



Interstate 11 Corridor Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement, Nogales to Wickenburg

Spring 2017

WELCOME

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome your input on the corridor alternatives developed as part of the environmental study for the proposed Interstate 11 (I-11) between Nogales and Wickenburg.

Please review and comment on the alternative corridor options for I-11 that will be studied in greater detail in the coming months. These corridor options were developed based on input from prior studies, agency and public scoping meetings, and technical analysis conducted to date.

WHAT IS I-11?

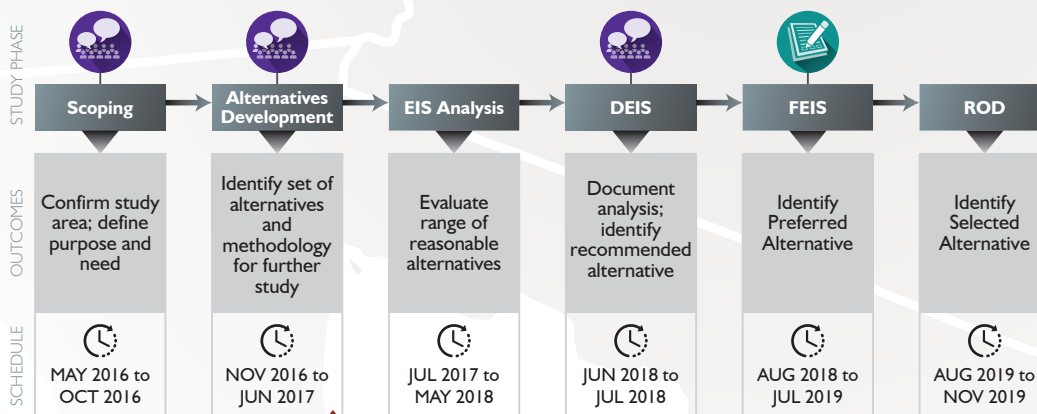
I-11 is envisioned as a continuous high-capacity transportation corridor that has the potential to enhance movement of people and freight, and to facilitate regional connectivity, trade, communications, and technology.

THE STUDY PROCESS

ADOT and FHWA are in the process of preparing the I-11 Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under NEPA, federal lead agencies such as the FHWA are required to consider impacts of a proposed transportation corridor on social, cultural, natural and economic resources.

The environmental review process under NEPA also provides an opportunity for you to be involved in the decision-making. It helps you understand what is being proposed; allows you to offer your thoughts on alternative ways to accomplish what is being proposed; and seeks your comments on the potential environmental effects and possible mitigation required for the various alternatives.

I-11 TIER 1 EIS SCHEDULE



Public Meetings



Public Review Period

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
DEIS - Draft EIS

FEIS - Final EIS
ROD - Record of Decision

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Attend a public meeting to review study information and provide comments. View public meeting materials and provide comments online at:



I11study.com/Arizona

To inquire about the study, please reach out to the study team:



I-11ADOTStudy@hdrinc.com



1-844-544-8049
(bilingual)



Interstate 11 Tier 1 EIS Study Team
c/o ADOT Communications
1655 W. Jackson St.
Mail Drop 126F
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Please submit comments by **Friday, June 2, 2017** so that the project team can include your comment in the meeting summary.



DEVELOPMENT OF CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

Alternative corridor options were developed through a systematic process based on concepts from prior studies, input received during the public and agency scoping meetings, as well as various topographical, environmental and other technical planning information that identified opportunities and constraints. These numerous alternatives were evaluated to provide a reasonable range of Build Corridor Alternatives, essentially a shortlist of alternatives. The next step is to advance the Build Corridor Alternatives, along with a No-Build Alternative (i.e., a do-nothing option), into a Tier 1 EIS - a detailed environmental analysis to recommend a preferred alternative for the I-11 Corridor. An Alternative Selection Report (ASR) is underway, as an early step, to document this process and will include input received from agency and public comments.



