

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

April 2025

A Message from Interim Director Brandy Kelso

Hello Streets Team!



First and foremost, I want to say thank you for what has already been a busy spring. From the Grand Canalscape ribbon cutting, to several ceremonial street sign installations, we have been hard at work and I am continually impressed at all our department does and accomplishes.

In April, we'll also recognize National Work Zone Awareness Week and Workers Memorial Day. In our industry, safety is always top of mind, especially as we approach the summer months. Please take a moment to review our heat illness and injury prevention program with your teams, as we prepare for the warm summer months and we ensure that all of us are heat ready.

As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the residents of Phoenix.

Brandy



What's Happening

National Distracted Driver Awareness Month

On average, nine people a day are killed in distracted driving crashes (source: National Safety Council). Do your part by driving responsibly, stay alert, and avoid distractions.



National Workzone Safety Awareness Week

The 2025 National Work Zone Awareness Week is scheduled for April 21-25 and hosted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This year's theme is "Respect the zone so we all get home." Join us on our social channels all week as we recognize and raise awareness around work zone safety!

Avenida Mujeres del Movimiento Ceremonial Sign



We were proud to be a part of the special unveiling of the ceremonial street sign for "Avenida Mujeres del Movimiento," ("Women of the Movement Avenue") at 10th Place and Hadley Street with Mayor Kate Gallego, District 8 Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington, and District 7 Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira.



Located next to Santa Rita Hall, this occasion commemorates the start of the historical Chicano movement that took place beginning in the 1960s where a large group of supporters - mostly women - helped organize rallies, register voters and support Cesar Chavez in his advocacy efforts. Some of the surviving members of this group were in attendance, along with family representatives, who were recognized and presented ceremonial medallions.

Grand Canalscape Phase 3 Celebration



Mayor Kate Gallego, Councilwoman Betty Guardado, City of Phoenix officials, and representatives from Salt River Project, Hunter Contracting Co. And J2 Design, officially unveiled and celebrated the completion of Grand Canalscape Phase 3, along the Grand Canal between 47th Ave. and 75th Ave. We were also joined by several schools in the area, including Maryvale High School's JROTC and mariachi group, Victory Collegiate Academy, and many other community groups. A huge shoutout to the Street Transportation team, and to all the City employees who volunteered their time on a Saturday and made this event possible.



HAWK Activations

Six HAWK signals (High Intensity Activated Crosswalks) were activated in the month of March, mostly in the area of the newly-finished Grand Canalscape Phase 3 recreation path, providing safe access to the path.



Det. ARAN Hard At Work

Detective Aran (Automatic Road Analyzer) made an appearance at Connected 2025 at Venture Cafe in Phoenix. The van was on display and Street Transportation staff were on hand to answer questions. This event explores smart city technologies that enhance quality of life and efficiency in urban spaces.





April Happenings

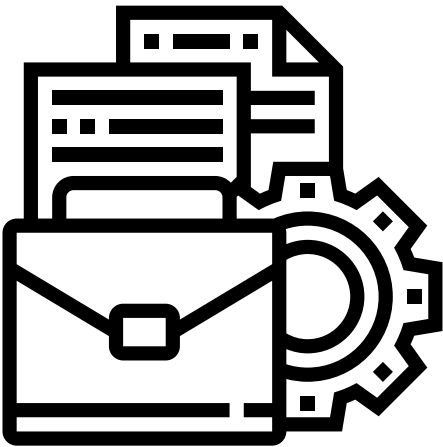
Workers Memorial Day

April 28 marks the anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), which has also been established as a day to remember workers who have been killed in a workzone.

Nationwide, more than 340 workers are killed and more than 6,000 suffer injury and illness because of dangerous working conditions that are preventable, each day. Look out for special posts on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn on this special day of commemoration.



Celebrating Administrative Professionals



Administrative Professionals Week is April 20 to 26, and Administrative Professionals Day is April 23, which is a great opportunity to recognize and appreciate the vital contributions of administrative staff in any organization.

This year's theme is *"The Power of Adaptability: Thriving in a Dynamic Administrative Landscape."* Stop by in person or send a friendly email (or Kudos card!) and thank a professional you know for their dedication to keeping the organization running!



