

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A Message from Director Briiana Velez

April 2026



As we head into the warmer months, I want to take a moment to remind everyone to stay mindful of heat safety. Rising temperatures can take a toll on both our teams in the field and the communities we serve. Please continue practicing safe hydration habits, taking breaks as needed, and looking out for one another as we move into our busy summer season.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work happening across the department. From major street improvement projects to community outreach events, each team has shown dedication, professionalism, and resilience. Your efforts whether out in the field, behind the wheel, in the office, or at public events, demonstrate the strong commitment we bring to keeping Phoenix moving safely and efficiently.

April also marks Distracted Driving Awareness Month, an important reminder that safety is everyone's responsibility. Whether we're operating a City vehicle or driving in our personal time, keeping our focus on the road helps protect our coworkers, our neighbors, and our own families.

Additionally, the week of April 19 is Work Zone Awareness Week. This annual observance highlights the critical importance of slowing down and staying alert in and around work zones. Our crews do essential work every day, often in challenging conditions and we all deserve to return home safely. Thank you for doing your part to promote safe driving behaviors and for supporting each other on-site.

Your continued dedication and teamwork is noticed and I'm proud of what we've accomplished and excited for all we will achieve in the months ahead.

Briiana



As a part of our City's Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan we recognize April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of keeping eyes up, and all distractions down when operating a vehicle.

According to the National Safety Council, nine people PER DAY are killed in distracted driving crashes across the U.S. If you are the in the driver's seat, make safe driving your biggest priority!

April is
Distracted Driver Month
Vision ZERO 

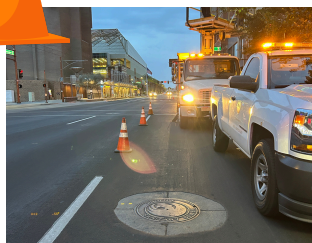


WHAT'S HAPPENING

Work Zone Awareness Week April 19 to 25

This month, we recognize Work Zone Awareness Week a time dedicated to reminding drivers to slow down, stay alert, and use extra caution when traveling through work zones.

Our crews work hard every day to keep our streets safe and well-maintained, often in fast-moving and high-traffic environments. By promoting safe driving behaviors, we help ensure that every team member and every road user gets home safely.



Workers Memorial Day April 28

Each year on April 28, we pause to honor Workers Memorial Day. A time to remember those who have lost their lives or been injured on the job. It's also a moment to reaffirm our commitment to creating safe working environments for every member of our team.

By prioritizing safety, looking out for one another and staying vigilant in the field, we help ensure that every employee returns home safely at the end of each day. Let this observance inspire us to continue strengthening our culture of safety and care.





WHAT'S HAPPENING

Bike to Work Day

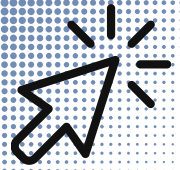
District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor alongside the Urban Phoenix Project are hosting Bike to Work Day on April 23.

Starting at 7 a.m. at Steele Indian School Park, participants will ride down 3rd Street, ending at the Arizona Center in downtown, where there will be opportunities to engage with several departments and local organizations, and to win some great prizes!

All staff are invited to participate with supervisor approval.



PurchaseIT


















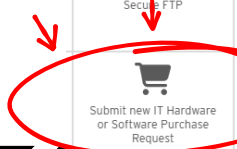
The Streets IT team has created a new, streamlined process that improves your IT purchase request experience!

Located within the "Featured Resources" section of SharePoint, this new process features an updated form and a dashboard to track request status.

Orientation sessions are now available on May 1, June 5, and July 10!
Contact Fitna Bahnoo at fitna.bahnoo@phoenix.gov to sign up.

Featured Resources

 CIP Budget Management	 Cloud Citizenserve	 Environmental Contract Tracking
 LandBase Viewer	 Operating Budget Tracking Application (OBT)	 Operations (TS)
 PHXYou	 ProcurePHX Login	 PurchaseIT Dashboard
 Secure FTP	 STR Onboarding and Onboarding Application	 Street Maintenance
 Submit new IT Hardware or Software Purchase Request	 TIPS	 TRACS



How you will benefit:

- Simple, easy-to-use interface, with pre-populated data to select from, to minimize user errors and standardize user hardware and software.
- Enhanced routing for approval to the supervisor, IT, and Fiscal, to reduce the number of forms and manual signatures needed.
- Streamline the purchasing experience for IT, Fiscal, and Admin staff, to provide faster fulfillment and better customer service.
- Provides requestors and supervisors with visibility to purchase requests status, to track their purchases.



STREETS IN ACTION

Countywide initiatives: Connected Vehicles

The Traffic Services team supported the Connected Mobility in Motion event, a free public event that highlighted the new connected vehicle technology coming to Phoenix.

In collaboration with Maricopa County Department of Transportation, and several other cities, the Connected Vehicle Acceleration Zone (CVAZ) enables real-time communication between vehicles, traffic signals, pedestrians, cyclists, and roadway infrastructure.

