

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

July 2026

A Message from Director Briana Velez



As we move through the month of July, I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work each of you continues to put in during one of our busiest and hottest times of the year. With summer temperatures at their peak and monsoon season ramping up, your commitment to keeping our streets, rights-of-way, and operations safe and functional is truly appreciated. Please continue to prioritize safety, by staying hydrated, watching the weather, and adjusting field operations when storms or severe weather roll in.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Fourth of July holiday weekend! This year's celebrations felt especially meaningful as we recognize our nation's 250th birthday.

America's infrastructure has transformed dramatically from the earliest colonial roads and hand-built bridges to the vast, modern transportation systems we rely on today. What began as simple dirt pathways used for horseback travel and trade, evolved into engineered road networks, canals, rail lines, and eventually the interstate highway system, which reshaped how people and goods move across the country. I hope you were all able to take time to gather with friends and family, reflect on our nation's journey, and celebrate what makes our community strong.

We're also settling into the new fiscal year, which brings fresh opportunities, updated goals, and continued focus on delivering high-quality service to our community.

Thank you for everything you do each day to move our City forward. Let's continue to look out for one another and stay safe!

Briana

Happy Independence Day!

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence is a remarkable milestone that reminds us of the enduring spirit, resilience, and shared history that shape our country.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Declaration of Independence Ceremony and Celebration

City of Phoenix employees participated in the nationwide “Sharing the Spirit of America” program on July 8, joining communities across all 50 states, U.S. territories, and locations around the world in a synchronized recitation of the Declaration of Independence. This national effort, organized to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration’s first public reading, brought together participants across multiple time zones for a unified observance.



At Phoenix City Hall, the event began at 2:30 p.m. with a presentation of colors by the City of Phoenix Multi-Agency Color Guard and a brief video highlighting City employees’ ongoing service to the community and the country. At 3 p.m., employees from across the organization joined thousands nationwide in reading the Declaration.

From our Street Transportation Department, **Richard Mendoza and Fitna Bahnoo** did a phenomenal job representing our department!



STREETS IN ACTION

Street Maintenance Worker Apprentice Graduation

Six street maintenance worker apprentices graduated from the apprenticeship program earlier this month! The program consists of 4,000 on-the-job training hours, and a minimum of 288 related training instruction hours. Upon successful completion, apprentices are then promoted to a Street Maintenance Worker I position and complete a 12-month probationary period, subsequently becoming a permanent, fulltime City of Phoenix employee.



Ricardo Lopez



Duke Dominguez



Gabriel Bailey



Jahmal Binns



Dimitri Lopez



Edward Espinoza

Throughout the summer months, exercise heat readiness and take the appropriate steps to avoid heat injury or illness! **Visit Phoenix.gov/Summer**

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



Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 No Traffic Light?

Do It Right!
 Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 Turn Around

Don't Drown
 Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 Road closed ahead

Use Your Head
 Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 When in Doubt

Wait it Out
 Streets PHX

Monsoon Season is June 15 to Sept. 30

Always take the necessary precautions, on and off the clock, when it comes to monsoon weather and hazardous conditions.



STREETS LEADERSHIP



Laurie Smith Interim Deputy Director Traffic Services Division

We are pleased to welcome Laurie Smith back to the department as the Interim Deputy Director of the Traffic Services Division.

Laurie retired more than three years ago after serving as Deputy Management Services Director and has returned on a temporary basis to support the department in this interim leadership role. Throughout her career, she worked in nearly every division of the department, including Traffic Services, giving her extensive operational experience and a strong

understanding of the department as a whole. She brings valuable institutional knowledge and is excited to help support the team.

Outside of work, Laurie enjoys hiking, traveling, fostering rescue dogs, cheering on her favorite sports teams (Buffalo Bills, Arizona Cardinals, and Arizona Diamondbacks), and spending time with her family.

Chuck Christiansen Interim Deputy Director Design & Construction Management Division (DCM)

Chuck is an experienced project manager with over 26 years of experience split equally between the public and private sectors.

