



DBE News & Events

April 1, 2020

Public Comment Begins for ADOT's Tentative 5-Year Construction Program

Source: Arizona Department of Transportation

Drivers rely on Arizona's highway system for their daily commutes, weekend travel, and for the delivery of goods and services to their communities. Keeping that system in good repair and functioning well is all part of the **Arizona Department of Transportation's** focus during the next five years.

The plan is part of the proposed annual update to **ADOT's** lineup of all statewide projects. The **2021-2025 Tentative Five-Year**

Transportation Facilities Construction Program allocates funding for preservation, modernization and expansion projects.

The public comment period for the 2021-2025 Tentative Five-Year Program begins Friday, March 20th, and ends at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 2nd. The **State Transportation Board** will make its final decision in June about what will be in the updated Five-Year Program.

The complete report will be available on Friday, March 20th at azdot.gov for review and comment. ADOT welcomes feedback via an online form that will also be available Friday, March 20th, at azdot.gov/tentative5year, by email at fiveyearconstruction-program@azdot.gov and by phone at 855.712.8530.

The 2021-2025 Tentative Five-Year Program proposes an average of approximately \$310M per year for preservation of bridges and

roadways throughout the state highway system. This moves ADOT even closer to its goal of allocating \$320M per year for system preservation.

Preservation projects include repaving highways, filling potholes, extending the life cycle of existing pavement, and repairing or reconstructing bridges.

Approximately 67 percent of all funding allocated to Greater Arizona will be directed to preservation projects from FY 2021 to FY 2025. •

What the CARES Act Means for Arizona Businesses

By Eric Hill, Attorney at Rose Law Group

Early this morning, Congressional leaders reached a deal regarding the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the "CARES" Act. The CARES Act, which is expected to be enacted later today, is a \$2.0 trillion aid package that is among the most significant pieces of financial legislation in history. This legislation will help Arizona businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in several ways. Here's how we anticipate the final CARES Act will work:

Small Business Interruption Loans

The CARES Act will allocate \$350 billion for loans called Small Business Interruption Loans. These loans are intended to help small businesses cover expenses and prevent employee layoffs as a result of the pandemic. They will be available to cover payroll costs, including paid sick, medical or family leave, insurance premiums, employee salaries, mortgage or rent payments, utilities, or other debt obligations. The maximum size of the loan will be determined by a payroll costs-based formula and is capped at \$10 million.

The covered period will be between February 15, 2020, and December 31, 2020. Small businesses with fewer than 500 employees will be able to apply, and some larger businesses may also qualify based on SBA size standards for certain industries.

To determine a small business' eligibility, the Act will require that lenders consider:

1. Whether a business was operational on February 15, 2020.
2. Whether the business had employees for whom it paid salaries and payroll taxes or paid independent contractors.
3. Whether the business has been substantially impacted by public health restrictions related to COVID-19.

The loans will be administered through the Small Business Administration's ("SBA") 7(a) loan program. The 7(a) loan program is the SBA's primary program for providing financial assistance to small businesses, so the loans will be issued through banks, credit

unions, and other financial institutions that are part of its lender network – the Act will also include provisions intended to add more lenders to this network.

Small Business Interruption Loan Forgiveness

Critically, the Act will include a process for Small Business Interruption Loan borrowers to have their debt forgiven. The forgiven amount would be an amount equal to the amount spent by the borrower during an eight-week period after the origination date of the loan on:

- Payroll costs.
- Interest payments on mortgage obligations incurred prior to February 15, 2020.
- Payment of rent on any lease entered prior to February 15, 2020
- Payment on any utility for which service began before February 15, 2020.

Read more [here](#).

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Arizona \$50M Relief Plan Progresses

Source: Andrew Oxford, Arizona Republic

The Arizona House of Representatives broke through a political logjam on Monday, approving a \$50 million relief package as the state faces the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and adjourning for three weeks as a public health precaution.

The spending package allows Gov. Doug Ducey's administration to use the funds for housing assistance, aid for businesses, nonprofits and health care providers with fewer than 50 employees, and assistance for food banks as well as organizations serving people experiencing homelessness.

With this, the Legislature finished work on a basic budget that will keep state government operating into the new fiscal year that starts in July.

Lawmakers and the governor acknowledged immediately, however, that the package is likely a first step as the number of known cases of the new coronavirus increases day by day, hitting 234 on Monday. Restaurants are closing, tourists have canceled travel plans, and uncertainty swirls around new investments and new hiring.

"The \$50 million that the Legislature put forward is going to allow us to work with the most vulnerable. It's our intention and we will be stretching and strengthening the safety net of the state," Ducey told reporters.

Lawmakers are adjourned until April 13 unless the House speaker and Senate president decide otherwise, adding Arizona to a long list of states that have postponed legislative sessions due to public health concerns and leaving unwritten legislators' next steps to address a very uncommon crisis.

In a sign of the times, about a couple dozen lawmakers voted remotely using a computer conferencing program first introduced last week.

Initially thought to best accommodate only a handful of people at a time, the system accommodated many more who have health concerns or live far from Phoenix.

Previous effort unraveled

The state Senate approved the relief plan with bipartisan support Thursday but it came to a screeching halt on reaching the House, which adjourned that night until Monday.

The move to adjourn outraged Democrats, who argued there was not time to spare on passing a relief package. Meanwhile, some Republicans described the Senate as dropping the plan in their laps. The political wrangling that ensued revealed the different dynamics of the Legislature's two chambers amid a public health emergency.

Read more [here](#).



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Virus Scare Impacts Even “Essential” Construction Work

By Jarred Schenke for Bisnow

A single comma added to a shelter-in-place order made a whole city’s construction industry breathe a sigh of relief.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms issued a shelter-in-place executive order, making Atlanta just one of many cities and states to tell their residents to stay at home. Like most other orders around the country, Atlanta’s exempted essential businesses, originally including “public works construction.”

By the next day, the city clarified its position and added a comma between public works and construction, giving the green light for more than 2.6MSF of office projects underway in the city and the thousands of apartment units to continue on despite the pandemic.

The construction industry across the country is experiencing mounting work stoppages that have little to do with government edicts. Delays are threatening to upend an industry that accounted for more than \$700B of spending in 2017 alone.

“Most of the shutdowns that we’re hearing about ... are coming because owners are halting and delaying their projects moreso than we’re seeing government officials putting shelter-in-place orders that include construction,” **Associated General Contractors of America** spokesperson Brian Turmail said.

AGC conducted a survey between March 17 and March 19 of its 27,000-member commercial construction firms and found that, of the 909 who responded, 28 percent had projects that were either halted or delayed for the next 30 days. Another 11 percent expected projects that were to start in the next 30 days to be delayed.

AGC is conducting another survey this week. Preliminary results show up to 40 percent of respondents were experiencing stoppages or delays as of March 24, Turmail said. Of those, only 10 percent are a result of governmental work stoppages over pandemic concerns.

“It does seem the impact of the coronavirus is spreading and really the biggest threat is economic uncertainty as opposed to political action,” Turmail said.

There is no federal definition of what is considered an essential business. The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency**, a division of the **Department of Homeland Security**, outlined various industries that are likely candidates, but it has no power to dictate what states and cities ultimately do. Many states and cities have exempted construction firms and laborers from sheltering-in-place orders.

McCarthy Building Cos. Executive VP Bobby Campbell said a handful of projects have been halted temporarily, but none due to any governmental orders. The amount of pain this pandemic causes will be correlated to how long businesses are shuttered and people are told to stay indoors to prevent contracting **COVID-19**.

Some say the industry is inherently set up to be better protected against spreading the virus. Most construction companies already emphasize safety on work sites and many construction projects are outdoors with workers spread out.

Other construction firm executives are already feeling the pain, and expect more to come. Atlanta-based **Humphries & Co.** was involved in 28 construction projects last week. That dropped to 19 by the time Monday rolled around.

A robust pipeline of work is critical for financial health. As the work dries up, so does the revenue.

Construction companies’ critical questions are myriad: Will clients still have the capital to start new projects? Will they be able to source materials still from China, Italy or Spain? Will Main Street’s economy become so (devastated) that the commercial real estate industry crashes with the rest of the country?

Read more [here](#).



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Corps of Engineers Creates Capability Statements Inbox

Source: Society of American Military Engineers

USACE HQ has set up an inbox for contractors to submit their capabilities to be seen by all USACE Districts nationwide. If you wish to be considered for missions, please send your capabilities

statements to perform “build-out or retrofit of existing space (arenas, convention centers, dorms, hotels, etc.) into alternate care space” to: COVIDContracting@usace.army.mil.



A “ghost tax preparer” hides from the IRS by not signing your tax return, while carrying out fraud and scams to make a fast buck.

Choose a tax professional wisely:

www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro



Business & Industry Events

April 1, 2020

April Webinars

ADOT DBESS Town Halls: Coronavirus Business Response Resources

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[ADOT DBESS Program Impacts | SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program | Changes in Tax Filing Dates and Requirements](#)

Location: Webinar
Time: 9:00am - 10:00am

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[Successfully Working from Home | Help for Small Businesses with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#)

Location: Webinar
Time: 9:00am - 10:00am

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[Techniques for Managing Stress | Staying Engaged with Customers Virtually | Tips for Making Tomorrow's Sales Today](#)

Location: Webinar
Time: 9:00am - 10:00am

**ADOT/
BECO**

**Other
Associations**

Every three years, ADOT conducts a DBE study to analyze the availability of DBEs and other firms to perform its contracts. The DBE Disparity Study also helps determine ADOT's new overall DBE goal for FHWA, FTA and FAA for the next three years. For a quick overview, an informational video where Dave Keen, Principal, with Keen Independent Research, discusses the new proposed ADOT FHWA DBE Goal based on the disparity study Keen Independent Research conducted.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the ADOT Disparity Study Presentation
For more information, visit ADOT Disparity Study website [here](#).



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

**Need help preparing
DBE Affidavits?**

**Please see our tutorial
video below:**

[“Preparing DBE Affidavits”](#)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



ADOT's Business Development program is designed to provide DBEs with general and firm-specific training and technical assistance to help them to become more competitive within the transportation industry. This program will give DBE firms an opportunity to gain a competitive edge within and outside the highway industry.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY IS
APRIL 23, 2020**

APPLY HERE

Project Opportunities

April 1, 2020

Links

- [ADOT Current Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Engineering Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives](#)
- [ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects](#)
- [Bidding Opportunities Around the State](#)

Did You Know?

State and local lawmakers are working on relief measures to assist Arizona small businesses with the disruptions to their operations due to COVID-19. Earlier this month, Governor Doug Ducey clarified which businesses provide [essential services](#) and included those delivering public works construction. [Licensed contractors](#) up for license renewal are granted an extension for some Registrar of Contractor renewal requirements under the Governor’s Executive Order for Continuity of Work. Most recently, the Governor announced a cooperative agreement with the state’s banks to protect small businesses from eviction and foreclosure, and to expedite the application and approval of small business loans; Arizona business owners are encouraged to notify their bankers if they are experiencing short-term hardship related to COVID-19 ahead of their payment due dates. Visit the Governor’s office for up-to-date information, at <https://azgovernor.gov/>.

Featured Federal-Aid Projects

General / Subcontractors Opportunities

Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Type	Project Owner and Description	Contact
4/24/20 11am MST	\$3M	1.25%	077-A(216)T; F003401C	IFB	ADOT - Pavement Preservation, Tucson-Oracle Jct-Globe Hwy (SR77): Willow Springs Road to Old Hwy 77. The work consists of removing the existing asphaltic concrete by milling & replacing it with bonded wearing course overlay, including replacing pavement markings.	Iqbal Hossain, Group Manager of Contracts & Specifications, at ihossain@azdot.gov .
5/1/20 11am MST REVISED	\$1.3M	6.07%	180-A(205)T; F006001C	IFB	ADOT - Construct Turn Lanes, B-40 & Aspen Ave, Flagstaff-Valle Hwy (US 180). The work consists of widening by adding turn lanes using Portland Cement Concrete Pavement, installation of curb & gutter, sidewalk, sidewalk ramps, storm drainage pipes, catch basins, traffic signals, pavement markings, & landscaping.	Ghalib Mahdi, Engineering Specialist, at GMahdi@azdot.gov or Steve Monroe, Construction Supervisor, at SMonroe@azdot.gov .
5/15/20 11am MST	\$700K	3.05%	260-C(204)T; H826901C	IFB	ADOT - Bridge Preservation & Scour Retrofit, Little Colorado River Bridge Str #416, Show Low-McNary-Eagar Hwy (SR 260). The work consists of constructing a new scour concrete floor underneath the existing bridge & repairing pier stem walls, including box culvert extension, shotcrete, pavement marking, & signing.	Farhana Jesmin, Engineering Specialist, at fjesmin@azdot.gov or Randy Routhier, Construction Supervisor, at rrouthier@azdot.gov
9/04/20 11am MST	\$21.6M	5.71%	019-A(237)T; F013801C; 019-A(238)T; F017401C	IFB	ADOT - Helmet Peak TI UP, & Duval Mine Rd TI to Pima Mine Rd TI, Nogales-Tucson Hwy (I-19). The work consists of replacing existing concrete bridge deck & concrete barrier walls, construction of new bridge barriers & bridge deck rehabilitation, pavement rehabilitation, including milling & repaving, guardrails, lighting, signing, pavement marking, & additional work.	Vian Rashid, Engineering Specialist, at VRashid@azdot.gov or Chris Page, Construction Supervisor, at CPage@azdot.gov