TRANSEND

November 2006

A magazine for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

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ADOT

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Winter driving safety tips

While the thought of winter may leave some of you cold, many look forward to the opportunity to head for Arizona's snow country.

To make your winter driving trip a safe and pleasant one, we offer these 10 safe winter driving tips:

Check weather and road conditions – Before starting your trip to the high country, consult local radio or TV stations for current road and weather conditions. ADOT provides regularly updated travel advisories as part of the nationwide 511 system. Locally, dial 5-1-1 for this information. A toll-free number can also access the same information: 1-888-411-ROAD.

Slow down, be patient – Allow extra time for your trip if roads are wet, icy or snow covered. On slick pavement you have better control of your vehicle at slower speeds. Allow for more braking distance between vehicles and when approaching intersections.

Inform others of your destination – Tell relatives or friends of your itinerary and estimated arrival and departure times. Alert them if there are any changes to your plans.

Carry extra food and water – Nuts, fruit and nutrition bars are light and keep for long periods of time.

Have snow chains available – Icy or snow-packed highways can be extremely dangerous when driving. Watch for 'black ice', which can form on roadways after dark or when the temperatures drop suddenly.

Dress warmly – Take along extra dry, warm clothing and blankets or sleeping bags.

Stay in your vehicle – If you become stranded or broken down, remain inside your vehicle with your supply of food, water and blankets. Your vehicle will provide shelter from the cold weather, and it will be easier for DPS or ADOT crews to find you.

Keep your fuel tank topped off – Plenty of fuel means being able to keep warm in your vehicle longer should you become stranded. It is recommended that you run your vehicle's engine for 10 to 15 minutes every hour to maintain warmth and extend your fuel supply. Always vent your windows slightly to ensure adequate ventilation.

Leave room for other vehicles to pass – If you need to stop for any reason, pull off the roadway and turn off your vehicle lights. When possible, pull off and park in a well-lit parking lot or rest area.

Don't follow snow plows too closely – Stay back at least 50 feet from snow plows. Plows and other snow removal equipment travel slowly and make frequent stops. Never pass snow plows while they are in operation.

Please share these winter driving tips with your family and friends. Drive safely and enjoy all that Arizona has to offer, including the winter wonderland.

TRANSEND

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Winter Maintenance Conference prepares snowplow operators and managers for winter's worst

By Ron Loar
Editor

Put 200 highway maintenance workers together and sooner or later the conversation is bound to turn to snowplows – especially if the occasion is the ADOT-sponsored Winter Maintenance Conference that was held in Prescott.

Organized by the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP), the three-day conference, held at the Prescott Resort, gave snowplow operators a chance to learn of new techniques, equipment and chemicals for snow and ice removal. In addition to ADOT personnel, attendees included maintenance workers from county, tribal and city jurisdictions.

At the forefront of everyone's mind is safety and survival when it comes to snow removal. Keynote speaker for the opening day of the conference was Don Davis, who teaches survival skills at his Wilderness Survival Institute of Loveland, Colorado. "Dialing 9-1-1 if you get stranded in your vehicle may not be enough. You need to know how to survive until help arrives," he told the plow operators. He shared tips about the psychology of survival, packing a vehicle survival kit, and how to deal with first-aid issues such as hypothermia and frostbite.

Rick Powers, Globe District engineer, discussed ADOT's new snowplow simulators being used to train snowplow operators. He said that Arizona State University is doing research on this pilot project being conducted by the Globe District. The research will evaluate the effectiveness of simulator-based training in terms of public safety and potential cost savings. Plow operators experience computer-actuated situations involving speed, wind, traffic, snow and road conditions that they may encounter while operating snowplows on the road. The simulator records and evaluates reaction time of operators, much as a flight simulator does for aircraft pilots.

New strategies for road and weather management were the subject of a presentation by Ray Murphy of the FHWA Resource Center in Olympia Fields, Illinois. Environmental Sensor Stations (ESS) have been developed to provide data for assessment of the impact of weather on roadways. A Maintenance Decision Support System is an advanced research tool that provides diagnostic and prognostic weather data to maintenance personnel.

(Continued on Page 4)

Lori Sayers, marketing assistant for LTAP and coordinator of the Winter Maintenance Conference, tries her hand at operating a backhoe. Coaching her is Brian Reed, heavy equipment trainer for LTAP.

