

Funding approved to fix NW valley bottleneck

More than \$4 million in new funding is on the way to improve the flow of traffic at the US 60 (Grand Avenue)/Loop 303 traffic interchange and the nearby intersection of US 60 and 163rd Avenue.

The \$4.2 million, approved Oct. 23 by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council, will come from the Proposition 400 Freeway Life Cycle Program and is supported by Maricopa County's dedicated half-cent sales tax for transportation. It augments \$4.5 million in funding approved in 2023 by the Arizona State Legislature for near-term improvements for the corridor.

The recent growth in the Northwest Valley has resulted in more vehicles using the interchange at US 60 and Loop 303. While the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is implementing near-term improvements using legislative funding, MAG has been working in partnership with the City of Surprise, City of Peoria, Maricopa County, and ADOT to conduct the US 60: Loop 303 to State Route 74 corridor study to identify additional improvements that could be made in the area. MAG and ADOT have met with the community multiple times this year, including a public open house Aug. 14, 2024 that drew 175 people.

"We have received significant feedback from residents about the traffic issues on Grand Avenue and these approved next phase interim improvements will help reduce the delay at both the 163rd intersection and the Loop 303 traffic interchange," said Surprise Mayor Skip Hall, who made the motion in support of the improvements. "These improvements will reduce the time residents spend waiting at signals and traveling through this congested corridor. It is a great example of how Proposition 400 funding allows us to quickly deploy solutions to respond to public concerns," he said.

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NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

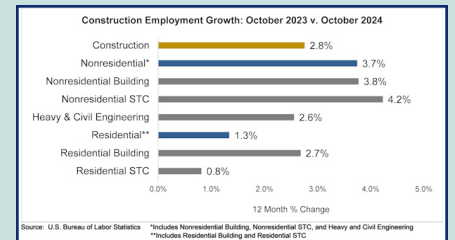
- **Carolina Premier Window Films Inc.**
- **Keystone Partners LLC | DBA: Jeri's Uniforms**
- **Miam Management LLC | DBA: Miam Cafe**
- **Purple Caddie LLC | DBA: K&D Consulting**
- **STATION POWER CONSTRUCTION LLC**
- **The W Group Consulting Firm LLC**
- **AHTNA SOLUTIONS LLC**
- **Bugatti's Inc.**
- **EPPS Public Strategies LLC**
- **Everpark Inc.**
- **Paradox Universe LLC**
- **Sub Con Manufacturing Corp.**



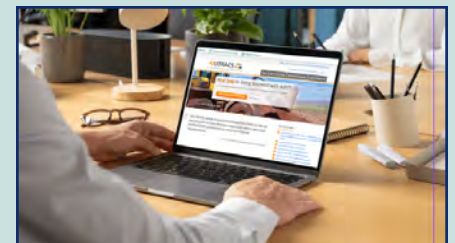
40 Heartfelt ways to show thanks this November



