

# **DBE NEWSLETTER**

Thursday | March 21, 2024

#### **Business Engagement and Compliance**

## Public Comment Begins for Tentative Five-Year Construction Program

ADOT's proposed 2025-2029 focus: upgrading pavement, improving major corridors

The Arizona Department of Transportation is targeting pavement improvements and expanding several key highways as major parts of its Tentative Five-Year Construction Program for 2025-2029. This proposed annual update to the ADOT's list of projects in design and construction is now available for public comment through late May.

A major emphasis of the proposed \$7.9 billion tentative program is improving highway pavement and bridge infrastructure throughout greater Arizona, which encompasses areas outside of Maricopa and Pima counties. The plan would provide more than \$2.4 billion for these high-priority improvements during the next five years. This amounts to an average investment of approximately \$600 million per year to preserve, rehabilitate and replace pavement and bridges, including:

- \$508 million in pavement projects on interstates 10, 17 and 40.
- \$690 million in pavement projects on other routes, including US 93 and 60, and state routes 64, 160, 260 and 347.
- \$170 million in bridge projects on the interstates and \$82 million on other routes.

The program provides a total of \$685 million over five years for projects that improve highway safety, efficiency and functionality, such as intersection improvements, smart technology and adding shoulders.





- •WRX Contracting LLC
- R&B Hydroblasting LLC



The Timeless Guide to Clarity in Design and Construction Communication: The Elements of Style



Contract Awarded for I-40/US 93 Interchange Project in Kingman



Arizona Construction Lost 2,500 Jobs in January

- **EVENTS**
- OPPORTUNITIES
- EXTERNAL LINKS

www.azdot.gov/beco



# Public Comment Begins for Tentative Five-Year Construction Program (Cont'd)

The tentative program also allocates \$495 million for projects that widen highways or improve interchanges across greater Arizona, including:

- Constructing the Interstate 40/US 93 West Kingman Interchange.
- Widening and improving US 93 between Wickenburg and I-40 in Kingman, including expanding three segments of the highway from two to four lanes. The US 93 improvements include <u>the ongoing widening project near Wickenburg</u>, along with new projects near Cane Springs and Big Jim Wash.
- Widening the last two-lane section of State Route 260 in the Lion Springs area between Payson and Heber-Overgaard. This will complete a four-lane divided highway along the entire SR 260 corridor.

In the Maricopa County region, the program features \$2.5 billion in construction projects planned in conjunction with the Maricopa Association of Governments. Those projects include:

- Widening Interstate 10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande. The I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor will have four projects, including the construction of the I-10 bridges over the Gila River, expected to go into construction later this spring.
- Extending Loop 303 between Van Buren Street and Maricopa County 85 starting in 2025.
- Widening I-10 between State Route 85 and Citrus Road in the far West Valley starting in 2025.
- Providing new <u>HOV ramp connections between I-10 and Loop</u> <u>101</u> starting in 2025
- Reconstructing the intersection where <u>US 60 (Grand Avenue)</u> <u>intersects 35th Avenue and Indian School Road</u>. The rebuilt intersection would separate cross traffic from Grand Avenue and the existing railroad crossing to improve traffic flow and safety, starting in 2025.

In Pima County, in association with the Pima Association of Governments, the program includes \$849 million toward:

- <u>I-10 improvements from Kino to Country Club</u>, which includes building a new interchange at I-10 and Country Club Road, while also widening I-10 in the area starting in 2025.
- Reconstructing the I-19 interchange at Irvington Road starting in 2025.

Funding for the statewide program comes from federal and state dollars, in addition to money generated by users of transportation services in Arizona, primarily through gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and the Arizona vehicle license tax. Both the Maricopa and Pima county regions have voter-approved sales taxes for transportation that funds expansion projects. ADOT's five-year program is developed by working closely with local governments, regional transportation planning organizations and Indian Tribal Communities to prioritize projects that are ready to build or design.

For the first time, ADOT is including a searchable project dashboard that allows the public to look for projects by highway number, project name or other identifying features. The database is available at <u>azdot.gov/5yeardashboard</u>.

The public comment period for the 2025-2029 Tentative Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program ends at 5 p.m. Friday, May 24. The State Transportation Board is expected to consider formal action on the final program at its June 21 meeting.

The tentative program is available at <u>azdot.gov/tentative5year</u> for review and comment. ADOT welcomes feedback via an online form that will be available at <u>azdot.gov/5yearcomments</u>, by email at <u>fiveyearconstructionprogram@azdot.gov</u> and by phone at 855.712.8530.

Public comments also may be made at a public hearing of the State Transportation Board scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, May 17. Meeting information can be found at <u>aztransportationboard.gov</u>.





