

State Route 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad Alignment Revisions

July 2016

Prepared by
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206 S. 17th Ave.
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In cooperation with
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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1.0 Introduction

ADOT, in conjunction with FHWA and the City of Maricopa, completed a study to evaluate alternatives and identify improvements to access, capacity and traffic operations through 2040. The study evaluated a future grade separation (bridge) to replace the existing at-grade intersection of SR 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track. SR 347 is Maricopa's main transportation corridor through the community, serving as a regional connector to major employment and recreation areas.

A total of ten alternatives were considered for the project. Three of the ten alternatives were recommended for further evaluation. A public hearing was held in December 2014. Through the qualitative evaluation process, Alternative H was identified as the Selected Alternative. The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were issued in March 2015. Alternative H has since been reevaluated to identify further improvements to access, capacity, and traffic operations.

2.0 Public Meeting

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), held a public information meeting for the State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad project on July 14, 2016. The revisions to Alternative H and the associated impacts to businesses and residences were discussed during the public information meeting. This process was in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the revisions to Alternative H will initiate the need for an EA Re-evaluation.

2.2 Public Meeting Notification

An invitation was prepared and distributed inviting the public to learn about the alignment revisions and provide input. Invitations were mailed June 25, 2016, to property owners, occupants and businesses within the proposed project area. Electronic copies of the invitation were sent to project team and stakeholders July 11, 2016. A copy of the invitation can be found in Appendix A.

2.3 Newspaper Advertisements

A newspaper advertisement providing the date and location of the public meeting was published on June 30, 2016 in the Casa Grande Dispatch. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix B.

2.4 Public Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to provide information on alignment revisions and gather community input. A total of 186 people signed in and attended the public meeting. The meeting was held on Thursday, July 14, 2016, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (with a presentation at 6 p.m.) at the Maricopa Unified School District Board Room, 44150 W Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Maricopa, AZ 85138

2.5 Website

The project website was updated to include all informational materials and the public meeting information and project details were provided on the website: azdot.gov/347GS.

3.0 Public Meeting Format

The public meeting began with registration at the door, where attendees were asked to sign in and were provided with meeting handouts consisting of a fact sheet, comment form and question card. The sign-in sheets were created solely for the purpose of updating the mailing list. An open house then began, where attendees were encouraged to walk around the various stations, view the displays, and ask questions of project staff. A formal presentation was provided by the ADOT project design team. After the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions as well as revisit the stations. Copies of the meeting handouts can be found in Appendix C.

3.1 Display Boards

Display boards were created to illustrate the alignment revisions, study area, right of way and project development process considered to be of interest to the public as well as a board placed in an area for writing comments. A copy of the display boards provided at the meeting can be found in Appendix D of this report.

3.2 Presentation

A presentation was given to attendees at 6 p.m. The presentation can be found in Appendix E and covered the following topics:

- Meeting purpose
- Study area
- Study purpose and need
- Initial screening method and criteria
- Candidate Alternatives
- Revisions to Recommended Alternative
- Reevaluation of Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Next Steps

4.0 Public Comment Summary

This section presents a summary of the comments received during the comment period. All comments received were reviewed for the specific issues or recommendations raised by the commenter. During the comment period, comments could be submitted in a variety of ways, by mail, telephone, e-mail, and online. A total of thirty-three (33) comments were received as of July 28, 2016. Two (2) comment forms were received at the public meeting and thirty-one (31) comments were received via email.

4.1 Summary of Comments

General Comments (4 comments received)

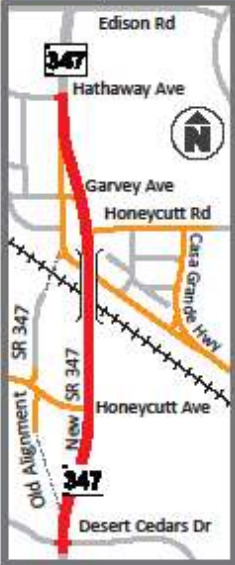
- Thank you for a very well put together presentation, easy to understand and very complete.
- I attended the meeting on July 14, but was not that familiar with the new proposed Alt H. It looks like the right things were done to expedite the project, and improvements to circulation. The one thing concerning me is the column of embankment to be constructed between the RR structure and the MCG roadway structure. Difficulty in construction and possible settlement are my reasons. I say this as two local ramps I drive regularly, 202 ramp to 101 NB in Chandler, and the 202 ramp to I-10 SB near Wild Horse Casino both have dips in them: from settlement or what?? All those daily heavy train movements right next to the proposed embankment could cause future settlement. Also, the cost?? The elimination of two abutments to span that portion seems more plausible for construction, and the cost should be about the same with a continuous pour of concrete for the structure. My opinion is that the one structure with continuous pour and continuous railings will also look better and be safer. Additionally, one long structure would provide some shade for parking underneath in the future. Normally concrete construction costs more than embankment, but for this short piece and limited working room I would think consideration of one structure would be worth looking into. Good job on the presentations and exhibits at the meeting.
- In reviewing preliminary plans, we note our parcel has limited or no access to the new 347 road effectively eliminating the primary north-south traffic flow from access to our parcel. Will there be an access point to our lands? If not, we request these accommodations be made to maintain the commercial viability of our parcel (left and right ingress/egress). We have already noted and requested the proposed cul-de-sac on "old" 347 be extended to the south to enable access to our parcel from "old town". How would the access point afforded the Baptist church affect our parcel and would we have ingress/egress rights at that point. Our intent is to preserve the commercial viability of our parcel and maintain the current exposure to north-south traffic.
- Resident of Desert Cedars, where construction begins in the southernmost area, active with HOA. Asked to inquire about possibility of moving utility poles and large metal utility boxes away from Desert Cedars entrance (347 W. Desert Cedars Drive). They interfere with ability to landscape and block neighborhood entrance sign. If petition or meeting with HOA representatives would help, please advise.

