



Comment sought on 2 roads

East-west alignments would go from U.S. 60 to 299th Avenue

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The Arizona Republic

Feb. 21, 2007 12:00 AM

County transportation planners will gather in Wittmann on Feb. 28 to discuss plans for two new east-west roads to slice through the Northwest Valley.

It is the second in a series of three informal meetings to gather community input about the road proposals.

The first open house was held last February, also in Wittmann.

At issue are proposals for two 14-mile roads that would begin roughly at U.S. 60 in Surprise, Maricopa County transportation officials said.

From there, they would extend west to 299th Avenue in far north Buckeye, following Jomax Road and Patton Road alignments, officials said.

Also under study are options for possible Hassayampa River crossings, said Roberta Crowe, a spokeswoman for the county Department of Transportation.

"The goal of this study is to identify and establish the future roadway type, alignment, number of lanes and right-of-way requirements," Crowe said.

The study is fueled by explosive growth expected in the area, she said.

In December 2005, two home builders and a mall developer announced plans for as many as 30,000 homes and other projects on a 5,500-acre tract north of U.S. 60 and Patton Road, not far from the roadway study corridor.

The sale of the DaimlerChrysler Proving Grounds was for \$312 million, marking one of the largest land deals in Arizona history, officials said.

The meeting is part of the county's RightRoads Program, an effort to update the 20-year transportation plan.

Farther west, the Maricopa Association of Governments, a regional planning group, is studying the need for a new 30-mile north-south freeway.

It would start at Interstate 10 in Buckeye, at approximately 347th Avenue, then extend north before linking up with U.S. 60 and Arizona 74.

The proposed freeway would be west of Sun Valley Parkway.