

South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202)

Interstate 10 (Papago Freeway) to Interstate 10 (Maricopa Freeway)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Volume I: Main Text

Submitted pursuant to
42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(c), 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 33 U.S.C. § 1251
by the

Federal Highway Administration
and
Arizona Department of Transportation

in cooperation with the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Area Power Administration



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Abstract

The proposed action is the construction and operation of a new multilane freeway in the metropolitan Phoenix area extending approximately 22 to 24 miles from Interstate 10 west of Phoenix to Interstate 10 southeast of Phoenix. The facility would be the final extension of State Route 202L, an element of the Maricopa Association of Governments' adopted Regional Freeway and Highway System, as outlined in its *Regional Transportation Plan*.

The proposed action is considered necessary in response to existing and projected demands on the region's transportation system. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement discusses three distinct action alternatives in the western portion of the Study Area (Western Section), one distinct action alternative in the eastern portion of the Study Area (Eastern Section), and a no-action alternative for the entire project length. When combined, the action alternatives in the Western and Eastern Sections represent a full range of reasonable alternatives. The action alternatives consist of four travel lanes in each direction (three general purpose lanes and one high-occupancy vehicle lane), with traffic interchanges generally located at major cross streets. Other alternatives were considered but eliminated from further study. These alternatives included using alternative travel modes, improving major streets, and managing traffic through such methods as transportation system management and transportation demand management.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes potential impacts of the proposed action on the natural and human-made environment, including, but not limited to, mountain preserve land, residential and commercial development, cultural resources, wildlife, waters of the United States, air quality, noise levels, and hazardous waste.

A Final State-level Environmental Assessment was completed for the South Mountain Corridor in 1988. At that time, a recommended alternative was adopted by the State Transportation Board. The proposed action represents a version of that project. Because of elapsed time and conditions that have changed since completion of the 1988 document, new studies are required.

The W59 Alternative has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Western Section. The E1 Alternative has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Eastern Section.

Submitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(c), 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 33 U.S.C. § 1251

by the
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
and
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
with
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
(Cooperating Agency)
and
U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
(Cooperating Agency)
and
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
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Date of Approval



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Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Fact Sheet

Project Title
South Mountain Freeway

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SR 202L

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Public Hearing
A public hearing to provide information and accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be held on:

DATE: May 21, 2013

Dates, times, and locations of the public hearing and other comment opportunities will be announced through notices published in newspapers of general circulation and on the project Web site, <azdot.gov/southmountainfreeway>.

DEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation Review
A comment period will begin on the date a notice is published in the *Federal Register*. Notice will take place on April 26, 2013. The comment period during which the DEIS can be reviewed and comments can be made will end on July 24, 2013. After reading the DEIS, please provide specific written comments on its contents.

Comments should be sent to:
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Arizona Department of Transportation
1655 West Jackson Street, MD126F
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Comments can also be sent by e-mail to:
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DEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation	\$125	Appendix volume	\$50
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