Prior Studies



Agency Scoping



Public Scoping



Technical Analysis



REASONABLE RANGE OF BUILD CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES FOR TIER 1 EIS ANALYSIS

The Build Corridor Alternatives are broken into shorter options to help identify specific issues along the 280-mile corridor from Nogales to Wickenburg. They are assigned an alphabetical letter to define one corridor option from another. The shorter corridor options will be combined to create end-to-end alternatives that will be compared in the Tier 1 EIS against a No-Build Alternative, which represents a benchmark against which to evaluate potential impacts.



TIER 1 VS TIER 2 LEVEL OF DETAIL

In the upcoming phase of this study, a Tier 1 EIS will be conducted to understand the potential impacts associated with each corridor alternative.

The impacts will be assessed within a 2,000 foot wide corridor, even though the actual I-11 facility will be a much narrower footprint (e.g., approximately 400 feet for a new freeway). While the Tier 1 EIS will determine a preferred alternative for the general corridor, a Tier 2 environmental study would be required to identify the precise alignment and footprint for the future I-11 Corridor.

Tier 1 EIS

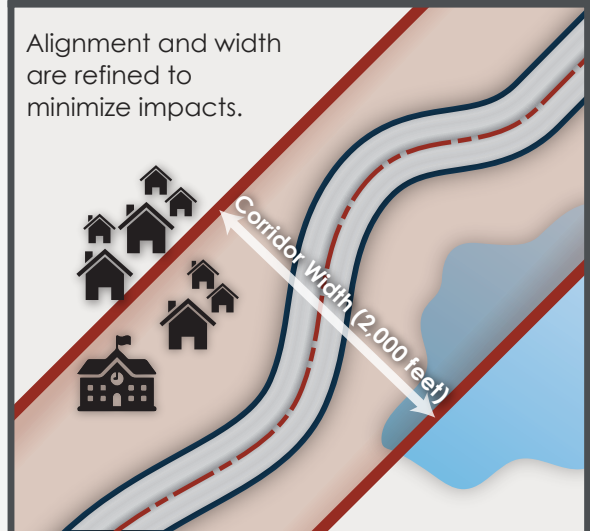


Evaluates wide corridors in multiple locations, at a program level, within which a new transportation facility could be located.

Outcome: Select a single corridor within which an alignment would be identified during Tier 2.