Maintenance Conference

(Continued from Page 3)

Breakout sessions gave participants the opportunity to share how their departments handle various snow- and ice-removal situations. Jerry Pickett of Greeley, Colorado, and Terry Hough of Morgantown, West Virginia, were moderators for the Storm Scenarios session. Leading the discussion about deicing were Mark DeVries of McHenry County Highway Department in Illinois and Bret Hodne of West Des Moines, Iowa.

Knowing how, when and what to plow was discussed by David Brinkley of Prescott. He offered suggestions regarding the importance and process of implementing a written snow response plan.

The City of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, developed an aggressive public relations campaign to inform winter motorists and residents about their snow-removal process. Details of the "customer-friendly snow removal" approach were detailed by Tim Martin. "We targeted everybody from elementary school children to the local media to turn criticism to camaraderie," he said.

The Utah Travel Council promotes skiing in Utah's "Greatest Snow on Earth." But between avalanches, hurricane-force winds and summits at more than 10,000 feet, keeping the roads clear of ice and snow is a real challenge. Lynn Bernhard of the Utah DOT in Salt Lake City spoke about snow-clearing operations to maintain accessibility for tourists and local citizens.

Jim Lewis, a maintenance employee of the City of Show Low, won a $100 American Express gift card for having the best time of 48 seconds in an agility handling exercise involving a backhoe. With a spoon affixed to the bucket of an end loader, he lifted a raw egg and deposited it into a cup without breaking the egg. Approximately 30 employees participated in the event.

Lori Sayers, marketing assistant for LTAP, coordinated the conference. Bret Hodne of the American Public Works Association secured the guest speakers. The Arizona Association of County Engineers was partners with ADOT for the Winter Maintenance Conference.

Between sessions, participants had the opportunity to visit exhibits by vendors Crafco; Desert Mountain Corp.; Envirotech Services, Inc.; Ergon; GMCO Corp.; Henke Manufacturing; MPRI, Inc.; and Pavement Sealants and Supply, Inc.

While snowplow operators learned new techniques for scooping up snow at the Winter Maintenance Conference, Danny Russell, Flagstaff District maintenance superintendent (foreground), demonstrated his technique for scooping up food at the luncheon. Steve Owen, ATRC, and Lonnie Anderson, Flagstaff District maintenance supervisor, took note of the technique.

Transportation Planning Division administers pilot program

Safe Routes to School offers many benefits to kids

Like most parents, Brian Fellows of the Transportation Planning Division has an interest in seeing that his eight-year-old son has a safe route to school. In fact, his interest goes beyond his paternal motives.

Brian is committed to seeing that all Arizona children make the daily trip to school and home again a safe one. He heads up a new program appropriately called Safe Routes to School, an FHWA-funded program that has earmarked $600 million for development of the Safe Routes program nationwide. ADOT receives $500,000 for first-year pilot projects.

With a son in school and a wife who is a school teacher, Brian says, "This program is a passion for me. If I can help get every kid to school and back home safely, then I will rest well.

"It's more than just teaching kids about stranger-danger. We need to educate them about responsible choices, being aware of their surroundings and following designated routes and plans."

He sees his responsibilities as being vital to encouraging children to walk and ride a bicycle to school. "It's imperative that we ensure that designated routes are safe for them. This demands that we engineer and designate safe paths and crosswalks with adequate traffic signals, signs and lane markings and that we provide sufficient enforcement in school areas and along designated Safe Routes." To accomplish this, Brian is coordinating the program with the Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Brian Fellows

Working closely with the Arizona Department of Education and school boards, Fellows is developing the education aspect of the program. "We need to teach the teachers and educate the parents about Safe Routes at the same time we are educating the youngsters," he says. Education also involves establishing bike-riding training programs that promote safe cycling. He says that funds are available for developing bike rodeos that will encourage riding, while at the same time testing the knowledge and skills of young bike riders. "Rodeos are an excellent way to reward development and participation, which is a part of the encouragement phase of the program," Fellows says.