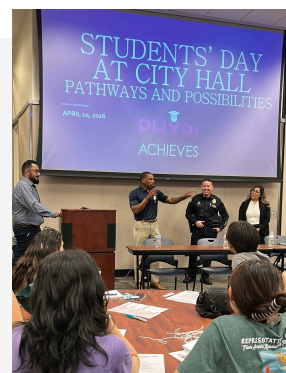
Learn more by visiting Maricopa.gov, and search "CVAZ."



Student Day at City Hall

Streets staff supported the Youth and Education Office-hosted event for high school student career exploration.

Assistant Director Markus Coleman participated in a panel discussion alongside other City department leadership, and staff were able to engage youth during round-table discussions, and presentations.

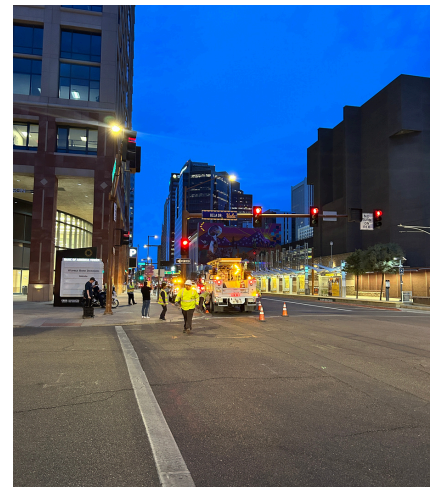




STREETS IN ACTION

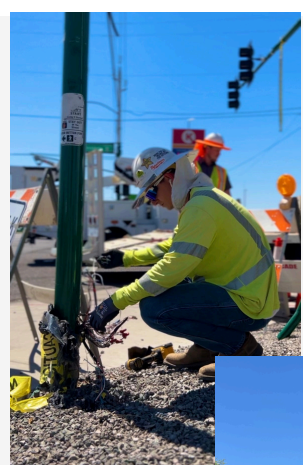
Final Four Superstars

Several teams within the department did a great job supporting the Women's Final Four which took place earlier this month!



Thank You!

Other great moments captured this month



TEAM WORK





CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica Lord

Plan Review Coordinator, Traffic Design Section, Traffic Services Division

In her new role, Jess will apply her extensive civil engineering knowledge to complex traffic services projects, with a primary focus on traffic signal and pavement marking design and review. She manages the department's consultant plan review program, ensuring the accuracy and completeness of traffic signal and striping plans.

Jess also performs quality control on consultant work, coordinates with site plans and adjacent projects, and collaborates closely with City departments, engineers, and developers. She monitors consultant progress, maintains detailed project records, and leverages her nearly three decades of expert-level AutoCAD experience while staying current with evolving engineering practices.

Jess has almost 20 years of experience in traffic services and nearly 30 years as an AutoCAD drafter/designer. She also holds a master's degree from Arizona State University and recently earned a degree in urban planning, which she looks forward to applying as she continues advancing in traffic services and traffic planning.

Outside of work, for fun, Jess spends time with her husband and friends playing card games, attending wine tasting events and watching Formula 1 races on Sundays... that is if football isn't on. She also spends a lot of time outside in her garden building structures to make the yard more enjoyable for the entire family including an attached patio, for her three cats. Jess has also just started constructing a new storage shed. We are excited to celebrate Jess's continued contributions, expertise, and leadership in her new role!





WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Xavier Newell **Parking Meter Supervisor**

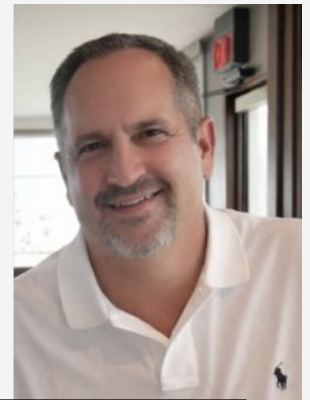
Xavier has been with the City of Phoenix for more than 26 years and brings extensive experience and leadership to this new role. He has served as the midtown Chief Construction Inspector in ROW Management for the last 6 years.

Prior to that role, he worked in the Parking Meter section for 12 years installing and maintaining over 2,000 parking meters.

In his free time, Xavier enjoys coaching varsity baseball, hiking the trails at South Mountain, and driving his classic truck around town. Xavier is born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and has built a career around public service.

David Smith **Vertical Project Management Civil Engineer III** **City Engineer's Office**

Prior to joining the City of Phoenix, David worked for the New Jersey Department of Transportation for many years as a Construction Field Manager on large roadway and bridge transportation projects.



David is passionate about providing excellent public service and is looking forward to working on new City of Phoenix projects within the various Departments.

In his free time, David enjoys spending time with family and friends and playing golf.



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

Years of Service

5 Years

Douglas Henry
Heather Mitchell

15 Year

Donovan Curtis, Sr.

10 Years

Steven Garcia, Jr.
John Gillespie
Angela Gonzales
Raymond Moore

20 Years

Lynette Chavez
Nadia Issa
Frank Schultz

25 Year

Wilbur Reese

Keep updated on
career opportunities!

[Phoenix.gov/Jobs](https://phoenix.gov/jobs)



Who to contact:

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