

North-South Segment 1, Tier 2 EIS and DCR

Project Coordination Plan

**Arizona Department of Transportation
Project # 999 PN 000 F0491
Arizona**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Coordination Plan

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted in 2005. The SAFETEA-LU addresses the many challenges facing our nation's transportation system, such as improving safety, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency in freight movement, increasing intermodal connectivity, and protecting the environment. In 2012, the provisions of Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU were amended by Section 1305 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and further refined in 2015 by 1304(g) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU requires the lead agencies for any federally funded project performing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to establish a plan for coordinating public and agency involvement during the environmental review process. MAP-21 continued this requirement, and the FAST Act added that the Coordination Plan is required no later than 90 days after the publication of the EIS Notice of Intent (NOI) and must include a schedule.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will act as the lead agency for environmental review, interagency coordination without federal participation, and coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) monitoring and audits. The FHWA retains some engineering decisions, project-level air quality conformity determinations, and government-to-government Tribal consultation (if requested). The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by the FHWA and ADOT.

Agency and stakeholder roles and responsibilities, which are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures and 23 CFR Part 771 Environmental Impact and Related Procedures, are defined below. The agencies will also adhere to guidance contained in 23 U.S.C. 139 Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-Making.

This Project Coordination Plan for agency, public, and Tribal involvement defines the process by which ADOT will communicate information about the study to the Cooperating agencies, Participating agencies, the public, and Tribes. The plan also identifies how input from agencies, Tribes, and the public will be solicited and considered, as well as facilitating and documenting the lead agencies' interaction with other agencies, the public, and Tribes. The plan's other purposes include:

- Identifying early coordination efforts
- Identifying Cooperating and Participating agencies
- Establishing the timing and methods for gathering Cooperating and Participating agencies' input on the project's purpose and need, study area, range of alternatives, study methodologies, technical reports, findings of the Draft EIS, preferred alternative, and mitigation strategies

- Establishing the timing and methods for gathering public input on the project’s purpose and need, study area, range of alternatives, issues of concern, environmental features, and findings of the Draft EIS
- Describing the communication methods for informing the community about the project
- Establishing a conflict resolution process for the Cooperating agencies

A separate public involvement plan has also been developed for the project. Both this plan and the public involvement plan will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that may require updating over the course of the project.

1.2 Background and Study Description

ADOT is conducting engineering and environmental studies for the North-South Corridor Design Concept Report (DCR) and Tier 2 Environmental Study from U.S. Highway 60 (US 60) to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1), known as North-South Corridor Segment 1, in Pinal County, Arizona. The North-South Corridor Segment 1 study will build upon the prior Tier 1 EIS process, which concluded in November 2021 and established the general location of a new proposed 50-mile-long highway route between US 60 to the north and Interstate 10 (I-10) to the south in Pinal County. The Selected Alternative in the Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD) was a 1,500-foot-wide corridor within which subsequent Tier 2 studies would identify the specific 400-foot highway alignment.

The concept of a new north-south transportation facility in Pinal County has been acknowledged in local, regional, and statewide plans since the early 2000s. The formal process of studying the North-South Corridor began in 2010 with a project-level EIS and ultimately concluded with the Tier 1 ROD in 2021. Chapter 1 of the *Tier 1 Final EIS and ROD* (<https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/north-south-corridor-study-proposed-new>) describes the transportation planning efforts in the vicinity that led to the Tier 1 study process. Since 2021, ADOT, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Pima Association of Governments, Pinal County, and other local government agencies have continued to address the transportation needs and solutions in Pinal County. ADOT is coordinating with the study teams of the following studies, which are separate projects from the North-South Corridor Segment 1 study:

- MAG Superstition Vistas Multimodal Transportation Planning Study
- Pinal County State Route 24 Extension
- Pinal County Central Arizona Parkway

1.3 Project Purpose and Need

Projected population and employment growth would increase travel demand, and the current connection between US 60 and I-10 in Pinal County is a fragmented assortment of rural roads with missing linkages throughout. While this fragmentation of north-to-south routes does not cause substantial congestion now, land use patterns, population, and employment growth would result in substantial congestion in the future. The analysis conducted for the Tier 1 EIS process revealed that a major north-to-south transportation facility is necessary in Pinal County to address the following needs—insufficient infrastructure to support projected growth and planning efforts, inadequate north-to-south transportation capacity that cannot meet future demands, a fragmented roadway network that lacks system connectivity and continuity, and limited alternatives to avoid congestion on I-10.

The purpose of the North-South Corridor is to provide a continuous, access-controlled, north-to-south transportation corridor that would improve access, regional mobility, and north-south connectivity; accommodate existing and future population growth; integrate the region's transportation network; and provide an alternative to avoid congestion on I-10.