Tier 2 Environmental Study

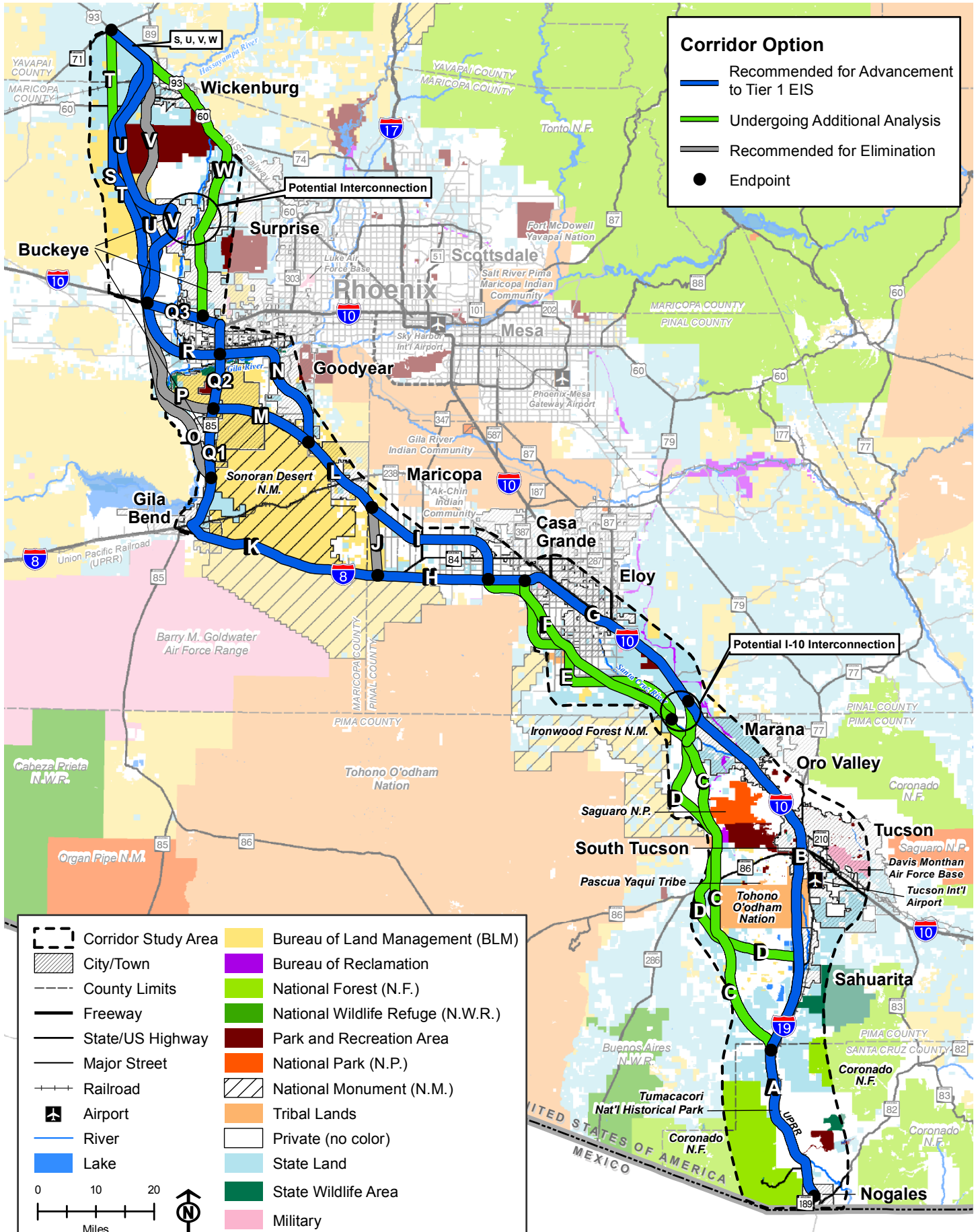
Alignment and width are refined to minimize impacts.



Evaluates design concepts for specific alignments within the corridor, such as 400 feet for a typical freeway alignment.

Outcome: Select an alignment and enable permitting for that alignment.

RESULTS OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING



WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED: SCOPING SUMMARY

Public scoping for the project occurred in June 2016. Scoping is an early, important step in the environmental review process. During scoping, the public and agencies have an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns, which help determine the "scope" or range of issues to be addressed in the environmental document. For more information, the Scoping Summary Report is located on the study website (i11study.com/Arizona).

More than 800 community members participated in the public scoping process. Six meetings were held throughout the corridor and comments were provided through various forms:



Comment Form and Online Survey Results (657 responses)

Question 1

The top two most important transportation problems experienced today or anticipated in the future that I-11 could address include:



1. Relieving regional congestion; improving travel time and reliability

2. Improving freight travel and reliability, reducing bottlenecks on existing highways



Question 2

When asked to consider what I-11 should be or accommodate, the highest ranking response was:

Enhancing or expanding existing highways and freeways



Question 3

Top three human environmental factors to consider:

1. Land use



2. Neighborhoods, diverse communities, and residences



3. Public parks and recreation



Question 4

Top three natural environmental factors to consider:

1. Water resources



2. Biological resources



3. Air quality



THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR I-11

Defining the Purpose and Need for a project is a fundamental part of the NEPA process and provides the basis for identifying, evaluating, and screening corridor alternatives; it is one of the key components in determining and selecting a Preferred Corridor Alternative for I-11.

▶ THE PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the I-11 Corridor is to:

- Provide a high priority, high capacity, access-controlled, transportation corridor;
- Support improved regional mobility for people, goods, and homeland security;
- Connect major metropolitan areas and markets in the Intermountain West with Mexico and Canada; and
- Enhance access to the high capacity transportation network to support economic vitality.



▶ THE NEED

The problems, issues, and opportunities that support the need for a proposed transportation facility are:

Population and employment growth



Congestion and travel time reliability



Access to economic activity centers



Homeland security and national defense



The full Purpose and Need Statement is available on the study website (i11study.com/Arizona).

