



# Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

North-South Corridor Study

*U.S. Route 60 to Interstate 10  
Pinal County, Arizona*

*FHWA-AZ-EIS-19-02-D*

*prepared by  
Arizona Department of Transportation*

*in cooperation with  
Federal Railroad Administration  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs – San Carlos Irrigation Project  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Western Area Power Administration  
Arizona Game and Fish Department*

September 2019



*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 16, 2019, and executed by FHWA and ADOT.*

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Federal-aid Project No. STP-999-A(365)X  
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Submitted pursuant to 42 USC § 4332(2)(c),  
49 USC § 303, and 33 USC § 1251

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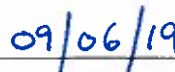
### Abstract

This Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement documents the potential effects associated with the proposed action corridor alternatives, which identify a new approximately 55-mile-long freeway between U.S. Route 60 in Apache Junction and Interstate 10 near Eloy and Picacho in Pinal County, Arizona. The freeway would also connect with State Route 24 in Queen Creek. The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance the area's transportation network to accommodate existing and future populations, improve access to future activity centers, improve regional mobility, provide an alternative to avoid traffic congestion on Interstate 10, improve north-to-south connectivity, and integrate the region's transportation network. The action corridor alternatives consist of an Eastern Alternative with options, a Western Alternative with options, and combinations of both to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. Other alternatives were evaluated but eliminated from further study. This Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement describes potential impacts on the natural and built environments in the study area. Alternative 7, with the E1b and E3b Options, has been identified as the Preferred Alternative.



Paul O'Brien, P.E., Administrator  
Environmental Planning  
Arizona Department of Transportation

Date



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### Americans with Disabilities Act

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Laura Douglas at 602.712.7683 or at [ldouglas@azdot.gov](mailto:ldouglas@azdot.gov).

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# Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## North-South Corridor Study

### Public Hearings

Three public hearings to provide information and accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Florence High School  
1000 South Main Street  
Florence, Arizona 85132

Thursday, October 10, 2019

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Eloy City Hall  
595 North C Street, Suite 104  
Eloy, Arizona 85131

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Poston Butte High School  
32375 North Gantzel Road  
San Tan Valley, Arizona 85143

Dates, times, and locations of the public hearings will be announced through notices published in newspapers of general circulation and on the study website:

[www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/overview](http://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/overview)

### Review Comments

A comment period will begin on the date a notice is published in the *Federal Register*. Notice will take place on September 6, 2019. The comment period will end on October 29, 2019.

Comments should be sent to:

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Arizona Department of Transportation  
205 S. 17th Ave., MD 605E  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Comments can also be sent by email to:

[northsouth@azdot.gov](mailto:northsouth@azdot.gov)

### Document Availability

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available online at:

[www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/overview](http://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/overview)

It is also available for review only and at no charge at the following locations:

Eloy Santa Cruz Library  
1000 North Main Street  
Eloy, Arizona 85131  
520.466.3814

Coolidge Public Library  
160 West Central Avenue  
Coolidge, Arizona 85128  
520.723.6030

Florence Community Library  
778 North Main Street  
Florence, AZ 85132  
520.868.7500

Apache Junction Public Library  
1177 North Idaho Road  
Apache Junction, Arizona 85119  
480.474.8558

Queen Creek Library  
21802 South Ellsworth Road  
Queen Creek, Arizona 85142  
602.652.3000

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADT	average daily traffic
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
ADWR	Arizona Department of Water Resources
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
AMA	Active Management Area
A.R.S.	Arizona Revised Statutes
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
ASM	Arizona State Museum
ASR	<i>Alternatives Selection Report</i>
AZGS	Arizona Geological Survey
AZPDES	Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
AZTDM2	second-generation Arizona statewide travel demand model
CAG	Central Arizona Governments
CAP	Central Arizona Project
CCA	candidate conservation agreement species
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
Corridor	North-South Corridor
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ	environmental justice
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FPPA	Farmland Protection and Policy Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
Framework Program	Statewide Transportation Planning Framework Program
FRS	flood-retarding structure
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system

GSF	groundwater savings facility
I-10	Interstate 10
ISA	Initial Site Assessment
LE	federally listed endangered
LEDPA	least environmentally damaging practicable alternative
LEP	limited English proficiency
L <sub>eq</sub>	equivalent sound level
L <sub>eq</sub> (h)	1-hour equivalent sound level
LOS	level of service
LT	federally listed threatened
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	micrograms per cubic meter
MAG	Maricopa Association of Governments
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MPA	municipal planning area
mpg	miles per gallon
mph	miles per hour
MPO	metropolitan planning organization
MSATs	mobile source air toxics
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSCS	North-South Corridor Study
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
Pb	lead
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROD	Record of Decision

ROW	right-of-way
RSRSM	<i>2008 Pinal County Regionally Significant Routes Plan for Safety and Mobility</i>
SC	species of concern
SCMPO	Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
SERI	Species of Economic and Recreation Importance
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SR	State Route
TCP	traditional cultural property
Uniform Act	Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
US 60	United States Route 60
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USF	underground storage facility
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VHT	vehicle hours traveled
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
Waters	waters of the United States