Flooding and Drainage (29 identical comments received)

- As a 10 year homeowner in the Desert Cedars Subdivision which is located just southeast of the planned 347 railroad overpass construction area, I am very concerned about potential flooding and drainage impacts on our subdivision during and after construction. We are upstream of the construction area in a very flat and level flood plain, part of the Vekol Wash tributary zone, where storm water flows generally north-by-northwest toward the railroad tracks, thence alongside the tracks westward until it eventually joins up with the Vekol Wash and goes northward via an underpass under the tracks. I would like some assurance that, during and after construction, provision will be made to maintain free flow of storm water/flood water from the area of our subdivision under the new ramp and bridge onward to the Vekol Wash unimpeded and able to handle flow rates as recommended by the Maricopa Flood Control District, such that the water won't get backed up into our area, potentially causing millions of dollars in property damage that should be avoided with proper planning and design now. I understand that there are rules and regulations covering this issue, but I want to bring this to your attention so this doesn't get lost in the process and is properly addressed as the ramps and bridge are designed and built. Failure now to design adequate storm water drainage under the new overpass construction will cripple future attempts to do so after the road is built, and at a much higher cost. Thank you for the work you all are doing for us on this project and thank you for inviting comments from the community to make this a synergistic process. We are excited about finally getting this overpass built.

Appendix A – Meeting Invitation

347
State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad Alignment Revisions
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016



█ New SR 347 alignment
 █ Other new alignments or improvements

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), invites you to attend a public information meeting for the State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad project. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on alignment revisions and gather community input.

Thursday, July 14, 2016 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Presentation at 6 p.m.
Maricopa Unified School District Board Room
44150 W Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy, Maricopa, AZ 85138

The revisions to Alternative H and the associated impacts to businesses and residences will be discussed during the public information meeting. This process is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The revisions to Alternative H will initiate the need for an EA Re-evaluation. The EA Re-evaluation is anticipated to be complete by Aug. 15, 2016. Final design is anticipated to be complete in 2017, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin late 2017 through late 2019.

The project team will be available to answer individual and property-specific questions and respond to feedback on the changes to the alignment at the public information meeting. Maps and displays will also be available for viewing.


Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ADOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability. Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact ADOT Community Relations at 855.712.8530 or projects@azdot.gov.

Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the state has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by calling 855.712.8530. Requests should be made by July 7, 2016. Any notice in another language other than English are translations of the original text written in English. These translations are not official and are not binding to the state or political subdivision of this state.

DOT Project No.: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D
Federal Project No.: 347-A(204)S

347
RUTA ESTATAL 347 EN REVISIONES DE ALINEACIÓN DE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
REUNIÓN PÚBLICA – EL JUEVES, 14 DE JULIO DE 2016



El Departamento de transporte de Arizona (ADOT), junto con la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), le invita a asistir a una reunión de información pública para el proyecto de la ruta estatal 347 en el Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). El propósito de esta reunión es proporcionar información sobre las revisiones de la alineación y recoger aportes de la comunidad.

El jueves, 14 de julio de 2016 - 5:30 a 7:30 p.m.
Presentación a las 6 p.m.
Maricopa Unified School District Board Room
44150 W Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy, Maricopa, AZ 85138

Las revisiones de la Alternativa H iniciarán la necesidad de una Nueva evaluación EA. La Nueva evaluación EA es esperada ser completa hacia el 15 de agosto de 2016. El diseño final es esperado ser completo en 2017, con la construcción provisionalmente programada comenzar a finales de 2017 durante finales de 2019.

El equipo de proyecto estará disponible para contestar preguntas concretas de la propiedad e individuales y responder a la reacción en los cambios en la alineación en la reunión de la información pública. Los mapas y las demostraciones también estarán disponibles para la inspección.

Los comentarios públicos son una parte importante del proceso de proyecto y son bienvenidos en cualquier momento para revisión y consideración. Para ser incluidos en el resumen de esta reunión, los comentarios escritos deben ser recibidos hacia el 28 de julio de 2016. Antes de la reunión informativa pública, el sitio web de proyecto: azdot.gov/347GS será actualizado para su revisión. Los comentarios pueden ser presentados aquí en cualquier momento durante el 28 de julio de 2016.


