

North–South Corridor Study Potential New Transportation Route Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the study located?

The study area extends from US 60 near Apache Junction to I-10 near Eloy and Picacho.

Why is the Arizona Department of Transportation working on this study?

Planned growth in the study area shows the need for a new transportation corridor. The completion of the study would help determine right of way needs ahead of future development. It is also an important step in obtaining future funding for construction.

What is the study schedule?

The study is currently in the alternative selection phase. This will be followed by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Location/Design Concept Report (L/DCR) phase. The study is anticipated to be completed in 2013.

What is an alternative selection phase?

The North–South Corridor Study team needs to identify all reasonable alternatives and then screen those possible route alternatives to determine which will work best. After screening the possible route alternatives, the study team will select at least two possible route alternatives, along with the impacts of not making any improvements (also known as a no-build option), for detailed assessment in the EIS and DCR phase.

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

For studies that will have a significant impact, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an EIS document that will provide an examination of environmental impacts for each of the proposed route alternatives. The team will evaluate hazardous materials, cultural and biological resources, socioeconomic and geological conditions, land ownership, air quality, noise impacts and water resources.

What is a Location/Design Concept Report (L/DCR)?

Once the study team has narrowed down possible route alternatives, they will study them more in depth during the preparation of the L/DCR. The L/DCR will include a preferred route alternative, define initial right of way needs and present an implementation plan. Project costs and preliminary design plans will also be included.

What is a possible route alternative?

A possible route alternative is a possible alignment for the transportation corridor. To determine the possible route alternatives, the team considered public, agency and jurisdictional input; technical assessments; purpose and need criteria; existing roadways and utilities; and rail and transit.

How will ADOT fund the construction of this corridor?

ADOT cannot seek funding for construction until the study is complete and has a better understanding of what may be needed. At that time, ADOT will pursue many funding options, including state, federal and public-private partnerships.

What is a Public-Private Partnership (P3)?

A P3 refers to the contractual agreement between a public agency and a private sector entity that allows the private sector entity to have greater participation in the delivery of a transportation project when providing funding. Using traditional project delivery methods, ADOT bears all of the risks and responsibilities for a project. Under a P3, the private partner takes on some or all of the project's risks and responsibilities. There are many types of P3s. For roadway and bridge projects, P3s typically involve an up-front investment by a private partner who then designs, builds, finances, operates and maintains the facility in exchange for future revenues generated by the facility. These revenues typically come from tolls paid by the users of the facility. Please visit www.azdot.gov/p3 for more information.

North–South Corridor Study Potential New Transportation Route Frequently Asked Questions – Continued

Where is the corridor going to be located?

It has not yet been determined where the corridor would be located. Currently, the study is in the alternative selection phase. The team is currently seeking public input on the possible route alternatives.

Will existing roads be used, such as State Route 79 and State Route 87?

Possible route alternatives may or may not include existing roads.

Will existing and planned development be avoided?

Route alternatives were developed to minimize impacts on existing and planned development to the extent possible. The amount of impact will be included as a factor in the route alternatives screening process. The study team will continue to coordinate with city, town and county planning staff within the study area.

Is the study team aware of the fissures in the area?

The team is aware of and taking into consideration both ground subsidence (the gradual settling or sinking of a land area) and fissures (cracks or crevices in the ground that may form as a result of subsidence) for route alternatives.

Is the study team aware of Salt River Project's current and planned development?

Yes, and the study team is working collaboratively with Salt River Project.

What about the change in air quality that a new transportation route may create?

The study team will look at both the current and future air quality conditions of possible route alternatives and evaluate potential impacts.

Will you take wildlife habitats and crossings into consideration?

The team will study area wildlife, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, current habitat and wildlife crossings. These will be considered as the team develops possible route alternatives.

What about the Union Pacific Railroad yard near I-10 and Picacho?

The study team is collaborating with all railroad companies within the study area. For more information regarding the Union Pacific Railroad, please visit www.up.com.

What about commuter rail?

The North–South Corridor Study team is working collaboratively with the ADOT Intercity Rail Study team. For more information about the ADOT Intercity Rail Study, please visit <http://www.azdot.gov/intercityrail>.

How will the North–South Corridor Study impact other ADOT projects?

The North–South Corridor Study team is collaborating with the US 60 Study, State Route 24 (formerly State Route 802) Study, I-10 Corridor Study and I-10 Widening: State Route 87 to Picacho project teams to enhance the projects and maximize the benefits to the state of Arizona.

- US 60: www.azdot.gov/Highways/Valley_Freeways/US60/Pinal_County/index.asp
- State Route 24: www.azdot.gov/ValleyFreeways/SR24
- I-10 Corridor Study: www.i10tucsondistrict.com/i8totang2
- I-10 Widening: SR 87 to Picacho: www.i10tucsondistrict.com/87toPP-traffic-interchange

How can I provide comments about the North–South Corridor Study?

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