



I-10 study may hitch new lanes, light rail

Casey Newton

The Arizona Republic

Apr. 29, 2007 11:47 PM

Interstate 10 could see new lanes and light-rail tracks built simultaneously in the West Valley depending on the results of a key study expected to be approved this week.

The Phoenix City Council will vote Wednesday on whether to fund a \$6 million study of the 11-mile high-capacity transit corridor on the freeway between roughly 83rd and Central avenues.

In a separate vote, the city will consider funding 40 percent of a study that will examine different routes for a light rail extension in Glendale.

The 18-month I-10 study would accelerate planning for a potential high-speed rail line by four years. The acceleration would allow Metro officials to coordinate their efforts with the Arizona Department of Transportation, which will begin an independent study of I-10 widening this summer.

"If the study comes back and says being in the right of way in the median of I-10 west does make sense, then maybe we have the opportunity to do a joint project, or to do some elements of it jointly," said Maria Hyatt, light-rail coordinator in the city manager's office.

The Glendale extension is set to open in 2017, with the I-10 connection to open two years later.