



Loop 202 Information Updates

OVERVIEW

In recent weeks, you may have attended one of the GRIC Transportation Technical Team's (TTT) Outreach meetings. The TTT is a team comprised of key individuals all dedicated to support the Community's overall transportation goals. One of the areas the TTT supports is with gathering transportation information that affects the Community and reporting it to Community Council for direction. Providing information to Community members on one of the State of Arizona's transportation goals is what the TTT is now doing.

In 1985 Maricopa County voters, voted in favor of funding Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Freeway Program. This program included the Loop 202/Loop 101 Freeway system. In 2004, thru Proposition 400 funding for the last piece to complete the Loop 202/Loop 101-Freeway system, the South Mountain Freeway (SM Freeway) was approved. According to a MAG statement this system is, "necessary for high-quality regional mobility". The proposed freeway extends Loop 202 from Interstate 10 (I-10) (Maricopa Freeway) on the east to I-10 (Papago Freeway) on the west, thus completing the "loop".

According to the State approved South Mountain Freeway alignment overview, provided by MAG and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), development of the proposed freeway is divided into a western and an eastern section. The western section of the alignment shows the north-south connection of the SM Freeway (Loop 202) at I-10 (Papago Freeway) near 59th Avenue. The eastern section of the alignment shows the east-west connection of the SM Freeway (Loop 202) at I-10 at Pecos Rd; this particular part of the alignment has been named the E1 Alignment. See the map titled E1 Alignment.

The path for the E1 Alignment will in fact cut through two western ridges of the South Mountains. Due to the cultural significance of these mountains, this is a major concern to the Community. In a January 28, 2010 letter Governor Rhodes sent to the ADOT, he requested Director John S. Halikowski, to mitigate impacts of the freeway; to avoid cultural sites and culturally significant properties; to preserve traditional routes and wildlife corridors; and to reduce truck and commuter traffic on 51st Ave. To avoid impacts to South Mountain and

to have more control over the project Governor Rhodes indicated the Community would be willing to assist ADOT in conducting a study of an on-reservation Loop 202 alignment. This alternate alignment was to be consistent with the Community's 1998 Gila Borderlands Regional Planning Study.

Because of Governor Rhodes letter, the ADOT proposed an alternative SM Freeway Loop 202 alignment that avoids the Mountain, the GRIC Alignment. The proposed GRIC Alignment runs between 44th Street and 51st Avenue on Community land.

The GRIC Alignment (See Figure 2 GRIC Alignment):

- Avoids cutting into the South Mountains and other culturally significant sites,
- Reduces the impacts to wildlife and the environment like air, sound and natural habitat.
- Prevents any rain run off into the Community
- Diverts traffic off 51st Ave.

The TTT is charged with providing this new information on both alignments to Community members.

The goal of the TTT is to:

1. Show tribal members, especially those who are from District 6, what the State of Arizona's SM Freeway construction plans are,
2. Inform members that to avoid the negative impacts and to have more control over the design of the freeway Governor Rhodes requested ADOT propose alignment (on-reservation) and
3. Ask Community members which of the two freeway alignments would you recommend the Community consider.

Due to the encroachment around the Community we are placed in a situation with limited choices. It is not a matter of if the State is going to build a freeway along our boundary it is a matter of where they will build it.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does it cut through the sacred South Mountain?

Yes, the current alignment (E1 Alignment) cuts thru the culturally significant South Mountain.

What about the District 6 resolution?

The District 6 "No Build" motion and Community Council resolution supporting the district still stands. The Community's position does not stop the State from moving forward with their plans to build the South Mountain Freeway off the reservation.

How will the vote for the freeway take place?

Once outreach is complete, the TTT will provide a report to the Community Council. The Council could then make a motion to proceed with the GRIC alignment or defer the decision to a referendum (Community wide vote).

For the E1 alignment, how does air quality and noise pollution affect the Community?

According to GRIC's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), because the E1 Alignment skirts right along the Community's northern boundary the air and sound quality will be dramatically affected. It is projected that an estimated 137,000 to 142,000 vehicles per day by 2030 will travel

that route. Large sound walls are planned for the GRIC Alignment to help reduce the noise and some of the exhaust drifting into District 6.

What about the animals and wildlife?

The GRIC Alignment includes a number of proposed wildlife corridors in their existing paths; this will allow access to the mountain.

What is the construction timeframe?

ADOT has currently purchased 90% of the right-of-way along Pecos Rd., actual construction is scheduled to break ground in 2014.

Will the Community consider a land swap?

If the Community chooses the GRIC Alignment, land swaps are a consideration.

