Critical Drainage Assets, Hydraulics and Extreme Weather Adaptation & Lessons

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Arizona Asset Universe

Arizona

- 140,000 maintenance lane miles
- 7,800 bridges
- 1 International border

ADOT

- 30,000 maintenance lane miles connecting those 140,000
- 4,700 bridges
- 10 maintenance and construction districts
- 1,500 facility buildings

Spread over 114,000 square miles
Our assets operate from sea level to 8,000 feet
Temperatures below 0°F to over 120°F
Extreme Weather Process Identification

- ADOT’s 2013 CAFR reflects $19.3b in book value/capital assets.
- Replacement costs of those assets would be multiple times that in today’s dollars.
- Current drought event in the Southwestern United States is ranked as one of the top five (5) strongest historically.
  
  Williams, Park A. et al. 2012 Los Alamos Labs

- Current national drought has contributed to over $30b in damages and affected over 80% of the Nation’s 3,143 counties.
  
  Smith, Adam B. and Richard W. Katz. 2013 NOAA

- ADOT assets are vulnerable to increased surface temperatures, sudden increased precipitation, wildfire induced floods, drought-related dust storms and slope failures.
Impacts
Impacts
Impacts
One of our goals was to move beyond a preliminary assessment and find ways to bring the lessons learned to the forefront.

*Integrating Extreme Weather Risk into Transportation Asset Management* AASHTO - Mike Myers et al

*Climate Change & Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment Framework* FHWA
Framework

1. DEFINE SCOPE
   - Identify Key Climate Variables
     - Climate impacts of concern
     - Sensitive assets & thresholds for impacts
   - Articulate Objectives
     - Actions motivated by assessment
     - Target audience
     - Products needed
     - Level of detail required
   - Select & Characterize Relevant Assets
     - Asset type
     - Existing vs. planned
     - Data availability
     - Further delineate

2. ASSESS VULNERABILITY
   - Collect & Integrate Data on Assets
   - Develop Climate Inputs
   - Assess Asset Criticality (Optional)
   - Develop Information on Asset Sensitivity to Climate
   - Identify & Rate Vulnerabilities
   - Incorporate Likelihood & Risk (Optional)

3. INTEGRATE INTO DECISION MAKING
   - Incorporate into Asset Management
   - Integrate into Emergency & Risk Management
   - Contribute to Long Range Transportation Plan
   - Assist in Project Prioritization
   - Identify Opportunities for Improving Data Collection, Operations or Designs
   - Build Public Support for Adaptation Investment
   - Educate & Engage Staff & Decision Makers
2013
ADOT moved to tap into the national dialogue on adaptation, peer exchanges, technical expertise and potential funding.

*Risk-Based Adaptation Frameworks . . . A Synthesis of Practice*
TRB Transportation Research Circular E-C181

National Symposium: Impacts of Extreme Weather Events on Transportation – Washington D.C.

Jennifer Toth - ADOT’s State Engineer & Deputy Director for Transportation measurably increases motorist safety initiatives [http://www.pullasidestayalive.org/](http://www.pullasidestayalive.org/)
$250,000 FHWA/ADOT pilot effort to assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to extreme weather for the major Arizona highway corridor (I-19, I-10, and I-17 Nogales to Flagstaff)

Objectives

- Integrate infrastructure data, stakeholder input, reasonable defensible long-term climate models
- Contribute to the national adaptation process and enhance the FHWA Vulnerability Assessment Framework
- Develop risk models for multiple ecoregions / ecosystems
- Develop joint agency adaptation strategies
Further complicated by elevations, eco-regions and how structures would respond to current and future events. The objective of the FHWA assessment was to identify and characterize key extreme weather vulnerability hotspots.