Arizona construction employment #2 for 10-year annualized growth



Nationwide construction adds 8,000 jobs in October



AZUTRACS: Your Key to DBE Success and Compliance

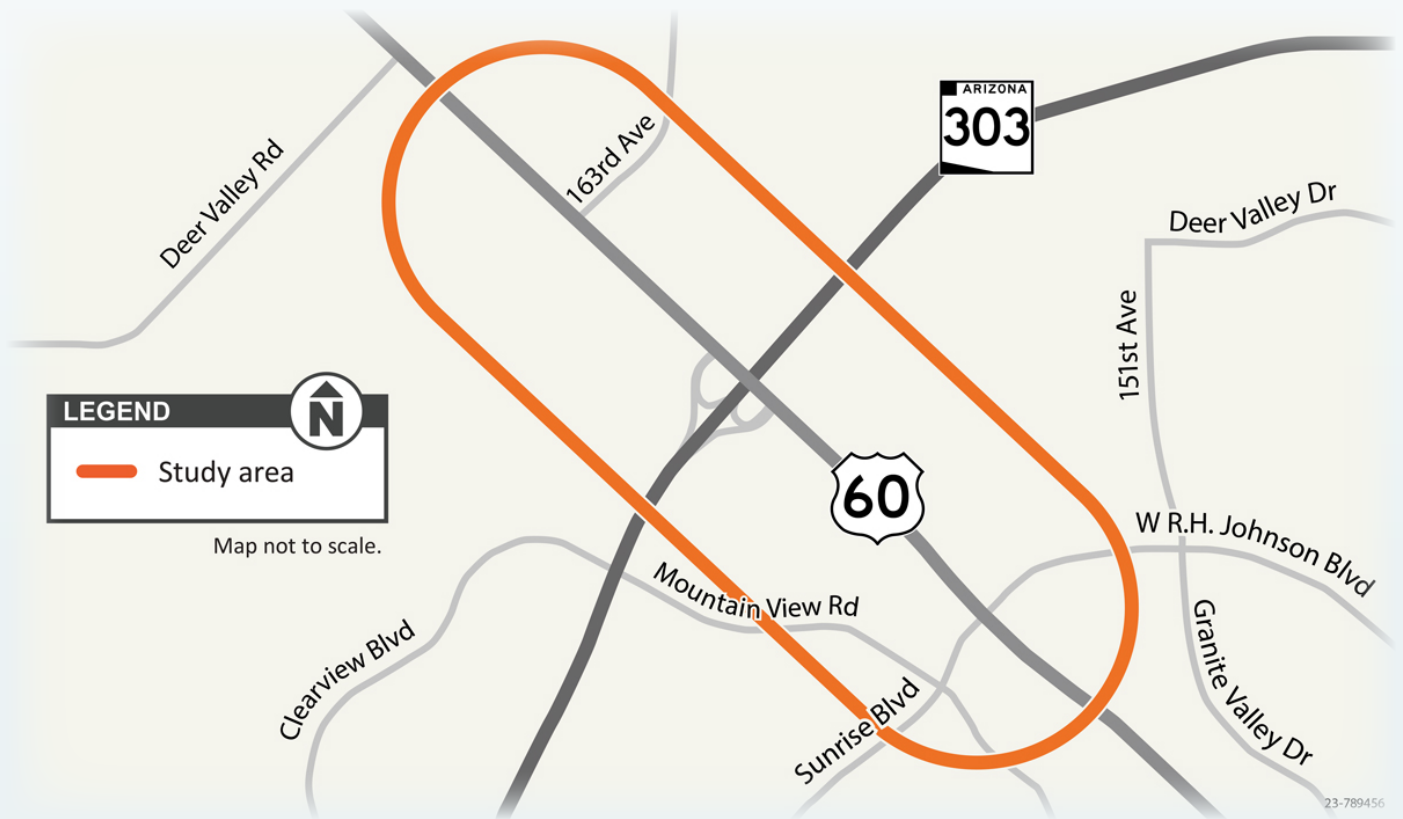
- ▶ **EVENTS**
- ▶ **OPPORTUNITIES**

Funding approved to fix NW valley bottleneck (Cont'd)

In addition to improvements currently under construction by ADOT, the additional interim improvements include:

- Adding a second right-turn lane on eastbound US 60 to the southbound Loop 303 on-ramp.
- Lengthening of the two-lane portion of the southbound SR 303 entrance ramp by moving the gore point at the mainline farther south to increase weaving distance length.
- Adding deceleration and acceleration lanes at the unsignalized intersecting roadway on eastbound US 60 between Deer Valley Road and 163rd Avenue.
- Adding a fourth eastbound and westbound US 60 through lane in each direction at the 163rd Avenue intersection.
- Adding a third left-turn lane from the southbound Loop 303 off-ramp to westbound US 60.

These new improvements will significantly improve operations at both the US 60/Loop 303 interchange and the US 60/163rd Avenue intersection and enhance the current speed of travel. As the population in the area continues to grow, more improvements will be needed to adapt to the public's needs and increase usage. MAG's US 60: Loop 303 to State Route 74 study will identify additional potential improvements to the US 60/Loop 303 interchange and US 60/163rd Avenue intersection, as well as a new interchange on Loop 303. ([Source](#))



Embracing gratitude for business growth

40 Heartfelt ways to show thanks this November

November is more than just the lead-up to the holiday season. It is a perfect time for small businesses to reflect on the power of gratitude. Whether you are nurturing client relationships, strengthening team spirit or connecting with your local community, genuine acts of thanks can create lasting impressions. Through simple, thoughtful actions, businesses can enhance loyalty, foster partnerships and spread warmth that benefits everyone involved.

