has left an indelible mark on the agency. In his opening remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Director John Halikowski stated "Naming a room in Mary's honor is just a small way that ADOT can show our appreciation for her shining example of true public service. We are indeed grateful that Mary began her career in transportation at ADOT."

Tribute to John E. McGee

John McGee left a lasting legacy at ADOT. With his steady hand guiding the agency as chief financial officer for 10 years and his role in establishing the agency's public-private partnership program, it was only fitting that a room in the conference center be named after him. McGee will be remembered for his sound financial principles, solid bonding practices and innovative transportation program financing. McGee passed away in 2014.

New meeting space

When the opportunity arose to reconfigure the board room and former Communications office into much-needed

meeting rooms, Facilities Design and Construction Unit Architect and Manager Mike Nelson and Project Manager for Tenant Improvements Hope Schoenbrodt worked with Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Scott Omer to design meeting room space that was multifunctional and met different employee needs. The area consists of seven rooms and is equipped with modern technology with wireless screen-sharing and phone systems, presenter-facing and audience-facing TVs, video conferencing, and whiteboards. Rooms are configured to handle small to large meetings and can be reserved.

Wallcoverings depict soft landscape scenes. The design elements include glass for a feeling of openness, which invites impromptu gatherings of employees to sit at either booths or ottomans. In the Mary Peters Room, the Wall of Valor recognizes the highest honor given to employees by the director for extraordinary service and sacrifice. The copper-etched photos of past ADOT directors are now located in the meeting area. ■

~ Kathy Boyle, Assistant Communications Director



Charles Cull, ADOT Communications

(Left to right) Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Scott Omer, Mary Peters and John Halikowski stand in front of the John McGee Room named in honor of the former ADOT chief financial officer.

**KAIZEN
KORNER**

Kaizen is a Japanese word that refers to any improvement responsible for eliminating waste or improving safety and quality. Changes made as the result of a kaizen, even the smallest ones, can often add up to big results. At ADOT, employees from around the state are implementing kaizens. Here's a closer look at one of them...

**KAIZEN
COUNT**

The number of kaizens submitted by ADOT employees so far this fiscal year is

2,359

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

Special Response Unit streamlines volunteer process

WHEN IT COMES to special events, organization is key to keeping traffic moving. With events like concerts and the Super Bowl, that organization often happens months in advance. But when Sen. John McCain passed away in August, the Department of Public Safety and Phoenix Police called on ADOT to assist with traffic control, which revealed an opportunity to make it easier and more streamlined for Enforcement and Compliance Division officers to assist with high-profile events.

Prior to the McCain viewing, when ADOT's ECD was asked to participate in a large-scale special event requiring the immediate deployment of officers, supervisors called staff one by one to see who was available to assist. While this process might not have presented many issues for events long in the works, it became clear it was inefficient for last-minute planning. As a result, ECD developed a roster of officers who were amenable to working special events with little or no advanced warning.

"It was born out of necessity," ECD Captain Leah Ray said of the roster. "We found ourselves assisting other agencies with sometimes half our force with no advance notice. We had to call individuals and learn who had the right training, experience, uniforms as we went along."

Finding coverage for special events, especially last-minute ones, was a time-consuming task and had to be redone each time a new special event arose.

Capt. Ray, who previously worked with Phoenix Police, had experience planning large events there and introduced the roster as a way to streamline the volunteering process. After Sen. McCain's viewing, Capt. Ray reached out to those who helped and asked if they would be interested in volunteering to work similar events in the future. Those were the first names to be added to the roster.

Working with Safety and Risk Management, Capt. Ray began adding names of officers interested in volunteering to work into a standardized, formatted list to match the federal Incident Command System. Using this standard format allows ADOT to work more efficiently with other agencies that use similar forms.

"We're on the same page now," Capt. Ray said of the roster. "Literally."

The Special Response Unit roster, which is updated regularly to reflect volunteers'

availability, also ensures all officers' call numbers are available for better, faster communication. When President Donald Trump came to Phoenix ahead of the November election, the roster was put to use and volunteers were quickly found to fill the needed spots.

The SRU roster has eliminated the time-consuming process of calling officers one by one during an emergency and waiting for a reply. It is now a template for special-event responses, and each officer on the list is dedicated to the team and can respond as soon as notified. The roster has become standard work for planning large-scale special events. ■

~ Dani Weber, Senior Communications Specialist

Using the new volunteer roster, ECD officers were able to immediately respond to the call to assist with traffic management when President Trump came to Phoenix in October.



