



RAMPING UP for the Future

ADOT

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STATE ROUTE 189: INTERNATIONAL BORDER TO GRAND AVENUE

A bimonthly newsletter from the Arizona Department of Transportation to share important information about the State Route 189 project

The heat is on, yet dedicated crews continue to make progress on the State Route 189 Improvement Project. In this issue of the newsletter, find out how these men and women endure triple-digit temperatures as they work to complete the project by this fall.

This issue also highlights how the timing of the SR 189 project was what some might call a blessing in disguise. After years of anticipation and planning, construction began in 2020 precisely when everything else was shutting down because of the pandemic. This proved to be a bright spot for the local community amid an otherwise difficult year. Although not yet complete, the SR 189 project has already bolstered the economy — and the best is yet to come!



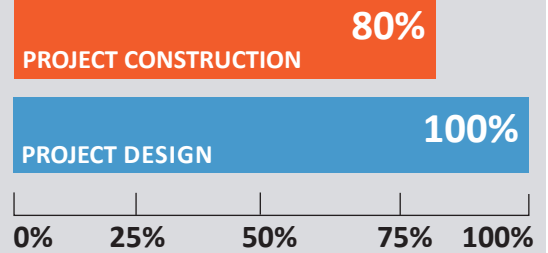
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



- ➔ All of the girders have been set for the flyover bridges and the concrete decks have been poured.
- ➔ ADOT anticipates the bridge will open in the coming months.

- All bridge decks have been poured and the bridge barrier is almost complete.
- Crews are working to finish the paving and barrier on the bridge approaches.
- Crews are working to finish the paving on SR 189 from the southern project limit to I-19.
- Traffic will soon switch to its final configuration on SR 189.
- The existing number of travel lanes on SR 189 will remain the same until closer to the end of the project.
- The roundabout at Target Range Rd is 90% complete. The only remaining work is the decorative concrete in the islands.
- Remaining work over the next few months includes: seeding, signing and pavement striping, painting, grading the slopes outside of the roadway, widening Grand Avenue to the east to create room for the new third left turn lane onto SR 189, and finishing the widening of I-19 for the on-ramp to transition onto the interstate from the SR 189 fly-over bridge.
- The project remains on track for completion this fall.

PERCENTAGE COMPLETION



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

At the southernmost tip of Interstate 19, lies a city rich in history and culture. With a population of approximately 20,000 people, Nogales, Ariz. is the sister city of Nogales, Sonora, and the primary entry point from Mexico. Nearly \$30 billion of fresh produce and manufactured goods funnel through Nogales, Ariz. each year.

For over 10 years, residents and businesses of Nogales waited and hoped that the State Route 189 project would come to fruition. At quick glance, the project does not seem out of the ordinary, but in reality, it is a game changer for many.

Widening approximately 3 miles of SR 189 from just north of the Mariposa Port of Entry to the intersection with Grand Avenue, constructing a new roundabout at SR 189 and Target Range Road, constructing new flyover ramps connecting SR 189 to north- and southbound I-19, improving drainage and installing new traffic signals might not sound life altering to some, but it is in the best possible way.

“This project gives Nogales the opportunity for more efficient traffic circulation for people and goods, and alleviates local traffic congestion,” said city of Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino. “I am looking forward to many things, especially the safety of the children at Nogales High School. Traffic dropping kids off will no longer conflict with commercial traffic. The project is not just aesthetically pleasing, it will make travel for commercial and non-commercial traffic so much safer and easier. We are very excited for this project to be completed.”

“The modernization of SR 189 is a critical component for Arizona’s competitiveness vis a vis California, New Mexico and Texas,” said Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker. “It is the principal connector between the Mariposa port of entry and I-19. Mariposa is the gateway for over 350,000 trucks each year, representing more than \$26 billion worth of trade — and growing. This project allows us to work with the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Arizona-Mexico Commission, to attract new companies to invest in our area and create new jobs. This project is essential to the future of our county.”

Economic hardship was abundant over the last year with the global pandemic. Nogales felt the pain just as other cities across the United States did. A light in the community, and a beacon of hope during a tough time, was the SR 189 project. The project has given financial support to this special community.

