

## ADOT establishes research partnership with state universities

### Arizona Transportation Institute will foster innovation, engagement

A new research partnership between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the state's three public universities will help keep ADOT at the forefront of innovation, nurture a new generation of transportation professionals and support Arizona's economy.

ADOT has entered into an agreement with the newly formed Arizona Transportation Institute (AZTI) to leverage the expertise of University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University faculty and students to propose and conduct research. The ADOT Research Center administers state planning and research funding that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration provides to state departments of transportation and subrecipients.

"We're tremendously excited to partner with talented faculty and students in a way that can improve the lives of Arizonans, support our state's economy and promote transportation engineering as an exciting and essential career," ADOT Director Jennifer Toth said.



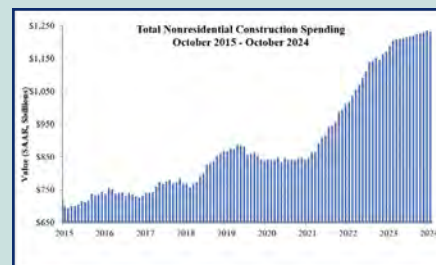
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### Holiday hustle, year-end goals: Your survival guide



### Grant will advance improving two I-40 connections on Navajo Nation



### Nonresidential construction spending drops 0.4% in October 2024

## NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

- Comfortable Air
- Diamond Solutions Inc.
- Planning Communities LLC
- Ruach Consulting & Advisory LLC
- THE NELSON COMPANY LLC | DBA: CROSSROADS DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

▶ **EVENTS**

▶ **OPPORTUNITIES**

## ADOT establishes research partnership with state universities (Cont'd)

The Arizona Transportation Institute, based at the University of Arizona, will encourage collaboration between the state's universities, empowering their faculties to submit proposals and conduct transportation research together. This collaboration aims to foster innovative transportation technologies, planning methods and engineering that can improve Arizona's transportation system and create better communities.

"Arizona will benefit tremendously from establishing this coordinated structure for the brightest minds at the three universities to optimize transportation, a huge quality-of-life issue for every resident," said Arizona Transportation Institute Director Yao-Jan Wu, a University of Arizona professor of civil and architectural engineering and mechanics. "I'm grateful for this investment and eager for the institute to assess, develop and implement the researchers' ideas."

University researchers have already begun work on a number of research projects requested by ADOT.

- Researchers at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University are looking into the impacts of heavier and oversize vehicles on roads and bridges compared to other vehicles in terms of construction, maintenance and repair costs.
- Northern Arizona University and University of Arizona researchers are developing Arizona-specific factors to aid ADOT's decisions on the location and types of safety countermeasures intended to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.
- Arizona State University and University of Arizona researchers are exploring whether landscaping and vegetation management that encourages recovery of native plants following wildfires can reduce repair and maintenance costs for roadways.

To learn more about research at ADOT, please visit [azdot.gov/research](https://azdot.gov/research).



## From planning for 2025 to celebrating your team - we have you covered

### *Holiday hustle, year-end goals: Your survival guide*

As the clock winds down in 2024, small business owners are racing to wrap up the year with a flourish. Between planning for an ambitious 2025, picking perfect holiday gifts, showing employees some much-deserved appreciation and keeping the wheels turning, there is no shortage of demands on your time.

The good news? With the right strategies, you can tackle these challenges head-on and end the year strong—all while setting the stage for success in the new year.

#### Plan for 2025

1. **Focus on top goals:** Identify two to three primary objectives for the upcoming year and break them into actionable steps. This targeted approach ensures that your planning is both realistic and impactful. Key goals for design and construction firms might include streamlining project management processes, enhancing client communication to improve satisfaction or adopting sustainable building practices to meet industry trends.
2. **Utilize simple tools:** Leverage straightforward planning tools to save time and maintain clarity. For instance, [Bplans](#) offers a free fill-in-the-blank business plan template available in Google Doc, Microsoft Word and PDF formats, complete with expert guidance for each section.

#### Decide on last-minute holiday gifts

1. **Go digital:** Send personalized e-gift cards or digital vouchers that can be delivered instantly, saving time and reducing hassle. Platforms like [Canva](#) and [Adobe Express](#) offer free, customizable holiday card templates to enhance digital greetings.
2. **Buy local:** Partner with nearby small businesses to source unique and meaningful gifts, thereby supporting the local economy and fostering community relationships.

#### Celebrate with an employee appreciation event

1. **Keep it small but special:** Host a casual lunch or coffee gathering focused on heartfelt thanks and personalized recognition. Simple gestures can significantly boost morale.
2. **Virtual fun:** For remote teams, organize a brief virtual trivia or holiday-themed contest with small prizes to spread cheer and encourage team bonding. Platforms like [Kahoot!](#) and [TriviaNerd](#) offer user-friendly interfaces for creating and hosting engaging trivia games online.

#### Keep the business running

1. **Plan ahead:** Pre-schedule key tasks and social media posts to ensure operations continue smoothly, even during downtime. This proactive approach minimizes disruptions. Utilizing a social media calendar can be particularly helpful; [Buffer](#) provides free templates to assist in planning your content.
2. **Delegate smartly:** Assign routine tasks to team members or freelancers, freeing up your time to focus on strategic initiatives and urgent matters.

By implementing these strategies, you can effectively manage year-end responsibilities while setting the stage for a successful 2025. Remember, thoughtful planning and efficient execution are key to navigating this busy season.





## Grant will advance improving two I-40 connections on Navajo Nation

### ADOT will use funds to improve interchanges near New Mexico line

A \$27.5 million federal grant will advance the Arizona Department of Transportation's plans to upgrade two Interstate 40 traffic interchanges providing vital connections with the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock and other northeastern Arizona locations.

