

# The INSIDE

# LANE

*A newsletter for employees of the Arizona Department of Transportation*

OCTOBER 2021

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10

*Help the Fourth Street Bridge  
win a national award*

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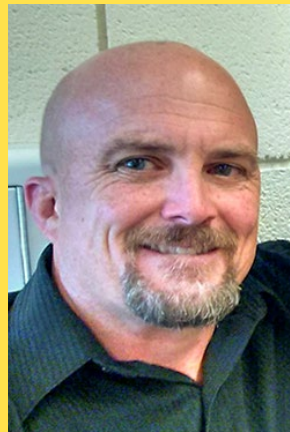
**ADOT**



## LEADERSHIP

## MATTERS

**H**AVE BEEN at ADOT for three years, the last two as an assistant state engineer assigned as the group manager for operational traffic and safety. I oversee the regional traffic engineering teams and the traffic safety team looking for ways to improve safety, capacity and overall operations. I received my bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Arizona State University and have more than 20 years of transportation engineering experience. I earned my Professional Traffic Operations Engineering and Professional Transportation Planning certifications through the Institute of Transportation Engineers. I also am a certified Safer Routes to School trainer.



**George Williams**  
*Assistant State Engineer  
Traffic Systems Management  
and Operations*

### How do you use metrics to drive process improvement?

As a traffic-safety-focused group, we analyze high crash locations to develop targeted countermeasures. These countermeasures are evaluated to determine if crashes are decreasing. Monthly, we track the locations analyzed, the countermeasures implemented and the number of crashes reduced as our primary metric. This is a major indicator for us to determine our ability to make system improvements through work orders and projects as well helping us develop new standards for typical signing and striping designs.

### Describe a kaizen success story.

ADOT uses three standard ways to control frontage roads at ramp locations: yield control, stop control and no control. A study was initiated by a consultant and initially recommended that yield control would be the major default based mostly on a desired theoretical weaving distance. However, after TSMO staff questioned the recommendation, reviewed the crash data from all over the state and reorganized it by distance and crash rates, it became apparent that the no-control locations were performing far better with 75% fewer (or better) crashes (we followed the data!). This was then provided to the State Route 101 consultant design team to review and implement. They agreed with TSMO staff, wrote a memo summarizing the benefits and are planning to make minor modifications that will result in significantly greater capacity, flexibility, and we believe far fewer crashes. This is also being used as the basis to create standard work for determining ramp/frontage road designs. ■

# The INSIDE LANE

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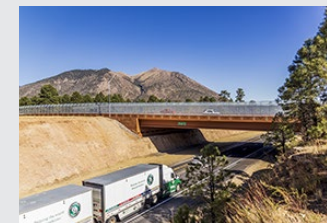
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## Share your best cover shot

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](mailto:InsideLane@azdot.gov) in JPEG format (no larger than 10MB). Along with the photo, please provide a brief description and your name/title.



## On the cover

Video Services Supervisor **John Dougherty** took this photo of the Fourth Street Bridge over Interstate 40 in Flagstaff, which won a regional award.. You can vote daily to help ADOT win the national People's Choice Award for the bridge, which has improved safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Read the story and see more photos on **Page 6**.



At the opening reception on Sept. 10, Arizona Highways Editor **Robert Stieve** presented stories from the publication's history, including this cover image from a 1937 issue of Arizona Highways magazine.



This is a collage of photographs by the late Willis Peterson, a long-time Arizona Highways contributor, who passed away in 2020.



Two landscape images featured in the exhibit by photographer Suzanne Mathia, are "Reflected Fall," left, taken in Oak Creek Canyon, and "Canyon Magic," taken on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.



The partnership between the Phoenix Zoo and Arizona Highways for this exhibit and the opening night reception was facilitated by Linda Hardwick (left), director of marketing and communications for the zoo, and **Karen Farugia**, director of sales and marketing for Arizona Highways magazine.

