

CONNECT

North-South Corridor Study

Potential New Transportation Route

from US 60



to Interstate 10

North-South Corridor Study Potential New Transportation Route Fact Sheet

Overview

Expected growth in Pinal County supports the need for a new transportation route. The Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are studying the area between US 60 near Apache Junction and I-10 near Eloy and Picacho. The purpose of the study is to identify and evaluate a possible route to provide a connection between US 60 and I-10.

Study Process

The study is anticipated to be completed in 2013 and will include:

- *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to provide an examination of environmental impacts for each of the proposed route alternatives, including hazardous materials, cultural and biological resources, socioeconomic and geological conditions, land ownership, air quality, noise impacts and water resources.
- *Alternatives Selection Report* to document development and review of possible route alternatives, including the impact of not making any improvements (a no-build option).
- *Location/Design Concept Report (L/DCR)* to document a preferred route alternative, define initial right of way needs and present an implementation plan, along with project costs and preliminary design plans.

Possible Route Alternatives

The study is in the alternative selection phase, which means the team is looking at a range of *possible route alternatives*, including the impacts of not making any improvements (also known as a no-build option).

The study team started by evaluating a 900 square-mile study area to identify a Corridor Opportunity Area that was presented at the fall 2010 public and agency scoping meetings.

In summer 2011, a newsletter was sent to approximately 55,000 area residents, businesses and property owners with a map showing corridor segments.

After receiving input from the public and various agencies, and evaluating technical data, the team has identified possible route alternatives as presented at the winter 2011 public workshops.

The possible route alternatives include possible new roadways, improvements to existing roadways, locations on both sides of the CAP canal and alternatives that take rail and transit into consideration.

To determine the possible route alternatives, the study team looked at:

- Public, agency and jurisdictional input
- Technical assessment
- Purpose and need criteria
- Existing roadways and utilities
- Rail and transit

North–South Corridor Study Potential New Transportation Route Fact Sheet – Continued

The study team now needs to determine which possible route alternatives will work best. The study team will screen the possible route alternatives using specific criteria:

- Regional service and accessibility: How the possible route alternative may link to other transportation features in the area, provide congestion relief, accommodate the Intercity Rail, and provide accessibility to communities, including employment and activity centers
- Impacts, including water resources, environmental, noise, development and open space factors
- Public and agency input
- Cost, including construction and right of way acquisition

Next Steps

After screening the possible route alternatives, the study team will select at least two possible route alternatives, along with a no-build option, for detailed assessment in the EIS and DCR phase. The possible route alternatives selected will go through a more detailed analysis and will be presented to the public for additional review and feedback.

Public Participation

Public participation is an important and ongoing part of the study. Since the study began in 2009, the team has given many presentations to stakeholder groups. In fall 2010, the study team held four public scoping meetings and one agency scoping meeting. During fall and winter 2010, the study team held multiple agency coordination meetings. For summary reports of these meetings, please visit www.azdot.gov/northsouthcorridorstudy.

Other Projects in the Area

The study team is collaborating with other project teams along the North–South Corridor Study area to maximize the benefits for area residents and motorists who travel through Pinal County and the state of Arizona. The study and project teams the North–South Corridor Study team is collaborating with include:

- State Route 24 (formerly State Route 802) Study
www.azdot.gov/ValleyFreeways/SR24
- Intercity Rail Study
<http://www.azdot.gov/intercityrail>
- US 60 Alignment Study: Superstition Freeway to Florence Junction
www.azdot.gov/Highways/Valley_Freeways/US60/Pinal_County/index.asp
- I-10 Corridor Study: Jct. I-8 to Tangerine Road
www.i10tucsondistrict.com/i8totang2
- I-10 Widening: SR 87 to Picacho
www.i10tucsondistrict.com/87toPP-traffic-interchange

Contact Information

- Javier Gurrola, ADOT Predesign Project Manager, 602-712-7687, jgurrola@azdot.gov
- Teresa Guillen, ADOT Communication and Community Partnerships, 602-828-8075, tguillen@azdot.gov
- ADOT Outreach Team, 520-327-6077, northsouthstudy@azdot.gov
- Media inquiries, please call 800-949-8057