

ADOT seeks public input on North-South Corridor in Pinal County

Comment sought on engineering, environmental phase of study

The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking public input as it begins an engineering and environmental study for the North-South Corridor’s proposed northern segment spanning 20 miles between Apache Junction to Florence.

ADOT is formally initiating a Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Segment 1 of the North-South Corridor from US 60 to Arizona Farms Road. This phase will develop the purpose of and need for the proposed project, develop a preliminary range of alternatives for 400-foot-wide freeway alignments within the 1,500-foot corridor established in the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement and review potential interchanges.

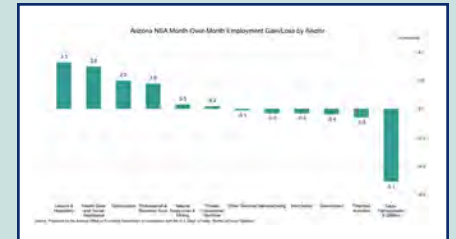
ADOT’s outreach for this study includes public meetings on May 15, 20 and 22 that will provide an overview of the study and seek input on a preliminary range of alternatives. The public comment period lasts through June 10.



How to maximize small business matchmaking meetings



DBE Spotlight: Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC



Arizona construction gained 2,000 jobs in March



Casa Grande considering more than \$65 million in new recreation facilities

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NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

- [Bedrock-Service USA Inc.](#)
- [American Liberty Logistics LLC](#)
- [Cooper Belle Enterprises LLC](#)
- [TJ Medical Courier Service LLC](#)
- [Chacon's Landscaping and Irrigation Inc.](#)
- [OJ's Janitorial & Sweeping Services LLC](#)
- [Rebos Third-Party Administration](#)
- [Kaiva Services LLC](#)
- [Kanfuela Kaffé LLC](#)
- [Terravanta Inc.](#)
- **[Optimal Scientific LLC](#)**

- ▶ **EVENTS**
- ▶ **OPPORTUNITIES**
- ▶ **AZOE FLYER**

ADOT seeks public input on North-South Corridor in Pinal County (Cont'd)

The corridor, also known as State Route 505, is under study to:

- Enhance the area's transportation network to accommodate the current and future population and employment growth.
- Improve access to future development and other centers of activity.
- Improve regional mobility.
- Provide an alternative to and reduce congestion on Interstate 10.
- Improve north-to-south connectivity.
- Integrate with the region's transportation network.

The following public meetings are scheduled:

- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center, 1035 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction.
- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 at Poston Butte High School, 32375 N. Gantzel Road, San Tan Valley.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 22. To participate:

- Online: <https://bit.ly/NSSegment1>
- Phone: [408.638.0968](tel:408.638.0968)
- Meeting number: 971 5032 1962
- Webinar password: ADOTNSS1
- Call-in password: 14405974

Spanish Audio Channel:

- Phone: [669.444.9171](tel:669.444.9171)
- Meeting number: 970 2160 6058
- Call-in password: 66865130

The same information will be presented at each meeting. Meeting presentations and materials will be posted to the study website at northsouth-segment1.com for those unable to attend.

A separate study will be conducted for Segment 2 of the North-South Corridor between Florence and I-10 in Eloy.

Ultimately this study between Apache Junction and Florence will:

- Recommend a preferred alternative for the project alignment, interchange locations and other features based on engineering and environmental considerations as well as agency and public input.
- Develop and circulate for public review and comment a draft Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement and Design Concept Report that identifies the Recommended Build Alternative, which will be compared against the no-build, or do nothing, alternative.
- Prepare a final Environmental Impact Statement and Design Concept Report document identifying the Selected Alternative.

Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways through June 10:

- Online: northsouth-segment1.com
- Email: info@northsouth-segment1.com
- Phone: [602-474-3990](tel:602-474-3990)
- Mail: ADOT North-South Segment 1, c/o HDR Inc., 20 E. Thomas Road, Suite 2500, Phoenix, AZ 85012



Make every minute count

How to maximize small business matchmaking meetings

Business matchmaking events are a golden opportunity for small businesses to connect directly with prime firms seeking subcontracting partners. These structured meetings—often just 15 to 20 minutes long—allow you to introduce your firm, explore potential collaborations and open the door to future work.

For small businesses in the design and construction industry, these events are one of the most efficient ways to make valuable industry connections that could take months to create through traditional outreach.

Preparation is key in making a memorable and professional impression during your short meeting.

