



ARIZONA
MILEPOST

AZ  **LTAP**

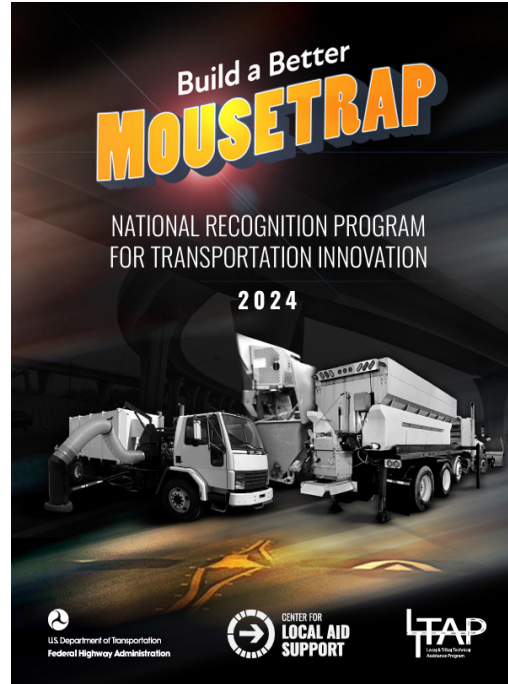
WINTER 2025 | VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4



Greetings! We kicked this quarter off with our Annual Virtual Information Session for local and rural road agencies within the state of Arizona. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended including our program staff and partners who make it possible for our center to meet the needs of our locals. On the topic of staff, this quarter we are proud to have welcomed a new team member, Joshua Luchtel, who has stepped into the role of Heavy Equipment Regional Trainer. You can learn a little more about him and other exciting news and innovations coming out of our LTAP Center in this issue!

Rebecca Mayher

AZ LTAP Program Manager / ADOT Technical Operations Manager



Submit Your Local Innovations!

AZ LTAP’s Local Innovations Program and FHWA’s Build-a-Better Mousetrap Competition are here to highlight your local innovative solutions to everyday challenges that local transportation government professions encounter managing local, rural and tribal roads.

No matter how big or small, we want to hear about them and recognize you for your innovations! Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis by completing our entry form ([link](#)).

Welcome To The Team, Joshua



This quarter we welcomed a new staff member to our Center, Joshua Luchtel!

Joshua has stepped into the Regional Heavy Equipment Trainer position and will be responsible for traveling across the state to deliver multi-day, hands on training covering equipment such as Backhoe and Motor Grader.

Before starting with AZ LTAP, Josh worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation’s (ADOT) Infrastructure Delivery and Operations Division (IDO) where he worked as a Highway Operations Technician. His experience and knowledge of the construction and transportation industry coupled with his passion for training made him an immediate fit for our Center. We are excited to have him on-board and look forward to having him work with you all to meet your needs!

Please join us in welcoming to Joshua to our team!

Let Us Know How We Are Doing!



We’re inviting you to fill out the below survey regarding your overall satisfaction with the AZ LTAP Center, program services and customer service received thus far in 2025; your input is greatly appreciated and will help us understand how to further meet the needs of Arizona Locals!

This survey should take you less than 5 minutes to complete. To access it, scan the QR code to the left with your phone or tablet OR click this link: <https://forms.gle/sAA6gFPeNSWmFcGz9>.

Your responses are greatly appreciated!



On March 19th, the our Online Payment Web Portal went live. After some initial testing to ensure the portal would provide value to our locals, it has officially been rolled out.

This innovation was a collaboration between AZ LTAP's staff, Arizona Treasury, Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Strategic Enterprise Technology Office, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Financial Management Services and ADOT Security Compliance with communication with Fiserv (credit card processor).

The impact is expected to be shortened payment processing wait times for customers, improved security and compliance with PCI Standards, improved confirmation of transac-

tions and immediate payment receipts, quicker collection of funds for AZ LTAP, and improved productivity for AZ LTAP staff.

