$1.2B Project Would Connect I-10 with Barraza-Aviation Pkwy

By Shaq Davis for Arizona Daily Star

Plans are in motion for a $1.2 billion Interstate 10 widening project and reconfiguration of Barraza-Aviation Parkway to keep motorists moving and provide better access to downtown.

The project would add up to two lanes in each direction from the I-10, I-19 interchange to Alvernon Way and up to four lanes in each direction on I-10 from Alvernon Way to Kolb Road. These improvements include addressing the corridor’s interchanges and bridges.

Alvernon Way would be designated State Route 210, known as Barraza-Aviation Parkway, along with an interchange that provides direct access from Palo Verde Road to Interstate 10 and an alternate route downtown, according to an environmental assessment from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

“This is really about reducing congestion on I-10 as well as congestion in and out of the downtown area by adding these additional lanes and having a freeway-to-freeway connection from I-10 to SR 210 along what is now Alvernon,” said Garin Grauff, a spokesman for ADOT. “At the same time, it will improve safety with additional lanes, improved interchanges (and) wider shoulders.”

ADOT says the project meets the needs of the county’s growing population, which by 2040 is expected to climb to nearly 1.4 million people from about 1 million now, according to the Pima Association of Governments, the taxpayer-funded regional planning organization. Meanwhile, Tucson is expected to grow from about 530,000 people to nearly 720,000 people during the same period.

A no-build option would lead to long waits at interchanges, causing breakdowns in traffic flow and an increased risk of crashes, according to the report.

Crashes in the project area have increased each year from July 2011 to June 2016, going from 335 to 486. A total of 2,056 crashes occurred in the five-year period, the report says.

But there’s significant work to be completed to get the project done, including acquiring at least 25 businesses in the proposed construction zone.

“These businesses are characterized as primarily commercial manufacturing, materials supply and construction services. There are no businesses in this area that are neighborhood-oriented,” the environmental assessment said.

However, the project’s potential impact has some business owners near the area worried.

Read more here.
A total of 13 road-construction projects are planned in the Town of Queen Creek in 2020, with three starting before the end of 2019.

The 10 projects that will begin construction in 2020 are:

- Signal Butte Road and Queen Creek Road Intersection
- Queen Creek Road, Ellsworth Road to Crismon Road
- Ocotillo Road, Signal Butte Road to Ironwood Road
- Ocotillo Road, Hawes Road to Sossaman Road
- Chandler Heights Road, Via Del Arroyo to Power Road
- Chandler Heights Road, Power Road to Recker Road
- Power Road, Brooks Farm Road to Power Road
- Munoz Street, Ellsworth Loop to Ellsworth Road
- Aldecoa Drive, Ellsworth Loop to Ellsworth Road
- Germann Road, Meridian Road to Ironwood Road  
  (to be done by Pinal County)

**Maricopa County**

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Town of Queen Creek, is replacing the existing Rittenhouse Bridge at Queen Creek Wash. The construction phase is in 2020-21, according to [http://gis.maricopa.gov/Projects/?ID=2610](http://gis.maricopa.gov/Projects/?ID=2610).

MCDOT is also to repave segments of Chaparral Road, Hawes Road, Mountain Road, Orangewood Avenue, Sossaman Road and Exeter Boulevard. Project scoping is slated for 2020, design in 2021 and construction in 2022.

**Pinal County**

A project for Magma Road, Hunt Highway to Gary Road, has its 60 percent design plans complete with construction starting in fiscal year 2019-20, according to the Pinal County Public Works Department’s [website](http).

**Arizona DOT**

The Arizona Department of Transportation is to begin 20 to 24 months of construction in fall 2020 on the State Route 24 interim Phase II, Ellsworth Road to Ironwood Drive.

Features of the new roadway are to include:

- Two paved lanes in each direction separated by a graded median.
- At-grade intersections at the following locations: Williams Field Road, Signal Butte Road, Meridian Road and Ironwood Drive
- Bridges over Ellsworth and Mountain roads
- A drainage channel along the north side of the freeway.
- Signage, traffic signals, lighting and pavement marking, as necessary.

Read more at [Queen Creek Independent](http).
In early November 2019, a record-setting 6,800 high school students from across Arizona took part in the annual Construction Career Days event. This free two-day event enabled students to preview many facets of the construction industry in a hands-on and fun environment. The variety of careers and opportunities with and without a college education were highlighted with the goal being to promote industry careers at a time when the construction workforce shortage is hitting critical mass.