Key information to share

Be ready to introduce your company clearly and confidently.
Focus on:

- **Who you are:** Share your company name, service specialties, leadership and certifications (such as DBE, SBE, 8(a), WBE, or MBE).
- **What you do best:** Highlight one or two core services that align with the prime firm’s needs.
- **Experience highlights:** Mention one to two relevant projects briefly, focusing on scope, results and lessons learned.
- **Key differentiators:** Explain what sets your company apart, whether it is specialized expertise, quick turnaround, innovative approaches or exceptional client service and how this benefits the firm.
- **Capacity:** Discuss the size of your team, geographic reach and bonding capacity if applicable.
- **Next steps:** Express your interest in supporting their future projects and provide easy contact information.

Conversation starters to build a connection

If you are unsure how to open the discussion, use thoughtful questions like:

- “What types of subcontractors are you most often looking for?”
- “Are there any upcoming projects where a firm like ours could support your team?”
- “What qualities do you most appreciate in your subcontractor partnerships?”
- “How can a small firm like ours make the onboarding process easier for you?”
- “What is one thing you wish more DBE firms understood about working with prime firms?”

These questions show curiosity, respect for the firm’s perspective and a true interest in collaboration.

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Make every minute count

How to maximize small business matchmaking meetings (Cont'd)

Use these script ideas to stay focused and make a stronger impression

Having a few well-prepared phrases can help you communicate clearly, stay confident under pressure and leave a lasting, positive impression on potential prime partners. These examples will help you highlight your strengths, ask smart questions and make every minute of your conversation count.

Introduction example:

“Good morning. I am Taylor from Precision Survey Solutions, a DBE-certified firm specializing in land surveying and construction staking. We have supported public works and transportation projects throughout Arizona for over 10 years.”

Experience highlight example:

“One of our recent projects included survey support for the expansion of State Route 101, where we managed tight deadlines and multi-agency coordination successfully.”

Key differentiator example:

“Our agile team responds quickly to evolving project needs and our deep experience with ADOT standards helps projects move forward smoothly and compliantly.”

Closing the conversation:

“I would love to stay connected and hear more about your upcoming projects. May I follow up with you in the next few weeks?”

Quick tips for a strong matchmaking meeting

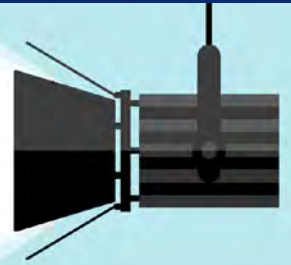
- **Dress professionally:** Business attire is expected. First impressions matter.
- **Bring handouts:** Prepare a simple one-page capability statement with your company information, key services, certifications and contact details. Bring extra copies.
- **Stay focused:** Respect the time limit. Share highlights, not your full company history.
- **Listen carefully:** Matchmaking is a two-way conversation. Listen for clues about what the prime firm needs most.
- **Practice your introduction:** Rehearse your core message so you can deliver it confidently without sounding rehearsed.
- **Stay positive:** Even if a project is not immediately available, stay upbeat and interested. Building a relationship is a success.
- **Follow up promptly:** Send a short thank-you email after the meeting and restate your interest.

Final thought

In just 15 to 20 minutes, you can plant the seeds for future partnerships. Preparation, professionalism and authentic curiosity will ensure your small businesses can turn a brief conversation into a lasting connection.



DBE SPOTLIGHT



Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC
stenzelsealingsolutions.com | (602) 903-1250

Certifications:
DBE/NWBEC/WOSB/SBE



Services offered:

Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC is a Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) parts supplier offering gaskets, seals, pipe expansion joints (rubber, metal and duct), pipe, valves, fittings and more.

Company history:

Founded in 2012, Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC is a team of specialists and subject matter experts with over 100 years of combined experience working with contractors and facilities in the power, water, HVAC and semiconductor industries. Their personal and professional reputations have been built based on the quality and depth of their engineered recommendations, fully understanding and appreciating that every minute counts when their customers' facility is in an outage or emergency maintenance. The experience within the Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC team allows them to anticipate and react to their customers' varied needs and assures them that they will receive the best quality fluid sealing solutions in the least amount of time.

Meet the owner:

Linda Stenzel

Linda has 39 years of experience. At Stenzel Sealing Solutions, LLC, Linda has encompassed not only the management of the diverse product offerings – from gaskets to high-temperature composite expansion joints – but also the integration of manufacturing process improvement, water management and maintenance management. Her focus on delivering drop prevention products and FME control devices has been instrumental in partnering with safety teams to achieve their reliability and safety goals while maintaining a steadfast commitment to service availability around the clock.

