Streets PHX
STREET TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A Message from Director Briiana Velez

November 2026



Hello Streets Team!

As we quickly begin approaching the holidays, I want to take a moment to share some exciting updates and recognize the outstanding work happening across our department.

First, congratulations to our Community Service Fund Drive committee for another successful fundraising season. Not only did we exceed our fundraising goal, we have given back to our community in more ways imaginable. Thank you, everyone, for your support.

Our teams have had a busy October, staff recently joined the Family Fright Night event on October 17 at the Washington Activity Center, helping support a well-attended evening of family activities and a movie in the park.

Our teams also took part in the Creighton Family Fall Festival and Bike Rodeo, offering bike-safety guidance and helping families enjoy a variety of community resources and activities.

The Signal Shop also activated our first GO Bond funded HAWK at 35th Ave. and Waltann Lane, bringing our total to 119 HAWKS in Phoenix. And our first GO Bond funded Traffic Signal at 24th St. and Willetta. Three other new traffic signals were also activated at 99th Avenue & Pima Street, 19th Avenue and Grandview and 97th Avenue and Thomas Road, bringing our total to 1,245 signalized intersections. All locations include updated features such as audible pushbuttons, ADA-compliant ramps, and modern detection and communication technology.

As we approach the end of the year, I can't thank you all enough for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence everyday. Thank you for all you do to support our mission and the residents and visitors of Phoenix.

Briiana

This year's Community Service Fund Drive was a great success for Streets, as we were able to surpass our department fundraising goal! Special thanks to **Alyssa Whitten**, our Street Transportation CSFD Chair and all who volunteered or helped! **Thank you to those who participated, supported and were a part of this special time of year of giving!**







$17,030.98 Raised by Streets!











CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

As we observed Veterans Day, On November 11. I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the veterans within our department and across our community. Your service, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting our freedoms mean more than words can express. Thank you for the courage you've shown, the challenges you've endured, and the dedication you've upheld. We are proud to work alongside you, and we deeply appreciate all that you have done and continue to do.

I hope everyone had a meaningful Veterans Day, and thank you again to those who have served.

VETERANS DAY
November 11th

Briiana

Healthy Giving Friendsgiving: Give the Smart Way This Holiday

This holiday season, join the City of Phoenix for Healthy Giving Friendsgiving, a smarter, community-centered way to support neighbors experiencing homelessness. Instead of giving directly on the street, you can make a bigger impact by donating through trusted local nonprofits working alongside the City's Office of Homeless Solutions. Healthy Giving ensures your kindness goes further by getting the right items into the right hands, safely and responsibly, without any negative impacts on our neighborhoods. Our partners have shared exactly what they need- from food and hygiene items to volunteer opportunities- so you can get involved directly. Be part of the solution, visit phoenix.gov/friendsgiving to get started.

Healthy Giving
FRIENDSGIVING

Thank You! Veteran's



WELCOME APPRENTICES!

The Street Maintenance Division is thrilled to welcome nine new apprentices, please join us in welcoming them to the team!



Carlos Amarillas



German Ramos



Hector Carcano



Jonathan Martinez



Ron Mendivil



Seth Hakari



Adam Sotelo



Joseph Zingle



Julian Rodriguez



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Lauren Cochran
Management Assistant II, Director's Office

Lauren has more than 19 years of professional experience building a diverse and well-rounded career across multiple departments. She began her career in the Police Department and later transitioned to the Prosecutor's Office, HR Safety, Neighborhood Services, and Aviation. Throughout her career, she has gained experience working with teams, supporting community-focused initiatives, and adapting to dynamic and fast-paced environments. Lauren is a proud Arizona native and outside of work, she enjoys traveling with her daughter and showing her the world. She also enjoys painting and spending time with her closest friends.

Sarah Riendeau
Budget Analyst II, Manegement Services Division

Sarah joins the Street Transportation Department and brings over 20 years of experience in accounting, finance, and banking. She values work that positively impacts the community. Outside the office, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, listening to music, and exploring new places. Sarah will be on the 5th floor of City Hall. Please stop by and give her a warm welcome when you have a moment!

Natalie Gruner
Management Assistant II, Street Maintenance Division

Natalie has more than 20 years of professional experience and has worked in various capacities with different teams to create procedures and improve processes. She previously served as the Victim Servies Administrator and as a Victim Advocate in the Law Department, where she supported individuals navigating difficult and sensitive situations. Most recently, Natalie served as the Records Program Coordinator for the City Clerk.

Natalie brings an extensive background in customer service, administrative assistance, leadership and organizational support. She enjoys collaborating with colleagues and looks forward to contributing to the Street Transportation Department's continued success. Outside the office, Natalie loves spending time with her family, traveling (especially to the beach) sports, hiking and Zumba.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2026 ITS Arizona Awards



The Street Transportation Department received two honors at the 2026 ITS Arizona Conference. The Traffic Operations team earned the 2026 **Best ITS Implementation Project award** for its study on road users' compliance with yellow and clearance intervals, known as the City of Phoenix Yellow Light Timing Study.

Additionally, Traffic Engineering Supervisor Simon Ramos was named the **2026 ITS Arizona Member of the Year** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the ITS industry.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

The APS Electric Light Parade is December 5 at 7 p.m. The annual parade is the highlight of the holiday season as the City and other organizations participate in walking the 2.5 mile route in Central Phoenix.



We are looking for department employees and their families (minimum age is 8 years old) to volunteer as walkers.



If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kevin Sonoda via email at kevin.sonoda@phoenix.gov



CONGRATULATIONS!