## **Lessons From the 20th Century**

#### The Timeless Guide to Clarity in Design and Construction Communication: The Elements of Style

In today's demanding design and construction world, the precision and integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and the clarity of communication can mean the difference between success and failure. Entrepreneurs of all sizes must have the ability to convey complex ideas with simplicity and vigor.

This is where "The Elements of Style" – a compact, definitive guide to writing – commands respect, despite its initial publication nearly a century ago in 1935.

William Strunk Jr., an English professor at Cornell University, first created this guide for his students, emphasizing the importance of brevity, clarity and assertiveness. In 1959, E.B. White, Strunk's former student and famed author, revised the book, ensuring its prescriptions for prose would resonate with future generations. Over the years, this concise handbook has been updated to reflect contemporary language use while maintaining the core principles that have made it an indispensable tool for writers across disciplines.

Effective communication for design and construction entrepreneurs in 2024 remains as critical as it was when Strunk and White penned their advice. As they wrote, "Vigorous writing is concise."

In an industry driven by innovation and fast-paced projects, succinctly conveying your vision, needs and instructions can accelerate understanding and execution, which is paramount to meeting schedules and budgets.

Here's why "The Elements of Style" is more relevant than ever for today's professionals:

**Precision is Key:** The guide's central tenet, "Omit needless words," is a mantra for construction documents and client proposals. In a field where every detail counts, extraneous words can muddy the waters, leading to misinterpretation and costly errors. Good editing creates good writing.

Active Voice Commands: Strunk and White advocate for the active voice, which is direct and powerful. When coordinating teams or pitching to clients, a sentence like "The team will complete the project by third quarter" leaves a stronger impression and less ambiguity than "The project will be completed by third quarter."

**Consistency Builds Trust:** A hallmark of good style is consistency, which applies equally to writing as to architectural design or construction standards. Consistent communication fosters a sense of reliability and professionalism. Review your Style Guide and make sure your communication matches your brand voice.

**Embrace Modernity, Respect Tradition:** While "The Elements of Style" dates back to 1935, its wisdom is not locked in time. Entrepreneurs must balance the evolving language of the digital age with time-tested rules of clarity and elegance that the guide champions.

**Crafting Your Narrative:** Every design tells a story, and how you articulate that narrative can captivate your audience. The book's focus on elementary rules of usage and principles of composition is as much about storytelling as it is about grammar.

**Cultural Significance:** Understanding the history of "The Elements of Style" is to appreciate the cultural significance of clear expression. It has shaped not only generations of writers but also thinkers, creators and innovators in fields as diverse as law, academia, and, yes, design and construction.

In summary, "The Elements of Style" endures not just as a guide to writing well but as a beacon for effective communication. Its lessons remind us that whether drafting a contract, a project proposal or a marketing campaign, the clarity and quality of our words can build the foundation for success in any venture.

For entrepreneurs navigating the complexities of 2024, embracing the guidance of Strunk and White is not just about honoring a legacy; it is about crafting a future that is understood, respected and executed with precision.



3



# Contract Awarded for I-40/US 93 Interchange Project in Kingman

#### **Construction Starts this Summer on Free-flowing Connection**

The State Transportation Board has awarded a \$106 million construction project to build a free-flowing traffic interchange for Interstate 40 and US 93 in Kingman.

With the contract awarded to Fisher Sand & Gravel Co. during the board's meeting on Friday, March 15, construction is expected to begin this summer and take two and a half years.

The interchange in west Kingman is designed to reduce congestion on the highly traveled route between Phoenix and Las Vegas while improving safety, travel times and reliability. While vehicles now must stop at a traffic signal where Beale Street intersects with I-40, the system-to-system interchange will feature ramps that allow traffic to flow freely.

The interchange is designed to handle projected traffic growth for the next 25 years.

For more information, please visit azdot.gov/WestKingmanTl.





## Arizona Construction Lost 2,500 Jobs in January

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from December 2023 to January 2024, remaining at 4.2%, according to the latest <u>report</u> published by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

The national unemployment rate was also unchanged monthto-month at 3.7%. Last December, Arizona had a seasonally adjusted rate of 3.7%, while the national rate was 3.4%.

The construction sector lost 2,500 jobs around the state from December through January.

Arizona had a not-seasonally adjusted loss of 38,300 jobs in nonfarm employment in November 2023. "Prior to the pandemic (2010-2019), NSA nonfarm employment lost 51,000 jobs on average in January," the report states.

The private sector shed 36,800 jobs over the month, led by trade, transportation and utilities losing 14,600 and leisure and hospitality dropping 5,600. Government lost 1,500 in January.

