Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision

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

August 2021

ADOT

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
ADOT Project No. 999 PN 000 H7454 01L

Submitted pursuant to 42 USC § 4332(2)(c), 49 USC § 303, and 33 USC § 1251

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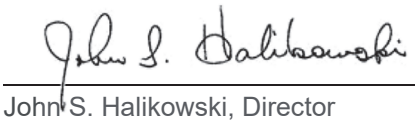
Abstract

This Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision document the potential effects associated with the proposed action corridor alternatives, which identify a new approximately 50-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 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision describe 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 Selected Alternative.



John S. Halikowski, Director
Arizona Department of Transportation

08/06/2021
Date

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ADOT

Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision

North-South Corridor Study

Review

Interested parties are invited to review the Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the North-South Corridor Study. Comments are not being solicited. In accordance with 23 U.S.C. § 139, the Arizona Department of Transportation has issued a single Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. Therefore, the 30-day wait/review period under the National Environmental Policy Act does not apply to this action. See the listed locations to the right for information about the document's availability.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the *Federal Register* on August 20, 2021.

Document Availability

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are available online at:

azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study-proposed-new-transportation-route-pinal

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

Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library*
94 North Church Street
Sacaton, AZ 85147
* location available only to members of the Gila River Indian Community

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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	*Alternatives Selection Report*
AZGS	Arizona Geological Survey
AZPDES	Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
AZTDM2	second-generation Arizona statewide travel demand model
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
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_{eq}	equivalent sound level
$L_{eq}(h)$	1-hour equivalent sound level
LOS	level of service
LT	federally listed threatened
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
$\mu g/m^3$	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_2	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSCS	North-South Corridor Study
O_3	ozone
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
Pb	lead
PM	particulate matter
PM_{10}	particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less
$PM_{2.5}$	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	*2008 Pinal County Regionally Significant Routes Plan for Safety and Mobility*
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_2	sulfur dioxide
SR	State Route
STVSAP	*San Tan Valley Special Area Plan*
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

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