For clients and prospects

1. Send personalized thank-you cards.
2. Offer a customer appreciation discount.
3. Create a social media shout-out to loyal clients.
4. Share a “Thank You” video featuring the team.
5. Hold a small virtual appreciation event or webinar.
6. Highlight a client success story on your website.
7. Send digital gift cards to top clients.
8. Feature client businesses in your newsletter.
9. Donate to a cause in a client’s name.
10. Hand out branded gratitude-themed merchandise (e.g., pens, notebooks).

For industry partners

11. Publicly recognize partners on LinkedIn.
12. Provide a free consultation or shared service.
13. Offer co-branded promotional content.
14. Send thoughtful e-cards with partnership memories.
15. Extend a collaborative social media giveaway.
16. Recommend their services to your network.
17. Invite partners to a joint online workshop.
18. Offer to collaborate on an upcoming project or event.

For employees

19. Host a “Thanksgiving Wall” where employees can post gratitude notes.
20. Provide handwritten thank-you notes to each employee.
21. Allow flexible time off during Thanksgiving week.
22. Surprise with small gifts like snacks or coffee vouchers.
23. Organize a potluck or virtual “Thanksgiving lunch.”
24. Feature employee stories in the company newsletter.
25. Send thank-you messages to their family members for support.

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Embracing gratitude for business growth

40 Heartfelt ways to show thanks this November (cont'd)

For employee family members

- 26. Include families in a thank-you video.
- 27. Gift a simple home activity pack or recipe card.
- 28. Organize a family-inclusive online game night.
- 29. Send family-friendly movie vouchers.
- 30. Share holiday e-cards with appreciation messages.

For the general community

- 31. Volunteer at local shelters or food banks as a team.
- 32. Host a community thank-you event or virtual Q&A.
- 33. Collect and donate goods with an organization that has special meaning for you or your employees.
- 34. Set up a local gratitude board for residents to share their thanks.
- 35. Support local art or community projects by sharing space or resources.
- 36. Offer free workshops or educational content.
- 37. Create a community-focused “thank-you” video.
- 38. Run a social media campaign where followers tag someone they appreciate.
- 39. Partner with a local school for a small project or donation.
- 40. Share free advice or resources online for local entrepreneurs.

Implementing these meaningful, low-cost gratitude initiatives can transform November into a month of deepened connections. Start now and watch as your business thrives through appreciation and community support.



Arizona construction employment #2 for 10-year annualized growth

Construction employment in Arizona is expected to see annualized growth of 2.2% through 2033, according to the Arizona 2023-2033 Projected Employment Report, published last week by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (AOEO).

The 2.2% rate puts construction as the second-leading major sector tracked for employment purposes in the state. Health care and social assistance led the 12 segments, referred to by AOEO as “supersectors.”

Growth by supersector

While the 2.2% expected annualized growth in construction employment is significant, that number does not represent the entire picture for some reporting areas.

Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott, Lake Havasu City-Kingman and Sierra Vista-Douglas combine mining and construction into one category in reporting their job sector totals. The new report examines projections by county and all counties expect overall increases. However, the natural resources and mining supersector is the only one of the 12 expected to show a loss between 2023-2033, which may slightly affect the construction numbers in the relevant locations.

According to the report, natural resources and mining is expected to decrease by 0.3%.

The supersectors ranked by annualized growth break out as follows:

- Health care and social assistance: 2.6%.
- Construction: 2.2%.
- Manufacturing: 1.5%.
- Leisure and hospitality: 1.3%.
- Professional and business services: 1.3%.
- Trade transportation and utilities: 1.2%.
- Other services: 1.2%.
- Financial activities: 0.7%.
- Information: 0.7%.
- Educational services: 0.3%.
- Government: 0.3%.
- Natural resources and mining: -0.3%.

Overall projected growth

Across the state and including all supersectors, the report predicts an increase of 486,348 jobs by 2033, for a total of slightly more than 3.92 million. This makes for an annual change of 1.3%, which far outpaces the national projection of 0.4% for the 10-year period.

“Over the previous ten years (2013 to 2023),” the report says, “Arizona employment increased by 765,935 jobs (2.6% annual change), to 3,434,790 jobs in 2023 from 2,668,855 jobs in 2013. By comparison, United States employment grew 1.3% annually from 2013 to 2023.”

