



Interstate 19 East Frontage Road (Ruby Road to Rio Rico Drive) Study

The Arizona Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration and Santa Cruz County, is studying traffic flow at both the Interstate 19 and Ruby Road traffic interchange and along the I-19 east frontage road from Ruby Road to Rio Rico Drive. The study purpose is to improve traffic flow and meet current and future traffic needs in this area.

OVERVIEW

The east frontage road provides sole access to a warehouse district that is used by commercial trucks transporting goods along US-Mexico trade routes. The east frontage road features two-way traffic (northbound and southbound) from Ruby Road to Kipper Street and one-way traffic (northbound only) from Kipper Street to Rio Rico Drive (0.8 mile segment). Currently, all traffic entering the warehouse district must use the Ruby Road traffic interchange while traffic exiting the warehouse district may use either the Ruby Road or Rio Rico Drive traffic interchanges. Additionally, residential traffic plus school buses travel between the east and west sides of I-19.

Traffic demand during peak periods on Rio Rico Drive exceeds capacity, causing high levels of congestion, with vehicles backed up on Ruby Road and the I-19 exit ramps.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The study will evaluate existing peak-hour traffic operations and prepare recommendations for potential capacity, access and safety improvements that accommodate forecasted growth through the year 2040. The study team will:

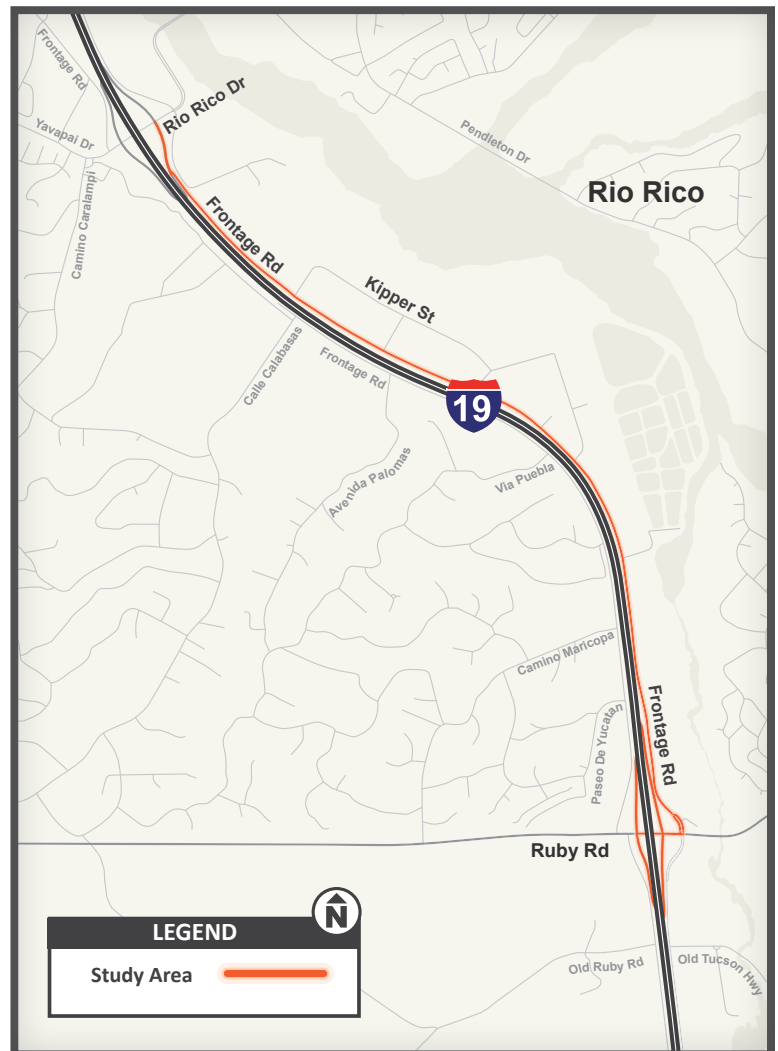
- ▶ Seek input from community stakeholders and renew ADOT-community partnerships created during the previous east frontage road construction project.
- ▶ Obtain existing heavy truck and passenger car traffic counts at the I-19/Ruby Road traffic interchange and along the east frontage road from Ruby Road to Rio Rico Drive.
- ▶ Analyze, prepare and present alternatives to accommodate anticipated traffic growth with enhanced circulation and safety.
- ▶ Evaluate cost, environmental and potential right-of-way impacts of the proposed alternatives and make final alternative selection.

STUDY PLAN AND TIMELINE

The study began in February 2012, and the final study report is anticipated to be available by late 2013.

To gather community input, stakeholder meetings will be held in early spring 2012 and a public meeting will take place in late spring. The final report detailing the recommended improvements is anticipated to be completed by late 2013.

The stakeholder meetings and two public meetings will be held to gain both commercial and residential feedback. This valuable input will help ADOT address concerns and develop solutions. Close communication with area community representatives and jurisdictions, including Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County, the City of Nogales and the State of Arizona will be important for the success of this project.



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