The award through the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program will help ADOT replace four bridges that currently make up the interchanges at Navajo Nation Route 12 (Window Rock) at milepost 357 and Grant Road (Lupton) at milepost 359.

The project, with a current estimated cost of \$48.6 million, will comprehensively upgrade the two interchanges by improving traffic flow on the crossroads, enhancing pedestrian safety, removing the threat of seasonal flooding and raising vertical clearance.

"Upgrading these interchanges that are so critical to those living in and traveling through the Navajo Nation will help safely connect Arizonans and empower our state's economy," ADOT Director Jennifer Toth said.

ADOT's grant proposal received support from state and federal elected leaders, local governments and Navajo Nation officials.

"Together, we will elevate the vertical connections within our landscapes, embodying the unwavering spirit of the Navajo Nation – a spirit rooted in connectivity, progress and a shared future," the Navajo Department of Transportation said as part of [a statement on the award](#).

The grant requires a \$6.8 million state match, and other funding will come from ADOT's Bridge Subprogram. The project is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2027.



## Nonresidential construction spending drops 0.4% in October 2024

National nonresidential construction spending decreased 0.4% in October, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of data published today by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled \$1.228 trillion.

Spending was down on a monthly basis in 11 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending decreased 0.3%, while public nonresidential construction spending was down 0.5% in October.

“Total construction spending rose sharply in October, but that was entirely due to a sharp increase in residential activity,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “Nonresidential construction spending contracted for the month, and the declines were widespread, with spending down in 11 of the 16 subsectors. The 3.9% increase in nonresidential spending over the past 12 months is the smallest since December 2021.

“Some of October’s nonresidential weakness and residential strength can be attributed to hurricanes Helene and Milton,” said Basu. “The storms stalled work on several projects in North Carolina and Florida and initiated a massive increase in residential repair work. Construction of new housing units is actually down slightly over the past year, while spending on renovations and repairs is up by a robust 18.5%.

“The effects of these storms on construction spending dynamics should largely dissipate by the end of the year,” said Basu. “Given that a majority of contractors expect their sales to increase over the next six months, according to ABC’s [Construction Confidence Index](#), there’s reason to expect nonresidential construction spending to rebound in the coming months.” ([Source](#))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**\*\*ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS\*\***

Need help preparing DBE affidavits?  
Please see our tutorial video below:

[Preparing DBE Affidavits](#)



## DECEMBER

**20** **ASA AZ: Build Her Up Holiday Drive**  
5 p.m.  
Location: ASA AZ Office  
4105 N. 20th St., Ste. 230, Phoenix

## JANUARY

**3** **ASA 101: Learn What ASA Has to Offer**  
10 - 11 a.m.  
Location: Virtual

**8** **ASA AZ: Heat Regulations Update: City of Phoenix Ordinance and Upcoming OSHA Actions**  
10 - 11 a.m.  
Location: Virtual

**8** **IFMA PHX: January FM Roundtable Meeting**  
11 a.m. - Noon  
Location: Virtual

**9** **ASA AZ: Trust but Verify: Prequalifying Project Owners and GCs**  
11 a.m. - Noon  
Location: Virtual

**9** **AZCREW: Global Economic Outlook 2025 and State of the Commercial Real Estate Markets**  
Noon - 1 p.m.  
Location: Virtual

**9** **NAWIC: Happy Hour with the President, President Elect and Vice President**  
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Location: The Audrey Wine Bistro and Cocktails  
9299 W. Olive Ave., Ste. 101, Peoria



## Featured Federal-Aid Projects

### CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Type	Project Owner and Description	Contact
1/10/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$12 million	3.86%	377-A-(204)T; F069401C	<a href="#">IFB</a>	ADOT - <b>System Preservation, Phoenix Park Wash to Jct SR 77 from Heber to Holbrook Hwy (SR 377).</b> The work consists of placing a hot applied chip seal coat, followed by applying micro-surfacing, spot repair work by milling and replacing with asphaltic concrete. Additional work includes replacing pavement markings and other miscellaneous work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at <a href="mailto:Khuston@azdot.gov">Khuston@azdot.gov</a> .
1/10/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$42 million	7.15%	040-A-(385)T; F058501C	<a href="#">IFB</a>	ADOT - <b>Pavement Rehabilitation, Topock to Kingman Highway (I-40) from Holy Moses Wash to Rattlesnake.</b> The work consists of milling the existing asphaltic concrete pavement and replacing it with new asphaltic concrete, replacing guardrail and guardrail end terminals, repairing bridge deck, replacing pavement marking, signing, seeding and other miscellaneous work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at <a href="mailto:Khuston@azdot.gov">Khuston@azdot.gov</a> .
1/10/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$21.37 million	6.57%	017-A-(263)T; F055401C	<a href="#">IFB</a>	ADOT - <b>System Preservation, Phoenix to Cordes Junction Highway (I-17) (SR 74 - Anthem Way).</b> The work consists of pavement and minor bridge rehabilitation including milling and repaving of mainline travel lanes, auxiliary lanes, shoulders, ramps, crossroads and bridge decks seal with methacrylate sealer, removing and replacing guardrails, shoulder build-up, installing pipe, signs, pavement marking and other related work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at <a href="mailto:Khuston@azdot.gov">Khuston@azdot.gov</a> .

### External Links:

- [ADOT Current Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Engineering Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives](#)
- [ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects](#)
- [Bidding Opportunities Around the State](#)

### DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

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[DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov](mailto:DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov)