

# NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR STUDY

## FINAL TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT & RECORD OF DECISION

### OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has completed a Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (Tier 1 Final EIS/ROD) in Pinal County, known as the North-South Corridor Study. The study spans over 50 miles between U.S. 60 in Apache Junction and Interstate 10 (I-10) in Eloy, passing through the City of Coolidge, Town of Florence, Town of Queen Creek, City of Apache Junction and portions of unincorporated Pinal County. The study also incorporates a proposed extension of State Route 24 from Ironwood Drive to the North-South Corridor.

A continuous, access-controlled north-to-south transportation corridor would:

- Improve access to future activity centers
- Improve regional mobility
- Improve north-to-south connectivity
- Integrate the region's transportation network
- Address existing and future population and employment growth
- Provide an alternative to avoid congestion on I-10

### BACKGROUND

The Draft Tier 1 EIS was published on Sept. 6, 2019 and made available for review and comment from Sept. 6 through Oct. 29, 2019. Three public hearings were held in October of 2019 in Florence, Eloy and San Tan Valley.

The Draft Tier 1 EIS evaluated the potential short- and long-term impacts associated with a range of Corridor Alternatives, including the No-Build Alternative, and recommended a Preferred Corridor Alternative. The Corridor Alternatives were developed based on input from the public; coordination with local, regional, state and federal agencies and tribes; and findings from previously completed studies.

The identification of the Preferred Corridor Alternative in the Draft Tier 1 EIS was based on how well it met the purpose and need while reducing the potential for adverse impacts.

### FINAL TIER 1 EIS SELECTED ALTERNATIVE



### Several factors were considered in the analysis and decision-making process for the Selected Alternative identified in the Final Tier 1 EIS.

#### These considerations include:

- Avoids impacts to developed lands such as Army National Guard Rittenhouse Heliport
- Consistent with regional planning
- Addresses existing and future growth
- Addresses input from stakeholders and tribes on sensitive environmental resources

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS?

On August 20, 2021, ADOT published the North-South Corridor Study Final Tier 1 EIS. The Final Tier 1 EIS was prepared and issued in combination with a Record of Decision (ROD). **The ROD, the final decision-making document prepared by ADOT, represents the final decision on the Tier 1 EIS.**

The Final Tier 1 EIS, conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), incorporates changes based on comments received on the Draft Tier 1 EIS, as well as updated analyses based on new information, and identifies a Selected Corridor Alternative for the proposed North-South Corridor.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Subsequent Tier 2 environmental and engineering studies would need to be conducted to further refine the selected 1,500-foot North-South Corridor to identify a recommended freeway alignment, as well as the location of interchanges, bridges and other design features.

The Final Tier 1 EIS provides a Phased Implementation Plan, which is a conceptual framework for how the North-South Corridor will move forward into Tier 2 studies. A Phased Implementation Plan includes smaller segments of a corridor alternative that may advance as separate, independent projects.

Tier 2 studies must take place as part of the NEPA process. These studies, which are not yet fully funded, would include additional analysis and opportunities for public review and comment.



ADOT Project No. 999 PN 000 H7454  
Federal Aid No. 999-A(365)X

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 16, 2019, and executed by FHWA and ADOT.

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## WHEN WOULD THE FREEWAY BE BUILT?

Currently, there is no funding identified to build the North-South Corridor.

Tier 2 studies can be completed individually for corridor segments over time as design and construction funding becomes available.

ADOT is considering all funding options to move the North-South Corridor through the Tier 2 study process and eventually to construction.

## WHERE CAN I FIND A RESPONSE TO MY COMMENT ON THE DRAFT TIER 1 EIS?

Responses to comments on the Draft Tier 1 EIS from the public, stakeholders, agencies and tribes are provided in Appendix O of the Final Tier 1 EIS.

## HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE FINAL TIER 1 EIS?

The ROD represents the final decision on the Tier 1 EIS; therefore there is no formal comment period for the Final Tier 1 EIS and ROD.

## FINAL EIS AND ROD PUBLICATION

The Final Tier 1 EIS/ROD is available on the study website at [azdot.gov/NorthSouthStudy](http://azdot.gov/NorthSouthStudy). Hard copies are also available during normal business hours at the following repository locations:

### Eloy Santa Cruz Library

1000 N. Main St.  
Eloy, AZ 85131  
520.466.3814

### Coolidge Public Library

160 W. Central Ave.  
Coolidge, AZ 85128  
520.723.6030

### Florence Community Library

778 N. Main St.  
Florence, AZ 85132  
520.868.7500

### Apache Junction

**Public Library**  
1177 N. Idaho Rd.  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119  
480.474.8558

### Queen Creek Library

21802 S. Ellsworth Rd.  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
602.652.3000

## CONTACT INFORMATION

General comments or questions about the study can be submitted to ADOT through the following methods:



**Online:** [azdot.gov/NorthSouthStudy](http://azdot.gov/NorthSouthStudy)



**Email:** [northsouth@azdot.gov](mailto:northsouth@azdot.gov)



**Phone:** 855.712.8530



**Mail:** c/o ADOT Communications - North-South Study  
1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F • Phoenix, AZ 85007