# ARIZONA HIGHWAYS EXHIBITS ITS **WILD** SIDE

**S**TUNNING DEPICTIONS of Arizona's southwestern landscapes. That's what comes to mind when most people think of [Arizona Highways magazine](#). But the world-renowned publication also features the people, the culture and the wildlife of the 48th state, and the latter is the subject of a new exhibit at the Phoenix Zoo, "The Glory of Nature's Form," running through Jan. 31, 2022.

Photo Editor **Jeff Kida** had the distinction of curating the photographs for the show, which was no easy task. The exhibit features 52 images from nine photographers.

"I tried to look for diversity of style and approach among the photographers that we work with, and to share the different ways that people see artistically," Kida said.

Dyana Hesson, a magazine contributor and a member of the Zoo Arts Commission, suggested a partnership between Arizona Highways and the Phoenix Zoo back in 2019, and due to the pandemic, it was a long time to come to fruition.

According to Arizona Highways Editor **Robert Stieve**, it was a natural (no pun intended) fit.

"Our mission aligns with the Phoenix Zoo and the [Arizona Center for Nature Conservation](#)," Stieve said. "We want to inspire people to pay attention to wildlife, preserve habitats and the beauty of the state."

That beauty is essentially leaping off the walls for this exhibit. It is a relatively new experience for Kida.

"I never see images reproduced at this size. I am used to seeing photographs that we publish in the magazine which are so much smaller, so seeing them this way gives them an immediate impact," he said. "They're just magic — whether it's a mountain lion, a black bear or a cactus — every image brings something different to the table." ■

~ Kim Larson, Senior Communications Specialist



The exhibit opened on Sept. 10 with a reception. The photos are on display in the Savannah Grill in the Phoenix Zoo through Jan. 31.

## SEE FOR YOURSELF

Want to head to the Phoenix Zoo and see "The Glory of Nature's Form"? The Phoenix Zoo is offering a [discount on admission for ADOT employees](#).

Photos: **John Dougherty**, ADOT Video





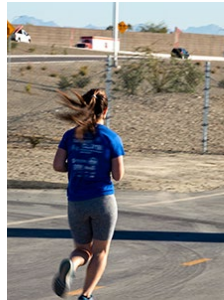
Joe Larger, ADOT Video

The Michigan Street Pedestrian Bridge over Interstate 19 in Tucson opened in 2020.

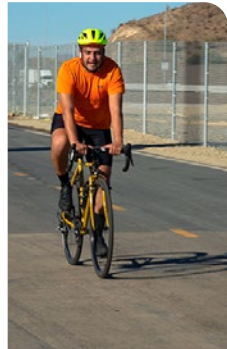


City of Sedona

On State Route 89A in Sedona, bright green paint was applied in bike lanes at dedicated right-turn lanes to increase the visibility of cyclists using bike lanes.



Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway's six-mile shared-use path at the 32nd Street interchange was built in partnership with the city of Phoenix. The path is designed for use by walkers, bicycle riders, leashed dogs and others. No motor vehicles are permitted. View more shared-use path photos in the [ADOT Flickr album](#).



Joe Larger, ADOT Video

# ADOT embraces active transportation modes

**D**ONNA LEWANDOWSKI is passionate about helping people become less dependent on cars.

As ADOT's active transportation coordinator, she shares techniques to keep people safer while walking and riding to work, shops or services. She also works with ADOT colleagues to help make the overall transportation system more secure for people choosing active modes.

"Over the years, I have had people describe how overcoming a fear of riding in traffic brings them increased feelings of self-efficacy. Some describe a sense of freedom when they realize that whether they ultimately choose to own a car is a choice and not a necessity," she said.

In September, ADOT renamed its Bicycle and Pedestrian Program as the ADOT Active Transportation Program. The [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) and some DOTs across the nation also are promoting active transportation.

What is active transportation? The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) defines it as any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking and bicycling.

"Active Transportation acknowledges the growing recognition of the connection between public health and transportation, and positions ADOT to better engage and collaborate with other state departments, such as the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health Services," said Lewandowski, who works in the Multimodal Planning Division.

ADOT assists Arizona counties and cities with active transportation initiatives. One of the most visible examples is the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway's six-mile [shared-use path](#) at the 32nd Street interchange, which opened in 2020, in partnership with the city of Phoenix.