Arizona construction gained 2,000 jobs in March

The Arizona construction sector gained 2,000 jobs in March, according to the latest report published by the [Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity](#).

Arizona’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.1%. The February rate was 3.9%.

The national unemployment rate rose to 4.2%, up from 4.1%. In March 2024, Arizona had a seasonally adjusted rate of 3.3%. The national rate was 3.9%.

Arizona had a not-seasonally adjusted (NSA) gain of 3,800 nonfarm employment jobs month-over-month. “Prior to the pandemic (2010-2019), NSA nonfarm employment gained 10,800 jobs on average in March,” the report states.

Year-over-year results showed a seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decrease in the labor force of 16,400 jobs, or 0.5%.

The private sector gained 4,200 jobs, led by leisure and hospitality (which added 3,300 jobs) and health care and social assistance (which increased by 3,000). Construction’s 2,000-job gain ranked third.

The 12 sectors tracked showed six with gains and six with losses. Trade, transportation and utilities shed 5,100 jobs. Financial activities and government jobs decreased by 600 and 400 jobs respectively.

Year-over-year, four of the 12 sectors reported gains, led by health care and social assistance’s addition of 16,000. The sectors with losses were led by professional and business services’ shedding of 10,100 jobs. Trade, transportation and

utilities’ experienced a job decrease of 9,500 and construction lost 6,100 jobs.

Construction employment

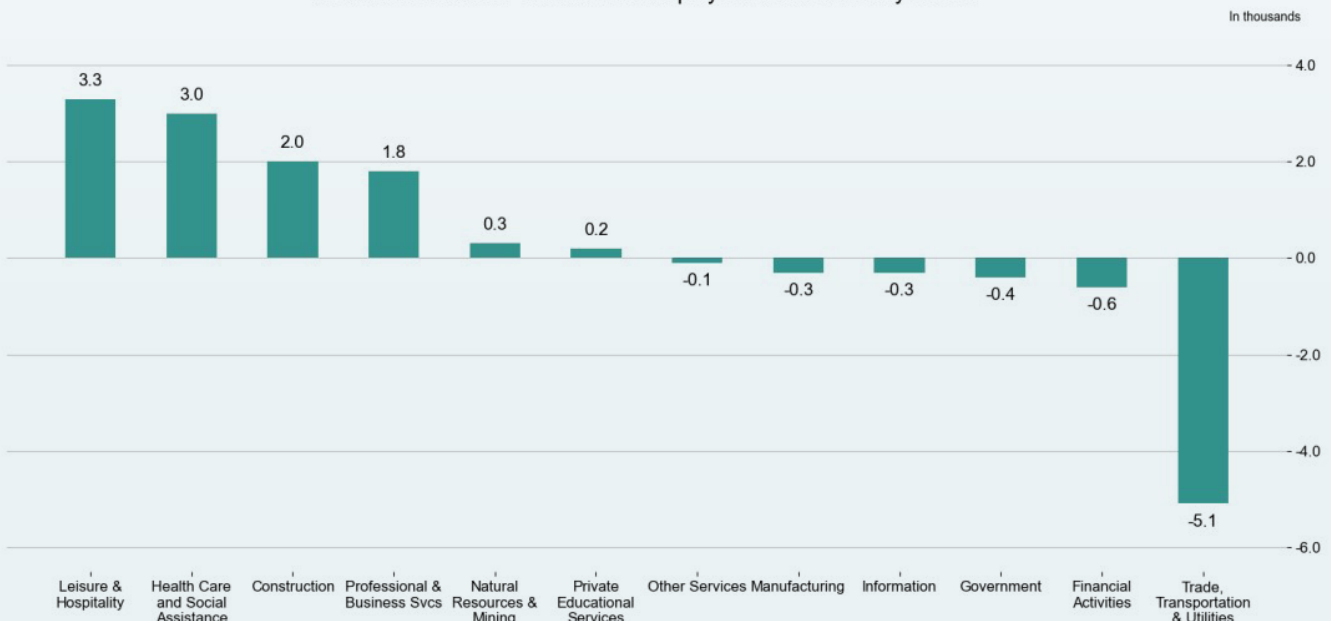
April statewide construction employment totals 224,000 jobs. In March 2024, the sector reported 230,100.

The Arizona construction sector features three major segments: buildings, heavy, and specialty trades. There are currently 51,900 jobs in buildings, which is down 300 from February and up 2,900 from March 2024. Heavy construction gained 100 for the month at 26,000 and lost 900 over the year. Specialty trades added 2,200 over the month for a total of 146,100 and the segment lost 8,100 year-over-year.