His career started as a survey technician, and he has held a wide range of positions on his path to becoming a recognized leader in the industry. Chuck has played an integral role in more than 300 projects across the Valley. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Arizona State University, graduating summa cum laude.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM AND CONGRATULATIONS



Eric Gudiño

Special Projects Administrator, Freeway Program Intergovernmental Coordination Section

Eric Gudiño has joined the department as a Special Projects Administrator in the Freeway Program and Intergovernmental Coordination Section, reporting to Interim Deputy Director Chuck Christiansen at DCM.

He will be responsible for managing and coordinating transportation infrastructure projects involving freeways and major transportation corridors and will serve as the primary liaison between the City and regional (MAG) and state (ADOT) partners.

Eric previously served as the Federal and Municipal Government Relations Manager, and we welcome the valuable experience he brings to this role.

Parnian Ghasemi

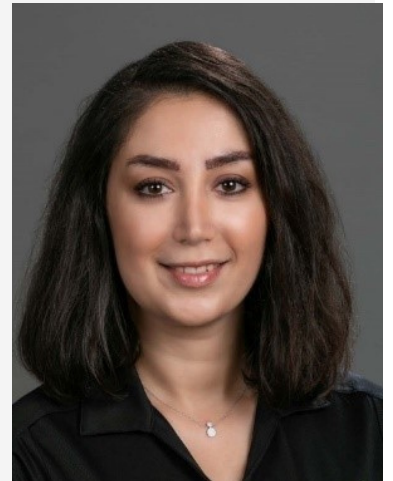
Civil Engineer III, Pavement Management Team

Parnian Ghasemi has joined the Pavement Management Team as a Civil Engineer III. Parnian earned a Ph.D. in Pavement Engineering from Iowa State University, and joined the City of Phoenix in 2024, serving as a Civil Engineer III in the materials lab, where she oversaw materials testing for construction projects across multiple departments, including Streets and Aviation. Prior to joining the City, she worked as a Lead Pavement Engineer with Kiewit Infrastructure Engineering, contributing to several design-build initiatives.

Before that, she served as the Quality Assurance Supervisor at Sunland Asphalt/Solterra Materials, managing the asphalt laboratory.

Parnian remains actively involved in numerous asphalt industry associations at both the national and local levels.

She currently serves as steering committee co-chair of the Southwest Pavement Technology Consortium, working to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Aaron Pope Special Projects Administrator Development and Utility Coordination Division

Aaron Pope has accepted a new role as Special Projects Administrator in the Development and Utility Coordination Division. Aaron, brings a wealth of plan review, permitting and inspection experience to the department and will oversee both the utility permitting and utility inspection teams.

Aaron, began his career right here in Street Transportation in 2001 as a Senior Engineering Technician, eventually moving into the Utility Inspections Department later that same year.

Over the years, He advanced through the organization and had the opportunity to work on several major projects, including TSMC, light rail, and fiber-infrastructure builds.

Most recently, Aaron, spent time with the Water Department serving as a liaison between Water Services, Planning and Development, and the developer community. In that role, he supported the development of infrastructure for several large-scale projects and served as a resource across multiple departments.

In his spare time, Aaron enjoys snowboarding and spending time with my family in Happy Jack.

Pamela Lane, Administrative Assistant I Management Services Division

Pamela Lane has joined the Administrative Services section of the Management Services Division as an Administrative Assistant I.

Pamela joins the City with more than 25 years of experience from Arizona State University, where she served in a variety of roles. She has a strong background in leadership, employee engagement, and organizational support.



Outside of work, Pamela enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling to new places, reading, and being walked by her 80-plus-pound Sheepadoodle, George.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Daniel "DJ" Guerrero Chief Materials Technician, Materials Lab Design & Construction Management Division

Daniel "DJ" Guerrero has joined the Materials Lab team at Design & Construction Management Division as a Chief Material Technician. With more than a decade of leadership experience, DJ has managed teams, trained staff, coordinated with contractors and inspectors, and analyzed test results to maintain high-quality standards. He has worked extensively with concrete, asphalt, soil, and aggregate testing and has served as lead technician on major projects such as the Mesa Boeing landing strip and the Lucid Motors expansion, overseeing field

and laboratory testing, documentation, and compliance to ensure project success. He holds certifications from the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the Arizona Technical Testing Institute (ATTI).