All counties grow

The AOEO report predicts all 15 Arizona counties will see job growth over the 10-year projection period. As would normally be expected, Maricopa County leads expectations, with an annualized job growth rate of 1.5%. Much more surprisingly, Graham County—which was Arizona’s third-least populous in the 2020 census, with a reported population of approximately 38,500 residents and an estimated 2023 population of slightly more than 39,500—was second, with a projected growth rate of 1.4%.

Yavapai and Pinal counties tied for the next position at 1.2%, followed by Greenlee and Mohave counties, both of which are expected to see annualized growth of 1.1%. Apache County had the lowest projection, with an anticipated rate of just 0.1%.

While the report does not provide numerical job gain expectations for all 15 counties, Maricopa and Pima counties are the projected leaders in the overall totals, with 40,211 and 3,284 jobs, respectively.

The full report is available [here](#).



Nationwide construction adds 8,000 jobs in October

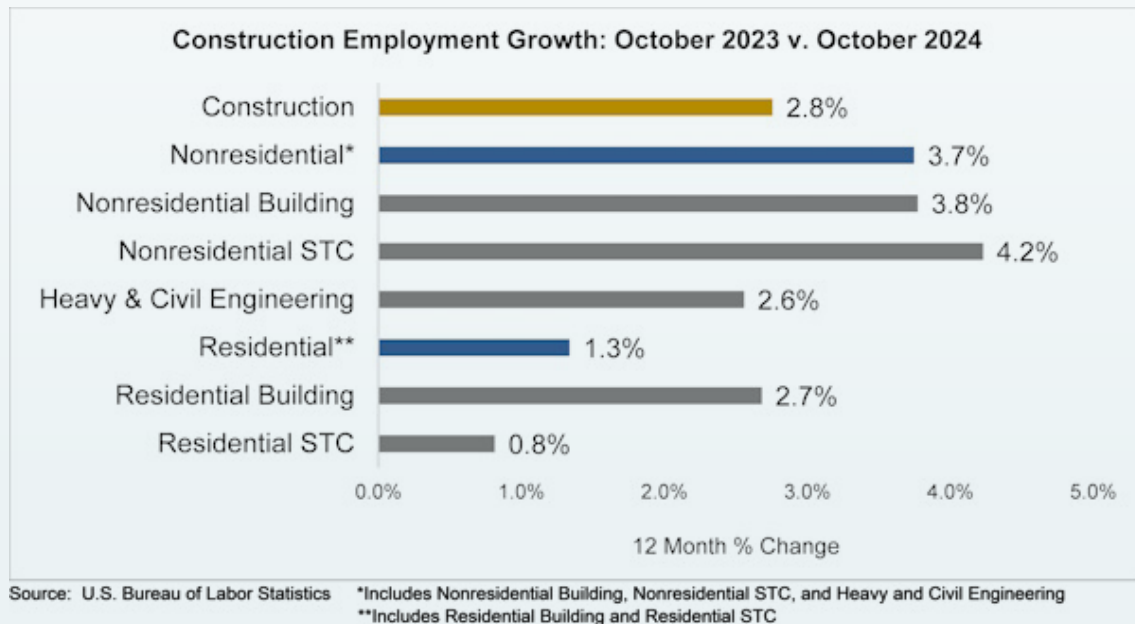
The construction industry added 8,000 jobs on net in October, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has grown by 223,000 jobs, an increase of 2.8%.

Nonresidential construction employment increased by 13,500 positions on net, with growth in two of the three subcategories. Nonresidential specialty trade added the most jobs, increasing by 14,300 positions. Nonresidential building added just 300 jobs, while heavy and civil engineering lost 1,100 jobs last month.

The construction unemployment rate rose to 4.2% in October. Unemployment across all industries remained unchanged at 4.1% in October.

“October’s employment report was severely distorted by hurricanes Helene and Milton,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “As a result, employers across all industries were estimated to have added just 12,000 jobs, the fewest in any month since the economy lost jobs in December 2020. Importantly, the separate survey that produced the unemployment rate was not affected by the storms and indicates that the jobless rate remained stable at 4.1% in October.

