



# Destinations

Tucson Department  
of Transportation  
Bringing Life To Transportation

Vol. 2: No. 2

The latest information from the Tucson Department of Transportation  
[www.dot.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.dot.tucsonaz.gov)

Summer 2004

New City Budget Includes \$25 Million for TDOT

## Street Repairs, Improvements to Begin this Summer

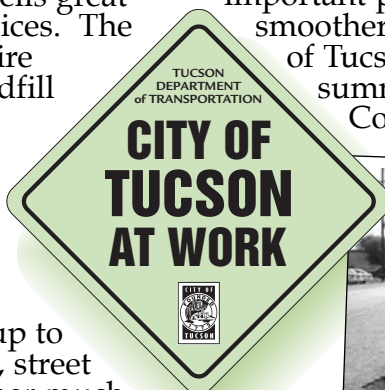
**T**he Mayor and Council's approval of the City of Tucson's expanded budget, which includes a new monthly fee, spells great news for a number of City services. The budget will strengthen our police and fire departments and pay for continued landfill maintenance to keep our air and groundwater clean. TDOT will also receive funds for repairing our deteriorating streets.

Starting this July, TDOT will receive \$25 million to use for street surface improvements to major collectors and arterials. The money will also pay for up to twenty thousand feet of new sidewalks, street lighting, irrigation, landscaping and other much-needed improvements.

Many of these projects have been postponed for a long time because there wasn't enough

money to pay for them. Thanks to the expanded budget, we can now focus on important projects to help make our streets safer, smoother and more attractive. Watch for City of Tucson at Work signs around town this summer, and remember: your Mayor and Council's budget makes it happen!

**No More  
Reversible Lane  
on Grant Road!**  
See story inside for  
more details.



# Tucson's Streets Would Stretch from Here to Alaska

**T**DOT works year-round to maintain the thousands of miles of City streets that take us to work, home, school and around town every day. It's a big undertaking to maintain so many well-traveled roads. How big? If you took the lanes on all of Tucson's streets and stretched them out end-to-end, you'd have a one-lane road that's over 4,400 miles long. That's the distance from Tucson to Barrow, Alaska!



## Operation Splash!

Change Your Route, Or Wait it Out

**T**he summer thunderstorm season brings much-needed rain to the desert. But these downpours also fill washes, roadway dips and other low-lying areas with water in a hurry - creating a potentially dangerous situation. When rainstorms hit, Tucson Department of Transportation Streets and Traffic Maintenance crews hit the road - day or night - to keep you safe. TDOT has identified 163 dip crossings throughout the City and workers assigned to the Operation Splash! team use approximately 500 barricades to keep people out of these areas when flooding occurs.

**If you see barricades or water flowing, change your route, or wait it out.**

A barricade is there to warn you that unsafe conditions exist beyond it. Small streams can carry enormous amounts of rushing water that rise very rapidly and without warning. Even if the water looks shallow or calm, it can be turbulent beneath the surface and quickly carry you to deeper water downstream. Heavy flows can also wash away the roadway, which may not be easy to see from your vehicle. Most people who are rescued from floodwaters say they thought the water looked harmless. So please stay safe by not driving around these barricades! When it is once again safe to cross, TDOT personnel will remove the warning signs.



## Questions? More Information?

**I**f 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 michael.graham@tucsonaz.gov.

## Veterans Memorial Overpass Closed for Construction

**P**ima County Department of Transportation has begun a 16-month project to rebuild the Veterans Memorial Overpass, which extends from 44th St. to Alvernon Way. The bridge was closed on June 7 and will re-open when it's complete next summer with four lanes, a shared-use pathway, pedestrian facilities, landscaping and public art. For more information about the County's Veterans Memorial Overpass project, visit [www.vmo.pima.gov](http://www.vmo.pima.gov) or call the project hotline at 327-6366.

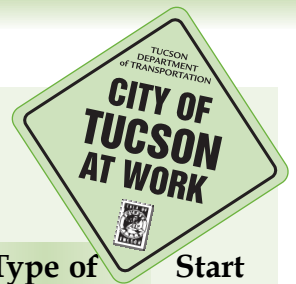
*Destinations* keeps you informed of important transportation issues in and around Tucson, including occasional updates about non-TDOT projects.