- Heat extremes
- Change in frequency of freeze-thaw cycles
- Change in the amount of snow/winter precipitation
- Wildfire
- Flooding
- Landslides / rockfall / slope failure
Extreme Weather Potential Effects

2014 FHWA Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment
Stressor considerations on infrastructure / future design criteria

- Shortened pavement life (heat, freeze-thaw, snow plowing)
- Culverts - design capacity, maintenance frequency
- Bridges - design capacity, maintenance frequency
- Roadside erosion
- Road closures from flooding/fire/rockfall/dust/low water crossings
- Shifting periods for paving operations
- Winter storm maintenance costs
- Storm drain design
- Other
FHWA Pilot Project Data Sets

- Transportation Infrastructure Assets (ADOT)
  - Feature Inventory System
  - Bridge Rating System
  - Highway Performance Monitoring System
  - Culvert capacity data
  - Roadside vegetation, stabilization, habitat

- Climate data and models
  - Land cover
  - Hydrological modeling
  - CMIP
  - Dust storm models

- Criticality
  - Economic importance
  - Transportation alternatives
Events Versus Extreme Events

- Initial data gathering (Fall 2013)
- Scientific Stakeholder Meeting (March 2014)
- CMIP Processing (May 2014)
- Criticality Assessment (March – June 2014)
- Vulnerability Assessment Workshops (June 2014)
- Project Completion & Implementation Plan (Sept 2014)
Processing CMIP5 Climate Data

- **Original Approach**: Use FHWA CMIP Processing tool. BUT, processing downscaled CMIP5 daily climate projections at high spatial resolution over large study area would be extremely labor intensive.

- **Modified approach**: Developed custom script to batch process and map CMIP downloads.

- Tool aggregates data into transportation-relevant statistics (including those from original CMIP Processing Tool).

- Additionally fits generalized extreme value (GEV) distributions for extreme rainfall events (1% and 2% chance).

Image credit: Cambridge Systematics
Lessons Learned

- More confidence in climate temperature projections than in the precipitation projections – need to focus on extrapolating historical precipitation data for now
- Precipitation seasonality modeling difficult – ADWR
- CMIP processing experience had a host of lessons learned
- Determining appropriate Representative Concentration Pathways – ADOT primarily concerned with extreme impacts
- Natural climate variability representation – what metrics to use – currently looking at climatology, atmospheric variability, surface temps, historic precipitation data
- Address bias implications for the precipitation data but also Pacific sea surface temps. (i.e. ENSO)
Lessons Learned

- Gather something more than just 24-hr maximum precipitation event numbers – scale up to address erosion, sediment, scour, run-off, flooding, man-made structures
- Internal guidelines development to allow implementation into construction contracts regarding this material - specifically the higher risk drainage structures and system pinch points
- ADOT effort addresses unique component of ecoregions and biotic communities impacts as our corridor study covers about sea level to 6000’
- Currently looking at 3 ecoregions and 8 biotic communities – 5 of which intersect our corridor study
- Watershed – Complementary USGS/ADOT partnering project under development
The challenge – Continue considering the balance between predictable asset deterioration curves, the sudden and unpredictable nature of extreme weather events and long term climate trends.

- Develop asset subsets that reflect an accurate picture
- Identify and evaluate relevant asset/maintenance datasets
- Assess availability and accuracy of spatial information on assets
- Collect data that is necessary to scope and objectives
- Engage local experts on data gaps
- Develop clear data management strategy
How do we shift from a deterministic preset design frequency basis and statistical risk of failure – i.e. extreme events not considered

To a probabilistic analysis approach that inputs additional vulnerabilities and considerations not previously considered

For ADOT - as they relate to incidents of stormwater, flooding, extreme events, hydraulic-related failures, forest fires - flows, debris, sediment, roadside

What is ADOT after – Identification of a reasonable universe of additional vulnerabilities and risk considerations not previously considered or required in design
OK Great – Helpful – But what constitutes a reasonable universe

Implement a new probabilistic end-to-end engineering-based asset adaption process and ensure that it incorporates:
- Current design requirements
- Extreme event data / modeling where appropriate
- Stakeholders
- Constructability flexibility
- Life cycle cost considerations (operations and maintenance)
- Prioritization characteristics for TAMP / Performance Measures
- Environmental review connectivity
- And lends confidence and validity to funding constraint
Standard design overrun by extreme event - August 19, 2014

Initial Assessment - The culverts along the E-W running frontage road could not handle the Skunk Creek flows hence frontage road then acted like a dam. The water did an end-around and then had nowhere to go but south on I-17. The local road going east-west probable culprit. Likely had a lower design year for Skunk Creek than the interstate standard for I-17. Culverts are sized based on a design frequency for the class of roadway - highest is 50 years. This flood event was much more than a 50-year event (50 years means once every 50 years which equates to a 2% chance/any given year).

VIDEO http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=54bbc55a-f920-4b5c-8e49-4206ab3e15b9
Hydraulics Examples
Hydraulics Examples

Standard design overrun by vexing ground water source
Crazy Creek Bridge on I-40 (someone in the frontier days must have known something already to name it that)

2000 event was severe - scoured under and exposed the piers floor was constructed returning it to original height

2004 surface and sub-surface water moved under and around repairs included an enhanced slope with concrete baffles to slow the velocity of surface wash flows
Sometimes an event will have the flows going toward the Colorado sometimes low flow events will have the wash meander right
HYDRAULICS EXAMPLES

OCT 27, 11

DISTANCES OF INTEREST = a + b (OR VERSIONS OF THEM) TO MONITOR

[Diagram showing distances a and b measured from the wall to the ground, marked as closest to Relay and Maxmel to Relay]
Hydraulics Examples

New risk-based approach – now adds the probabilistic elements
Need to look at each critical point throughout the entire system

Bridge / waterway example for an end-to-end engineering-based asset adaption process -
Watershed area, current design, roadway alignment, physical and environmental constraints, roadway approach, drainage considerations, deck drainage, hydraulics report
AND
Layer in the unique probabilistic elements that could allow the simultaneous assessment of the hazards and the needed performance of the given infrastructure being considered
Drainage / Hydraulics Implementation
ADOT Specific Projects – Five Projects

ADOT / USGS Partnering Proposal - Develop customized GIS/ data analytics where USGS footprint/mission intersect with ADOT’s infrastructure footprint/mission. Especially as they relate to incidents of stormwater, flooding, forest fires - flows, debris, sediment, roadside. 2014 / 2015

Finalize upgrade of ADOT’s Feature Inventory System and drainage related assets and create asset data subsets to monitor critical hydraulic-related issues 2013 / 2014
ADOT issued its Highway Drainage Design Manual - Hydrology in 1993. At that time it represented a significant advancement in the practice of hydrology for highway drainage design in Arizona. The 1993 Manual was the result of an extensive research and validation effort. The methods and procedures within the manual represented the state of the practice at that time.

The latest edition of the Manual updates, refine, and improves the methods for estimating storm water runoff, cognizant of the diverse nature of hydrologic conditions in Arizona.

Reevaluation of 2D hydraulic modeling usage also underway.
The 2014 FHWA extreme weather pilot project focuses on a transportation corridor connecting Nogales, Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff, Arizona.

Particular value was identified with this area since it encompassed both the high-growth Sun Corridor and the more rural relatively low-growth areas. Final project will provide long-term weather models that integrate the predicted effects of climate change in Arizona, and integrated data on transportation assets most likely to be affected by the long-term impacts of climate change.
Drainage / Hydraulics Implementation
ADOT Specific Projects – Five Projects

Link Events to the ADOT Transportation Asset Management Plan

- Use existing data
- Cost and/or difficulty of additional data collection
- Be clear on what is measurable
- Develop a single process identifying performance measures and targets
- Contribute to life-cycle costs reduction for managing assets
- Identify new analytical approaches for operations and maintenance
- Measurably contribute to asset category financial forecasting
- Improve capital investment prioritization discussions
Future Considerations

Sequencing and Cascading effects – Oak Ridge NL and DoE

Implementation pathway toward systematized collection

NCHRP Report 753
A Pre-Event Recovery Planning Guide for Transportation

NCHRP Report 750
Climate Change, Extreme Weather Events, and the Highway System
Questions?

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