Streets In Action

Signing and Striping



Traffic Services



Street Maintenance



COMMUNITY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TEAM

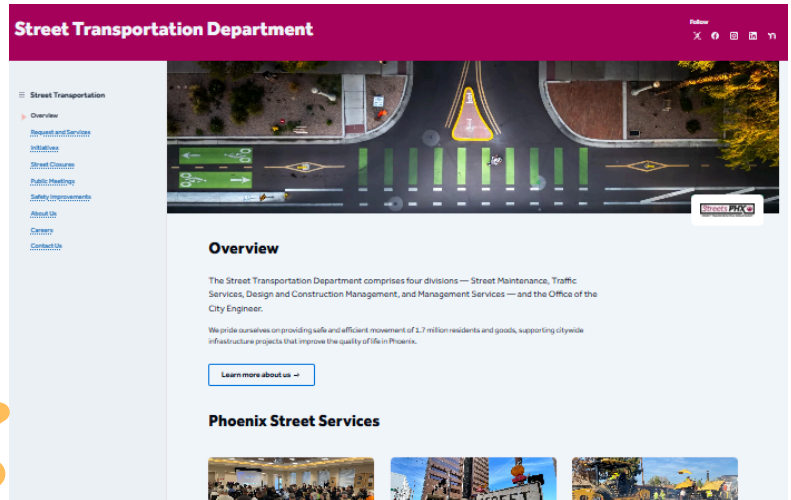
CPET

The New and Improved Phoenix.gov is now LIVE!

After several months of preparation, the new Phoenix.gov website is now live with faster, more user-friendly, and accessible content!

Take some time to navigate and familiarize yourself with the new website and layout.

For questions, please contact our team at streetsconnect@phoenix.gov



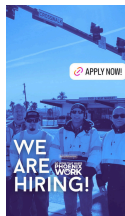
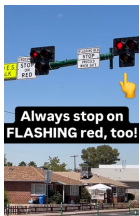
SAVE THE DATE!

Bring Your Child to Work Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 12. More details coming soon!

SHOWCASE YOUR TEAM!

Did your team achieve training or awards? Did you or one of your team members go above and beyond and did something amazing? Do you have a special event coming up?

Showcase them here in the Director's Newsletter! Submissions can be accepted at streetsconnect@phoenix.gov.



Follow us, Like and Share!



Find us and follow us: @StreetsPHX

6



As we approach warmer temps, please remember to exercise heat readiness and take the appropriate steps to avoid heat injury or illness!
Visit [Phoenix.gov/Summer](https://phoenix.gov/Summer)

The City of Phoenix has established the Heat Illness & Injury Prevention Program to minimize or eliminate employee exposure to heat related hazards. Our department will follow the components of this program from May 1 – September 30, or anytime a heat advisory or heat warning day has been issued by the National Weather Service.

Safety Tips for Heat and Hydration

- Know the signs of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.
- Drink more water than usual:
 - Avoid sugary drinks, alcohol and caffeine
- Take frequent breaks and wear light-colored clothing and wide-brimmed hats.
- Look after your fellow employees for signs and symptoms of potential heat injury.
- Learn more at [Phoenix.gov/Heat](https://phoenix.gov/Heat)

KNOW THE SIGNS



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations, Emerging Leaders Class #25!

Out of the 39 who graduated from across 15 different departments, three Street Transportation employees successfully completed this skills-based program: Fitna Bahnoo from Information Technology, Rachana Caloca from the Continuous Innovation Office, and David Oliva from Design and Construction Management.

The program is designed to assist in the development of leadership skills for those aspiring to become team leaders or find ways to sharpen their personal leadership skills.

Christopher Lai

GIS Coordinator, GIS Section of Management Services Division

Chris has worked in GIS for more than 9 years and has an extensive background working with utility data and asset management. Chris was hired into the City as a contract GIS Technician in 2018 to help the GIS team with the T2050 project. Since then, he was hired permanently as a GIS Technician in 2019 and was promoted to a Senior GIS Technician in 2021. Chris is an Arizona State University alumnus with two degrees – a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning and a Master's of Advanced Study in GIS. Chris brings a lot of experience and knowledge to the Street Transportation Department and we are excited to have him in the GIS Coordinator role!

In his personal life, Chris recently celebrated his 2nd year of marriage and his baby Anastasia's 1st birthday. Outside of his wife and daughter, his household also includes 2 dogs (Albus Dumbledore and Scout), and a bunny (Mr. Ghibli).