Ten of the 11 sectors tracked reported decreases in December. No sector gained jobs, but natural resources and mining was unchanged. Year-over-year, eight of the 11 sectors reported gains, including construction's addition of 12,700 jobs.

It should be noted the January report marks the "yearly reset" to employment data known as "benchmarking." According to the report notice, "Prior to the release of January estimates each year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics Program revises monthly historical employment estimates. These monthly estimates are revised using detailed and highly accurate data produced through the Office of Economic Opportunity's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. QCEW data provides a quarterly count of all employment subject to unemployment insurance tax law. This covers approximately 98% of total U.S. jobs. Information on the remaining 2% of employment is obtained from other sources, and the QCEW data is adjusted to obtain a count of total employment within the state."

For the construction sector, pre- and post-benchmark data showed 193,500 and 196,300 jobs, respectively. For 2023, the benchmarked job estimates changed from 199,100 prebenchmark to 211,900 post.

#### **Construction Employment**

Statewide construction employment totals 215,600 jobs. In January 2023, the sector reported 202,900.

The Arizona construction sector features three major segments: buildings, heavy and specialty trades. There are currently 45,900 jobs in buildings, which is up 100 from December and up 2,700 from January 2023. Heavy construction lost 400 for the month, for a total of 25,400, but added 2,400 over the year. Specialty trades lost 2,200 over the month for a total of 144,300, and the segment gained 7,600 year-over-year.

Construction jobs in the Phoenix Metro Area (Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale) fell 2,300 over the month for a total of 171,900. The January 2023 number was 161,000. Metro Tucson dropped 100 construction jobs over the month at 20,900, which is an increase of 1,200 year-over-year.

Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott, Lake Havasu City-Kingman and Sierra Vista-Douglas combine mining and construction jobs in reporting their job sector totals. Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott and Lake Havasu City-Kingman were all unchanged. Yuma reported 3,700; Flagstaff had 3,000; Prescott saw 7,200 and Lake Havasu City-Kingman reported 4,700. Sierra Vista-Douglas fell 100, reporting 2,100 construction jobs for the month.

#### Arizona & U.S. Construction Employment Year-to-Year Percent Change



5



#### **Business Engagement and Compliance**

ADOT/BECO

Other **Associations** 







# MARCH



Local First AZ: Keep Arizona Beautiful **Superior Cleanup** 

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: U.S. 60 Park, Basketball Courts

830 U.S. 60, Superior



11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Biltmore Center Conference

2398 E. Camelback Road, Ste. 180, Phoenix



#### AAED: Green Academy Course -**Economic Development in Arizona**

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Location: Tower at Rio

2323 W. 14th St., Room 515, Tempe



INDUSTRY EVENTS

Thursday | March 21, 2024

ABA: Lloyd and CAPLA Scholarship **Awards Dinner** 

5:30 - 8 p.m. Location: UA Sundt Gallery 1040 N. Olive, Tucson

**\*\*ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS\*\*** Need help preparing DBE affidavits? Please see our tutorial video below:

"Preparing DBE Affidavits"

26

Valley Partnership Annual Spring **Training Networking Event** 

12:05 p.m. Location: Sloan Park 2330 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa



**ABA: Liens and Prompt Pay - What You Need to Know** 

9:30 - 11 a.m. Location: ABA Tucson Office 1661 N. Swan Road, Ste. 144, Tucson

# **APRIL**



1 - 3 p.m.

Location: TBD

Weitz: Small and Diverse Business **Outreach Event** 



Sundt: Pre-bid for ADOT I-10 Country **Club Road and Kino Parkway TI's** 

2 p.m.

Location: TBD









## **Featured Federal-Aid Projects**

### **CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS**

	1	1	1	i		
Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Туре	Project Owner and Description	Contact
4/5/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$10 million	6.14%	095-B(217)T; F042701C	<u>IFB</u>	ADOT - <b>Pavement Rehabilitation, Yuma to</b> <b>Quartzite Highway (US-95) from Aberdeen Road</b> <b>to Castle Dome Mine Road.</b> The work consists of milling and replacing the existing asphaltic concrete, chip seal, removal and replacement of concrete tank crossing, Bridge deck mechanical milling and polyester polymer concrete overlay.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov.
4/12/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$10.1 million	9.67%	191-B-NFA; F058001C	IFB	ADOT - <b>Pavement Rehabilitation, Armory</b> <b>Road to US 70.</b> The work consists of pavement rehabilitation, including milling the existing asphaltic concrete and replacing it with new asphaltic concrete and a fog coat, grading roadway for pavement, removing and reconstructing sidewalk ramps, pavement marking and other related work.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov.
4/19/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$12.6 million	11.48%	069-A-(217)T; H873901C	IFB	ADOT - Widen Roadway, Cordes Junction to Prescott Highway from Prescott Lakes Parkway to Heather Heights. The work consists of widen- ing, milling and paving the roadway; constructing curb and gutter, raised median, installing new pipe culverts and storm drains; removing and installing a traffic signal; box culvert extension, signing, striping and other related work.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov.

#### External Links:

ADOT Current Advertisements

ADOT Engineering Advertisements

ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives

ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects

**Bidding Opportunities Around the State** 

#### **DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM**

1801 W. Jefferson St., Ste. 101, Phoenix AZ 602.712.7761 DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov

# ADOT DBE & SMALL BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION EXPO

Mesa Convention Center, Building C • Tuesday, May 7th • 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

# In-Person & Free to Attend • ADOTDBEEXPO.com

# **Who Should Attend?**

SOAR

2024

- Certified DBEs, SBEs and SBCs.
- Small Businesses who want to work on Transportation Projects.
- Design and Engineering Firms.
- General Contractors involved in Transportation Projects.
- Trade Contractors and Service Providers on Transportation Projects.
- Non-Profits who Provide services to Small Businesses.
- Public Agencies.



# Helping Your Small Business SOAR in 2024

The ADOT DBE & Small Business Transportation EXPO is one of the best events to connect with potential clients and find out about upcoming work. Attendees will hear about upcoming projects from transportation leaders including: ADOT, MCDOT, the city of Phoenix Public Transit and Street Transportation Departments, Valley Metro and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Some of the Valley's largest engineering and construction firms will be hosting tables and meeting new potential subconsultants, subcontractors and service providers for their projects. Additionally, small businesses can find out about a host of assistance programs through nonprofits and Technical Procurement Assistance Centers.

## Don't delay, register today!















**DBE Supportive Services** 

# Business Development Program

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

The ADOT Business Development Program (BDP) provides a highquality education and interaction with subject-matter experts. From coaching & mentoring to practical tools and *more* - all to help **YOU** grow your knowledge and business!

Questions? Contact DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT THE FORMS AND Enrol Ioccey

# I-17, ANTHEM WAY TI TO JCT. SR 69 (CORDES JUNCTION)



PROJECT OWNER Arizona Department of Transportation

#### PROJECT NAME

I-17, Anthem Way TI to Jct. SR 69 (Cordes Junction) Phoenix – Cordes Junction Highway

Public-Private Partnership Design-Build-Operate-Maintain Agreement

PROJECT NUMBER 17 MA 229 H6800 01C / NHPP-017-A(228)S

DBE participation goal established for this project:

**10.16%** for Professional Services

10.88% for Construction Work

#### OUR TEAM

The Kiewit-Fann Joint Venture (KFJV) is a strategic partnership between two trusted Arizona firms that have extensive experience working in rural environments, delivering highway projects. KFJV team members have an extensive history together on successful design-build and CMAR projects and have long-standing relationships with ADOT, local jurisdictions, and the community.

#### POTENTIAL SUBCONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

KFJV is seeking diverse and local firms interested in pursuing multiple scopes of work on the I-17 Anthem Way project. The following scopes are open for solicitation:

- Buy PVC & CIP Wall Embeds
- De-lead Existing Bridge Bearings
- Handrail
- Bridge Deck Grooving
- Nursery Stock Trees
- Rock Bolt Walls

- Install Rock Anchors/Shotcrete
- · Remove Ground Mounted Signs
- Routine Maintenance Damaged Sign F&I
- Weld Bearing Replacements
- Slipform & CIP Concrete Barrier
- Flatwork

# NORTH

Attachments: Wage Decision No. AZ20210008 Mod No. 0 - Dated 01/01/2021

#### TAKE THE FIRST STEPS

Head to <u>https://www.kiewit.com/business-with-us/opportunities/i-17-anthem-way-project/</u> to complete the Subcontractor ZONA Questionnaire and create an account with Building Connected, or for additional information and future event dates.

#### **QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!**

Contact us to learn about anticipated subcontract opportunities on the I-17 Anthem Way project at Flex.Outreach@kiewit.com.

KFJV is committed to meeting or exceeding stated project participation requirements upon award of ongoing and upcoming Arizona Department of Transportation projects; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit or insurance; providing interested DBEs information related to the plans, specifications and requirements for work to be subcontracted or supplied by these DBEs; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services; sub-dividing bid items into economically feasible work units to DBEs every advantage to quoting the project.

KFJV is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