“Despite the underwhelming and heavily distorted economywide data, this jobs report indicates that the construction industry added jobs for the fifth straight month,” said Basu. “Over the past year, the construction sector has added jobs at exactly twice the rate of the broader economy, and growth has been even faster in the nonresidential segment. With contractors on net expecting their staffing levels to increase over the next two quarters, according to ABC’s [Construction Confidence Index](#), it appears likely that industry payrolls will continue to expand through at least the early months of 2025.” ([Source](#))





LIVE BECO TECHNOLOGY TEAM

LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

ADOT BECO

AZUTRACS: Your Key to DBE Success and Compliance

[AZ UTRACS](#) is dedicated to supporting all firms and partners in Arizona's transportation industry, including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Small Business Concerns (SBCs), prime contractors, and other community partners. Our site makes it easy to stay visible, compliant with federal and state regulations, and ready to pursue business opportunities.

What can AZ UTRACS do for you?

- **Visibility:** Ensure prime contractors can find you with our [powerful search tool](#), which sorts firms by work type, NAICS Codes, and other categories without even needing to login.
- **Compliance:** Stay on top of requirements with our bidders list, designed to meet the latest USDOT standards.
- **Efficiency:** Update your profile with ease to receive solicitation notifications and be included in the bidders list for projects.

Why does this matter? Maintaining an up-to-date profile keeps your business in front of the right people.

The AZ UTRACS team works continuously to enhance system features, ensuring a smooth experience for you. [We genuinely want your feedback to improve the site.](#)

Get Started Today:

You can create or update your profile in just minutes at the [Login Page](#).

Need assistance or have suggestions? Contact us, the support team, at AZUTRACS-Support@azdot.gov.



Austin Anthony Granado

AZ UTRACS Support Technician

agranado@azdot.gov

Austin is an Arizona native and Veteran who now leverages a diverse background in public service to assist transportation industry partners through AZ UTRACS.



****ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS****

Need help preparing DBE affidavits?
Please see our tutorial video below:

[Preparing DBE Affidavits](#)



NOVEMBER

21

ACE: Charity Poker Night

5:30 p.m.

Location: Okland Construction
1700 N. McClintock Dr., Tempe

21

Local First AZ: New Member Orientation

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

DECEMBER

3

AAED: 2024 Holiday Luncheon

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

Location: The Post
26 N. Macdonald, Mesa

5

APWA: 2024 Holiday Party

5 - 7 p.m.

Location: Phoenix Country Club
2901 N. Seventh St., Phoenix

7

AMCA: 25th Anniversary

5 - 10 p.m.

Location: Chateau Luxe Event Venue
1175 E. Lone Cactus Dr., Phoenix

13

CCIM: Par Tee on the Green

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Arizona Biltmore Golf Club
2400 Biltmore Estates Dr., Phoenix

Featured Federal-Aid Projects

CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Type	Project Owner and Description	Contact
11/22/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$6.21 million	10.59%	APJ-0-(218)T; T030901C	IFB	ADOT - System Enhancement, Delaware Drive 16th Ave to Broadway Avenue REBID. The work consists of paving asphaltic concrete pavement, constructing drainage improvements, curb, gutter, sidewalk, lighting improvements, pavement markings and other related work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at Khuston@azdot.gov .
12/13/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$26.4 million	6.06%	160-B-(206)T; F055101C	IFB	ADOT - Pavement Rehabilitation, Tuba City to Four Corners Hwy (US 160) SW Dennehotso to MP 440. The work consists of pavement and minor bridge rehabilitation, milling and repaving of mainline travel lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, and bridge decks seal with methacrylate sealer; removing and replacing cattle guards, guard rails, and replacing the existing bridge barrier with a new bridge barrier. The work also includes grading, shoulder build-up, installing pipe, signs, pavement marking and other related work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at Khuston@azdot.gov .
1/10/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$7.7 million	6.91%	010-E-(231)T; F042601C	IFB	ADOT - Bridge Rehabilitation, Tucson to Benson Highway. The work consists of the rehabilitation of various bridges, replacing existing pavement, fog coat application, construct a new cast-in-place deck, approach slabs, concrete barrier and expansion joints, apply polyester polymer concrete overlay, and replace existing guardrail, slope paving repair, restriping and other related work.	Kirstin Huston, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at Khuston@azdot.gov .

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[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