There is no cost at this time for ADOA Strategic Enterprise Technology to set up and maintain the payment web portal as they provide the funding to support agencies throughout Arizona in meeting the Governor's initiative for statewide digital government solutions!

*Acceptance of ACH (automated clearing house) payments on the web will be implemented at a future date in coordination with AZ Treasury.

For more information or questions, please contact our Budget & Procurement Specialist, Louisa Koistinen at lkoistinen@azdot.gov.

TRB AJE35 RIIM
Coordination and
Collaboration
Subcommittee

0.1 CEU, 1.0 PDH

FREE WEBINAR
**Working with USDOT
UTCs: From
Conception to
Implementation**

**APRIL 11, 2025
1 PM CST / 2 PM EST**

This webinar will discuss proven methods for collaborating with USDOT University Transportation Centers (UTCs), emphasizing state departments of transportation and other stakeholders. It will cover partnerships at all UTC stages, from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) release through proposal development, research and implementation. Successful USDOT UTC research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer best practices will be highlighted. Dr. Larry Rilett, Director of the Auburn University Transportation Research Institute will moderate.

**Register at
<https://aub.ie/trbwebinar3>**

The support of the AASHTO RAC Coordination and Collaboration Task Force and the Council of University Transportation Centers is gratefully acknowledged.



Auburn University Transportation Research Institute

Alabama Transportation Assistance Program

Free webinar facilitated by the Alabama LTAP in collaboration with TRB
Registration Here: <https://aub.ie/trbwebinar3>

OUR PANELISTS



ROBERT HAMPSHIRE, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Policy,
University of Michigan



SARAH SEARCY
Emerging Technologies and Innovation
Manager, Office of Strategic Initiatives
and Program Support (SIPS), North
Carolina Department of Transportation



ALI KARIMODDINI, Ph.D.
Director, CR²C Regional University
Transportation Center



CURTIS BRADLEY, Ph.D.
Manager of Research & Development,
North Carolina Department of
Transportation

Local Innovations Spotlight - Navajo County Public Works

Asphalt Spreader Box Transformed into Custom-Built Cold Mix Hot Plate Box Attachment



Maintaining road infrastructure during the winter months presents numerous challenges, particularly

for crews tasked with filling potholes and performing asphalt concrete patchwork across the state. For those working in Navajo County, freezing temperatures and regular snowfall complicate these essential tasks, as asphalt mixes must remain at an optimal temperature to be workable. The problem was, in order to maintain the temperature of the mixes, Navajo County's crews working in these conditions would have to constantly reheat their mixes using blow torches or other external heating devices which ultimately slowed down operations and required calling in additional crew members to operate those external heating devices.

Seeking a cost-effective and efficient solution, Navajo County's Public Works Department explored purchasing an existing piece of equipment designed to address this issue. However, no commercially available option met the department's specific needs and requirements. Rather than settle for an imperfect solution, the Public Works Fleet Maintenance Shop leveraged their existing, in-house resources to design and develop a custom device.

The Shop team repurposed an old asphalt spreader box attachment, no longer in use, and transformed it into a 'cold mix hot plate box attachment'. Among various modifications, they achieved this by equipping the old spreader box with propane burners, resulting in a heating system that could be fitted onto the department's standard 1.5 ton pickup-trucks typically utilized by their crews performing asphalt patchwork. The entire process, including installation, fabrication, and painting, was completed by the Fleet Maintenance Shop staff.

The benefits of this new device have been immediate and significant. Navajo County PW crews can now efficiently perform road maintenance without the constant need for clunky external heating methods resulting in faster and higher-quality repairs. Additionally, their material waste has been minimized, and fewer personnel are required for each operation, allowing for better allocation of workforce resources.