For questions, concerns, or comments call:
Public Information Office
(520) 562-9848
E-Mail: freeway@gilariver.org

E1 Alignment

- Parallels GRIC's northern border; which is also out of GRIC's jurisdiction
- Cuts through South Mountain, destroying cultural sites and indigenous plants and natural habitats
- Impacts Community's air quality as well as noise pollution
- Completes the approved Loop 202 freeway (Santan Freeway - Interstate 10)
- Freeway construction and related costs were approved in 2004 (\$1.9 billion dollars)

The Current Off-Reservation Loop 202 Alignment:

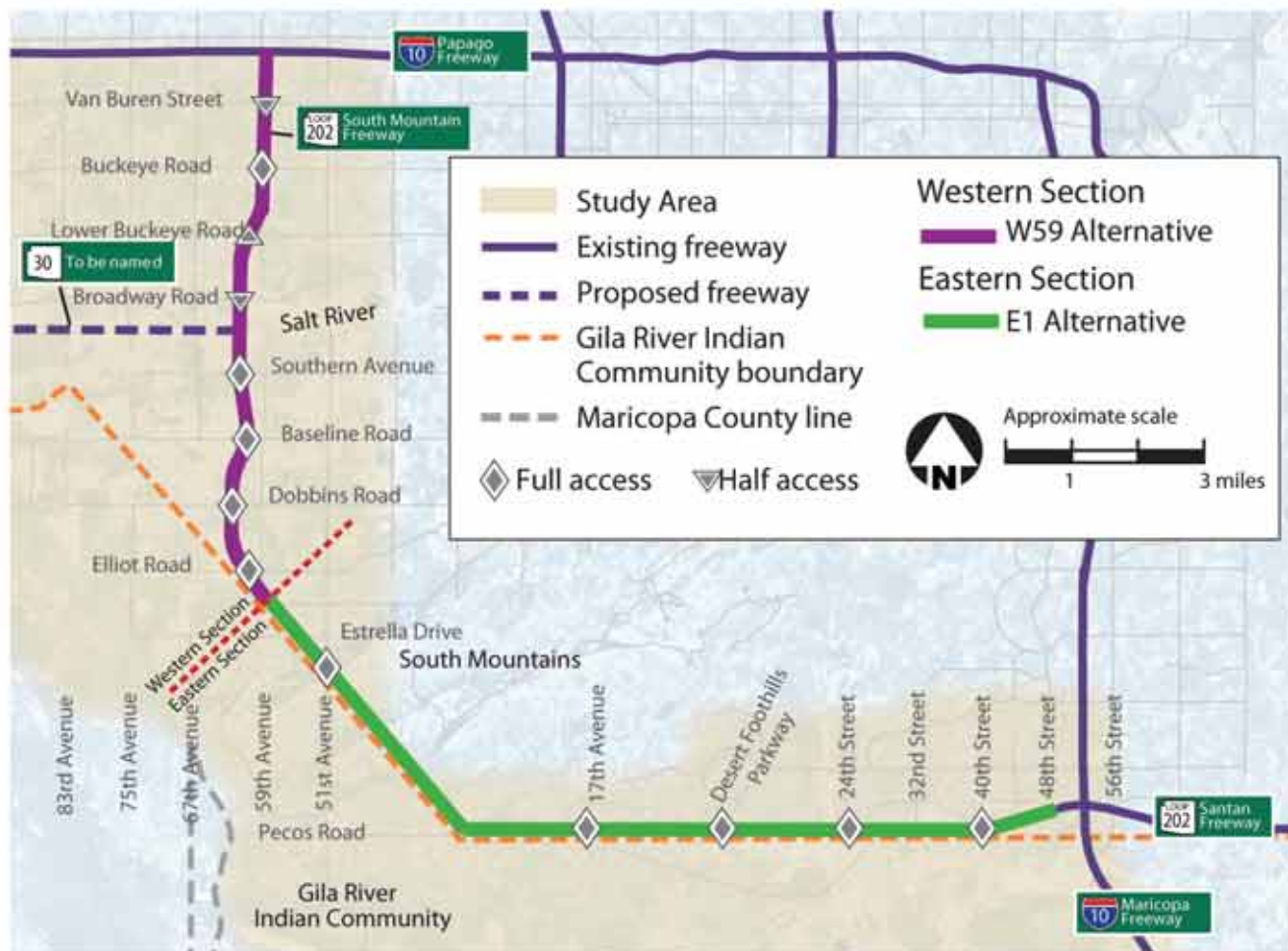


Figure 1. Proposed South Mountain Freeway

GRIC Alignment

- Diverts traffic out of the Community; primarily 51st Ave (District-6)
- Avoids cutting through South Mountain preserving cultural sites
- Safeguards indigenous wildlife paths with elevated crossings
- Provides future economic development opportunities for GRIC and landowners
- Within GRIC Reservation boundaries; which gives Community more voice
- Impacts Community's air quality as well as noise pollution

Optional On-Reservation "GRIC" Alignment:



Figure 2. GRIC Alignment

COMMUNITY MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday, January 3, 2011
District 1 Regular Meeting
6:00 PM

Monday, January 17, 2011
District 2 Regular Meeting
6:00PM

Saturday, January 29, 2011
Urban Members 10:00am
Location: The Stepping Stone Place
1325 N. 14th St., Phoenix, AZ

Dist. 3 Regular Meeting: TBD
Dist. 5 Regular Meeting: TBD

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
Take the survey at any of the outreach meetings or at your service center

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY