

ADOT names 12 MVD offices it wants to close

5 comments by [Sean Holstege](#) - Nov. 25, 2009 12:00 AM
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A dozen offices the state wants to close include busy branches in central Phoenix and east Mesa, as well as others throughout the state.

The closures, which are being driven by and still must get final approval, would likely lengthen wait times at remaining MVD offices, the Arizona Department of Transportation said.

ADOT's announcement comes a week after the agency said it would lay off 115 workers. It had said last month that it would close 12 of its 61 MVD offices but had not identified them. The list released Tuesday must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice because voters can register at MVD offices; thus, the closures must comply with civil-rights laws.

does not know how long the federal review will take or when the dozen MVD offices may close.

already have forced the public to wait an extra two minutes on average to renew

licenses and car registrations or take care of other paperwork in person, ADOT said. Average wait times have grown from 23 minutes to 25 minutes since last year.

With a third of the MVD staff already eliminated, the agency is warning that the trend toward longer wait times is expected to continue. Every year, MVD serves about 4 million walk-in customers.

The dozen offices to be shuttered serve about 28,500 walk-ins a month. Phoenix's 28th Street branch serves 11,300 people; east Mesa's serves 9,600.

Other MVD offices proposed to go dark are in Ajo, Benson, Bisbee, Clifton, Fredonia, Kearny, St. Johns, Superior, Willcox and Williams.

The MVD cuts would close ADOT's ongoing \$100 million budget deficit. ADOT Director John Halikowski recently warned state lawmakers that if they balance the state budget with only cuts, he would have to lay off half of ADOT's 4,000 or so employees. If those cuts are made, ADOT says all but the busiest MVD offices would close.

The agency has also closed 13 highway rest areas and reduced roadway maintenance and construction.

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ADOT said that Arizona residents have other options besides waiting at MVD offices. Motorists can conduct transactions online at www.servicearizona.com or by visiting any of more than 140 third-party vendors. A complete listing is available at www.azmvdservices.com.

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