



ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

The following environmental elements will be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- Air Quality
- Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Impact on conservation lands and waterways
- Impact on public land, e.g. parks, recreation areas, historic sites
- Land Ownership, Jurisdiction, and Land Use
- Noise
- Social and Economic Considerations
- Utilities
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources
- Wildlife refuge





HELP US DEFINE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The Purpose and Need Statement is a fundamental part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the foundation of the Tier 1 EIS. The Purpose and Need provides the basis for identifying, evaluating, and screening corridor alternatives and will be a key component in selecting a Preferred Alternative for the Sonoran Corridor. The Purpose and Need Statement is based on key transportation-related problems and issues identified in the designation of the Sonoran Corridor as a potential future transportation facility, and through agency and public input received during the scoping process.

THE PRELIMINARY PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT IS TO:

- Provide a high-priority, access-controlled, transportation corridor
- Reduce commercial and commute travel times and cost
- Enhance access to the high-capacity transportation network to support economic vitality
- Support improved regional roadway, rail and aviation mobility for people, goods, and services
- Improve access to Tucson International Airport and other major employment and population centers

THE PRELIMINARY NEED FOR THIS PROJECT RESULTS FROM THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- Population and employment growth
- Increasing congestion and travel time unreliability
- System linkages and regional interstate mobility
- Access to existing and future economic activity centers



TIER 1 VS. TIER 2 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Tier 1 Environmental Study - Current

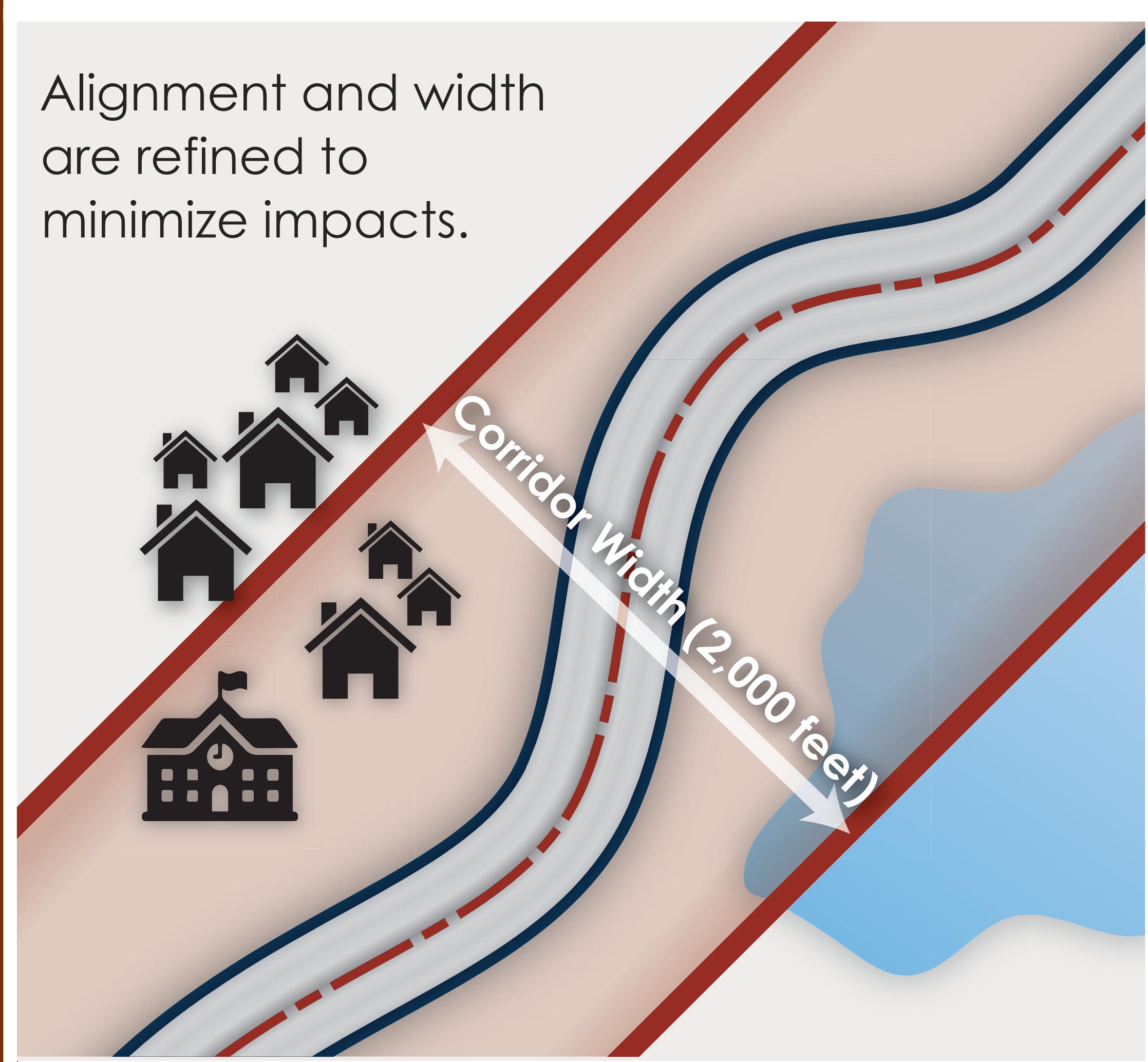


Evaluates wide corridors in multiple locations, at a program level, within which a new transportation facility could be located.