Originally from Oregon, DJ enjoys spending time with his daughter and son, whether they're exploring new activities or simply making memories together. In his free time, he enjoys restoring his 1972 Chevelle and traveling whenever he can.

Leonardo "Leo" Munoz Chief Engineering Technician Traffic Services Division

Leonardo "Leo" Munoz has accepted the role of Chief Engineering Technician in the Streetlighting Section of the Traffic Services Division. Leo brings more than a decade of experience in technical engineering support, design, and field operations. In his role, he will be responsible for performing single streetlight designs, conducting utility power design reviews, completing field inspections for streetlighting requests, reviewing mid-block installations, acquiring easements, processing design requests and investigating incoming streetlighting inquiries.



Leo began his City of Phoenix career with the Parks & Recreation Department in 2007, as a Grounds Keeper. He then joined the Water Department as a Utility Tech in water distribution in 2010 before transitioning to the Planning & Development Department, where he served as an engineering tech from 2015 to 2017 and later as a senior engineering tech from 2017 to 2021. Most recently, he worked as a chief engineering tech supporting the Development & Utility Coordination Division. Outside of work, Leo enjoys going to music festivals, watching live DJs, and grilling.



KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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I wanted to take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude to the Streets Department for the incredibly quick turnaround and thoughtful response to the concern regarding the leaning streetlight at the corner of the newly constructed Del Monte Village Community Garden. A couple of weeks ago, Naomi, the leader of the Del Monte Village Garden Association, submitted a MyPHX311 request about the pole, which was leaning and providing very little light. She was concerned it might go unnoticed because the serial number was no longer identifiable, so she reached out to me to help advocate on behalf of the neighborhood. Thanks to your responsiveness, just one week later I received a message from Naomi expressing how grateful and excited the community is. The brand-new light pole—with two sources of light—has already made a noticeable difference in safety, visibility, and overall community pride.

The formation of the newly rebranded neighborhood association and the development of the community garden have truly uplifted the area. Calls for service and community engagement have increased, and this corner has become a vibrant, activated space that residents use every single day and night. Your work directly supports that positive momentum.

To show their appreciation, the community recorded a short video capturing their excitement and posted it on their Instagram page. I've attached the video here so you can see firsthand how meaningful your support is to this neighborhood.

On behalf of the Del Monte Village Garden Association, Maryvale residents, and myself—thank you again for your partnership, responsiveness, and commitment to our communities.

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**-Rosario E.
Neighborhood Services Dept.**

Email to Toni Duenas, Rebecca Borquez and Damon

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I want to Thank each of You for listening to my requests and responding with actions. I was out of town last week and just returned home to my house located off of Cave Creek Road and Pinnacle Peak Road.

Upon driving down Cave Creek Road, north towards Sonoran Desert Drive, all of the furniture, tires, trash and construction signs have been removed and taken away.

It is very refreshing to know individuals like the 3 of You represent the City of Phoenix and its Residents. You take pride in your work and back up your words with actions. Thank You very much.

THANK YOU for everything!

-Mike C.

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HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

YEARS of SERVICE

5 Years

Carlos Epifanio Moreno
Matthew Wilson

10 Years

Leo Bedonie
Jamie Bucalo
Cindy Cortez
Robert Rivera

20 Years

Christopher Clouser
Cherice Hicks
Rosa Worden

25 Years

Wayne Conte



Keep updated on career opportunities!
[Phoenix.gov/Jobs](https://phoenix.gov/jobs)

Contact the HR Team

Transactions, Records & Leave

STR.HRTransactions@phoenix.gov

Virginia Navarro Marcella Saenz
602-261-8951 602-262-7950

Personnel and Payroll

STR.Payroll@phoenix.gov

Payroll slips only

Employee Relations

STR.EmpRelations@phoenix.gov

Erin Bobo Tracie Armstead-Payton
602-262-6851 602-262-6851

Crystal Crooks Kailah Esona
602-534-4409 602-495-7213

Safety

STR.Safety@phoenix.gov

Sarah Sanders Miguel Vasquez
602-262-6918 602-319-3468

Recruitment

STR.RecrUIT@phoenix.gov

Chris Rhodes
602-534-9731