Supervisor Bracker points out that without knowing it, the project came at an ideal time for the community. “The groundbreaking of the project took place in March 2020, which is the same time that the COVID-19 pandemic forced the shutdown of Arizona and most of our nation. That meant



that our retail sector was shut down, which in turn brought a dramatic drop in our retail sales tax. The \$134 million project brought with it the sales tax impact of the materials used for the project, along with the construction team staying in our hotels and eating in our

restaurants. The sales tax impact of the project helped keep Santa Cruz County government moving forward with the essential services that our residents desperately needed during these trying times.”

Mayor Garino shares that construction tax revenue has increased in Nogales and that the crews working on the construction of the SR 189

project have helped boost the hospitality industry and retail sales numbers in the community. “The effect was also greatly minimized by the closure of the border to non-essential travelers,” said Mayor Garino.

The SR 189 project team had an idea of the impact that the completed project would have on trade, international travel and safety, but never imagined that just doing what they do best — building stronger, safer roads — would help keep this tight-knit community strong.

One of Mayor Garino’s public priorities is to improve the local economy, bring more job opportunities and create a business-friendly community. The SR 189 project will be pivotal to reaching those goals — a positive change for the Nogales community.



In County Supervisor Bracker’s words, “I can’t wait to see the smooth flow of traffic both on the overpasses and underneath. I can’t wait to see our high school students and their families have a safer and faster ride to and from school without having to co-mingle with thousands of trucks each day. I can’t wait to see trucks taking the flyovers and leaving local traffic at the stop lights. And I can’t wait to showcase this investment all along our corridor with Mexico and letting companies know that their products and their trucks can now travel faster and safer across the border at Nogales. I am grateful to ADOT and the entire team that is bringing this project to reality.”

Thank you to the city of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, and the many passionate, kind, strong and invested community members and stakeholders. It takes a village to build a project and ADOT is grateful for the support.



WATER, REST, SHADE

Water, rest, shade is the Arizona Department of Transportation's mantra for keeping outdoor workers safe in the summer months. Worker safety is a top priority at ADOT, and never more so than now when temperatures in much of Arizona are in the triple digits.



symptoms. This is why members of the team are trained to watch out for each other, and if they see a co-worker showing any symptoms, summon medical help.

Bob Stolz is ADOT's Occupational Safety Administrator, charged with overseeing safety for all parts of the agency. His office provides guidelines and resources for contractors, who in turn develop the safety protocols for their construction workers.

"We have posters on the job sites with reminders of the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion, in English and Spanish," Wilson said.

"Each contractor has its own safety plan in place, but we all follow the same standards," Stolz said. "We all understand the need to protect workers from the heat."

In addition to training and daily reminders, Wilson said ADOT and its contractors use a number of strategies to mitigate the effects of the heat:

Rory Wilson is the Regional Safety Manager for Ames Construction, the primary contractor for the State Route 189 project. His job is to oversee the health and safety of workers on all of Ames's construction projects statewide.

- Work hours are adjusted, and projects in parts of Arizona are started earlier in the morning.
- Cooling stations provide shade, seating and cold water.
- Sunscreen and other sun protection gear, such as hat sun shades and long-sleeve safety shirts, are provided.
- Newer employees are observed carefully during a 7- to 10-day acclimatization period, and given extra time to rest and hydrate.
- Workers are monitored for signs of heat-related stress.
- Certain jobs, such as paving, are done on overnight shifts during the summer.
- A full-time safety manager is assigned to the 189 project.
- Workers are rotated so no one is in the direct sun all day.

He said crews working to finish the State Route 189 project in Nogales follow a strict set of guidelines and protocols this time of year, when temperatures on the asphalt or concrete can be as much as 20 degrees higher than the air temperature.

Wilson said each morning, the foremen gather their crews for a meeting to review and remind workers of the hazards associated with their work. Once a week the entire team meets — all the managers and crew — to review the safety action plans.

Wilson said when possible, workers will be directed to switch responsibilities on some jobs. For example, "after someone's been climbing on rebar for a few hours, we'll move him to do work under the bridge" he said. "We switch guys out every few hours to minimize that direct heat exposure."

"We practice constant training and education," Wilson said. Workers must take safety classes and learn CPR, and all are responsible for observing fellow co-workers for signs of heat illnesses, before they lead to heat stroke.

Many times, victims of heat stroke don't notice their own

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Project video vimeo.com/568585258/350b30cc50



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