Construction jobs in the Phoenix Metro Area (Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale) added 1,800 over the month for a total of 179,600. The March 2024 number was 183,900. Metro Tucson added 100 over the month to hit 20,400, which is a loss of 1,200 year-over-year.

Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott-Prescott Valley, Lake Havasu City-Kingman and Sierra Vista-Douglas combine mining and construction jobs in reporting their job sector totals. Yuma added 100, finishing at 4,000; as did Flagstaff, rising to 3,100. Prescott-Prescott Valley was unchanged at 7,000. Lake Havasu City-Kingman and Sierra Vista-Douglas were also unchanged, finishing the month with 4,500 and 2,100, respectively.

Arizona NSA Month-Over-Month Employment Gain/Loss by Sector



Source: Produced by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Casa Grande considering more than \$65 million in new recreation facilities

In a recent study session, Casa Grande Community Services Director Daniel Gallegos presented city council with data from a recent survey researching residents' most desired services and facilities.

Casa Grande's Sports Complex Concept Plan proposes new sports and multipurpose fields, along with a new aquatics facility featuring a heated pool.

Residents put the new aquatics center first among recreation amenity choices. Sports fields and hiking and cycling trails also received high scores.

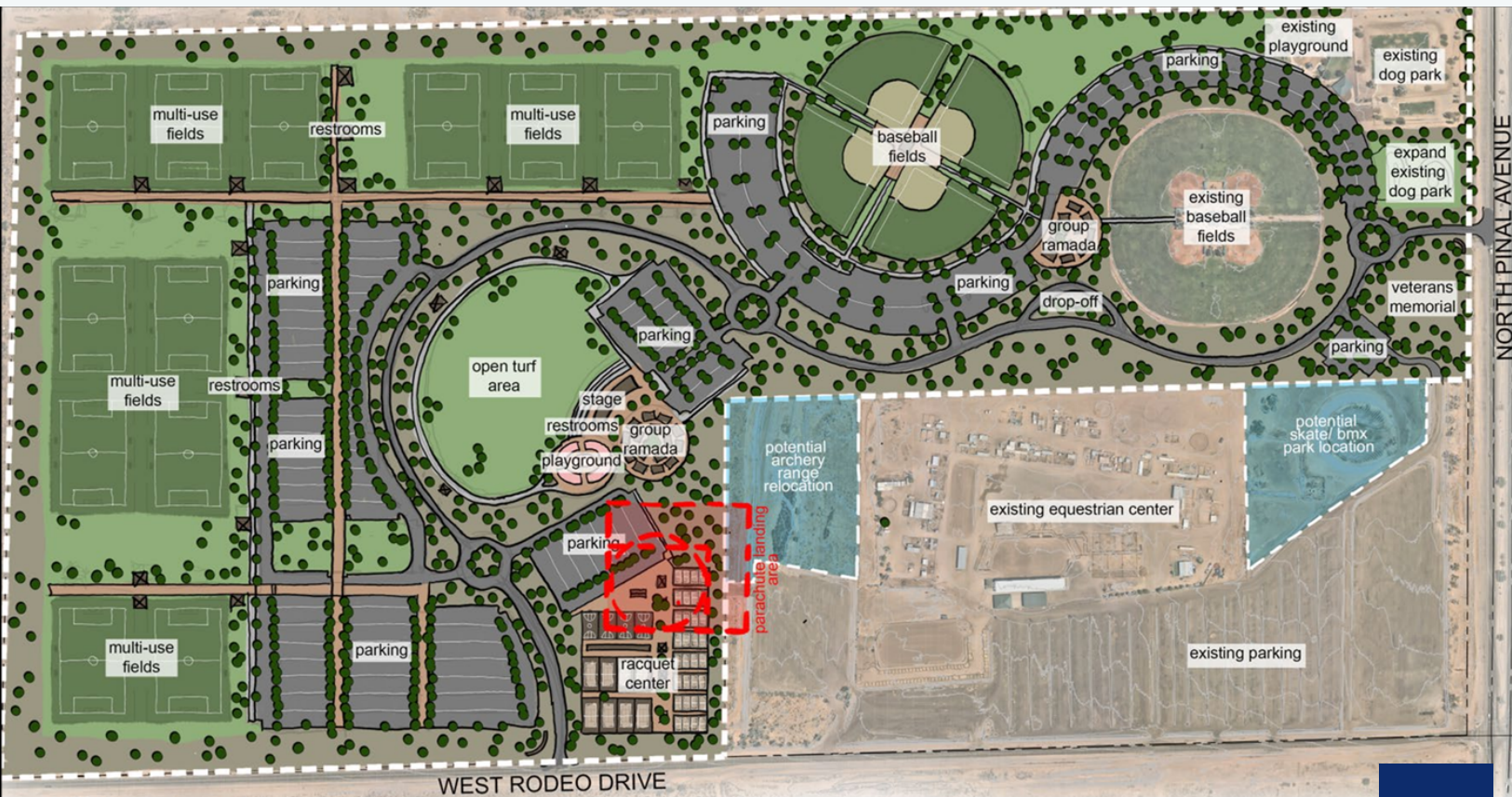
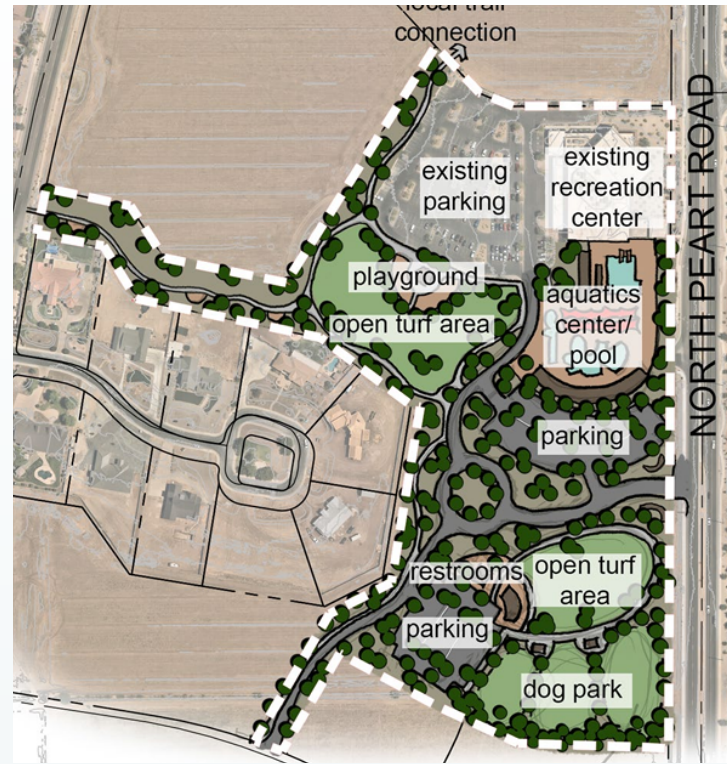
The concept plan puts a possible \$27 million aquatic complex next to the Community Recreation Center. The outdoor facility would feature main and recreational heated pools, as well as locker rooms and amenities.

