

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Construction and operation of the proposed action would involve a commitment of a range of resources, including construction materials, fuels, land, labor, and financial assets. Some resources would need an irreversible commitment during the life of the proposed action. Others would not be retrievable even beyond that time. Any of the action alternatives would need a similar commitment of these resources.

Land within the R/W would be unavailable for other purposes during the time that it is used as a highway facility. Conversion of land now used as farmland, commercial, industrial, residential, and other urban development into the proposed action would be irreversible. If a greater need arose for use of the land or if the freeway were to be no longer needed, however, the land could be converted to another use. There is no reason to believe that such a conversion would ever be necessary or desirable. In the event land were converted, a return to agricultural uses would be unlikely. Thus, the loss of farmland would be permanent and irretrievable.

Considerable expenditures for labor and consumption of energy and of highway construction materials, such as cement, aggregate, and bituminous material, would be needed in the construction of the project. Additionally, large amounts of labor and natural resources would be used in the fabrication and preparation of construction materials. This expenditure for labor and materials generally is considered not retrievable. Labor and materials for this type of project, however, are not expected to be in short supply, and the use of such labor and materials would not have an adverse effect on continued availability of these resources. The commitment of these resources is based on a public policy that the project would provide measurable benefits to area residents, including:

- ▶ improved accessibility within the community and to other portions of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area
- ▶ reduced traffic congestion and a corresponding increase in safety and time savings
- ▶ improved availability of community services
- ▶ improved opportunities for economic development and job creation

When constructing the proposed action, ADOT, or its agent, would commit to materials reuse, wherever appropriate and feasible. A substantial expenditure of public funds would be needed to construct the proposed action. These funds, which are derived from taxes imposed at different levels of government, would not be retrievable. Their use is determined, however, through national, statewide, regional, and local planning efforts and engaged by elected officials and area citizens. The expenditure of these funds would also create new opportunities for economic activities, such as new jobs, that would result in the generation of increased tax revenues.

The commitment of resources necessary to build and operate the proposed action would be based on the concept that residents and other users in the immediate area, region, state, and the country would benefit from the proposed transportation facility. These benefits would consist of improved accessibility and safety, reduced traffic congestion, and savings in time. These benefits would outweigh the commitment of resources.