

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

May 2026

A Message from Director Briiana Velez



As we move into May, I want to take a moment to recognize the important work happening across our department. From traffic signal rebuilds, a HAWK signal activation, a Last Alarm sign for a fallen firefighter, adjusting lane widths at 32nd Street and Cheryl Drive to increase safety, to hosting public engagement opportunities, launching applications to make us more efficient, over the last several weeks, our teams throughout the department have been making a difference.

This month also brings an important opportunity for community input. The Midtown Core Transportation Study survey is now open, and public input will help shape the future of the Midtown Core. I encourage you to learn more about this study in this issue and help spread the word so that we capture as much input as possible.

I want to extend a special congratulations to Arnold Gracia from our Street Maintenance Division, who was recently recognized with an Employee Excellence Award. Arnold's dedication and service reflect the very best of our department, this prestigious award is well-deserved and I am grateful for the example he sets.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. I'm incredibly proud to work alongside all of you!

Briiana

Safety Team Message

As we get into warmer weather, being prepared and exercising preventative measures to avoid heat injury is imperative. The Heat Illness & Injury Prevention Program (HIIP) is in place as a resource to minimize or eliminate employee exposure to heat related hazards.

The Street Transportation Department Safety Team will follow the components of this program from May 1 to Sept. 30, or anytime a heat advisory or heat warning day has been issued by the National Weather Service. See page 6 for more information.





WHAT'S HAPPENING



Memorial Day - May 25

Memorial Day is a day for reflection and honoring the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It's a time to remember their valor and express gratitude for the freedom we enjoy.

“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”
- Unknown Author

How Do You 602?

Join the Phoenix community as it celebrates 602 Day on Tuesday, June 2!

Annually, the City of Phoenix partners with local businesses and organizations to offer special discounts and deals, and host events and cultural activities that promote community spirit and honor 602 as the City's most historically significant area code.

In 2025, more than 250 businesses in the greater Phoenix area celebrated with the community.

Visit 602Day.com to see how YOU can 602!



Bring Your Child to Work Day Thursday, June 11

SAVE THE DATE

While this day is nationally observed in late April, school districts ask that parents and employers wait to celebrate until the summer to minimize children missing school.

There will be events held at City Hall, and the suggested age range for child participation is **8-18 years old**.

Employees may participate in this day with the approval of their supervisor.

Stay tuned for more info as we get closer to the date!





STREETS IN ACTION



Bike to Work Day

Some highlights from the fun we had on April 23, during Bike to Work Day!



Martin "Marty" L. Shultz Ceremonial Street Sign Dedication

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix City Councilmembers, along with City of Phoenix leadership, and several community constituents gathered on April 28, to honor local infrastructure trailblazer Martin "Marty" L. Shultz during a ceremony highlighting his accomplishments and unveiling the "Martin L. Shultz Way" ceremonial street sign at the corner of 4th Street and McKinley Street.

In the 1970s, Mr. Shultz served as Chief of Staff to three consecutive Phoenix Mayors; John Driggs, Tim Barrow, and Margaret T. Hance. Becoming a trusted voice and steady guide through pivotal moments in the City's growth, Mr. Shultz devoted his life to shaping the future of Phoenix through decades of professional service and personal commitment.



STREETS IN ACTION

Employee Excellence Awards

The City of Phoenix Employee Excellence Awards is an annual program, that honors employees and teams highlighting innovative projects, community service, and outstanding work that supports Phoenix residents and City operations.

This year, one of our very own, Arnold Gracia, was recognized for his outstanding dedication to public service when he rescued a child from a busy roadway.



Arnold, an equipment operator III, was on his way to a worksite, when he witnessed a small child who was visibly distressed and running into a busy roadway. Arnold took the initiative to pull his truck to a safe area, exit the vehicle and bring the child to safety. He then contacted law enforcement who was able to respond and locate the child's guardian.

Public Engagement: Dobbins Road, Loop 202 to 27th Ave

More than 200 Phoenix residents attended the Street Transportation-hosted public meeting on April 29 in the Laveen area for a planning study for the portion of Dobbins Road from Loop 202 to 27th Avenue.

A recording of the presentation materials and survey are posted on the website. The survey is open through May 29 at [Phoenix.gov/Streets/Dobbins](https://phoenix.gov/streets/dobbins).



Management Services Division Wants to Hear from YOU!

The Management Services Division (MSD) launched a Customer Satisfaction Survey. Staff input plays an essential role in helping assess how effectively internal services are meeting departmental needs.

The survey is brief, and responses will directly inform future improvements to the support provided across the department.



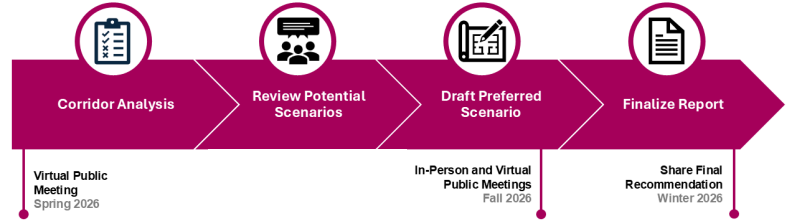
[Visit the survey page or scan the QR code](https://phoenix.gov/streets/dobbins)

Survey closes June 5

STREETS IN ACTION



The City of Phoenix held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, May 7, to present the Midtown Core Transportation Study and invite the community to ask questions and share input.