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bobbie Hobart

Contracts Specialist II, Design and Construction Procurement Team

Bobbie has been with DCP since 2021, where she began as an Administrative Assistant temporary employee. Bobbie learned about DCP quickly and when she had an opportunity to interview for Contracts Specialist I, she was selected and became a permanent City of Phoenix employee. Over the last four years, Bobbie has learned many different procurement methods and will now take on the procurement responsibilities of a Contracts Specialist II, learning the JOA and CMAR/DB procurement processes.

Bobbie enjoys traveling the world, with Florence, Italy being her favorite place so far after doing an Italian Christmas Market tour. In her spare time she also enjoys photography, being out in the desert on the side by sides looking for rocks, minerals, and crystals, trying new restaurants, and enjoying time with her three pups.

Peter Fongsamouth

GIS Analyst, GIS Section of Management Services Division

Peter has been working as a contract ITAP-I (GIS Analyst) for the Asset Location System's team Since January 2024 now finally becoming a permanent employee with the City of Phoenix, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Webster University.

His career began in architecture, where he gained over a decade of experience in the field. He transitioned into programming, specifically data analysis, and has accumulated nearly a decade of experience working for two prominent universities: Washington University in St. Louis and Chapman University.

Outside of Peter's professional life, he maintains balance by engaging in activities such as hiking, cooking, and home maintenance. He is also passionate about traveling, exploring diverse perspectives, and maintaining a strong connection to his heritage, which has profoundly shaped his outlook on life.

Anthony Vega

Senior Construction Inspector, Director's Office - Universal Inspector Program

Anthony started his career with the City of Phoenix in 2006 as a Groundskeeper in the Parks and Recreation department. In 2012, he promoted to Street Maintenance Worker and then Foreman I with Street Transportation Department. Most recently as a Foreman II, Anthony was responsible for applying asphalt, liquid road, and repairing drainage and concrete sections of roadway.

Anthony is a native of Arizona and enjoys spending time with his wife and four kids. His hobbies include sports, gaming, and barbecuing.



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Elena Rozenblum

Contracts Specialist II, Design and Construction Procurement Team

Elena has more than 18 years of experience in procurement and manufacturing. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry. Joining the City of Phoenix has been a long-time dream to fulfill her passion in community service and supporting environmental projects.

Her personal time is spent with her teenage boys and two teenage cats. Elena is also a Blue Belt in Taekwondo.

Crystal Crooks

Senior Human Resources Analyst

Crystal is originally from Detroit, MI and has lived in Arizona for the last 7 years. She has worked in Human Resources for more than 10 years in various fields of expertise ranging from manufacturing to corporate offices.

In her free time, Crystal enjoys spending time with her family, which includes two sets of twins - ages 28 and 13!

Tracie Armstead-Payton

Senior Human Resources Analyst

Tracie is a seasons Human Resources professional with more than 20 years in talent management, employee relations, and organizational development. As a Senior HR Analyst with the City of Phoenix, Tracie will focus on employee relations, optimize HR processes, ensure compliance, and foster a positive workplace culture.

Kristen Rieger

Project Manager, Office of the City Engineer

Kristen grew up in Flagstaff, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) from Northern Arizona University. In 2016, she relocated with her family to the Valley and now has more than eight years of professional experience in facilities engineering and construction, with a significant portion of her career spent at Intel. Prior to that, she worked in design and automation for a medical device company.

Her family includes two teenage children: a 15-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. During her leisure hours, she takes pleasure in attending concerts with her family, stargazing, playing the piano, and pursuing her avid interest in birdwatching.

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

Who to contact:

Employee Relations

Rita McClinton
602-495-7213

Erin Bobo
602-262-6851

Personnel and Payroll

Araceli Sigala-Cordova
602-261-8951

Nicole Medina
Management Services
and Street Maintenance
602-262-7950

Corina Carvajal
City Engineer, DCM
and Traffic Services
602-534-1973

Safety

Miguel Vasquez
602-319-3468

Recruitment

Viviana Madrigal
Director's Office, City Engineer,
Management Services
602-534-2917

Years of Service

20 Years
Myesha Harris

25 Years
Harley Boss

Kudos Cards

Please continue to use the Employee Appreciation and Recognition Program to acknowledge great work.

A message will be sent out a couple weeks in advance of the cutoff date for cards to be submitted in order to be eligible for that drawing.

Submission information can be found in SharePoint on the Streets page, navigate to "People" then "Employee Recognition"

