Sonoran Corridor
Draft Resolution of Support

November 2014
Sonoran Corridor Draft Resolution of Support

Overview

- PAG jurisdiction interest in requesting changes to the State Highway System, including “Planning Routes”

- Process described in the 2012 ADOT Route Transfer Handbook

- Coordinate with PAG jurisdictions to make a unified, regional request of ADOT and the Arizona State Transportation Board
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Overview
(h) Scope of Planning Process.-

(1) In general.-The metropolitan planning process for a metropolitan planning area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will-

(A) support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;

(D) Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight; (23 USC 134)
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Importance of the I-10 to I-19 Corridor Connection

1986 Regional Transportation Plan
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Importance of the I-10 to I-19 Corridor Connection

1986 Long Range Transportation Plan for Unincorporated Pima County 1986 to 2005
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Importance of the I-10 to I-19 Corridor Connection

2007 State Transportation System Mobility and Regional Circulation Needs Feasibility Study
Sonoran Corridor Draft Resolution of Support Freight and Economic Development

2013 JPAC Freight Transportation Framework Study

Import Distribution Facility
Tucson International Airport Area

Benefits from:
- Proximity to international border or port of entry
- Proximity to rail and highway system
- Most effective with direct access to air cargo
- Most effective when located near port or border
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Freight and Economic Development

2014 TREO Economic Blueprint Update

The planned Auxiliary Interstate Highway (Sonoran Corridor) creates a number of opportunities, including a high speed connection for freight headed from/to Mexico via Nogales while relieving congestion in the downtown area; a high speed commuter route connecting rapidly growing residential communities south and east of Tucson to major employment centers; creation of a Logistics Corridor that takes advantage of close proximity to Mexico, two railroads, two Interstates, air freight, and the state’s only recognized international intermodal center at the Port of Tucson; and providing access to thousands of acres of undeveloped land south and southeast of TIA.

View I-10/I-19 Bypass map at treoaz.org
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2014 Regionally Significant Corridors Study
3.2 Proposed New State Highways
Proposed state highways were identified based on roadways and corridors recommended in PAG, ADOT, and member jurisdiction transportation studies over recent years. Proposed state highways are:

- Park Link Drive (Pinal County)
- PCDOT Corridor in Avra Valley
- Aerospace Sonoran Corridor (ASC) including Old Vail Connection Road, Alvernon, and Pima Mine Road
- Aviation Parkway extension to I-10
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2014 Regionally Significant Corridors Study
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2014 Regionally Significant Corridors Study

Image source: PAG
Since 2012, PAG has programmed $12.7 of regional funds for the design and construction of the Hughes Access Road Relocation.
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- July 30, 2014 – Pima Co. Planning and Zoning Commission approval of Major Streets and Scenic Routes Plan Amendment

- Oct. 7, 2014 – Pima Co. Board of Supervisors approval of Plan Amendment

- Oct. 20, 2014 – Pima Co. request of PAG to coordinate a unified regional request to the ASTB to add the Sonoran Corridor to the State Highway System
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Arizona State Transportation
Board Powers and Duties with respect to highways

28-304. **Powers and duties of the board; transportation facilities**

B. With respect to highways, the board shall:
1. Establish a complete system of state highway routes.
2. Determine which state highway routes or portions of the routes are accepted into the state highway system and which state highway routes to improve.
3. Establish, open, relocate or alter a portion of a state route or state highway.
4. Vacate or abandon a portion of a state route or state highway as prescribed in section 28-7209.
5. Sell board funding obligations to the state treasurer as provided in section 28-7678.
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Unified Regional Request

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The PAG Regional Council recognizes that a corridor connection between I-10 and I-19 has been, and continues to be, identified as a critical transportation infrastructure asset since the mid-1980s, through adopted long-range transportation plans, ASTB action, and regionally adopted transportation funding programs.

2. The PAG Regional Council understands that the proposed Sonoran Corridor is an important surface transportation facility for intra- and interregional mobility, trade, economic development, and economic expansion.

3. The PAG Regional Council supports the addition of the Sonoran Corridor to the State Highway System and the necessary efforts to incorporate this corridor into ADOT plans and funding programs.

4. The PAG Regional Council supports a comprehensive, regional approach that considers mobility needs of regional, state, and national economic significance, including exploration of feasible and appropriate State Route additions and deletions within the region.
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Next Steps

• Compile all jurisdiction requests for changes to the State Highway System Planning Routes for possible inclusion in a unified regional request

• Take the unified regional request through the PAG committee review process for consideration and possible approval by the PAG Regional Council

• Collaborate with ADOT staff and the Arizona State Transportation Board to move the request forward
Thank you!