Another benefit of the Safe Routes to Schools program is that it encourages healthy activity in young people. "With so many kids being chauffeured to school in family vans and school buses, and with schools cutting out recess and physical education programs, kids are getting a double whammy," he says. "Walking and bicycling to school will at least interject activity into their lives. We are seeking to build life-long habits in children. The Arizona Department of Health Services partners with Safe Routes to School for this very reason."

Other partners in the program include the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council, Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists, Sun Tran Professional Transit Management of Tucson, Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima Association of Governments, Prescott Alternative Transportation, and the Navajo Nation.

Fellows had previously worked for ADOT as an economist in Financial Management Services from December, 1988, through May, 1991. He left ADOT to work for the Energy Office of the Department of Commerce for six years and then at the City of Mesa as coordinator of their bicycle and pedestrian program before returning to the agency.

Safe Routes to School
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

State employees recognized for volunteer efforts to aid Katrina hurricane survivors

Governor Janet Napolitano, speaking at an assembly in the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum on the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, praised a host of state workers, including 52 ADOT employees who volunteered to assist families that were displaced by the catastrophic storm.

The governor told employees that she is "proud to represent a state where so many employees care for their fellowman."

The public event was held to recognize what the governor called "selfless efforts of agencies, organizations and individuals who gave their time and talent to meet the needs of the victims displaced by last year's most devastating natural disaster." Following her public address at the *Volunteer Heroes: Katrina and Beyond* event, the governor visited display booths set up by the various participating organizations. She personally greeted the volunteers, shaking their hands and hugging them and taking time to pose for photographs.

After Katrina destroyed homes and businesses along the gulf states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, thousands of families were relocated to other states for assistance. At the time, Governor Napolitano instituted Operation Good Neighbor to provide support and relief to storm victims. Participating in the relief efforts were employees of ADOT's Motor Vehicle Division, Intermodal Transportation Group, Facilities Group and *Arizona Highways* magazine.

Lenor Montemayer and Michael Veucasovic of MVD's Central Permits Office coordinated efforts to expedite overweight permits for trucks carrying relief supplies through Arizona's ports of entry. About 1,500 evacuees were housed in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, and another 115 were housed in the Tucson Civic Center.

MVD employees Jean Agan, Cindy Gray, Tricia Dan and Esther Perez led other employees who provided processing services for eight days to help many of the evacuees obtain driver licenses or personal identification that would aid them in obtaining housing and jobs and cashing checks. The combined emergency MVD operations in Phoenix and Tucson provided 402 personal ID's and 157 driver licenses in eight days of operation.

Several customer service representatives of MVD mentioned that they were working through their tears as they listened to the heart-breaking stories of the evacuees.

Cydney Demodica, public information officer for MVD, established town hall meetings with evacuees to provide information and services to those evacuees who chose to settle in Arizona.

Arizona Highways magazine provided reading material for the stranded victims, helping to relieve them of the tedium and stress of their long wait for assistance.

"The Arizona Department of Transportation rolled up its sleeves and helped their fellow Americans during their darkest time of need," said John Nichols, physical plant operations manager for ADOT. "I can honestly say that I am proud to serve with these selfless, hard working people of ADOT who accept a challenge and make it happen. Operation Good Neighbor was a success because of outstanding leadership, hard work and dedication of a lot of very special state employees."

Governor Janet Napolitano visits with some of the state employees who volunteered during the Katrina hurricane relief effort.

The railroad depot with a past now has a future

By Ron Loar
Editor

The railroad depot in Holbrook has its roots deep in the past, but thanks to financial assistance from ADOT, this relic of the Old West has a promising future.

Built in 1892 by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, the passenger depot was a major stop along the east-west rail corridor. The adjoining freight depot was added in 1912 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.

Constructed of Moenkopi sandstone from nearby quarries, the passenger depot ". . . is literally the entry to Holbrook when one comes into town from the south on State Route 77," says Bob Gasser, project manager of ADOT''s Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Roads Section. "Given its highly visible location, the rehab of the depot should enhance the area and provide a pedestrian/tourist draw."

With the infusion of a $350,000 transportation enhancement grant from ADOT and $150,000 in matching funds from the City of Holbrook, the historic railroad depot has been under renovation for nearly a year, according to Gasser. When completed, the depot will be used to display rail memorabilia.

Preservation of the building has been a joint effort on the part of ADOT, the City of Holbrook, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns the buildings. BNSF will continue to occupy offices in the depot.