Kirsten VanDeventer, Emergency Management

- Recognized MVD with the “Improvement through Efficiencies Service” Award by the American Motor Vehicle Administrators Association
- Continued to be the national leader in facilitating the development of autonomous vehicle technologies
- Reduced inactive project balances by more than \$100 million by Financial Management Services so ADOT has money to commit to more projects
- Hired five employees to our Enforcement and Compliance Division – Hugo, Santos, Pueblo, Dona and Hank, our K-9 unit – that are identifying criminal activity at our ports of entry
- Trained 1,750 Mexican commercial drivers by our Border Liaison Unit to meet our vehicle safety requirements at the ports of entry and graduated 523 drivers for the International Border Inspection Qualification program, ensuring efficiency at border inspections
- Recovered \$6.5 million by our Insurance Recovery Unit to restore and repair state highways
- Saved \$4.8 million by Procurement for 552 highway drainage projects
- Awarded Medals of Valor to eight employees for their heroic actions, along with 13 Director Pins and 13 Citation Awards for service
- Won two first-place awards, Best Internal Newsletter and Best Twitter, at TransComm 2018 by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Provided transportation logistics, law enforcement coverage and communication support for the late Senator John McCain’s funeral services

I wish I had more space to list even more accomplishments. The credit goes to all of you. As I have said before, I am honored to work alongside you.

Wishing you and your families a very safe holiday season! ■

~ John Halikowski, ADOT Director

NOW PLAYING ON A SCREEN NEAR YOU



Kim Katchur, ADOT Communications

The I-17/Willard Springs Road overpass is using a new process to fast track the building of bridge abutments.

MANY OF the videos produced by ADOT to educate the public are just as informative for employees. If you want to learn something new, consider taking a look at the agency’s latest video featuring the Interstate 17/Willard Springs Road bridge project.

Originally, the plan was to replace the bridge decks at the I-17/Willard Springs Road overpass (milepost 326). But the contractor, Fisher Industries, is using a new patent-pending system that was developed using steel plates to fast track the building of the bridge abutments, so that they are built in days rather than weeks, explains ADOT Senior Resident Engineer Steve Monroe.

This value engineering project will save ADOT and Fisher \$39,000 combined and reduce the project construction time by 200 days. Additionally, two full bridges will be built instead of just bridge decks.

Check out the video to see the crews in action. You can find it on the ADOTNet homepage by clicking the [What You Need to Know video album](#). ■

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist

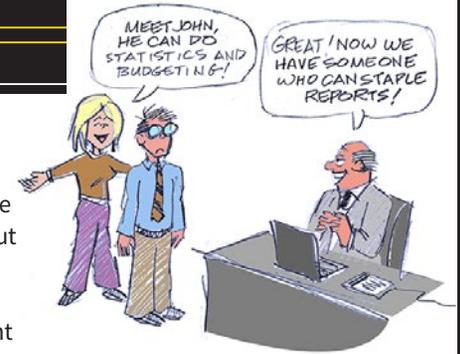
WINNER

WINNER!

We had a fantastic response to last month’s ADOT Jumble! Several of you solved the puzzle and submitted your answers but there can only be one winner. Congratulations to Joshua Cutrona, who is an Enforcement and Compliance Division dispatcher. His name was selected from a random draw of entries. He received a special gift bag that included a copy of the Arizona Highways publication and a 2019 calendar.

Answers: 1-Expectation; 2- Unrecognized; 3-Respect; 4-Training; 5-Dedicated

Final answer: Being a math whiz, John didn’t like how the new job was **adding up**.



WAY TO

GO!



CONGRATULATIONS to all of the ADOT employees who have recently earned spot incentives and meritorious leave! For a complete list of the employees who were awarded, check out the [ADOTNet home page](#).

The criteria for [spot incentives](#) and [meritorious leave](#) can be found under ADOT Policy and Procedures on ADOTNet. ■

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.

Little truck that could

LIKE THE CHILDREN'S CLASSIC, "Little Engine That Could," ADOT has its very own "Little Truck" story to share. This article and photos appeared in the December 1988 issue of Newsbeat, ADOT's employee newsletter at the time:

It was "the little truck that could," but didn't look good doing it.

The little truck, a 1959 Chevrolet Apache pickup assigned to the Grand Canyon Airport, was doing its job transporting maintenance personnel around the airport to do their work.

Its little heart, a straight six engine, was strong and had only 76,000 miles on it.

