

Millions in freeway work under way

Completion of Loop 202 leg this year leads effort to raise capacity, ease traffic on Valley's arteries

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New stretch of Loop 202

Completion of a 5-mile stretch of Loop 202 in the East Valley between Power Road and University Drive.

Significance: Finishes the freeway grid funded by the Proposition 300 half-cent sales tax that was approved by Maricopa County voters in 1985. Takes commuting pressure off local streets and the Superstition Freeway, giving drivers another unbroken freeway route in and out of Phoenix.

Timetable: To be completed in the fall.

Cost: \$195 million.

I-10 in West Valley

Widening of Interstate 10 in West Valley. New regular and carpool lanes added in each direction between the Loop 101 and Sarival Avenue, near the Loop 303.

Significance: Attacks major bottleneck where I-10 squeezes from five lanes to three, then two. Future project adds another lane between Sarival and Verrado Way; third project adds another lane in each direction between Dysart Road and Sarival. Completion widens I-10 to five lanes in each direction.

Timetable: Larger initial project starts in spring. Second and third projects slated to start in 2009. All three done in 2010.

Cost: \$80 million for initial project, \$43 million for second project, \$35 million for third.

I-17 in North Valley

Widening Interstate 17 in the north Valley. One regular and one carpool lane being added in each direction between the Loop 101 and Jomax Road. A second project will extend the widening of I-17 from Jomax to Carefree Highway.

Significance: Addresses the traffic backups during weekday commutes for drivers heading to and from Anthem and the north Valley. Also will be useful for getting to and from spots such as Sedona and Flagstaff.

Timetable: First project between Loop 101 and Jomax Road to start in the spring. Second project between Jomax and Carefree Highway to start in summer. Both projects are expected to be finished early 2010.

Cost: \$67 million for first project. Estimated \$100 million for new lanes between Jomax and Carefree Highway.

Loop 202 to Tempe

Widening Loop 202's Red Mountain Freeway from Phoenix to Tempe. Project will add one regular lane in each direction on eastbound Loop 202 between Arizona 51 in central Phoenix and the Loop 101 in east Tempe. One regular lane and merge lanes will be built along westbound Loop 202 between the Loop 101 and McClintock Drive.

Significance: The project will add traffic capacity along the busiest stretch of Loop 202, especially in the area approaching the interchange with the Loop 101 in Tempe.

Timetable: Construction scheduled to start by summer and be completed in 2010.

Cost: Estimated \$180 million.

101, 202 carpools

Start of carpool-lane construction at Loop 101 between Tatum Boulevard and Princess Drive in the northeast Valley, Loop 101 between Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe and Loop 202's Santan Freeway in Chandler.

Significance: Projects will complete carpool-lane system along 30-mile stretch of Loop 101 from Loop 202 in Chandler to Arizona 51 in north Phoenix. More lanes for carpoolers and incentive to use express buses that travel in carpool lanes during rush hours.

Timetable: Projects scheduled to start by summer 2008 and be completed by 2010.

Cost: Estimated \$50 million for project between Rio Salado Parkway and Loop 202 in Chandler; estimated \$30 million for project between Tatum and Princess in Scottsdale.

51, 101 carpools

Completion of carpool lanes at Loop 101 between Princess Drive and the Loop 202's Red Mountain Freeway in the Scottsdale area and Arizona 51 between Shea Boulevard and Loop 101 in north Phoenix.

Significance: More capacity along busy Loop 101, plus carpool and bus incentives. Arizona 51 project extends carpool lanes beyond Park and Ride facility on Bell Road.

Timetable: Both projects are expected to be completed in late 2008.

Cost: \$47.4 million for Loop 101 project, \$40 million for Arizona 51 project.

Widening 60

Addition of regular lanes in each direction along U.S. 60 between Interstate 10 and Loop 101 in the East Valley.

Significance: Aimed at relieving bottlenecks along a key stretch of U.S. 60 in Tempe, where outside lanes currently merge into other existing lanes.

Timetable: Start by fall and completed in late 2009.

Cost: Estimated \$20 million.

Source: Arizona Department of Transportation