Outcome: Select a single corridor within which an alignment would be identified during Tier 2.

Tier 2 Environmental Study - Future

Alignment and width are refined to minimize impacts.



Evaluates design concepts for specific alignments within the corridor, such as 400 feet for a typical freeway alignment.

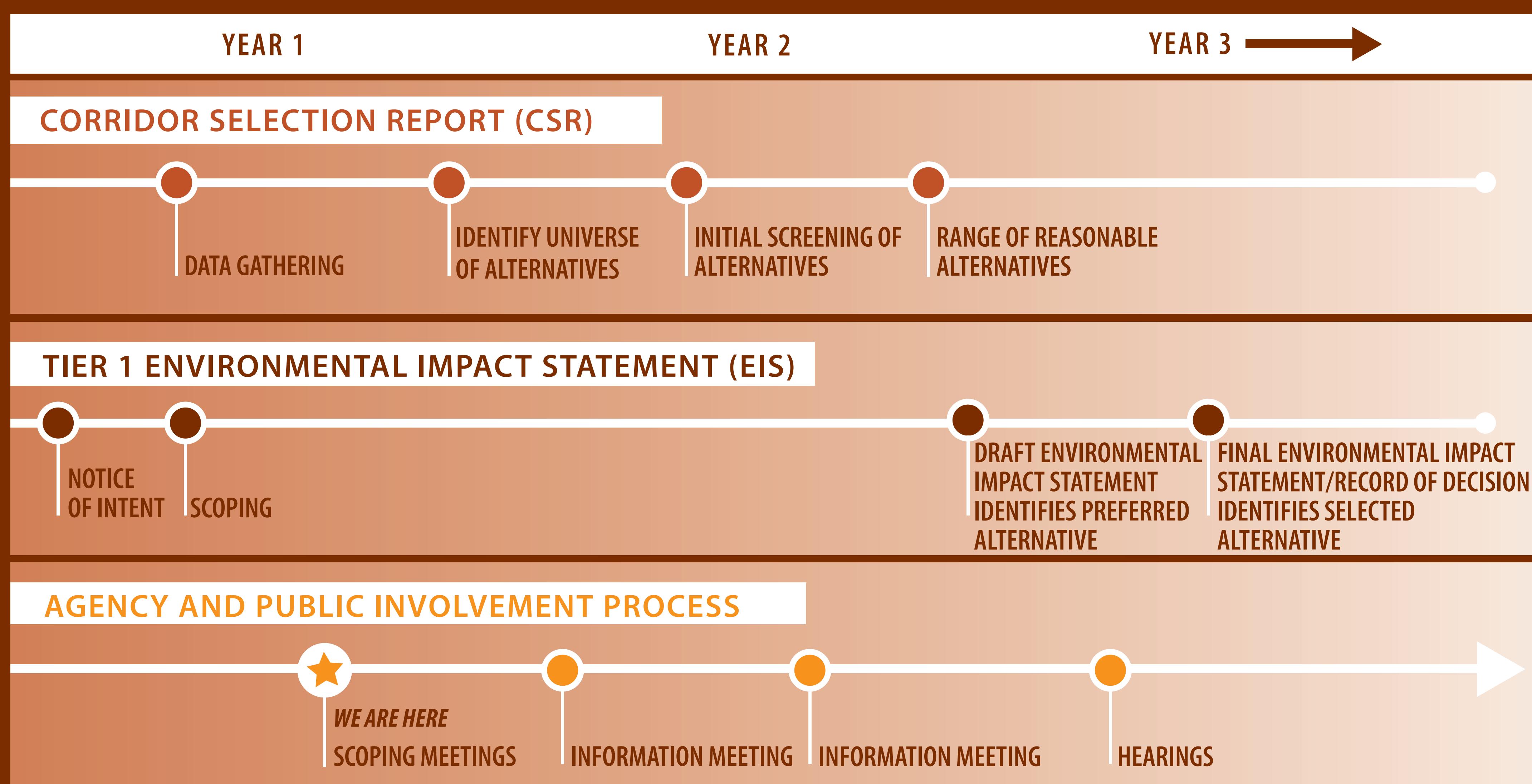
Outcome: Select an alignment and enable permitting for that alignment.



WHAT IS A TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

A Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a decision-making document that enables federal agencies to identify constraints and opportunities on proposed projects through technical analysis and outreach to agencies and the public.

In a tiered environmental process, a Tier 1 EIS considers broad corridors and issues that set the stage for future Tier 2 environmental studies that evaluate specific transportation alignments.



With agency and public input, a corridor selection study progressively narrows the potential corridors from an original “universe” of possibilities to a range of reasonable build alternatives that moves into the Tier 1 EIS along with a “No-Build” alternative. In the Final Tier 1 EIS the lead federal agency makes a decision on the selected alternative. If a build alternative is selected it allows local jurisdictions to incorporate the selected corridor into local plans and the project is eligible for federal funding opportunities. The process sets the stage for future Tier 2 environmental studies that look at project-level analysis with a specific alignment.

SONORAN CORRIDOR STUDY

VICINITY MAP