The Concept Plan also features new multipurpose, baseball and softball fields totaling \$39.6 million in Ed Hooper Rodeo Park.

No timeline or funding has been established for the plan projects. Possible options include funds from community impact fees, a general obligation bond issue or sales tax revenues.

Pursuing a bond election could appear on the May 5 Council agenda.

[\(Source\)](#)



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

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

[Preparing DBE Affidavits](#)

 ADOT/BECO  Other Associations



MAY

20 **ADOT: Paving the Way for DBEs and Small Businesses**
7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Mesa Convention Center, Building C
201 N. Center St., Mesa

20 **AGC: Spanish Language for Construction**
2:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Location: Virtual

20 **ACE: Lien Law for PMs**
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Small Giants Learning Lab
5555 E. Van Buren St., Phoenix

22 **ACE: Development 101 (Session 3 of Grasping the Fundamentals)**
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: Small Giants
5555 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 115, Phoenix

22 **AGC: Construction Site Logistics with Bluebeam**
4:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual

22 **ASHE: 2025 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament**
7 a.m.
Location: Point Tapatio Lookout Mountain
11111 N. Seventh St., Phoenix

28 **AAED: Orange Academy Course - Arizona Workforce Development**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: Tower at Rio Salado College
2323 W. 14th St., Tempe

29 **AAED: Tribal Symposium**
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort
10438 Wekopa Way, Fort McDowell