Brian O'Connor, Traffic Services Superintendent

Please join us in celebrating Brian O'Connor's promotion to the newly created Traffic Services Superintendent over operations at the Traffic Services Field Office, which includes Right-of-Way Management, the Parking Meter program, and the Count Shop.

Brian is a native to Arizona, born and raised in Central Phoenix. He began his career with the City of Phoenix in 2006 with the Street Transportation Department. Brian has more than 20 years of professional experience within project coordination, events, and management. He previously served as the Construction Inspection Supervisor over Right of Way Management and Parking Meters in the Traffic Services Division.

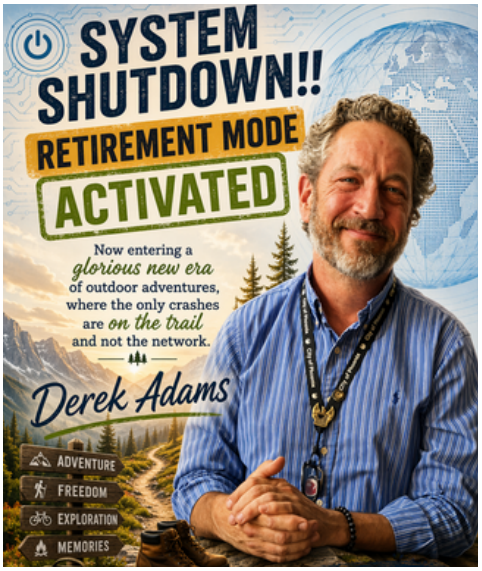
Outside of work Brian enjoys golfing, spending time with his family and volunteering as a coach for his kids' sports teams. Brian and his wife, Kellie, are thankful for the opportunity to raise their three children in the same city they have always called home, Phoenix.

Leo Muñoz, Principal Engineering Technician

Please join us in congratulating Leo Muñoz, who has recently been promoted to Principal Engineering Technician within the Traffic Design and Streetlighting section. His promotion is a well-deserved recognition of the expertise and leadership he brings to the Traffic Services Division.
In his new role, Leo's responsibilities will include reviewing all new DCM Capital Improvement streetlight submittals, assisting with GO Bond projects, serving as backup to the Project Manager on various projects, and overseeing both the Chief Engineering Technician and the Midblock Program.

RETIRED!

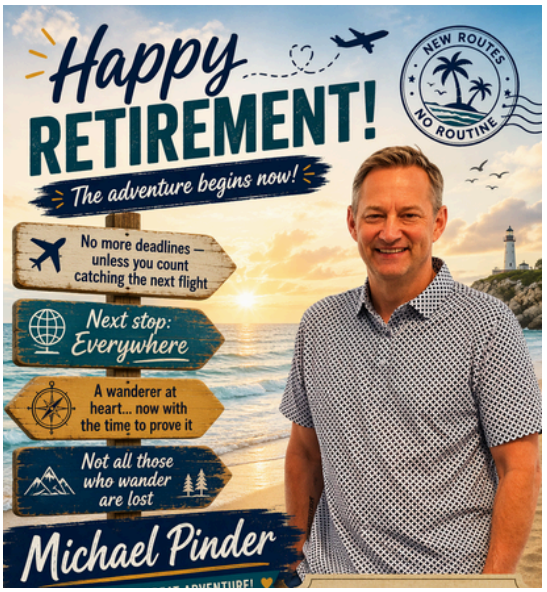
Congratulations to Derek Adams and Michael Pinder on their retirement from the City of Phoenix!



Derek has been a respected member of our Street Transportation team. After 25 years of service, we are sad to see him go and wish him the best on his future endeavors. As Derek begins this new chapter, we extend our gratitude for his hard work, leadership, and dedication. He will be greatly missed, but we are excited for him as he embarks on well-deserved time with family, hobbies, and new adventures.







After nearly 21 years of service, Michael Pinder is retiring from the City of Phoenix. Starting his career in the Neighborhood Services Department and later moving to the Street Transportation Department. Pinder is incredibly proud of the work he accomplished and deeply appreciative of the partnerships, support, and relationships that made these years so meaningful. We wish Pinder the very best in his next chapter and adventures.



KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY

I would like to compliment Veronica, supervisor in the Street Maintenance Division. She has been very helpful and responsive in solving issues associated with ongoing maintenance issues of the 42nd wash behind my housing subdivision. - James P.



I just wanted to reach out and let you know what a great experience we had with Leo. We were trying to put an extra street light on our street and he came out to meet us and was very informative, very kind and answered all our questions. He was just great to work with. Unfortunately, one of our neighbors did not want the street light so we ended up not following through with the plans. My husband is a former Phoenix Police Officer, and we know how important it is to have good people in city positions. We just wanted to make sure that Leo got some kudos for his wonderful customer service! - Karyn and Troy H.

Management Services VIP

Congratulations to this quarter's MSD VIP Award recipient, Wayne Conte! Wayne is an Accountant II, with the Budget & Fiscal team. Who continually goes above and beyond in his work and his dedication has made a significant positive impact on our team and the community we serve. Congrats Wayne!



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Nextdoor

Find us and follow us: **@StreetsPHX**

HALLOWEEN IN STREETS

















COMING SOON

A Street Transportation polo shirt order will be opening soon! This will be a great opportunity to freshen up your wardrobe with updated apparel and show department spirit. See Toni for questions or stay tuned for more information!



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

Years of Service

5 Years

Johnnie Flores
Kevon Jakevan Powell

20 Years

Leonardo Munoz
Michael Romero
Victor SanMiguel

35 Years

Erin Bobo



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