Para obtener información adicional, o a presentar observaciones por escrito, póngase en contacto con ADOT Oficial Superior de Relaciones con la Comunidad, Puki Rico llamando al 520.388.4233, o envíarlas por correo electrónico PRico@azdot.gov, o ir a azdot.gov/347GS, email Projects@azdot.gov o llame al 855.712.8530.

Personas que requieren asistencia o una adaptación razonable por habilidad limitada en inglés o discapacidad (ADA y Título VI) deben ponerse en contacto con: projects@azdot.gov o 855.712.8530. Las solicitudes deben hacerse tan pronto como sea posible para asegurar que el estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.

Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidad: personas con discapacidad puede solicitar alojamiento razonable llamando al 855.712.8530. Las solicitudes deben ser hechas por el 7 de julio de 2016. Cualquier anuncio en otro idioma distinto del inglés son traducciones del texto original escrito en inglés. Estas traducciones no son oficiales y no son vinculantes para el estado o subdivisión política de este estado.

DOT Project No.: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D
Federal Project No.: 347-A(204)S

Appendix B – Meeting Advertisement



State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad Alignment Revisions

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), invites you to attend a public information meeting for the State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad project. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on alignment revisions and gather community input.

Thursday, July 14, 2016—5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Presentation at 6 p.m.
Maricopa Unified School District Board Room
44150 W Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy, Maricopa, AZ 85138

ADOT, in conjunction with FHWA and the City of Maricopa, completed a study to evaluate alternatives and identify improvements to access, capacity and traffic operations through 2040. The study evaluated a future grade separation (bridge) to replace the existing at-grade intersection of SR 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track.

A total of ten alternatives were considered for the project. Three of the ten alternatives were recommended for further evaluation. A public hearing was held on December 3, 2014. Through the qualitative evaluation process, Alternative H was identified as the Selected Alternative. The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were issued on March 18, 2015. Alternative H has since been reevaluated to identify further improvements to access, capacity, and traffic operations. The revisions to Alternative H and the associated impacts to businesses and residences will be discussed during the public information meeting. This process is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The revisions to Alternative H will initiate the need for an EA Re-evaluation. The EA Re-evaluation is anticipated to be complete by Aug. 15, 2016. Final design is anticipated to be complete in 2017, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin late 2017 through late 2019.

The project team will be available to answer individual and property-specific questions and respond to feedback on the changes to the alignment at the public information meeting. Maps and displays will also be available for viewing.

Public comments are an important part of the project process and are welcome at any time for review and consideration. To be included in the summary of this meeting, written comments must be received by July 28, 2016. Prior to the public informational meeting, the project website: azdot.gov/347GS will be updated for your review. Comments may be submitted here at any time through July 28, 2016.

For additional information, or to submit comments in writing, please contact ADOT Senior Community Relations Officer, Paki Rico by calling 520.388.4233, or emailing PRico@azdot.gov, or go to azdot.gov/347GS, email projects@azdot.gov or call 855.712.8530.

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Estudio de la Ruta Estatal 347 en Union Pacific Railroad

El Departamento de transporte de Arizona (ADOT), junto con la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), le invita a asistir a una reunión de información pública para el proyecto de la ruta estatal 347 en el Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). El propósito de esta reunión es proporcionar información sobre las revisiones de la alineación y recoger aportes de la comunidad.

El jueves, 14 de julio de 2016—5:30 a 7:30 p.m.
Presentación a las 6 p.m.
Maricopa Unified School District Board Room
44150 W Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy, Maricopa, AZ 85138

ADOT, junto con FHWA y la Ciudad de Maricopa, completó un estudio para evaluar alternativas e identificar mejoras en acceso, capacidad y operaciones de tráfico hasta 2040. El estudio evaluó una futura separación del grado (puente) para sustituir la existencia en el grado la intersección de SR 347 en el UPRR.

Un total de diez alternativas se consideró para el proyecto. Tres de las diez alternativas fueron recomendadas para la evaluación adicional. Una audiencia pública fue sostenida el 3 de diciembre de 2014. A través del proceso de evaluación cualitativa, la Alternativa H fue identificada como la Alternativa Seleccionada. La Evaluación ambiental (EA) Final y el Descubrimiento de ningún impacto significativo (FONSI) fueron publicados el 18 de marzo de 2015. La alternativa H ha sido desde entonces reevaluada para identificar mejoras adicionales en acceso, capacidad y operaciones de tráfico. Hablarán de las revisiones de la Alternativa H y los impactos asociados a negocios y residencias durante la reunión de la información pública. Este proceso es conforme a Acta Nacional De Políticas Ecologistas (NEPA).


Las revisiones de la Alternativa H iniciarán la necesidad de una Nueva evaluación EA. La Nueva evaluación EA es esperada ser completa hacia el 15 de agosto de 2016. El diseño final es esperado ser completo en 2017, con la construcción provisionalmente programada comenzar a finales de 2017 durante fines de 2019.


El equipo de proyecto estará disponible para contestar preguntas concretas de la propiedad e individuales y responder a la reacción en los cambios en la alineación en la reunión de la información pública. Los mapas y las demostraciones también estarán disponibles para la inspección.

Los comentarios públicos son una parte importante del proceso de proyecto y son bienvenidos en cualquier momento para revisión y consideración. Para ser incluidos en el resumen de esta reunión, los comentarios escritos deben ser recibidos hacia el 28 de julio de 2016. Antes de la reunión informativa pública, el sitio web de proyecto: azdot.gov/347GS será actualizado para su revisión. Los comentarios pueden ser presentados aquí en cualquier momento durante el 28 de julio de 2016.

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Personas que requieren asistencia o una adaptación razonable por habilidad limitada en inglés o discapacidad (ADA y Título VI) deben ponerse en contacto con: projects@azdot.gov o 855.712.8530. Las solicitudes deben hacerse tan pronto como sea posible para asegurar que el estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.







ADOT Project No.: 347 PN 172 H7007 Federal Project No.: 347-A(204)S

16-174







FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 855.712.8530
azdot.gov/347GS
projects@azdot.gov

Appendix C – Meeting Handouts

ARIZONA 347 State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ADOT, in conjunction with FHWA and the City of Maricopa, completed a study to evaluate alternatives and identify improvements to access, capacity and traffic operations through 2040. The study evaluated a future grade separation (bridge) to replace the existing at-grade intersection of SR 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track.

SR 347 is Maricopa's main transportation corridor through the community, serving as a regional connector to major employment and recreation areas. Traffic averages over 31,000 vehicles per day and future (2040) projections show over 60,000 vehicles per day. Just south of the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, SR 347 crosses the existing UPRR where there are currently 40 to 60 trains per day; the UPRR has plans to expand service, which would increase train traffic upwards of 100 trains per day. Additionally, the Amtrak station is located just west of the intersection and vehicular traffic is routinely delayed for its passenger operations.

A total of ten alternatives were considered for the project. Three of the ten alternatives were recommended for further evaluation. A public hearing was held on December 3, 2014. Through the qualitative evaluation process, Alternative H was identified as the Selected Alternative. The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were issued on March 18, 2015. Alternative H has since been reevaluated to identify further improvements to access, capacity, and traffic operations. The revisions to Alternative H and the associated impacts to businesses and residences will be discussed during the public information meeting. This process is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The revisions to Alternative H will initiate the need for an EA Re-evaluation.



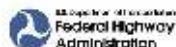
PROJECT TIMELINE



For more information: projects@azdot.gov | 855.712.8530

ADOT Project No.: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D Federal Project No.: 347-A(204)S

15-173



FOR MORE INFORMATION/ PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN
azdot.gov/SR347GS



State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad
 YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT/SU OPINION ES IMPORTANTE

Submit comments by July 28, 2016, in order to have them included in the project record./Someta sus comentarios antes del 28 de Julio, 2016, para que sean incluidos en el documento oficial del proyecto.

Comments may also be submitted online at azdot.gov/SR347./Comentarios también pueden ser presentadas en línea en azdot.gov/SR347.

Please Print/Por favor, use letra de molde

Name/Nombre _____ Email /Correo Electrónico _____

Address/Domicilio _____

City/Ciudad _____ State/Estado _____ Zip/Código Postal _____

General Comments/Comentarios Generales _____

Mail: Community Relations • 1655 W. Jackson St. • Mail Drop 126F • Phoenix, AZ 85007
 Email: projects@azdot.gov • Phone: 855.712.8530

ADOT Project No.: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D Federal Project No.: 347-A(204)S 16-171





FOR MORE INFORMATION/ PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN
azdot.gov/SR347

ARIZONA
347
Question Card
State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad
July 14, 2016 - Public Meeting

Please print clearly. Return your card to a project team member before or during the presentation.

My question/comment is regarding: (check topic/s please)

- Engineering Environmental Right of Way Other

ADOT Project Number: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D • Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S



ARIZONA
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July 14, 2016 - Public Meeting

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My question/comment is regarding: (check topic/s please)

- Engineering Environmental Right of Way Other

ADOT Project Number: 347 PN 172 H7007 02D • Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S



Public Information Meeting Summary



State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
 MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 44150 W MARICOPA-CASA GRANDE HWY MARICOPA, AZ 85138

Ruta Estatal 347 en el Union Pacific Railroad

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
 DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE MARICOPA
 44150 W MARICOPA-CASA GRANDE HWY MARICOPA, AZ 85138

Completion of this sign-in sheet is completely voluntary and helps the project team keep an accurate record of meeting attendees. Under state law, any identifying information provided below will become part of the public record and, as such, must be released to any individual upon request. Please print clearly.

La realización de su firma en la hoja es completamente voluntaria y ayuda al equipo del proyecto a mantener un registro exacto de asistentes de la reunión . Bajo la ley estatal, cualquier información de identificación proporcionada a continuación pasará a formar parte del registro público y, como tal, debe ser puesto en libertad a cualquier persona bajo petición. Por favor imprime claramente.

NAME/NOMBRE	TITLE/TÍTULO	COMPANY/EMPRESA	ADDRESS/DOMICILIO	PHONE/TELÉFONO	EMAIL/ CORREO ELECTRONICO



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
adot.gov/SR347

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Appendix D – Display Boards

347 State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

Alternative H



ADOT Project No. 347 PN 172 H7007 020
Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S

347 State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

Revised Alternative H



ADOT Project No. 347 PN 172 H7007 020
Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S

347 State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

Right of Way Comparison



ADOT Project No. 347 PN 172 H7007 020
Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S

347 State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad

Project Development Process



ADOT Project No. 347 PN 172 H7007 020
Federal Aid No. 347-A(204)S

Appendix E – Presentation

State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad Revisions to Recommended Alternative

Reevaluation of Environmental Assessment Public Review

July 14, 2016

Maricopa Unified School District Administrative Offices

ADOT study No. 347 PN 172 H7007 02D | Federal study No. 347-A(204)T



Welcome and Agenda

- ▶ Introduction of study team
- ▶ Meeting purpose
- ▶ Study area
- ▶ Study purpose and need
- ▶ Initial screening method and criteria
- ▶ Candidate Alternatives
- ▶ Revisions to Recommended Alternative
- ▶ Reevaluation of Environmental Assessment (EA)
- ▶ Next Steps

Design Team

- ▶ John Dickson, ADOT Project Manager
- ▶ Emily Lester, ADOT Environmental Planner
- ▶ Dave Edwards, ADOT Right of Way
- ▶ Bill Fay, City of Maricopa
- ▶ Elijah Williams, Consultant Study Manager
- ▶ Jeremy Casteel, Consultant Environmental Planner
- ▶ Eunice Chan, Federal Highway Administration Area Engineer

Meeting Purpose

- ▶ Provide an overview of the previously completed alternative selection process
- ▶ Discuss progress made
- ▶ Present refinements to recommended alternative
- ▶ Meet with design team
- ▶ Have your questions answered and provide an opportunity to incorporate your input

Project Area

- ▶ UPRR and SR 347 intersection
- ▶ The project area is within the City of Maricopa



Project Area

- ▶ UPRR and SR 347 intersection
- ▶ The project area is within the City of Maricopa
- ▶ The Heritage District surrounds the intersection
- ▶ The Ak-Chin Indian Community is one-half mile south of the project area



Purpose

- ▶ The purpose of the project is to evaluate potential grade separated crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and recommend a solution that would improve access, mobility and address congestion on SR 347.

Need

- ▶ The city of Maricopa is one of the fastest growing communities in the nation
 - Population has grown from 4,000 residents to 45,000 residents in the last decade
- ▶ SR 347 is the main transportation corridor through the community, serving as a regional connector to major employment and recreation areas
 - Daily traffic averages approximately 31,000 vehicles per day
 - Future traffic study projections (2040) show as many as 67,000 vehicles per day

Need

- ▶ SR 347 crosses the existing Union Pacific Railroad, which is currently double tracked
 - Currently about 40 trains per day
 - Plans for more than 100 trains per day in the future
- ▶ Amtrak's Maricopa Station is located adjacent to the SR 347/UPRR intersection
 - Passenger operations routinely stop traffic for 10 to 30 minutes resulting in substantial traffic delays

Alternatives

10 build alternatives were previously evaluated

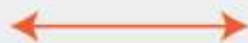
- Three alternatives came from a 2007 Feasibility Study
- Seven additional concepts were evaluated
- No-build alternative



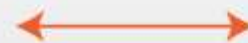
Screening Results

Evaluation Criteria	Alignment Alternatives									
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F2	Alt F3	Alt F5	Alt G	Alt H
Maintenance of Traffic/Constructability	4	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	3
Minimum Design Speed (Other Arterials)	5	5	3	3	5	5	3	4	5	3
Drainage/Floodplain Impacts	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Cultural Resources	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	5
Physical and Natural Resources	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lane Miles/Future Maintenance	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	3
Section 4(f) Resources	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Right-of-Way	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	1	4
Utility Conflicts	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Residential/Commercial Impacts	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	3	1	4
Traffic Operations	3	3	2	1	2	2	3	4	1	4
Multi-Modal Transportation	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	4
Preliminary Cost Estimate	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	1	3
Total Score	43	37	42	41	44	47	42	42	30	47

Highest Impact/
Worst Performance



Moderate Impact/
Ave Performance



Lowest Impact/
Best Performance

● 1pt

● 2pts

● 3pts

● 4pts

● 5pts

Screening Results

- Three build alternatives, plus the no-build alternative were recommended for further refinement/evaluation

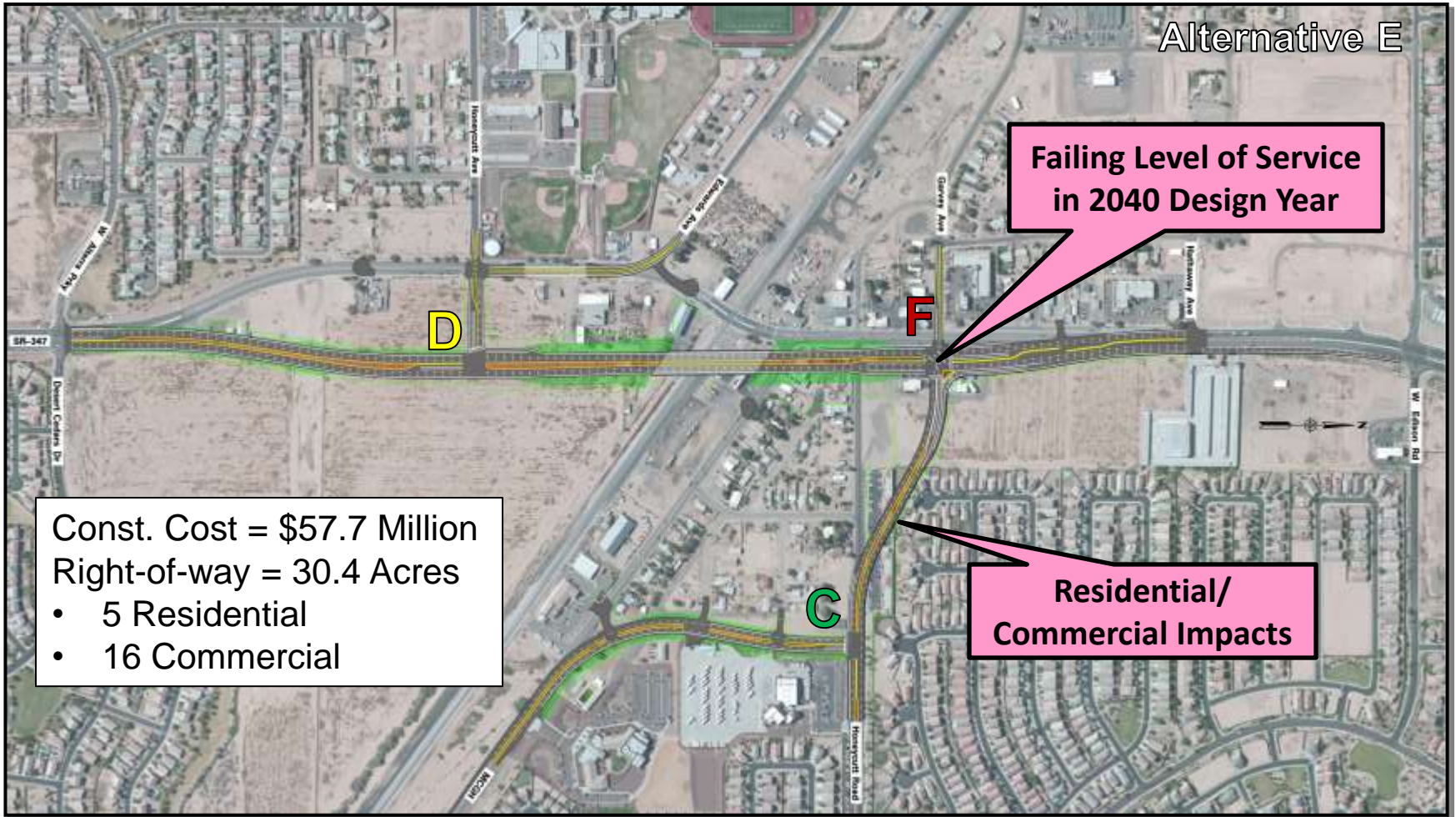


Alternative Development

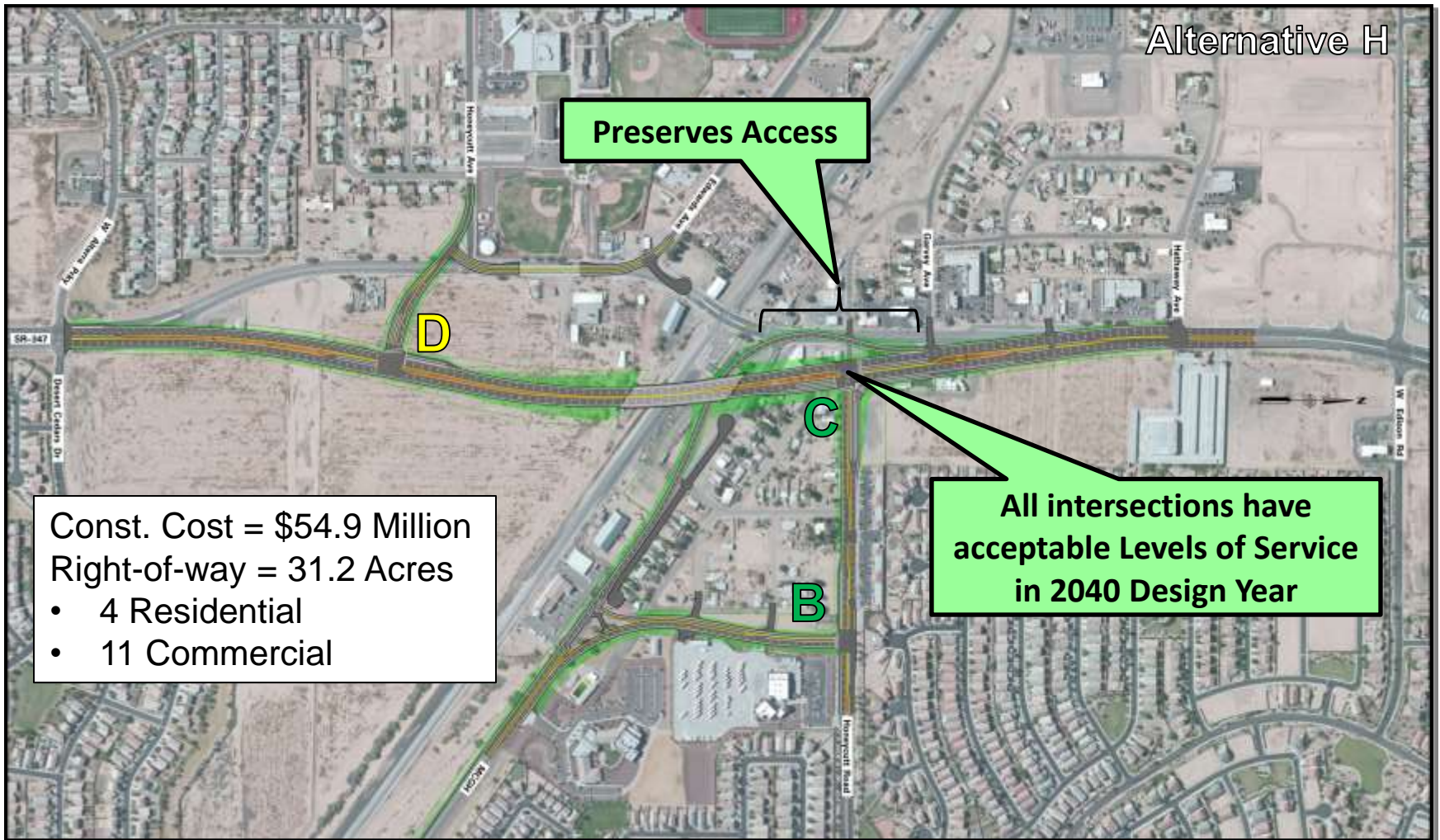
The three alternatives were developed in greater detail.

- Roadway profiles refined
- Right-of-way impacts
- Environmental Assessment (Cultural, Biological, 4(f), Air Quality, Noise/Visual, Drainage, etc.)
- Construction cost estimates
- Traffic operations (Intersection Level of Service Analysis)
- Access to properties

Alternative E (Not Recommended)



Alternative H (Recommended)



National Environmental Policy Act Process

- ▶ Federal Law(s) requiring federal agencies or agencies using federal funds to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions.
- ▶ Potential effects evaluated pertain to natural, social and economic concerns.
- ▶ Process provides an opportunity for the public and agencies to offer input and/or comment
- ▶ Assists in the final decision-making process

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

- ▶ A document that is prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, which includes:
 - The need and purpose of the project
 - The alternatives evaluated
 - The environmental impacts of the recommended alternatives:
 - Land use, environmental justice, cultural resources, hazardous materials, etc.
 - Coordination with agencies and the public

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

- ▶ An EA is developed when the significance of potential project impacts are uncertain. The result of the document is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or the need for an Environmental Impact Statement.
- ▶ The EA was completed in Spring 2015.
 - Public scoping meeting July 10, 2012, Public Alternatives Overview meeting June 6, 2013, and Public Hearing December 3, 2014.
 - Public input was considered during design and all comments were recorded within the EA.
 - The Final EA and FONSI were signed by the Federal Highway Administration on March 18, 2015.

What do design revisions mean for the EA?

- Design revisions will require the need for the continuation of NEPA.
- A Reevaluation of the EA will determine if the final EA and FONSI remain valid.
- Impacts susceptible to changes and under review will included, but are not limited to: Land ownership and Land use, Demographics and Environmental Justice, and Cultural Resources.
- **Public input is important to this process. Comments and questions will be addressed in the EA reevaluation. All comments must be submitted by July 28, 2016.**

