



Destinations

Tucson Department
of Transportation
Bringing Life To Transportation

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The latest news and information from the Tucson Department of Transportation
www.dot.ci.tucson.az.us

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Saving our Streets

Operation SOS Works to Make Major Streets Smoother and Safer

Notice more City maintenance crews out on the street lately? Notice fewer cracks, bumps, and holes in the road during your drive to work? Improved street maintenance is one of TDOT's major goals for 2003. TDOT's crews have been much more

visible than usual because they're working on major streets. Country Club, Craycroft,

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My Neighborhood Street is a Wreck – How About Fixing It?

We wish we could repair all the streets in Tucson that need fixing. But right now, we don't have the available staff or the funding to fix every road and so we need to concentrate on major streets where issues of safety and high speed are of the most concern. What we **can** do is establish a system of rating the quality of all the streets in Tucson to better allocate the resources we have to the areas most in need. We're in the process of gathering data on every street in the City. Take a look at our web site for more information on this project – <http://dot.ci.tucson.az.us/mapcenter/>.

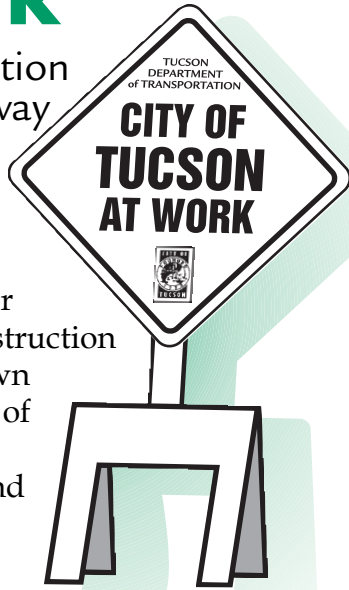


City Manager **Jim Keene** (L) and TDOT Director **Jim Glock** get a feel for what Operation SOS is all about as they pitch in to 'help' TDOT Streets and Traffic Maintenance Supervisor **Fred Gradillas'** maintenance crew repair a portion of West Congress Street.

City of Tucson At Work

Major Construction
Projects Underway

You'll see fewer major TDOT construction projects around town for the next couple of years due to a decrease in State and Federal funding available for transportation improvements. TDOT is always looking for grants, special funding, and other sources of dollars for transportation projects. To avoid delays and make driving around the city a little easier, you might want to steer clear of -



Campbell Avenue

Elm St. to Grant Rd.

We're putting the finishing touches on this project. It's basically complete, except for the landscaping.

Golf Links/Craycroft Intersection

We're widening this intersection to make it safer and adding lanes to move more traffic through it easier. The project should be complete in November 2003.

Questions? More Information?

If you have a question about Tucson's transportation system or if you would like to be added to the *Destinations* mailing list, call 791-4371 or email mgraham1@ci.tucson.az.us.

Operation Splash Keeps Motorists Safe From Flooding

The thunderstorms hit and TDOT crews hit the road, day and night. This summer, Operation Splash crews were out on the streets 25 times placing barricades to warn motorists of flooded conditions in washes. We all did pretty well this year. Very few citizens were injured and vehicles lost, but even one is too many. Remember, when you see barricades and water flowing in the wash, take another route. We used about 500 barricades to warn motorists of unsafe conditions at the 163 locations prone to flooding in the city transportation system.

TDOT Wins Arizona Equipment Road-eo

Drivin' the big rigs is not for everyone, but some people are naturals, it seems.

TDOT's own Michael Stanford is one of those. In September Michael won the statewide Annual Equipment

Road-eo by successfully navigating a 621-D Case front-end loader through an obstacle course and doing it better than 600 other equipment operators from across Arizona and New Mexico. The Road-eo is sponsored each year by the Arizona Department of Transportation. This is the first year that TDOT has participated.



Michael Stanford, employee with TDOT's Streets and Traffic Maintenance Division, pilots the front-end loader on his award winning run at the ADOT Road-eo.

