

CINDY HERNANDEZ

Cindy Hernandez is an editorial writer for The Arizona Republic.

South Mountain Freeway

Opponents of the Pecos Road alignment of the [South Mountain](#) Freeway think it would be so much easier if the Gila River Indian Community would just let us build the humongous piece of infrastructure on their land. Why wouldn't the Gila tribe want the freeway, right? It comes with so many benefits.

During an Editorial Board meeting with the Gila tribe last week, I asked members what they saw as benefits to having the freeway on their land. They said economic development, freeway access to a casino and safety improvements near a residential area.

Obvious answers, right?

But what is more obvious to me are the drawbacks. Ahwatukee residents are concerned about dirty air, traffic, noise and more. Well, guess what? So is the Gila tribe. Why is air and noise pollution OK for one set of people but not another? Just because we see their land as being vast and open does not mean we should just push the freeway onto it. Nor should the Gila tribe have to fix the mistakes of Ahwatukee residents, who built their homes along the alignment.

The only thing that should stop the freeway along the proposed route is South Mountain itself. The Gila tribe recently [OK'd the state to study](#) the freeway on its land. But those who want to see the freeway come to fruition should not get their hopes up. The tribe still supports the no-build option.

Monday, February 1, 2010 at 04:21 PM
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posted by [Bob8930](#) on Feb 2, 2010 at 12:44 AM





So we have Cindy Hernandez, a non-Indian, telling us why the Indians are wrong about siting the freeway on their land. Did it ever enter your self-centered mind that you are not in a position to judge what is best for the Gila Indian Community? And when did the "Gila Tribe" appoint you as their spokesperson, Cindy?

I have confidence that the tribe members themselves can figure out what is best for their interests, without [Ahwatukee Foothills](#) residents telling them why they should want a freeway, or a silly news reporter telling them why they are wrong if they do choose to put the freeway there.

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posted by [chatmandu](#) on Feb 2, 2010 at 08:46 AM



Is everybody a NIMBY these days. I say push it through the original location. Those people knew the South Mountain freeway was coming for years. How come the children of Ahwatukee are so delicate that they can't be subjected to highway noise and pollution as compared to other children that already live near the freeways in other parts of Phoenix or the country. A new [high school](#) was just built right next to loop 202 in Gilbert. I guess the children of Gilbert aren't so delicate or is the argument against the South Mountain freeway just another foolish NIMBY ploy. Come on, you people of Ahwatukee knew this was coming for over 20 years. Suck it up and live with it.

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posted by [Bob8930](#) on Feb 2, 2010 at 11:20 AM



If the Gila [Indian Tribe](#) want it on their land, and the Ahwatukee Foothills residents don't want it next to them, why do Cindy and you have so much trouble with that, chatmandu?

You two need to suck it up and live with the decisions other people make and accept them.

<http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/CindyHernandez/72947>