

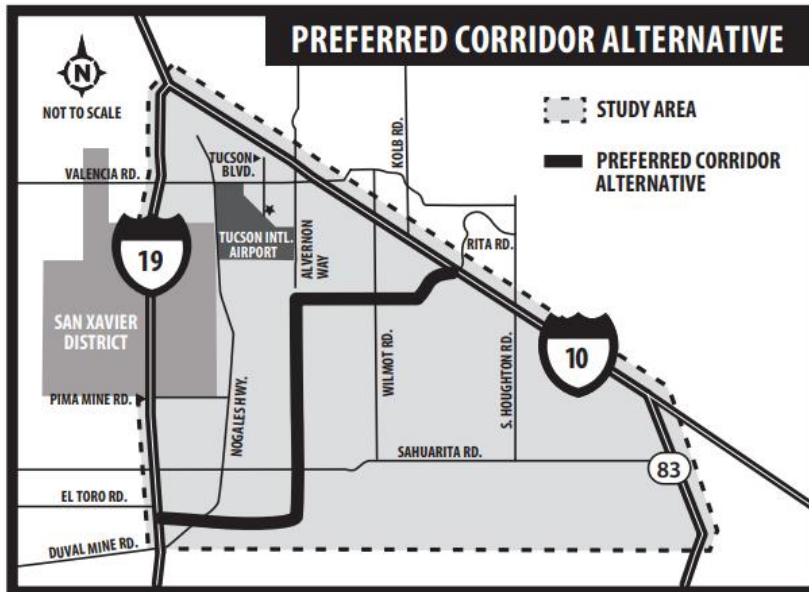


## Sonoran Corridor Study Fact Sheet

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

#### OVERVIEW

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed Sonoran Corridor located between Interstate 19 (I-19) and Interstate 10 (I-10) south of the Tucson International Airport in Pima County, Arizona. The ROD, which signifies the conclusion and end of the Tier 1 study, was combined with a Tier 1 Final



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was prepared by FHWA and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the combined Tier 1 Final EIS/ROD identifies and discusses all such factors that FHWA and ADOT balanced in making its decision and states how those considerations entered into their decision for the Tier 1 EIS study.

The combined Tier 1 Final EIS/ROD document identifies Corridor Alternative 7 as the Selected Alternative to advance to second tier (Tier 2) analysis. Corridor Alternative 7 is approximately 20.47 miles long and extends from the west at I-19 in Sahuarita, near El Toro Road, to I-10 at Rita Road. From I-19, it will travel east along a new alignment for approximately 2 miles, then travel north along an extension of Alvernon Way to Old Vail Connection Road, and then follows Old Vail Connection Road east to I-10 at Rita Road.

#### BACKGROUND

FHWA and ADOT officially began the Sonoran Corridor Tier 1 study in May 2017. The Tier 1 EIS prepared by FHWA and ADOT evaluated potential environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with a range of corridor alternatives, including the No-Build Alternative, from

a programmatic level. Given the needs or problems that exist within the Sonoran Corridor study area, the overall purpose of this Tier 1 study was to identify a high-priority, high-capacity, access-controlled transportation corridor that will:

- Improve the existing transportation network by affording better access to growth areas and existing activity centers;
- Reduce congestion and improve LOS that is predicted for the study area in 2045;
- Provide a system linkage between I-19 and I-10 south of the Tucson International Airport that improves mobility associated with regional, interstate, and international travel.

The corridor alternatives that were evaluated as part of this Tier 1 study were developed based on input from the public; coordination with local, regional, state and federal agencies and tribes; and findings from previously completed studies.

### **WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**

The combined Tier 1 Final EIS/ROD provides a Phased Implementation Plan for the Selected Alternative, Corridor Alternative 7, which is a conceptual framework for how the Sonoran Corridor will move forward into Tier 2 studies. The Phased Implementation Plan includes smaller segments of Corridor Alternative 7 that may advance as separate, independent projects. These future projects will include more defined environmental and engineering studies to identify a specific freeway alignment within the 2000 ft corridor area of Corridor Alternative 7. The identification and location of interchanges, bridges and other design features will take place as part of future Tier 2 studies. Future Tier 2 studies, which are not yet fully funded, would include additional analysis and opportunities for public review and comment.

For this Tier 1 study, FHWA served as the Lead Agency and ADOT served as the Local Project Sponsor. For future Tier 2 studies, ADOT has assumed FHWA's responsibility for carrying out NEPA under two separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that have been executed by FHWA and ADOT: *Responsibility for Categorical Exclusions MOU* pursuant to 23 USC 326 (326 MOU), and *Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program MOU* pursuant to 23 USC 327 (327 MOU). Under these assignments of federal environmental review responsibility, ADOT is responsible for carrying out federal environmental review responsibilities and complying with all applicable federal environmental laws, regulations, Executive Orders and policies. ADOT is solely liable for environmental decisions made on projects funded under the Federal-aid Highway Program pursuant to either the 326 MOU or the 327 MOU. For more information go to [azdot.gov/Sonoran Corridor](http://azdot.gov/SonoranCorridor)

### **WHEN WOULD THE FREEWAY BE BUILT?**

Currently, there is no funding identified to build the Sonoran 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 Sonoran 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 F of the Final Tier 1 EIS / ROD.

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

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 TIER 1 EIS / ROD PUBLICATION**

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

#### **REPOSITORY LOCATIONS:**

Southcentral District  
1221 S. 2nd Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85713  
520.388.4200





Joel Valdez Main Public Library  
101 N. Stone Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
520.594.5564

Sahuarita Town Hall  
375 W. Sahuarita Center Way.  
Sahuarita, AZ 85629  
520.822.8801

Green Valley Library  
601 N. La Canada Dr.  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
520.594.5295

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

-  **Online:** [www.azdot.gov/sonorancorridor](http://www.azdot.gov/sonorancorridor)
-  **Phone:** 855.712.8530 (bilingüe)
-  **Email:** [sonorancorridor@azdot.gov](mailto:sonorancorridor@azdot.gov)
-  **USPS Mail:** ADOT Communications, c/o Joanna Bradley, 1221 S. Second Ave, Tucson, AZ 85713

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