Old photographs of the depot provided by the Navajo County Historical Society were used by contractors to recreate the shape of the chimney. A new tin roof has been installed, and the deteriorating sandstone blocks have been re-pointed. According to Paul Lebaron, project manager, "Re-pointing involves removal and replacing crumbling mortar.,"

Gasser said his office is providing financial assistance to the City of Holbrook for revitalizing other parts of the downtown area adjacent to the depot. The downtown revitalization project includes installing brick pavers in the sidewalks and adding pedestrian lighting and benches. Historic Route 66 runs through downtown just north of the railroad station.

Over a hundred years old, this grand dame of a bygone railroad era is being renovated thanks to funds secured by ADOT's Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Roads Section. The historic depot is slated to become a tourist attraction in downtown Holbrook.

Comments and Kudos

A former Arizona resident, now living in the Houston area, recently returned to the state and writes to tell us how pleased she is to see the highway improvements that have occurred since she moved away.

Dear Sirs:

I was born in Arizona but moved away when I was a child.

Recently I visited my son in Chandler. On our way up to Sedona we traveled on Highways 101 and 202 in the Phoenix Metro area. The Native American artwork and Symbols along these highways is beautiful! It is truly several works of art.

I have never seen highways decorated so magnificently anywhere in the United States!

Thank you,

Edie Gray

Andrew Nierman sent this e-mail comment after his visit to Arizona:

Recently my son and I drove from Chicago to Phoenix via Show Low and Globe. We felt we had to congratulate you on the condition of the road and the sign posting. It's the best I've seen anywhere in the U.S.

AASHTO recognizes MVD program

EZ Pay system wins national recognition

By Jim Cullison
MVD Project Support Manager

The Arizona Department of Transportation was front and center when awards were presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in Portland, Oregon, October 28.

MVD's EZ Pay Team received the AASHTO President's Award for Intermodal Transportation. The award recognized the team's "exemplary service" in developing an automated process for collecting fees for permits needed by commercial motor carriers to enter the state or transport goods on Arizona highways. The EZ Pay system was introduced in 2005.

EZ Pay allows motor carriers to establish an account with MVD to purchase permits electronically over a secure Internet gateway, charging the permits to a pre-designated credit card or checking account. The EZ Pay system allowed MVD to do away with an older account system that required carriers to make deposits, involved time-consuming monitoring by MVD and generated a lot of customer inquiries about account status. It also has reduced the volume of permit purchases made with cash and paper checks, which is another time-saver for MVD.

In addition to improving the payment method for motor carriers, EZ Pay also gives the customers access to a variety of online reports, allowing them to keep up-to-date on their account and permit activity and reducing calls to MVD. So far, 188 carriers have opened EZ Pay accounts. Carriers have to be in good standing with MVD to be authorized for an account.

An intra-departmental team that also included representatives from the motor carrier industry developed the system. The motor carrier representatives gave a user perspective to the project, which was valuable in designing the system from a customer viewpoint.

Retirements from ADOT

Employees retiring from ADOT recently, as reported by Human Resources, include:

Diane Williams, MVD, Competitive Government Partnerships, 32 years

Jose Mario Ortiz, MVD, Goodyear Commercial Driver License, 28 years

Arthur L. Gillespie, MVD, Office of Inspector General, 12 years

Patricia A. Yarnold, MVD, Motor Carrier and Tax Services, 7 years

Daniel F. Mackillop, ITD, Pumphouse Maintenance, 5 years

Milestones in Service

J. Trojanovich, "walking history book" celebrates 45 years with ADOT

John Trojanovich, equipment services supervisor for Tucson District, celebrates his 45th year with ADOT this month, making him the employee with the longest consecutive years of service with the agency.

Starting in 1961 with the Arizona Highway Department in Claypool, Arizona, Trojanovich was one of a four-man crew assigned to build right-of-way fences from Roosevelt Summit to the Pinto Creek Bridge. Earning $2.05 per hour, Trojanovich and his gang had to carry their own sleeping bags and canteens and had to sleep in bunk houses, trailers and barns. "We did it all – labor, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical; I was even a snowplow driver at times. Most ditches were dug by hand with pick and shovel," John recalls.

John Trojanovich then and now

In time, Trojanovich was put in charge of construction of the equipment shop and yard facility in Winslow, where in 1970 he was appointed as shop foreman. In 1972, he was moved to the Holbrook facility as shop supervisor. Shortly after the Department of Highways became the Arizona Department of Transportation in 1974, John was promoted to equipment inspector in Phoenix. He was assigned as equipment services supervisor in Tucson in 1982.

"John T. is a walking ADOT history book," says Bill Kohn, maintenance operations manager for Equipment Services, and John's supervisor, "I find great pleasure whenever I have to travel across the state with John. With each mile marker we pass, he has a fascinating story to share of some interesting fact or significant event that took place."

Kohn recalls a motor trip he took with Trojanovich along State Route 88 near Show Low. "John pointed to the fence posts and mentioned that he put those in the ground in 1961. I was crawling around in diapers when he was out here pounding fence posts in the ground.

"He can tell a story, never hesitating for a moment, sharing details about a particular storm, names of people, who was in charge, or that little café where they ate supper," Kohn relates.

Asked if he has plans to retire anytime soon, John Trojanovich says, "What for? I'm just getting started."

The following employees also attained milestones for their length of service:

35 years

Daniel J. Russell, ITD, Flagstaff Maintenance

30 years

Paul A. Terry, TSG, Facility Maintenance Tucson

25 years

Mary H. Blanco, ITD, Phoenix Construction

Usvaldo A. Carrola, TSG, FMS Help Management

Deanna D. Casillas, ITD, Globe District

Porfirio L. Ruiz, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance Avondale

Stephanie A. Russell, MVD, Flagstaff Enforcement

Francis Teller, ITD, Flagstaff District

Eric D. Thorstenson, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance District

Dolores D. Villa, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance

Koumou Keita, ITD, Pavement Design

20 years

Jani Demaree-- ITD, Highway Maintenance Support

Homayoon Saidi, ITD, Bridge Management

Benjamin R. Silvas, MVD, Policy

Enjoy Arizona's high country with these winter weather driving tips.

If you go . . . Please Know Snow!

Planning on heading for snow country this winter? The Arizona Department of Transportation wants your trip to be enjoyable and safe.

That's why the Communication and Community Partnerships Division has prepared an informative brochure with tips for winter-weather driving. The brochure is being distributed statewide through ADOT district offices, the ports of entry, tourist information kiosks and travel-related businesses.

Called "Please Know Snow," the publication encourages motorists intending to travel in the high country to make the following vehicle safety checks before heading out:

Battery – Verify that it's well charged. Cold starting places heavy demand on a vehicle's battery.

Radiator – Make sure the antifreeze is tested for below freezing levels.

Wipers – Install new wiper blades and top off windshield cleaner/solvent.

Ignition system – Have a mechanic verify that your ignition system is working properly.

Thermostat – Have your thermostat tested for cold weather operation.

Lights – Be sure that headlights, tail and brake lights and turn signals are functioning.

Exhaust system – Check pipes and muffler for leaks; a faulty exhaust system can result in carbon monoxide poisoning and death.

Heater – You may not use it in the desert, but be sure it's working before heading to colder climates.

Road conditions braking guide

	Distance to stop from 60MPH
Dry	300 FT
Wet	500 FT
Icy	1200 FT

Brakes – You're going to need them, so check them to be sure they're working properly.

Defroster – Test this important accessory before you go. A foggy windshield in cold weather results in limited visibility.

Oil level – Replace your summer oil with winter-grade oil if you anticipate driving in winter climates.

Tires – Need we say how important good traction is on snow and ice? Plan to equip your vehicle with snow tires, chains or studded tires if you're traveling in snowy, mountainous regions; they're often required.

If you're driving in the desert, you know the value of having drinking water with you. Maintain a supply of drinking water while driving in the high country as well. Should you become stranded in cold weather, you will need plenty of drinking water.

In case of an emergency, ADOT recommends having a cell phone and/or citizens band radio, a battery-operated radio, flashlight and spare batteries, safety flares, travel tool kit, ice scraper, first aid kit, and necessary medications.

The Arizona Department of Transportation encourages you to drive safely and leave the slipping for the slopes!

For more information, visit the Web site at:

www.azdot.gov/knowsnow