The event is organized in Phoenix by the non-profit organization Arizona Construction Career Days and Executive Director Rose Ann Canizales. More than 3,600 students from 106 schools across 10 counties attended the Phoenix event this year.

In 2014 a complementary event was created to service the southern part of the state, supported by Arizona Transportation Builders (ATB) and led by Committee Chair Ramon Gaanderse. This year, more than 3,000 students from 87 schools attended the Southern Arizona Construction Career Days.

The Arizona National Guard hosts the event in Phoenix each year at the Papago Park location. The space is ideally situated for such a large-scale event, with plenty of spots for industry participation. Contractors bring equipment, tools and staff to showcase typical activities of construction industry tradespeople.

Industry support for the event this year also surpassed previous records. With more than 90 exhibitors and sponsors for the Phoenix location, and more than 125 construction firms supporting the event in Tucson, the industry is demonstrating a commitment to encourage the next generation to seriously consider the construction industry as a viable career path to a comfortable salary with no student loan debt.

The Arizona Construction Career Days events are just one of many efforts to attract future workers to the industry. In September 2019, a launch event was held by the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce called Build Your Future Arizona. These and other programs, engagement and outreach events aim to change the conversation about technical and skilled labor positions as an alternative to a four-year degree. Primary benefits of skilled and technical professions include a very high wage potential, little to no student loan debt, career advancement opportunities, and a pride of workmanship.
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Did You Know?

The Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport published their Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (CAMP), a long-range planning document which outlines $5.6 billion worth of facilities improvements to meet current and future needs. Over $2.2 billion worth of construction expansion is planned to occur within the next ten years.

The CAMP is the result of a nearly two year collaborative community planning process that developed a 20-year plan for airport facilities, infrastructure and overall land use framework.

To see the CAMP, visit [https://www.skyharbor.com/CAMP](https://www.skyharbor.com/CAMP).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Project Valuation</th>
<th>DBE Goal</th>
<th>Solicitation / Project Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Project Owner and Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/13/19</td>
<td>$14M</td>
<td>8.95%</td>
<td>NHPP-040-D(234)T; H881501C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Bridge Replacement &amp; Rehabilitation, 4th St Underpass &amp; Butler Ave TI Overpass, Ashfork-Flagstaff Hwy (I-40). The work consists of widening &amp; replacing the existing bridges at 4th St using the slide method of construction &amp; rehabilitation of the existing bridge decks at Butler Ave.</td>
<td>Mohammed Patwary, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:MPatwary@azdot.gov">MPatwary@azdot.gov</a> or Cordell Yazzie, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:CYazzie@azdot.gov">CYazzie@azdot.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13/19</td>
<td>$9.4M</td>
<td>6.27%</td>
<td>NHPP-040-C(217)T; H877701C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Bridge Replacement, West Flagstaff TI Overpass EB/WB, Ashfork-Flagstaff Highway (I-40). The work consists of replacing the existing 3-span concrete T-girder bridges in eastbound &amp; westbound direction with new single-span precast, prestressed AASHTO Box Beam bridges.</td>
<td>Vian Rashid, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:VRashid@azdot.gov">VRashid@azdot.gov</a> or Steve Monroe, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:SMonroe@azdot.gov">SMonroe@azdot.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10/20</td>
<td>$5.8M</td>
<td>3.09%</td>
<td>NHPP-040-E(222)T; F008801C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Bridge Deck Replacements, Black Creek EB &amp; WB Bridges &amp; Houck TI UP, Holbrook-Lupton Hwy (I-40). The work consists of removing &amp; replacing existing bridge decks, constructing roadway approach transitions &amp; replacing guardrail.</td>
<td>Jedidiah Young, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:Jyoung2@azdot.gov">Jyoung2@azdot.gov</a> or Carl Ericksen, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:Cericksen@azdot.gov">Cericksen@azdot.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10/20</td>
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<td>MMO-0(217)T; T009501C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Roadway Widening, Lloyd St to 13th St, Pierce Ferry Rd, Dolan Springs. The work consists of minor roadway excavation &amp; embankments, roadway widening, concrete curb, sidewalk &amp; sidewalk ramps, curb ramp &amp; sidewalk replacement, aggregate base, asphaltic concrete pavement, signing, &amp; pavement marking.</td>
<td>Layth Al Obaidi, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:Lalobaidi@azdot.gov">Lalobaidi@azdot.gov</a> or Darin Dryden, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:DDryden@azdot.gov">DDryden@azdot.gov</a></td>
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