The airport personnel like the truck. Deputy Director Jim Creedon liked the truck, but was skeptical about its appearance.

The truck wasn't pretty on the outside. It had many bumps and bruises. The color had faded. A door needs to be replaced. The bed was rotted out. The seat had all but collapsed.

ADOT's Aeronautics Division could not afford a new truck so Jim Creedon suggested painting the little vehicle so it would look more presentable and so the ADOT seal could be placed on its doors.

But, the men in Equipment Services in Phoenix wanted to go a step further. They liked the little truck, too.

They replaced the windshield; put on a different door and fender; installed a metal bed; filled in the cracks and bumps; painted the truck; rebuilt and reupholstered the seat; cleaned out the interior, and put down a new floor mat.

The little truck looked like new. Gary Adams, director of ADOT's Aeronautics Division, said the little truck not only will continue to be used for maintenance work, but also will be parked in front of the terminal as the best looking vehicle at the airport and will be equipped with fire suppressing equipment.

The little truck is very proud.

So is Jerry West, administrator of Equipment Services.

His men spent only \$700 for materials for the truck. They fit in the repairs when they had free time, so the labor cost wasn't much. It would have cost the Aeronautics Division \$4,000 to \$5,000 to replace the truck.

Not only that, but West's men put tender loving care into repairing the truck. Some volunteered to work on

weekends. Some volunteered to donate parts. All did the very best job they could.

After reading this old newsletter story, we reached out to Equipment Services to see what happened to the pickup. We were happy to hear that the 60-year-old truck still has a special place at ADOT, with just 87,866 miles on its odometer.

"We still have the truck, and I have it stored in one of our shops with it covered. We make sure to take very good care of it as it represents our history. At times, we take it out to run and exercise it so it stays nice. We use it for different events and it has been in many parades," said Equipment Services Administrator Devin Darlek. ■

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist



ADOT employees, who refurbished the 1959 Chevrolet Apache pickup truck for ADOT, are pictured after putting on finishing touches inside and outside.



Devin Darlek, Equipment Services.

ADOT continues to take great care of the bright yellow pickup truck which has been showcased in parades and at special events.

Resolve to be a safer driver in 2019

ON ADOT's website, there's a number posted on the homepage. Have you taken notice of it lately?

It should catch your attention every time you visit our site because it represents the number of traffic fatalities that have occurred throughout Arizona.

The count has been updated weekly throughout the year, and as of right now, it's up to 956.

Those 956 women, men and children should be here to celebrate the holidays with their families. They should be here to ring in the New Year. They should have a future. They didn't need to die...

But in recent years, we've seen traffic fatalities climb in Arizona and nationwide.

ADOT's goal in sharing the number is to make everyone aware that drivers' actions have real-life consequences.

But, as Director John Halikowski said [back in April](#), ADOT can't reverse the rising trend of traffic fatalities alone — the change must begin in the driver's seat.

We know that more than 90 percent of crashes are caused by driver behavior, which is why I'm asking you to really examine your own actions behind the wheel so that we can make 2019 a safer year.



Dallas Hammit

Why not start by making safe driving one of your New Year's resolutions? As I've done in past years, I also encourage you to sign our [Driving Safety Home pledge](#) to kick off the New Year.

Our pledge asks you to set a positive example by making safety a priority every time you travel. It's a promise to yourself, your friends, your family and everyone you share the road with. Signing the pledge means you

know that speeding, impairment, distraction and aggressive driving are leading factors in fatal crashes.

If you need more safe-driving tips this holiday season, please know that there are many resources from ADOT. You can 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 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

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.

Meet K-9s Pueblo, Dona and Hank

BUILDING ON its successful K-9 program, ADOT's Enforcement and Compliance Division has added three K-9 units to identify criminal activity at ports of entry.

Director John Halikowski presented badges on Dec. 5 to Pueblo who works with Officer Jerrad Nutt at the Ehrenberg and Parker POEs (photo on right); Dona who works with Officer Saul Sanchez at the San Simon POE (middle photo); and Hank who works with Officer Mike Martinez at the Yuma POE (photo on left.) Hank is a Belgian Malinois, while Dona and Santos are both Czech shepherds. They join Officer Daniel Brooks and Santos, assigned to the Sanders POE, and Officer Tanner Martin and Hugo, assigned to the Kingman and Topock POEs for the past year. Captain Dave Curry leads the K-9 Unit.

View more photos from the K-9 graduation ceremony in this [Flickr album](#). 🇺🇸

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist



Photos by John Dougherty, ADOT Communications