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# ADOT's 5-year spending plan includes \$3.6 billion for Valley

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A plan for spending \$6 billion on Arizona highway projects during the next five years was presented Friday by the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The tentative 2008-12 budget, which includes \$3.64 billion for Maricopa County projects, was given to the State Transportation Board for future approval during a public hearing and board meeting.

The five-year program sets goals and priorities for highway planning, design and construction, with an annual approval process that moves the five-year window ahead every year. The transportation board must approve the plan before the start of the fiscal year July 1.

"The five-year program provides a glimpse into the future," said Doug Nintzel, ADOT spokesman. "When you take a look at a fiscal year (that is) five years from now, you get an idea of what projects lie ahead of us."

Among the major projects scheduled through 2012:

- The widening of Interstate 10 south from its junction with Interstate 8 to the Picacho Peak interchange, adding a lane in each direction for travelers between Phoenix and Tucson.
- The start of a project to widen I-10 from the boundary of the Gila River Reservation to the I-8 junction.
- The widening and improvement of Interstate 17 from Loop 101 to Carefree Highway, followed by the widening of the freeway from Carefree Highway to Anthem Way.
- Preliminary work on a project to widen I-17 from Black Canyon City to Cordes Junction.
- The widening of I-10 west of Loop 101 in the West Valley.

- Widening and improvements for U.S. 60 in the West Valley's Grand Avenue portion.
- I-10 widening and improvement from Arizona 51 to Baseline Road, including new interchanges and adding auxiliary "local lanes" in the Broadway Curve area.
- Preliminary work to widen and improve Carefree Highway west of I-17.
- Construction of the South Mountain segment of Loop 202 from I-10 south in the West Valley to 51st Avenue, and the design and right-of-way acquisition of the South Mountain segment from 51st Avenue east to the Santan interchange with I-10.