Working with the city of Sedona, the Northcentral District recently installed a green-painted bike lane at an intersection on State Route 89A, one of the first located on a state-owned roadway in Arizona.



ADOT employees accommodate active transportation in many ways. Examples include a Southcentral District project manager, who created a safe detour for bicycles when a popular route went under construction, and a Southeast District maintenance crew that went out of their way to clear a shoulder of weeds before a bicycling event.

"These efforts are happening all over the state in each of our districts by employees who take the extra time to include active transportation considerations. This is truly what it means for ADOT to embrace active transportation," Lewandowski said. "For those who are unable to drive, every safety improvement for non-vehicular modes of transportation takes on greater significance. I love knowing that I'm a small part of that."

Read the [ADOT Blog](#) to learn more about active transportation. You can find multimedia materials that inform bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists about rules of the road, laws, safety and resources on [azbikeped.org](#).

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist

## ADOT Kids: Be a Super Safe Pedestrian

**IN HONOR OF** National Pedestrian Safety Month in October, a new ADOT Kids activity teaches children how to be a Super Safe Pedestrian. Download and print the worksheet to help Super Safe Pedestrian Pete safely cross streets. Check out the ADOT Kids website, [azdot.gov/ADOTKids](#), for bike safety tips and more ways to stay safe while traveling.



# KAIZEN KORNER

## KAIZEN 2021 CHALLENGE

We are all being challenged to embrace [AKA-The ADOT Way](#) and practice our skills of problem solving and process improvement. To do this, everyone needs to:

- Focus on improvement of core processes
- Reduce waste using (Plan-Do-Check-Act)
- Document and submit a kaizen via the [kaizen tracker](#) while in the ADOT network

To reach our goal of 7,200, everyone is expected to complete a kaizen on their own and do one additional kaizen.

## KAIZEN COUNT

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

# 870

For more information on the Kaizen Challenge, visit the [Kaizen Challenge page](#) on [ADOTNet](#).

## New “watch for animal” signs protect motorists and wildlife

**WHILE TRAVELING** in Arizona’s high country, it’s important to look out for elk, deer and other wildlife which could suddenly bolt in front of your vehicle.

There were more than 1,400 crashes with animals in 2020, including two fatalities, 179 people injured and damage to 1,272 vehicles, according to [ADOT’s 2020 Crash Facts](#).

To catch motorists’ attention better, ADOT’s Northern Regional Traffic and Sign Shop crews created new yellow “Watch for Animals” supplemental placards that were placed under existing animal symbol signs. They were posted on State Route 87 south of Payson in both directions as a pilot project.

“We needed to come up with a new sign design that would display the wording, ‘Watch for Animals’ as well as the animal symbol to let all drivers be aware of the potential hazards,” Prescott Valley Transportation Engineering Specialist **Josh Hale** said. “Some drivers react to visual symbols and some respond to wording better. The new signs give the driver a better visual picture, with the symbol and the wording all in one sign.”

Hale submitted a kaizen for the new signs, which were designed after much research in the area, and reviewing wildlife maps and crossings as well as crash data maps.

“The placement of our new signs was crucial in our decision-making. We need an area where they would be seen and get the most attention from the public.” ■

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist



Josh Hale, Transportation Systems Management and Operations

▲ This new yellow sign design displays the “Watch for Animals” placard underneath the elk symbol to grab motorists’ attention about a potential encounter with elk, deer and other wildlife in the roadway.



ADOT Communications

▲ ADOT’s new resource list of ranchers makes it easier to locate owners of livestock, such as when cows are found roaming along the roadway.

## ADOT works to keep livestock off roadways and motorists safe

**WHEN COWS** were running on the roadway on US 60 near Wickenburg this summer, the Wickenburg Police Department asked ADOT for assistance after the local rancher could not be reached.

ADOT’s Wickenburg Maintenance crews located the bull and moved him to an ADOT yard until the owner could be reached.

In another situation, the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) received a report from the Department of Public Safety that a resident noticed that cattle had knocked down 20 feet of fencing and had access to the highway.