Getting Better

APWA Project Will Improve Efficiency, Customer Service

How can your Transportation Department be more responsive, more efficient, and provide better customer service? Making improvements like these are TDOT's goals in conducting the Self Assessment and Accreditation program developed by the American Public Works Association (APWA). A team of employees has started to review all our work practices and procedures, and all employees are being asked how we can improve the way we do business in the many areas we're responsible for. The program will take some time to complete, but we should start seeing results soon. We'll give you updates on our progress in this newsletter.



Operation SOS Works Major Streets

Continued from Front

and portions of Broadway are just a few of the many major streets that have received a face-lift lately. We call this Operation SOS (Saving Our Streets). Because major streets see higher speeds and more vehicles than neighborhood streets, safety is a greater concern. Potholes, cracks and worn asphalt on Speedway is a bigger safety problem than the same issues on a neighborhood street. That's why we're focusing our maintenance efforts on arterial streets.

Frankly, TDOT has very limited resources right now. Cuts in state and federal contributions as well as cuts in the City budget have limited the amount of maintenance we can do, so we must make repairs where they will do the most good for the greatest number of citizens. We're also

working to be more efficient in this and many other areas (see the article in this newsletter about our APWA program).

We try to do as much maintenance as possible at night to reduce the inconvenience to you and other motorists during the workday. Sometimes though, it's not possible or it's too expensive to work at night, so we appreciate your patience and cooperation when we have to close a lane on a major street.

This maintenance program will continue throughout the years. So watch for crews on the street, slow down, and give us a brake. We appreciate it. For more information on Operation SOS, take a look at our website - <http://dot.ci.tucson.az.us>.

Word on the Street



Jim Glock, Director of TDOT

It's been a long, hot summer. Our Operation Splash crews were kept busy during the past month and Operation Saving Our Streets is also in high gear

- you've probably seen the repaving and maintenance work going on all over the City. Here are some of the most interesting questions, thoughts, and ideas that have crossed my desk recently.

Working At Night Has Pros and Cons

A citizen called me recently to ask me what happened to Craycroft Road between Speedway and Grant. "It's smooth, like new," she said. "And I never saw anyone working on it." I think it must have been a few weeks since she had driven Craycroft, because we can't hide barricades and paving equipment, but we did complete the job in record time. We also did most of the work during the night so it wouldn't seriously impact traffic during daylight hours.

Doing transportation improvements at night is great for those of us who drive during the day. It's not quite so great for folks who live near the construction area. It's also less safe for our construction crews. We'll continue to make the decision on whether to work at night on a case by case basis, choosing the approach that has the greatest benefit for the situation.

School's in Session, So Slow Down!

Tucson's schools are back in session and school zones are set up throughout the city. Just a reminder to drivers - slow down to 15 miles per hour in school zones and no passing is allowed. Traffic around schools is greatly increased with parents dropping off and picking up their children and at the high schools there are plenty of student drivers. Please drive with

care. No one ever 'means' to hit a student or a crossing guard, but, unfortunately, it sometimes happens because of speeding or inattention. Please drive carefully!

For information about TDOT's "Traffic Safe Kids" Program, call us at 791-4371.

Can We "Crush the Rush" and Reduce Traffic Congestion? What do you Think?

Some of our traffic engineering staff suggests we might cut down the number of cars on the streets during rush hours by reminding citizens to only drive if they have to between 7:00 AM-9:00 AM and 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. We'd ask motorists to put off trips or make them at another time in an attempt to spread the number of trips more evenly throughout the day. We'd like to know what you think about it. Given some time, will it work? Will it help? Email our Public Information Officer, Michael Graham, and let him know what you think at mgraham1@ci.tucson.az.us.

Partnering Pays Off

I know that citizens often wonder if the different government agencies responsible for our roads and highways ever talk to one another. Sometimes it may not seem like it. But at TDOT we do and we're getting better at communication and partnerships all the time. For example, we work closely with the Arizona Department of Transportation on a continual basis, especially concerning Interstate 10 and the plans for improvements to it. Working with ADOT paid off when we were able to coordinate some improvements to City streets with ADOT's I-10/I-19 traffic interchange work. I wanted you to know that this kind of communication does happen and that we're working to make it better. It means more efficient and cost-effective transportation improvements.

