

2020 FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Virtual Workshop

October 6-8, 2020



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

**Federal Transit
Administration**



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Operating in a Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Environment

Despite maximum telework for most employees, ADOT staff continued to respond to critical on-site events. ADOT also continued its Capital Improvement Project (CIP) certification assessments virtually and on-site for vehicle and alignment reviews.

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ADOT

Introduction

Arizona Department of Transportation is the designated State Safety Oversight Agency for Arizona.

Valley Metro Light Rail



Tucson Sun Link Street Car



COVID 19 Started to Quickly Gain in AZ in March

ADOT Transit Division (including State Safety Oversight) went into telecommuting fulltime the week of March 13, 2020

- ADOT had previously changed to Google Applications. As a result of this, ADOT SSO had access to emails, documents, and files.
- Even though telecommuting has replaced office time, on site visits of RTA's, Capitol Project Status, Project Certification/Testing, etc. still needed to occur on an occasional bases as needed.
- Onsite visits occur on average once a week and in office time at the ADOT office occurs on average only 1 day a month
- Telecommuting is expected to continue the end of 2020 due to COVID 19 but will continue further since telework has been effective for our Transit employees.

Despite maximum telework for most employees, ADOT staff continued to respond to critical on-site events

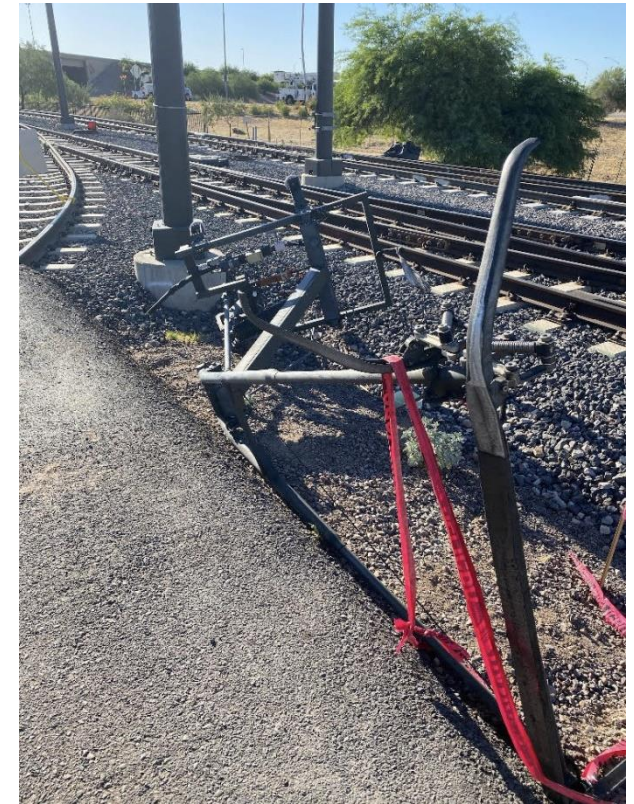
ADOT SSO, using PPE and Social Distance Guidelines is able to safely continue visits for onsite events. These events include (but are not limited to)

- Accidents/Events (as needed)
- Overview of Project Extensions under Construction
- Certification Meetings/Inspections that are not possible by virtual meetings
- Onsite visits of existing revenue systems (both announced and unannounced)

On-site events (Accidents/Events)

- 22 ADOT Reportable Accidents/Events occurred from March – September 2020
- Most of these were minor and warranted no SSO observation/visits
- When SSO onsite visits did occur, they were afterwards for verification/observation

Examples of visits:



On-site events (Capitol Projects under Construction)

- Tempe Streetcar (TSC)



- Operations and Maintenance Center Expansion



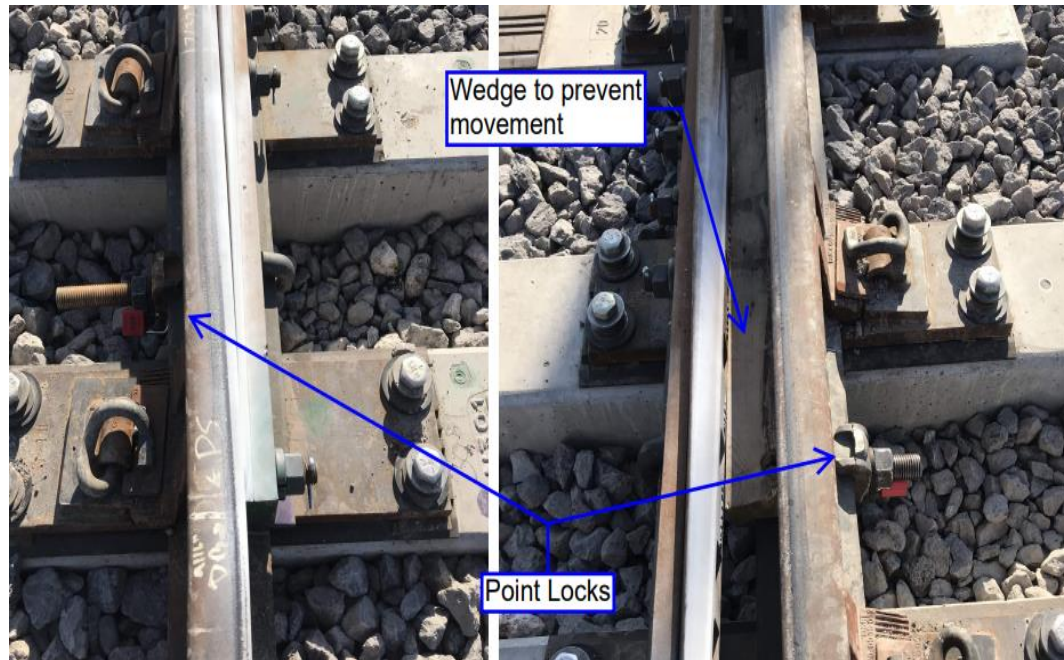
On-site events (Capitol Projects under Construction, Cont.)

- South Central Extension/Downtown hub
- Northwest Extension Phase Two



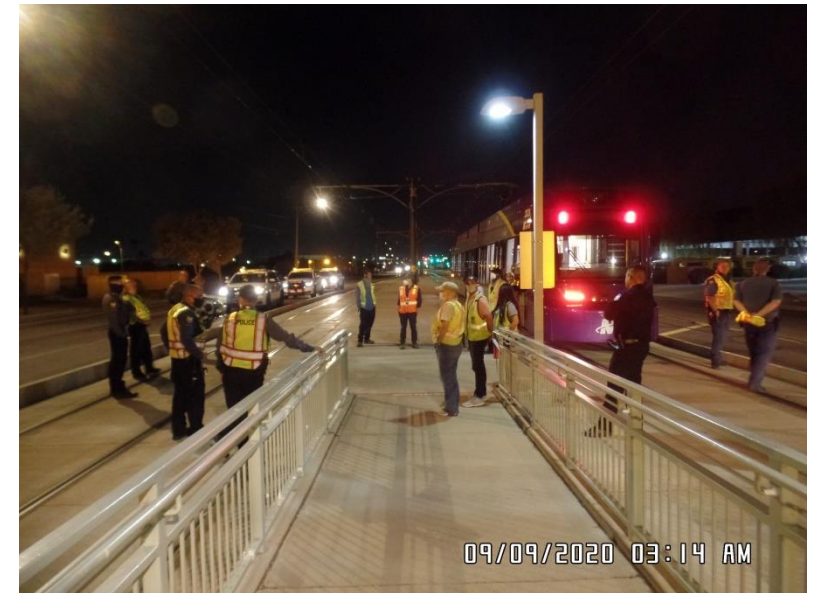
On-site events (Certification Meetings/Inspections)

- ADOT/VMR Came up with an agreement called Beneficial Use permits during the certification process of the OMC
- This process allows VMR to continue use of existing track for revenue operation at the OMC during Construction.
- So far four Critical use permits have occurred with ADOT attending three of the four.
- This process has been adapted to vehicle testing as well



On-site events (Testing of New Vehicles)

