



# Loop 101 and Interstate 10 System Traffic Interchange

## Feb. 23, 2023 Public Meeting Summary Report

ADOT Project No. F047501L | Federal Aid No. 101-A(218)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is conducting a study to evaluate improvements to the Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) and Interstate 10 system interchange in the West Valley. The purpose of this study is to evaluate alternatives for improving the interchange to enhance regional travel and safety, to reduce congestion and improve connectivity.

Maricopa County is one of the largest and fastest-growing regions in the United States, and the county's population is expected to increase by nearly 30 percent between 2020 and 2040. Traffic volume projections indicate congestion will worsen in the future due to growth in the region.

Figure 1: Project Area Map



## 2.0 PUBLIC MEETING

ADOT held a public meeting for the study on Feb. 23, 2023. This was the second public meeting for the project, the first having been held Oct. 26, 2022. The purpose of the first public meeting was to provide information on the project purpose and need, along with alternatives being considered for improvements. The purpose of the second meeting was to present draft recommendations for the direct HOV ramp configuration, new 91st Avenue ramp connection and associated modifications to Loop 101 and I-10. Both meetings provided opportunities for the public to ask questions and make comments.

The Feb. 23, 2023, public meeting was hosted in person at Sheely Farms Elementary School, in proximity to the I-10/Loop 101 interchange and within the project study limits. The meeting featured pre-recorded video presentations in English and Spanish, flyover video simulations of the draft recommendations, poster boards with information about the analysis of alternatives and project progress, and large aerial design roll plots laid out on tables that depicted the Loop 101 and I-10 configurations for the draft recommendations, as well as associated improvements, including proposed locations of noise walls. The presentation boards also were available in handout form in both English and Spanish. Members of the ADOT project team were on hand to greet participants and answer their questions, and comment forms were available for participants to provide their input in writing. Spanish-speaking team members also attended to provide Spanish interpretation as needed.

Project team members from ADOT and the project design consulting team staffed the meeting. Staff included:

- Chris Labye, AECOM
- Daina Mann, ADOT
- David Black, Central Creative (Spanish Language Interpreter)
- Debi Bohnet, Jacobs
- Joe D'Onofrio, Jabos
- Joselyn Valero, ADOT
- Josie Olmos, ADOT
- Kate Bondy, AECOM
- Kim Larson, ADOT
- Kristin Darr, Central Creative
- Michael Carlson, ADOT
- Michael Okamoto, Jacobs
- Nancy Becerra, ADOT
- Randy Everett, ADOT
- Rashidul Haque, ADOT
- Rodney Bragg, AECOM
- Sam Rivera, Jacobs (Spanish Language Interpreter)
- Steve O'Brien, ADOT
- Troy Sieglitz, Jacobs
- Wesley Scatena, Burgess & Niple
- Sara Martinez, ADOT

Additional staff from FHWA and ADOT's project partner agencies, the Maricopa Association of Governments, city of Phoenix and city of Avondale, were also in attendance.

Staff were present to ensure that all participants were oriented to the materials and able to ask questions and discuss the project with subject matter experts. Participants were notified that comments and questions about the project could also be submitted during the public comment period through email, telephone, mail or online comment form. Participants were notified that all project related materials, including the presentation, were available online.

The presentation and script were translated into Spanish and posted to the project website. Eight people attended the public meeting in person. No written comment forms were received at the meeting. Fourteen people provided comments during the comment period using the online

comment form. Of the 14 people that completed the online comment form, three indicated that they heard about the meeting by direct mail, nine by email, and two by social media.

## 2.1 Public Meeting Notification

### 2.1.1 Project Website

ADOT hosts a website dedicated to this project at [www.azdot.gov/I10-Loop101-TI](http://www.azdot.gov/I10-Loop101-TI). The website was launched on Aug. 2, 2022, and provides a project overview, including the project elements, timeline, and project fact sheets in English and Spanish.

All information and materials related to the public meeting were posted to the project website, including:

- Meeting notice with date, time and location
- Public meeting presentation slides—English and Spanish
- Narrated slide presentation—English and Spanish
- Boards/exhibits—English and Spanish
- Flyover video—English and Spanish

Copies of the public meeting presentation and boards/exhibits posted to the website are included in Appendix A.

### 2.1.2 GovDelivery Emails

Information on how to participate in the virtual public meeting and reminder notices were distributed by ADOT on Feb. 15, 21, and 27 via GovDelivery to approximately 18,000 subscribers of ADOT's I-10 Papago Freeway (SR 85 to I-17) and Loop 101 Agua Fria Freeway email topic lists. Meeting information was also sent by email from the Community Relations Project Manager to the 215 community stakeholders on the project contact list, which includes businesses, schools, HOAs and other key contacts in the project area to share with their constituents. Copies of the GovDelivery notices can be found in Appendix B.

### 2.1.3 News Release

ADOT Public Information staff distributed a news release to media outlets on Feb. 15, 2023. The news release can be found in Appendix B.

### 2.1.4 Social Media

ADOT staff posted on Twitter Feb. 8, 21, and 27, on Facebook Feb. 15 and 27, and on Next Door Feb. 15, 21, and 28. to provide information about the public meeting and commenting opportunities. Additionally, the city of Glendale shared ADOT's Facebook post on Feb. 16, and the city of Avondale shared ADOT's Twitter post on Feb. 15. Images of the social media posts can be found in Appendix C.

### 2.1.5 Direct Mail

Postcards in English and Spanish were sent via First Class bulk mail to all residential and business properties (13,250 total) within 1-mile of the project. The 9" x 6" postcard included information about the project, an invitation to attend the public meeting, how to provide comments, the

comment deadline, how to get more information on the project via the website and project contact information. The postcards were sent on Feb. 6, 2023. A copy of the postcard is included in Appendix A.

## 2.1.6 Earned Media

News coverage about the public meeting included: *The Phoenix Independent* on Feb. 15, 2023; KTAR Radio on Feb. 18, 2023; and *CITY Sun Times* on Feb. 21, 2023. Copies can be found in Appendix D.

## 2.2 Public Meeting Materials

A variety of public meeting materials were made available to the public in both English and Spanish online via the project website, and are included in Appendix A. These public meeting materials included:

- Presentation
- Exhibit Boards (also available in handout form)
- Fact sheet
- Online comment form

### 2.2.1 Presentation

The presentation can be found in Appendix A and covered the following topics:

- Purpose of Public Meeting
- Project Need
- Existing and Future Traffic Conditions
- Project Purpose
- No Build Alternative
- Overview of Potential Improvements
- Direct High-Occupancy Vehicle (DHOV) Ramp Alternative B
- DHOV Ramp Alternative F
- SB Loop 101 Ramp to 91<sup>st</sup> Ave Alternative 1
- SB Loop 101 Ramp to 91<sup>st</sup> Ave Alternative 2
- SB Loop 101 Ramp to 91<sup>st</sup> Ave Alternative 3
- Recommended Traffic Interchange Improvements
- Environmental Considerations
- Project Funding
- Study Timeline
- Next Steps
- Information on how to provide input and contact information

### 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section summarizes the comments received during the public comment period from Feb. 23 through March 9. Comments could be submitted through the following methods: mail, telephone, email and online. A total of 18 comments were received through the following methods:

- Online comments : 14
- Project information telephone line comments: 0
- Email comments: 4
- Public meeting comments: 0
- Mail: 0

The public comments and questions are included in Appendix E.

#### 3.1 Summary of Comments

The comment form provided at the public meeting and online asked for input on each of the alternatives under consideration, including the following:

- DHOV ramp Alternative B
- DHOV ramp Alternative F
- 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue connector ramp Alternative 2
- 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue connector ramp Alternative 3

Feedback about each of the alternatives was mixed between support and opposition; however, general support for the DHOV ramp and 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue connector ramp concepts was expressed. Comments and questions received during the public comment period and at the virtual public meeting addressed the following topics:

- Unaddressed need for congestion relief southbound Loop 101 to westbound I-10
- Need for noise abatement
- Need for auxiliary lane on eastbound I-10 between 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
- Concerns about traffic increasing on 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Construction impacts
  - Need to identify alternate routes during construction
  - Dust
  - Impacts on local traffic
- Support for overall 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Connector Ramp concept
- Support for 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Connector Ramp Alternative 2
- Opposition to 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Connector Ramp Alternative 3
- Support for overall DHOV ramp concept
- Support for DHOV Ramp Alternative F
- Support for DHOV Ramp Alternative B
- Suggestion for implementation of diverging diamond interchanges
- Suggestion for “feeder road” for southbound Loop 101 exiting at Indian School and feeding down to Thomas

## **4.0 TITLE VI REPORTING**

### **4.1 Self ID Surveys**

Meeting participants were asked to complete ADOT's voluntary self-identification survey for Title VI reporting purposes. Links to the survey were also provided in English and Spanish in the online comment form. A total of 8 people completed the self-ID survey.

Of the 8 self-identification survey responses, 1 participant identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2 identified as Hispanic/Latino, 1 identified as Asian, and 4 identified as White.

### **4.2 Civil Rights Meeting Summary**

A Civil Rights public meeting summary documenting ADOT's compliance with Title VI and Title II nondiscrimination and accommodations was submitted to the ADOT Civil Rights Office following the meeting, on March 9.