Verde Connect
Connecting People, Communities, and Services in the Verde Region
Add Your Voice!
What is Verde Connect?

Activities to date

What has been going on since the public meetings last fall?

Project Purpose

Next steps
WHAT IS VERDE CONNECT?

Verde Connect brings together a long-term vision for a north-south route to connect Cornville Road to State Route 260.
ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- Yavapai County initiated and funded a Design Concept Report in the spring of 2018, with no funding available for final design or construction.

- Public meetings held in Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and on the Yavapai Apache Nation in September and October of 2018.
WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE PUBLIC MEETINGS LAST FALL?
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development

- Federal grant program for investments in road, rail, transit, and port projects.
- $25 Million awarded to Yavapai County for the Verde Connect project in December 2018.
- Of the total 851 BUILD Grant applications submitted to the USDOT, only 91 projects were awarded. This project was the only one awarded in the State of Arizona.
- The Grant requires that all funds be fully expended by September 30, 2025.
- To obtain funding authorization from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the County must complete an environmental study that is compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Requests input on alignment alternatives the public would like us to evaluate and areas we should avoid.
- Close coordination with local, regional, state, and federal agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Environmental Protection Agency, among many others.
- “Scoping” period initiates the EA process.
Public Comments Requested through March 31, 2019

- Scoping is the process used to determine the appropriate scope of an EA study, such as the study area and the need for the project, and to identify issues and concerns.

- Public participation is an integral part of scoping.

- Input received during this time will be added to the hundreds of comments received since public involvement kicked off in June 2018.
WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW FOR SCOPING?

Public Comments Requested through March 31, 2019

- Coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.
- Conducting Verde Valley Community presentations to receive public input.
- Website updates to disseminate latest project information.
- Outreach to public using press releases, newspaper advertisements, radio, online survey, email blast, etc.
HOW CAN I ADD MY VOICE?

Mail comments to
Verde Connect
Project/Central
Creative, 24 W
Camelback Rd. #A-479,
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Visit our website at
www.verdeconnect.com
Click on “Get Involved” to
complete a short survey.
Click on “Contact Us” to
submit a written comment
and be added to the project
e-mail list.

Call Public
Involvement
Manager Kristin Darr
at 602-750-7139 for
more information or
to be added to our
mailing list.
CONNECT AREAS DIVIDED BY THE VERDE RIVER

- Reduce out-of-direction travel
- Meet current and future travel demand
- Provide an alternative/emergency route
- Support planned economic development
- Manage access to the Verde River by providing a bridge crossing
AREA ISSUES AND NEEDS

Long Commute Times

Long Fire and EMS Response Times

The Nation is bisected by the Verde River

Limited options to access shopping, jobs, and healthcare

- Only way in/out of Cornville
- Corridor is congested
- Widening the road may not be feasible

Emergency Access

Limited routes result in long fire/EMS response times
Detour lengths if regional highways are shutdown
What Happens if we DO NOTHING?

Current Modeled Traffic Congestion

Modeled 2040 Traffic Congestion
HOW ARE ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFIED?

- Previous Studies
- **Technical Analysis**: physical, environmental, cultural, built environment, impacts, etc.
- **Agency Input**: jurisdictions; regional, state and federal agencies
- **Public Input**
STUDY PROCESS

**Scoping**
- Data Gathering
- Criteria Development

**Alternative/Concept Development**
- Alternatives Development
- Alternative Selection
- Initial Location/Design Concept Report

**Conclusion**
- Final Design
- Final Environmental Assessment

**Environmental**
- Data Gathering
- Criteria Development

**Public Outreach**
- Agency and Public Meetings

**Engineering**
- Data Gathering
- Criteria Development

**Agency and Public Meetings**
- Initial Location/Design Concept Report
- Draft Environmental Assessment
NEXT STEPS

Data Gathering and Public Scoping
Evaluate Alternatives and Environmental/Cultural Conditions
May 2019
Public Meetings
Preferred Alternative Selection
Spring 2020
Draft Environmental Assessment
Public Hearings
Final Environmental Assessment and decision document
Final Design and Construction 2020-2025*

*If a build alternative is selected.
HOW CAN I ADD MY VOICE?

Mail comments to Verde Connect Project/Central Creative, 24 W Camelback Rd. #A-479, Phoenix, AZ 85013

Visit our website at www.verdeconnect.com
Click on “Get Involved” to complete a short survey. Click on “Contact Us” to submit a written comment and be added to the project email list.

Call Public Involvement Manager Kristin Darr at 602-750-7139 for more information or to be added to our mailing list.