TOC Third Shift Dispatch Supervisor **Vincent Irwin** noticed that the Incident Response Unit and other ADOT field operations were struggling to identify owners or other contacts regarding reports of damaged property, fencing and loose/unidentified livestock.

“This was resulting in delays to initiate and complete damage repair, as well as tying up field operations staff for long periods of time,” Irwin said.

To remedy the situation, he conducted research with various state, county and private entities and compiled a comprehensive resource list of about 100 ranchers and their contact information and areas of responsibility and ownership. He also noted their unique brand identifiers and gate access codes.

“DPS and ADOT frequently receive calls about loose livestock, animals on the roadway, animals stuck in the cattle guard, and fence/cattle guard damage along ADOT right-of-way. Having updated contact information for ranchers can expedite responses to these hazardous situations,” Irwin added. ■

~ Lori Baker, Senior Communications Specialist





John Dougherty, ADOT Video



Doug Carroll, Community Relations



### How to vote for Fourth Street Bridge project

Vote daily through Oct. 25 for ADOT's Fourth Street Bridge to help win the national People's Choice Award by going to [AmericasTransportationAwards.org](https://AmericasTransportationAwards.org).

The Fourth Street Bridge over Interstate 40 in Flagstaff, which opened in 2020, was designed to improve safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, including students attending a nearby school. View more photos in the [Fourth Street Bridge Flickr album](#).

## Help ADOT's Fourth Street Bridge project win national People's Choice Award

**ADOT'S** Fourth Street Bridge over Interstate 40 replacement project in Flagstaff is among [12 projects competing for national recognition](#) from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The projects are vying for the national Grand Prize — selected by an independent panel of industry judges—and the People's Choice Award, chosen by the public through online voting. The top national winners also will each receive \$10,000 cash awards to be donated to a charity or scholarship of the state DOT's choosing.

The innovative [Fourth Street Bridge project](#), which opened in October 2020, won the 2021 America's Transportation Award [regional recognition](#) for improving safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, especially children who walk across the bridge to and from a neighboring school.

In partnership with the city of Flagstaff, the \$13.9 million project widened the Fourth Street Bridge over I-40, increasing capacity for vehicles, and providing barrier-separated pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project added a northbound multi-use path with access to the Flagstaff Urban trail system. Previously, pedestrians and bicyclists competed with traffic to cross the old bridge.

In the regional competition, the Fourth Street Bridge was honored for replacing a bridge over a major interstate with minimal impacts to

traffic, residents and businesses, including a major employer. The bridge also won in the regional "Quality of Life/Community Development, Small Project" category. Multimodal Planning Division Director **Greg Byres** accepted the regional award at the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual meeting in September.

The three highest-scoring projects from each regional competition earned a place on the "Top 12" list of projects competing for the national awards.

View more photos in the Fourth Street Bridge's [Flickr album](#). ■

~ Kathy Boyle, Assistant Communications Director for Internal Communications

### We're curious, how well do you know AKA - The ADOT Way?

Prove you're a real AKA expert by taking this [short quiz](#). Everyone who participates by **Oct. 22** will automatically be entered into a prize drawing. We'll reveal the answers in a future newsletter. If you need an AKA refresher before taking the quiz, check out the [adotnet.az.gov/aka](https://adotnet.az.gov/aka). Good luck! ■

#### AKA – THE ADOT WAY



### WINNER, WINNER

**WE HAD A FANTASTIC** response to last month's ADOT Trivia Challenge, but there can only be one winner. Congratulations to Equipment Services Program Project Specialist **Mariah Contreras** (pictured below), who was selected from a random draw of entries. She received a special gift bag from Internal Communications, including Arizona Highways magazines, Arizona Highways Copper gecko magnet, The Inside Lane stress ball and other great gifts. ■

#### Answers:

How many traffic signs are there throughout ADOT's statewide system? **200,000-plus**

What is the volume of traffic in the Phoenix Metro area? **1.7 million**

How many striping miles are there in the state? **26,619 striping miles**



Lori Baker, Internal Communications