



## THIS ISSUE

What's New At A&Z?

Trail Funding

Giving Back to the Community

Celebrating Projects

Fun Indiana Facts

Cooking with Jamal



## Construction Season Safety Tips

By: Mark Voss, Construction Manager



**A&Z Construction Manager Mark Voss shares his TOP 5 TIPS to keep everyone safe during this busy construction season...**

According to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), "In 2014, police crash data showed that 14 people were killed and more than 400 were injured in INDOT work zones." A&Z works within the INDOT safety requirements to ensure the utmost safety of our construction inspectors and field staff. But it isn't only the construction workers who are at risk. Did you know that four out of five people that die in highway work zones are either drivers or passengers? So with all this construction activity happening across the United States, what can the traveling public do to minimize accidents this construction season?

**First off, take a breath...** When you see the warning signs, prepare for the construction ahead so you are ready when something does slow or stop traffic, or something unexpected happens.

**Pay attention to your surroundings...** especially what is happening in front of you. Read the signs, monitor the flow of traffic, and manage your space; keeping ample space in front of you and the car ahead. Don't change lanes; and expect delays.

**Avoid distractions!** This means no phone, radio, or other devices. According to the US

Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration "Driver-related factors that affect work zone crashes include speeding, in-vehicle distractions and inattentive, or aggressive driving. The most frequently occurring type of work zone crash is a rear-end collision, so paying constant attention to traffic ahead and maintaining an adequate following distance is important in avoiding them." Also, don't gawk or try to see what is happening behind the barrels. Avoid the urge to see why those lights are flashing or what that equipment is doing outside of your driving path.

**Maintain a constant speed** at or below the posted limit in the construction zone.

**Don't ignore the warnings.** Even though you may see orange construction signs and message boards so often you become accustomed to them, they are meant to give you ample time to adjust to an upcoming work zone. They are also subject to change making your everyday route significantly different, so be sure to pay attention to what they have to say.

Remember, by simply paying attention and making some minor adjustments in how you drive through construction zones, you could help prevent delays, anxiety, and accidents. Stay safe this construction season!

**For more information on A&Z's Construction Management Group and/or to get more safety tips, contact Mark Voss at 260.750.7784.**

## WORK ZONE CRASH STATS

Source: INDOT Work Zone Safety website

Nationally, four out of five people killed in work zones are drivers and passengers – not highway workers.

Rear-end crashes are the most common type of work zone crash.

It takes just one minute more to travel through a two-mile work zone at 45 mph than 65 mph.

Areas where traffic is entering or leaving work zones are often more dangerous because drivers may be changing lanes and merging.

Most fatal work zone crashes occur on roads with speed limits greater than 50 mph.

Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in summer and fall.

## >>> COOKING A MEAL WITH JAMAL



### 5 Step Quick and Easy Pizza

*“This delicious homemade pizza is very quick and easy to make – great for those of us on the go! “*

#### INGREDIENTS

Make your own dough or buy crescent rolls (4 packages-for 2-hungry people)  
Ground beef (1/4 to 1/2 lb.)  
1-tsp. oregano  
1/2 onion, chopped fine (prefer red)  
Kalamata olives, diced (10 or to taste)  
Green olives, diced (10 or to taste)  
1/2 green pepper, diced in thin pieces (or use any other kind of your favorite pepper)  
Baby tomatoes, chopped  
Add any other favorite vegetables to the mix...

#### COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook the beef and chopped onion in skillet (don't overcook the meat, because you are baking it later on), salt and pepper to taste.
2. Add oregano & tomatoes just before the meat is fully cooked.
3. Flatten each dough and rub olive oil on the top.
4. Add all ingredients (*be careful and don't overload*) to flattened dough.
5. Bake in oven for 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

Enjoy! Let us know how you liked it!

## >>> CELEBRATING RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

*A&Z enjoyed helping a few clients celebrate the completion of some improvement projects this spring and summer. Following are a few recent celebrations we want to highlight...*

**Town of Waterloo - Amtrak Station** | The Historic Waterloo Depot Dedication took place on June 24 as part of a bigger celebration of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission as an Endorsed Legacy project in Waterloo. A&Z Engineering was responsible for a substantial portion of the engineering and project development work including: site design, roadway improvements, utilities, and pedestrian facilities. The design team included Martin Riley for the building aspects and Scheele Engineering for the lighting improvements. A&Z Engineering also performed the construction inspection and administration of the project.

**Town of Winona Lake - Lake City Greenway** | On July 1, Winona Lake celebrated the successful completion of this 1.1-mile-long, 12-foot wide pedestrian/bicycle trail project. This trail connects many points of interest through the Town of Winona Lake, including Grace College.

**City of New Haven - Landin Road** | Landin Road is a major thoroughfare through New Haven. This newly completed section of Landin Road will greatly improve the traffic flow and safety with the removal of the "S" curve at the south end of the project. City officials celebrated the completion of this project on July 11. The team also included GAI Consultants, Inc. as the designer of the project.



Town of Winona Lake | Lake City Greenway Ribbon Cutting



City of New Haven | Landin Road Ribbon Cutting



# >>> A&Z SPECIALIZES IN HELPING CLIENTS IDENTIFY FUNDING RESOURCES FOR TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



By: Aaron Ott, PE,  
Senior Engineer/Project Manager

*Health and wellness are in the forefront of many people's minds these days and many public officials are looking for ways to add or improve their trails/bike/*

*pedestrian system. While citizens enjoy the walkability throughout their community, a robust trail system also adds important aesthetic, safety, and quality of life elements to our communities. Below are some ideas on how to locate funding options.*



A&Z has helped several Indiana clients with trail improvement projects. Officials from Winona Lake celebrated the completion of the Heritage Trail project on July 1, 2016, during a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

There is no specific source for trail planning. Trail planning is typically done locally or through a larger park master plan process. There are planning grants available through the Federal **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** for park plans, comprehensive plans, historic preservation plans, economic development plans, and dam and levee plans through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Various amounts by type of plan are available if you qualify. To qualify you would need to have a Park Board in place and to follow the guidelines required by IDNR. You will also have to be ready to proceed and the project will need to be completed in 12 months.

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** has the Recreational Trails grant program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. This program is sponsored by the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The RTP will provide 80% matching reimbursement assistance for eligible projects. Applicants may request grant amounts ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$200,000. Applications are available online or from the Division of Outdoor Recreation. Types of projects that can be funded are: development and rehabilitation of trails, trailhead facilities, and trail linkages; construction of multi-use trails; acquisition of easement or property for trails; operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails; providing stream and river access sites; construction of bridges, boardwalks and crossings; signage; building of sanitary facilities and other support facilities. **For more information, you can check out the DNR website at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101.htm>**

**Federal Funding** is also available. On December 4, 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law—the first federal law in over a decade to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation infrastructure planning and investment. The FAST Act eliminates the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and replaces it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for transportation alternatives (TA). These set-aside funds include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under TAP, encompassing a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, and safe routes to school projects. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), or within urbanized areas, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the responsibility for the management and administration of these funds. There are no limits on the dollar amount you can apply for. These funds are typically made available through a competitive process where eligible projects are submitted through an application process during an open call for projects period. These eligible projects can generally receive up to 80% federal funding for all phases of the project, requiring the local municipality to match 20% of the cost.

*For more information on funding for trails or roadway improvements, contact Aaron Ott at 260.485.7077.*

## >>> GIVING BACK

**A&Z believes in supporting the communities we live and work in by participating in local events.** A&Z Engineering is proud to be a sponsor for the following:

- City of Fort Wayne, Annual Great American Clean-up Day
- Angola High School Girls Soccer Team
- DeKalb High School Tennis Team
- Fort Wayne T.C. 12 Youth Travel Baseball Club
- Fort Wayne Aboite Girls Softball

## >>> WHAT'S NEW AT A&Z?



Seasoned Project Manager **Mark Jesse** joined A&Z in April. Mark has more than 33 years of experience in various aspects of the municipal engineering field. He has successfully led the completion of a variety of project types ranging from small projects to multi-million dollar investments. His experience includes municipal infrastructure planning; transportation improvements; water supply, treatment, distribution, and storage; wastewater collection and wastewater treatment; stormwater collection, evaluation, inventory, and design; industrial stormwater, wastewater, and water systems; and solid waste management. Mark also has extensive experience assisting with stormwater utility creation and rate setting, and has been a member of the AWWA and WEF for more than 25 years. Mark earned his Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Point Park University. Beyond helping his clients, Mark enjoys bowling, golfing, and spending time with his wife of 22 years, Pat, and daughter Christina. **Contact Mark at [mjesse@az-engineering.net](mailto:mjesse@az-engineering.net) or 260.615.7182.**

Surveyor **Daniel Paine** was hired in June of this year to help **Amadou Sidibe** recently took his INDOT certification exams and has passed all six. He is now certified in Construction Procedures I and II, Concrete Paving, Bridge Construction and Deck Repair, Hot Mix Asphalt Paving, and Construction Earthworks. **Please congratulate Amadou on his great accomplishment!**



augment the surveying department of A&Z. He will be assisting **Aaron Springer**, PS, with many surveying tasks that A&Z is currently working on. Daniel has over 12 years of experience in land surveying and has surveyed from Chicago, IL to Sydney, Australia. He specializes in federal, local, and private surveying projects. He has been involved with hundreds of projects involving regionally and nationally recognized companies, airports, architectural firms, environmental engineering firms, contractors, federal, state, county, and local government agencies. Daniel is from downtown Sydney, Australia. He has been married to his wife Jen since 2008 and they have

two boys and are expecting the third son soon!

### A&Z staff enjoy a little healthy fun outside the office...

This spring, a handful of A&Z employees had some fun and got in shape by playing in an indoor soccer league. A&Z was undefeated during the session and, although a little beaten up by the end, were able to win the playoffs and become the champions!



## >>> FUN FACTS

*Indiana is celebrating its 200th birthday in 2016. In recognition of the statewide Bicentennial Celebration, A&Z thought it would be fun to share a few interesting Indiana Facts ...*



**#1** **Corn-a-Plenty:** Indiana produces more than 20% of the United States' popcorn supply. In a typical year, almost half of all cropland in Indiana is planted in corn.

**#2** **The Slippery Noodle Inn:** During Prohibition, the Al Brady and John Dillinger gangs were patrons of The Slippery Noodle Inn in Indianapolis, one of Indiana's oldest bars, established in 1850. The gangs used the rear building (originally the horse stable) for target practice. Today, several bullets remain embedded in the lower east wall.

**#3** **Odd Indiana Laws:** Before you go fishing, check your gear because it is illegal to catch a fish with dynamite, firearms, a crossbow or your bare hands. And don't go to a liquor store really thirsty, because it's illegal for them to sell you a cold soft drink or water.

*For information about Bicentennial Celebrations around the state, you can check here: <https://secure.in.gov/arts/2847.htm>*

## CONTACT A&Z

Do you have a question or idea for the next newsletter?  
Contact Jamal direct at 260.417.0955 or [jamal@az-engineering.net](mailto:jamal@az-engineering.net)