This study uses recent traffic analysis, new growth projections and your insights to keep Midtown moving, which will include the area within the following boundaries:

- West study boundary: 19th Avenue
- East study boundary: 16th Street
- South study boundary: McDowell Road
- North study boundary: Dunlap Avenue

This study will also include a portion of the Valley Metro B-Line, bicycle lanes, and reverse traffic lanes along 7th Street and 7th Avenue.

Learn more about the Study and participate in the survey by visiting Phoenix.gov/MidtownCore. **Survey closes May 29!**

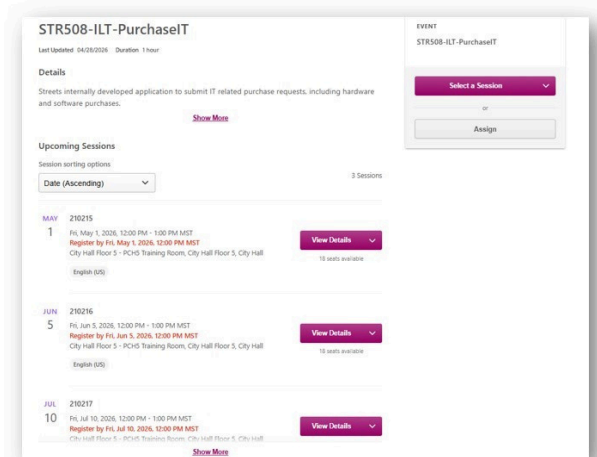
PurchaseIT

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.

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.



Orientation sessions are ready for enrollment! To register, go to PHXYOU and look up “STR508-ILT-PurchaseIT,” or contact Fitna Bahnoo at fitna.bahnoo@phoenix.gov.

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

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 Turn Around

Don't Drown

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 Road closed ahead

Use Your Head

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety
 When in Doubt

Wait it Out

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.





CONGRATULATIONS

Management Services Division (MSD) Very Important Performer (VIP) Award

Management Services Division has started a new reward system for their division employees, the Very Important Performer (VIP) Award! The award has been created to recognize employees who consistently demonstrate exceptional service, professionalism, and dedication to our division.

MSD proudly presents its very first quarterly award to Martin Rodriguez, Contract Specialist II with the Goods & Services Team. Martin has continually gone above and beyond in his work, and his dedication has made a significant positive impact on our team and the community we serve.





KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

The intersection upgrade on 51st Ave. and South Mountain Road looks very good - a much needed job well done. This intersection is much safer now for the Laveen Village community. We needed this upgrade for the young elementary school students, the school bus traffic, the landscaping workers, and the peace of mind with the CCTV security system.

Kudos to our City of Phoenix leadership for getting this much needed task done.

Again, thank you, and keep up the good work.



- Omotunde



I wanted to send this picture to the Streets Department for their quick response on April 7th. Within 2 hours of a phone call, the Crew seen in this picture responded to fallen trees on Cave Creek Road which were a sight hazard for traffic turning West. I sent this photo out to my Friends and Neighbors to show them the rapid response.



THANK YOU for listening and responding.

- Mike



Some of us have lived on this street for over thirty years, have never experienced such a professional job of resurfacing our streets.

We thought it a good idea to let you know that, notwithstanding your enormous job **keeping our streets safe and maintained**, we do appreciate the very professional work done by the contractor.

Just thought you should know there are some happy faces in our neighborhood.



- Stuart



CONGRATS!



Joseph Luera
Senior Construction Inspector
Design and Construction Management Division

Joseph has accepted a promotion to Senior Construction Inspector in the Design and Construction Management (DCM) division. Joseph began his construction career at age 21, gaining experience in concrete coring and demolition work.

In 2004, he was hired by the City of Phoenix in the Signing and Striping Section, and in 2017, he was promoted to Traffic Maintenance Foreman II.

Joseph was born in Ventura, California, and he enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Codee Koches
Senior Construction Inspector
Design and Construction Management Division

Codee has accepted a promotion to Senior Construction Inspector in the Design and Construction Management (DCM) division.

Codee brings a wealth of experience and dedication to this new role. He has served as a Street Maintenance Worker Lead, supporting Street Maintenance operations with professionalism and skill. His journey with the City of Phoenix began in 2017

A proud Arizona native, Codee has lived in the Valley his entire life, and enjoys spending his time with family, participating in outdoor activities, hosting BBQs, attending sporting events, and hanging out with friends.





CONGRATULATIONS!



Robert Suchil Senior Construction Inspector Design and Construction Management Division

Robert has accepted a promotion to Senior Construction Inspector with the Design and Construction Management Division.

Robert began his construction career at age 18, gaining experience in concrete work, underground installation, above-ground pipe fitting, and heavy equipment operation. He has been with the city for 12 years, most recently serving as an Equipment Operator III in the Traffic Services Division, Signing and Striping.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Robert enjoys spending his time off with family, attending movies, BBQs, baseball games, and going to car events.

FAREWELL



After more than seven years of dedicated service with the Communications and Public Engagement Team (CPET) as the Public Engagement Manager, Heather Murphy will be embarking on a new professional opportunity.

We extend our appreciation for her service and wish her continued success in her next endeavor!

Thank you for your dedication and service to Street Transportation!

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

YEARS of SERVICE

5 Years

Armando Avila-Cruz
Ryan Bentz
Aaron Diaz
Christopher Miller
Sadie Thompson
Anthony Van Ginkel

10 Years

Jaime Hidalgo
Clayton Kelly
Steven McGill
Gregorio Torres

20 Years

Nichol Shrum

25 Year

Juan Vasquez

15 Years

Jose Reyes



Keep updated on
career opportunities!

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

Contact HR

Transactions, Records & Leave
Str.Hrtransactions@phoenix.gov

Personnel and Payroll
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