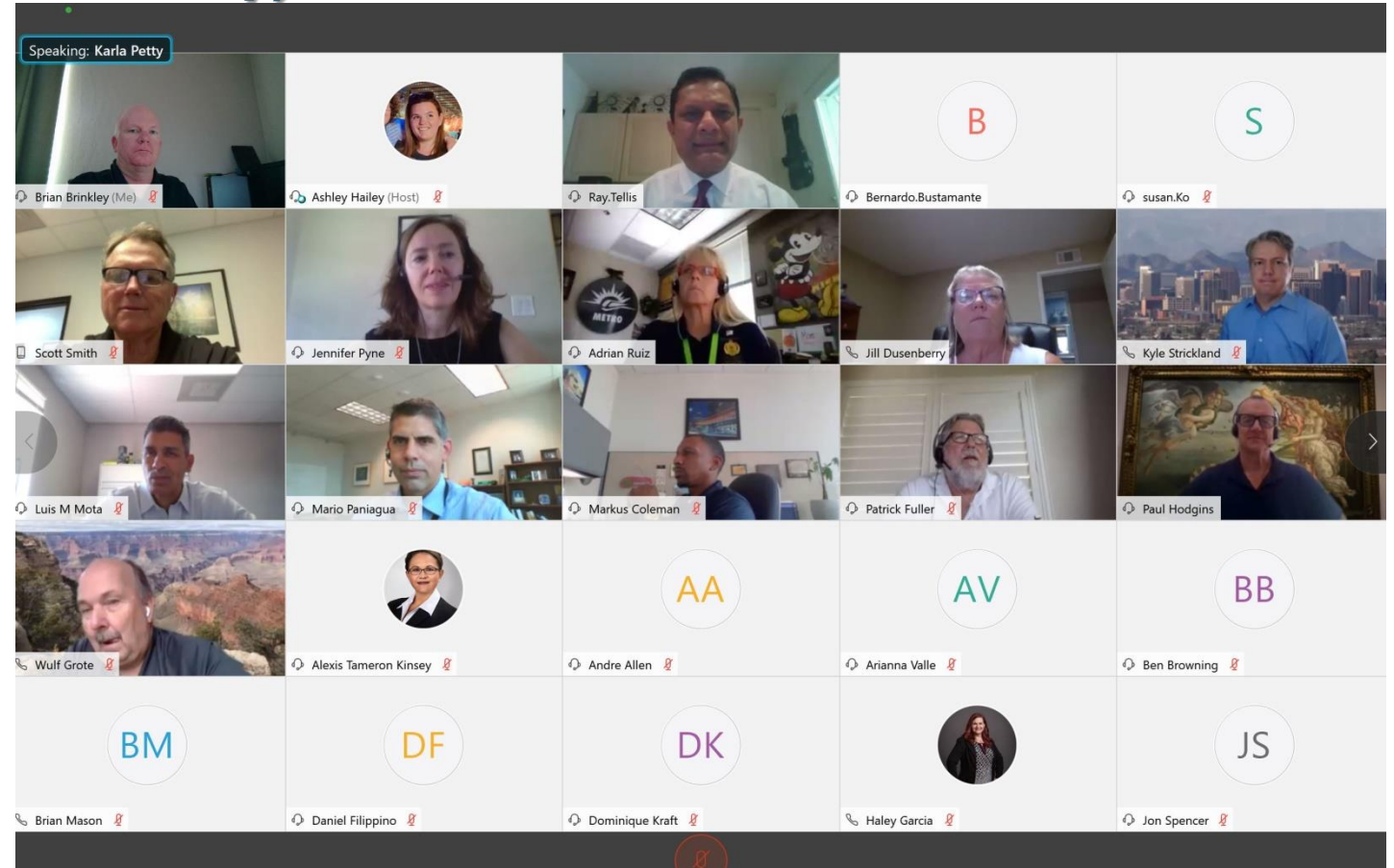
Currently, Valley Metro is procuring 18 new Siemens Vehicles.



ADOT attends testing depending on availability as most testing is done after hours

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) certification assessments done virtually (VMR only)

- Safety and Security Certification Review Committee Meetings (SSCRC)
- Fire Life Safety and Security Meetings (FLSSC)
- Rail Activation Meetings
- Project Construction Meetings
- Project Management Oversight Contractor Meetings (PMOC)
- FTA Region 9 Quarterly Project Meetings
- Many more



Additional Meetings that Continued Virtually Vs. In Person (VMR & SLS)

- Safety and Security Committee Meetings
- Quarterly Management Meetings (CAPS, Hazards, Events, etc.)
- PTASP Review Meetings
- Meetings regarding SEPP, ISSA, and AIP Review or implementation
- Others as needed

Other Major Items occurring during the COVID 19 Period from ADOT with RTA interaction

- Release of Revision 6 of the Program Standard
- Final Release of ADOTs Triannual Audit of Valley Metro (VM Only)

In Closing

In Closing, ADOT would like to thank these Stakeholders for continuing to provide such a Strong Partnership in the State of Arizona!

- City of Tucson
- Sun Link Streetcar Safety and Security
- Sun Link Streetcar Operations and Maintenance
- Valley Metro Safety and Security
- Valley Metro Operations and Maintenance
- Valley Metro Capitol Services and Development
- Dovetail Consulting





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