Beyond operational efficiency, the time now saved on each project has meant crews spend less time in the freezing cold, which has contributed to improved morale and overall safer work conditions. Financially, the custom-built approach proved to be a cost-effective alternative to purchasing a new device. The total cost of implementing this innovative solution amounted to just over



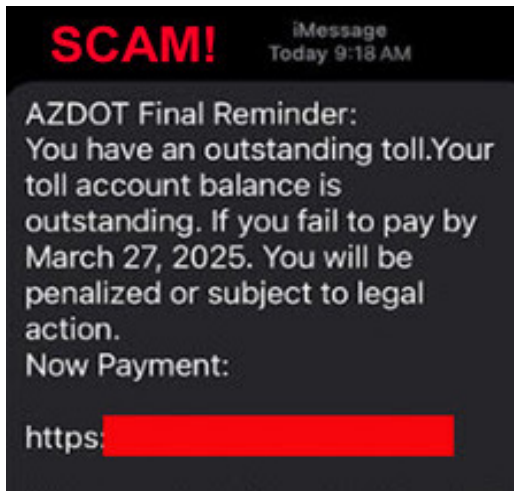
\$5,800, including labor, parts and materials. In contrast, during their search for commercially available solutions, their search indicated that a similar product - which again would likely not be suited to their needs without additional customization - would have cost approximately \$13,000 or more. By repurposing existing equipment and utilizing in-house expertise, Navajo County Public Works achieved significant savings while improving road maintenance capabilities.



This project exemplifies the power of innovation and resourcefulness within local transportation agencies. By thinking outside the box and maximizing available resources, Navajo County

Public Works has set a precedent for efficient, cost-effective problem solving that benefits not only their agency but perhaps most importantly, the community they serve.

Special thanks to Madhav Mundle, Public Works Director, Navajo County for submitting this innovation. It has been entered into the 2025 cycle of the FHWA Build-a-Better Mousetrap Competition. Images courtesy of the agency.



You may have heard of the “outstanding toll fees” smishing scam going around several states recently. If you have not, people are receiving text messages, similar to the one pictured here, claiming that they have outstanding toll fees that must be paid immediately.

While this has mainly impacted other states up to this point, we have begun to see this scam directed at Arizonans. With that in mind, we want to remind you of

one basic fact: Arizona’s state highway system does not have tolls. Therefore, it is not possible for you have to outstanding state tolls generated within the state of Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) recently sent out a [news bulletin](#) with the below tips on how to identify this scam, specifically the ones claiming to be from ADOT:

1. The state highway system doesn't have toll roads.
2. The phone number associated with this text is from another country [or an email address].
3. The website address listed includes azdot.gov but continues into another domain that screams “scam.”
4. We go by ADOT, not AZDOT, in second reference.
5. And we tend to avoid broken English such as “Now Payment.”

For more information, view ADOT’s notice by clicking [HERE](#).



1130 North 22nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009
(e) ttraining@azdot.gov / (p) (602) 712-4050
<http://www.azltap.org/>

ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED?

To stay up-to-date with news, resources, and training opportunities coming out of our center as well as our local and national partners, make sure you are subscribed to our Tapping In! Weekly Announcements newsletter. The newsletter goes out weekly on Tuesdays. If you sign up but are still not seeing the newsletter come your way, email Ttraining@azdot.gov and we will get you manually added to the listserv.



The Road Scholar Program provides an opportunity for local municipal employees to be trained in the latest technologies and innovations through a series of instructor-led training. Enrollment into the program is free to all agencies and their employees. Our program currently offers three levels of training, each of which feature a carefully curated curriculum of courses suited to transportation workers at every level of their career. See right for upcoming level II courses or click [HERE](#):

- ▶ RS#8 - LTP0116 - Construction / Maintenance Safety I (04/08)
- ▶ RS#9 - LTP0117 - Safety in the Workplace (04/24)
- ▶ RS#10 - LTP0018 - Drainage (05/06)
- ▶ RS#12 - LTP0120 - Signing & Striping II (5/20)
- ▶ RS#13 - LTP0121 - Management and Supervisory Skills (6/10)
- ▶ RS#15 - LTP0129 - Asphalt Pavement Maintenance (6/25)
- ▶ RS#16 - LTP0130 - Roadside Haz. Identification for Transpo Personnel
- ▶ RS#17 - TCH3842 - Transportation Math II