# Grant Road Reversible Lane Removed June 21

In April, the Mayor and Council voted to discontinue the use of the reversible lane on Grant Road. TDOT has conducted a number of traffic studies that show removing reversible lanes reduces accidents, improves business access during peak hours and is less confusing for motorists. On June 19, TDOT crews began changing signage and re-striping Grant Road from Stone Ave. to Swan Road to create a regular center turn lane that operates all day long. The reversible lane was fully discontinued on June 21. Traffic signals on Grant Road are also being adjusted to activate left turn arrows throughout the day.



## Watch for Construction on...

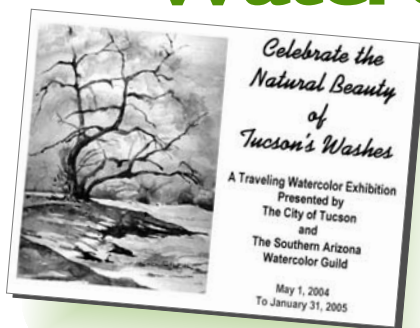


<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Work</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Campbell Avenue (Grant to Elm)	Landscaping	April
Wetmore Road (Fairview to Oracle)	Widening	June

During these improvements, business access will be maintained to the extent possible with only short, infrequent closures when necessary. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the work area are asked to please obey all traffic control signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. For more information, visit the TDOT website at [www.dot.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.dot.tucsonaz.gov).

# The Beauty of Tucson's Washes Captured in Watercolor Exhibit

**T**DOT and its Stormwater Advisory Committee



are proud to join the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild in presenting a traveling watercolor exhibition showcasing the natural beauty of Tucson's washes. The show opened in May and continues through January of next year.

The Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild is based in Tucson. For more information, visit their website at [www.watercolor-sawg.org](http://www.watercolor-sawg.org).

## Watercolor Exhibit Schedule:

- June 1 - 30: Lohse Family YMCA, 60 W. Alameda St.
- July 1 - 31: City of Tucson Development Services Dept., 201 N. Stone Ave., First Floor
- Aug. 1 - 31: City Hall First Floor Lobby, Mayor's Office and City Manager's Office - 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 255 E. Alameda St.
- Sept. 1 - 30: City of Tucson Parks and Recreation, 900 S. Randolph Way
- Oct. 1 - 31: Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 465 W. Saint Mary's Road
- Nov. 1 - 30: The Manning House, 450 W. Paseo Redondo
- Dec. 1 - Jan. 31, 2005: City Council Ward Offices



Jim Glock,  
Director of TDOT

# Word on the Street

By Jim Glock, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation

APWA Award Recognizes  
Tucson's 'Crossings'

## Safety is Our Top Priority

**T**DOT has introduced new crosswalk technology in Tucson to make our city safer and more accessible for pedestrians. The signals are part of a major safety program that is making a big difference in our community by reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities. This spring the



program won the American Public Works Association's 2004 Exceptional Performance Award for Safety.

We all play an important role in traffic safety. TDOT's engineers keep our busy streets safe and efficient with the latest ideas and technology. Motorists and pedestrians do their part by obeying traffic laws and being aware of each other when they're driving or walking.

Remember, crosswalk signals only help you stay safe if you use them properly. If you have questions, please call us at 791-4371.

## Regional Transportation Authority Update

**I**n May, Governor Napolitano signed a bill making the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) our area's official Regional Transportation Authority. PAG is now hard at work on a long-range transportation plan for the greater Tucson area that will guide major transportation decisions for the next 20 years. We'll keep you updated as the plan progresses. For more information about PAG, visit their website at [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org).



## Finding Your Way Downtown

**N**ew signs will soon be appearing on Downtown streets to identify our city center's unique districts. The signage system, called Downtown Destinations, divides the greater Downtown area into five sections based on the history and primary function of each area. The University of Arizona's Main Gate district plays a unique role in our city center and is also included in the signage system. The signs will help tourists and residents familiarize themselves with Downtown, and make visiting easier and more enjoyable. For

more information, please contact the Tucson Downtown Alliance at 547-3338, or the City of Tucson at 791-5071.

## Improvements Coming to Congress St.

**D**esigning new streets – and re-designing old ones – so that they encourage public life is an important part of what we do at TDOT. We're beginning a project this summer to transform Congress St. from Toole Ave. to Church Ave. into a more attractive and



pedestrian friendly place. Wider sidewalks, sheltered sitting areas, enhanced landscaping, public art and new and renovated buildings will help turn this popular Downtown street into a bustling center for retail

business and entertainment. Hope to see you there!

## Email Your Questions

**I**f you have a question you'd like us to address in *Destinations*, email it to me at [jim.glock@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:jim.glock@tucsonaz.gov). Thanks!

