

## June 2020 Update

### SR 89A & SR 179 Intersection Improvement Project

Starting this month, the Arizona Department of Transportation and city of Sedona will provide monthly updates to nearby businesses and other stakeholders on the progress of the State Route 89A & State Route 179 intersection improvement project design.

The purpose of the ADOT intersection project – jointly funded by ADOT and the city – is to improve traffic operations and reduce congestion in the roundabout at the intersection of SR 89A and SR 179.

A major component of the project is providing operational improvements to the existing roundabout through the use of “slip lanes” at the intersection. The slip lanes would be used by drivers coming from West Sedona and making a right on SR 179, as well as drivers coming from I-17 or the Village of Oak Creek and making a right onto SR 89A towards Uptown.

The slip lanes were originally identified as operational improvements to the roundabout in the *City of Sedona Transportation Master Plan*, approved in January 2018.

After initiating the project design last summer and conducting a further review of the project, the proposed design of the intersection has been modified to ensure the project delivers the expected improvements to current traffic conditions at the roundabout.

While a full slip lane for drivers coming from west Sedona and making a right on SR 179 is still being evaluated, a dedicated right-turn lane is now being tested and evaluated in lieu of a full slip lane from SR 179 to SR 89A toward Uptown.

This test, through modifying the existing striping configuration, has temporarily created a dedicated right-turn lane from northbound SR 179 to northbound SR 89A. In addition, the eastern side of the roundabout was narrowed to one circulating lane, similar to the western side.

The current test configuration will help determine whether the revised design option will improve travel times for drivers using the roundabout.

The two-month test period began in May and is scheduled to end after the Independence Day holiday weekend in July. The project team is collecting the test data, which will assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the slip lane from West Sedona by studying queuing times of vehicles waiting to enter the roundabout, peak flows, delays/congestion, turning movements, etc.

After Independence Day, the team will begin processing the data over several weeks and make a recommendation in mid-summer after the analysis is completed.

To date, the project team has completed the scoping process, developed the modeling criteria, re-evaluated the project design, proposed the above-mentioned design solutions and is currently testing a portion of the new proposed design.

The project team is planning to have a meeting with stakeholders in late summer or early fall to go over a draft of the final design.

The design phase of the SR 89A & SR 179 intersection improvement project is scheduled to be completed in late spring 2021. Construction of permanent modifications to the roundabout is expected to begin in summer 2021.