Featured Federal-Aid Projects

CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Type	Project Owner and Description	Contact
5/16/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$2.71 million	10.95%	069-A-(225)T; F063301C	IFB	ADOT - Extend Acceleration Lane, Cordes Junction to Prescott Highway (SR 69). The work consists of new raised median along SR 69 with openings for drainage conveyance and roadway widening with new AC pavement along southbound SR 69.	Contact: Rene Teran, Engineering Specialist, at rteran@azdot.gov.
5/23/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$7.15 million	4.95%	060-D-(227)T; F064601C	IFB	ADOT - Pavement Rehabilitation, Phoenix to Globe Highway (US 60) from W Santee St to US 70. The work consists of pavement rehabilitation and addressing ADA compliance, milling the existing asphaltic concrete and replacing it with new asphaltic concrete, furnishing and installing aggregate base and asphaltic concrete, curb and gutter, sidewalks, guardrail, bridge deck seals, striping, signing, signal pushbuttons and other related work.	Contact: Ghalib Mahdi, Engineering Specialist, at gmahdi@azdot.gov.
5/23/25 11:00 a.m. MST	\$460,000	3.25%	EGR-0-(205)T; T047601C	IFB	ADOT - System Enhancement Safety Improvements, Mainstreet North of 6th Ave I, Eagar. The work consists of installing a pedestrian hybrid beacon, also known as a high intensity activated crosswalk to facilitate pedestrians and bicycles crossing Main Street, signing, sidewalk ramps and other related work.	Contact: Mike Wechselberger, Engineering Specialist, mwechselberger@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 and SMALL BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION EXPO

May 20, 2025 • Mesa Convention Center, Building C • 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.



PAVING THE WAY

for DBEs and Small Businesses in 2025

Who Should Attend This Event?

Attend the expo to make workforce development connections!

- 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.
- Nonprofits who provide services to small businesses.
- Public agencies.

Don't miss ADOT's *only* small business event of the year!

Registration and more info:
adotdbeexpo.com

Helping Your Small Business Win in 2025

The ADOT DBE and 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. There will also be a Workforce Development Panel to connect you to workforce development resources.

Some of the Valley's largest engineering and construction firms will be hosting tables and meeting new potential sub-consultants, 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.



Arizona Microbusiness
Loan Program

Helping Arizona's smallest businesses succeed



Overview

Small businesses, particularly those with less than five employees known as “microbusinesses,” are the heartbeat of Arizona’s economy. Microbusinesses drive economic development and investment as well as create jobs for thousands across the state. Making funding available to help these microbusinesses grow their businesses will impact individuals, families, and communities across the state.

Coverage Across Arizona



Find your
local lending
partner

Lenders are available to help you today. Microbusiness owners who are interested in applying for a microbusiness loan can directly visit their regional lending partner application page by scanning or clicking the QR code.

Applicant requirements



Five or fewer employees



Owned and operated
in Arizona

Loan funds may be used for:



Operation of the microbusiness,
including job creation and retention



Working capital



Acquisition or improvement
of real property



Acquisition of machinery
and equipment



Refinancing of debt obligations.

How it works

The State of Arizona has designated \$5 million to be available to Arizona's microbusinesses in the form of loans administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity in partnership with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and non-profit community lending partners across the state.

- Microbusiness loans can range from \$2,000 - \$50,000 per qualified business. Our current regional lending partners include Growth Partners Arizona, Native Community Capital, Community Investment Corporation, Groundswell, Border Financial Resources, and Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization
- CDFI lenders and community non-profit partners will provide loan recipients the financial education and support needed to improve the outcome of each loan.
- Partners like Startup Tucson, Local First Arizona, Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Capital Investment, Navajo Nation State Small Business Credit Initiative, Northern Technology and Business Incubator and others will supplement awarded microbusiness loans by offering financial education and training, business planning and forecasting, accounting, credit counseling and other areas to accompany funding to ensure successful growth and development of microbusinesses loan recipients and deliver positive outcomes for borrowers.
- Visionary state leadership from Arizona's Executive and Legislative branches support and champion public investment designed to facilitate economic growth and development and foster job creation in every corner of the state.

By the Numbers

The impact of microbusinesses in Arizona local communities



Arizona has 85,491 microbusinesses employing 155,449 people (average 2.1 employees per business).



Microbusinesses make up 40% of all businesses in Arizona and employ approximately 5% of the total Arizona workforce.



The top three counties with the largest percentage of total employment working at microbusiness establishments are Yavapai (9%), Santa Cruz (8%) and Gila (7%).

The top three industries with the largest percentage of total employment working at microbusiness establishments



Professional, scientific and technical services
17.3%



Real estate and rental leasing
17.0%



Other services
13.8%

**Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Q2 2023*