TIGER Grant

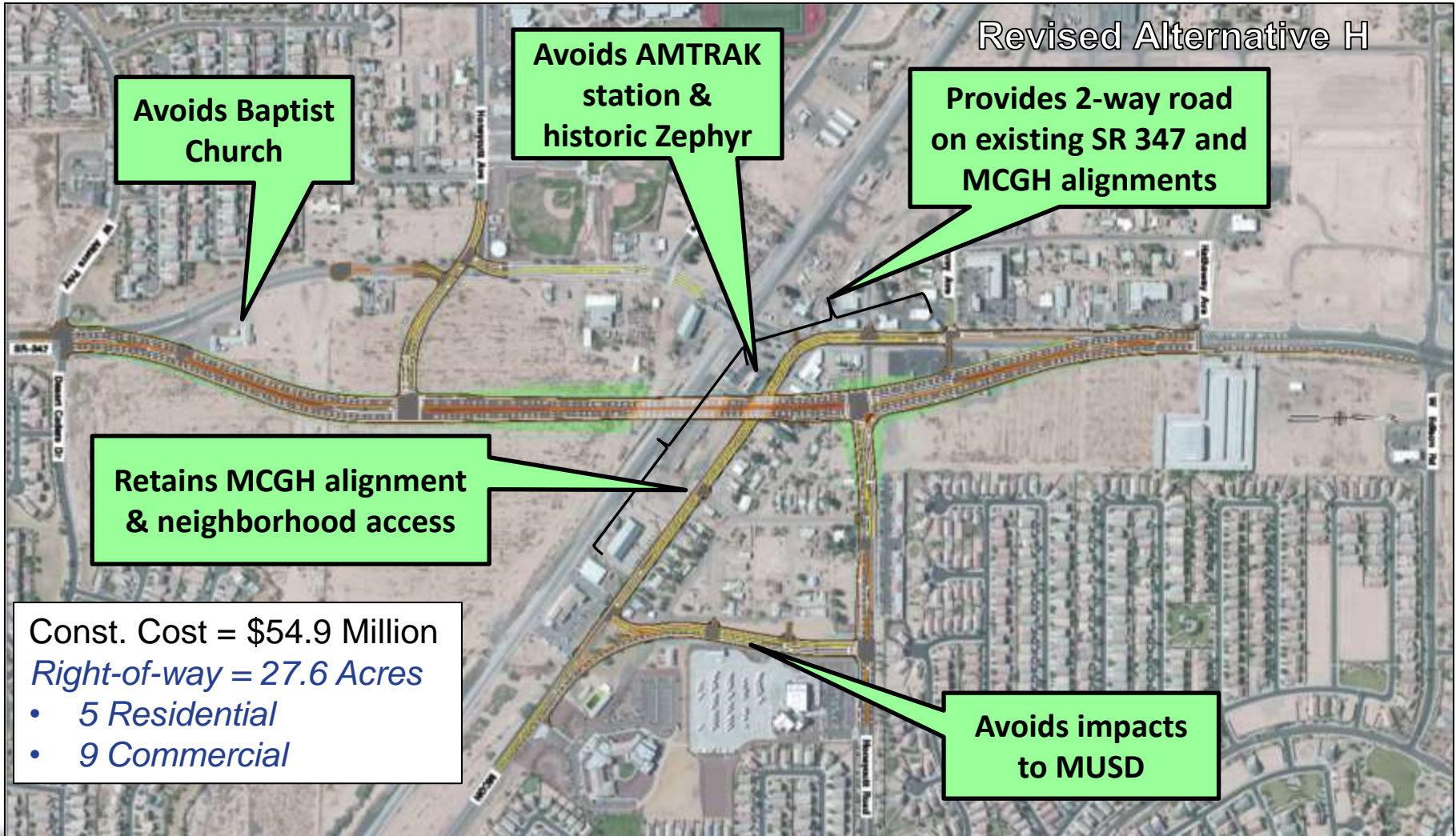
(Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery)

- ▶ Federal grant program that funds infrastructure improvements with the potential to promote economic growth.
- ▶ State was awarded a \$15 million grant to help fund the SR 347 bridge over the railroad tracks
- ▶ Specific schedule deadlines must be met to be eligible to receive federal funds.

Cost Risk Assessment & Value Engineering (CRAVE)

- ▶ Evaluates potential risks to completing the project and develops mitigation strategies
- ▶ Looks at possible engineering alternatives that enhance the overall value of the project

Alternative H (Revised)





DCR
Alternative H



Revised
Alternative H

Right-of-way Differences



Next Steps

Feasibility Study Report Completed in 2007

DETAILED STUDY

Initial Scoping

Summer 2012

Alternatives
Development –
Environmental
Studies

Summer/Fall 2012

Initial Design
Concept Report –
Draft Environmental
Study

Winter 2014

Final Design
Concept Report –
Final Environmental
Study

Spring 2015

1

We are here

FINAL STEPS

Design and
Reevaluation of EA

Summer 2016-2017

Right-of-way
Acquisition

Summer 2016-2017

Construction

Fall 2017-2019

Maintenance and
Monitoring

Winter 2019

2

Your input is Important

Comments must be received or postmarked by August 15 to be included in the meeting record

- Provide comments tonight
- Mail in written comments
 - c/o SR347, 1655 W Jackson, #126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Email comments – SR347@azdot.gov
- Phone - 855.712.8530

**Thank you
for attending**