Several goals were identified during the Tier 1 process that further aided the definition and evaluation of alternatives considered and will be considered during Tier 2 studies:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment along the corridor
- Supporting local and regional land use plans and preservation goals
- Supporting equitable economic opportunities
- Complementing other planned transportation improvements along new and established corridors in the study area

Technical information supporting the purpose and need identified in the Tier 1 study is available in Chapter 1 of the *Tier 1 Final EIS and ROD* (<https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study/north-south-corridor-study-proposed-new>). This Tier 2 study will refine the purpose and need to focus on the segment of the project between US 60 and Arizona Farms Road.

Figure 1. Map of the North-South Corridor Location in Arizona

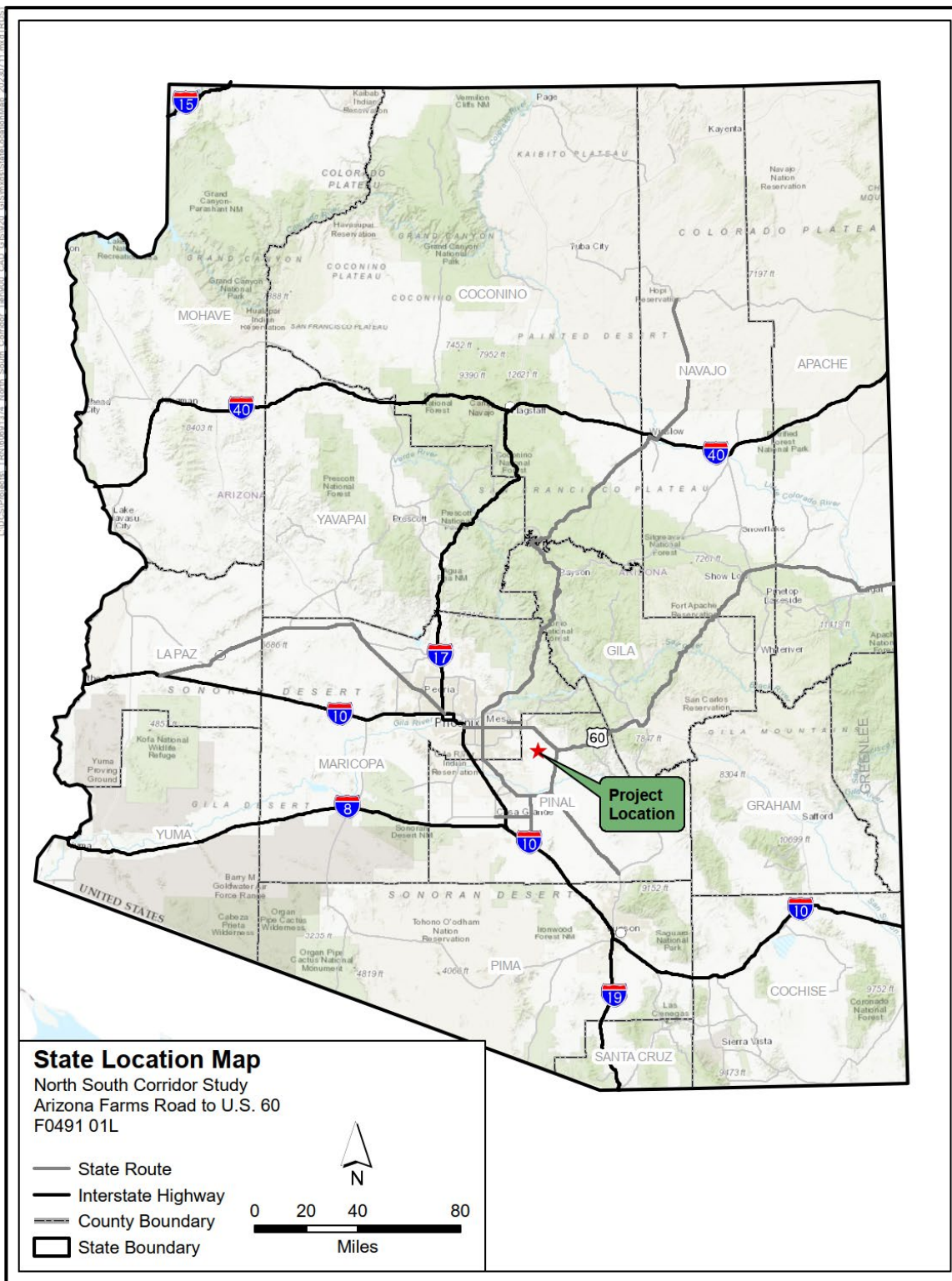
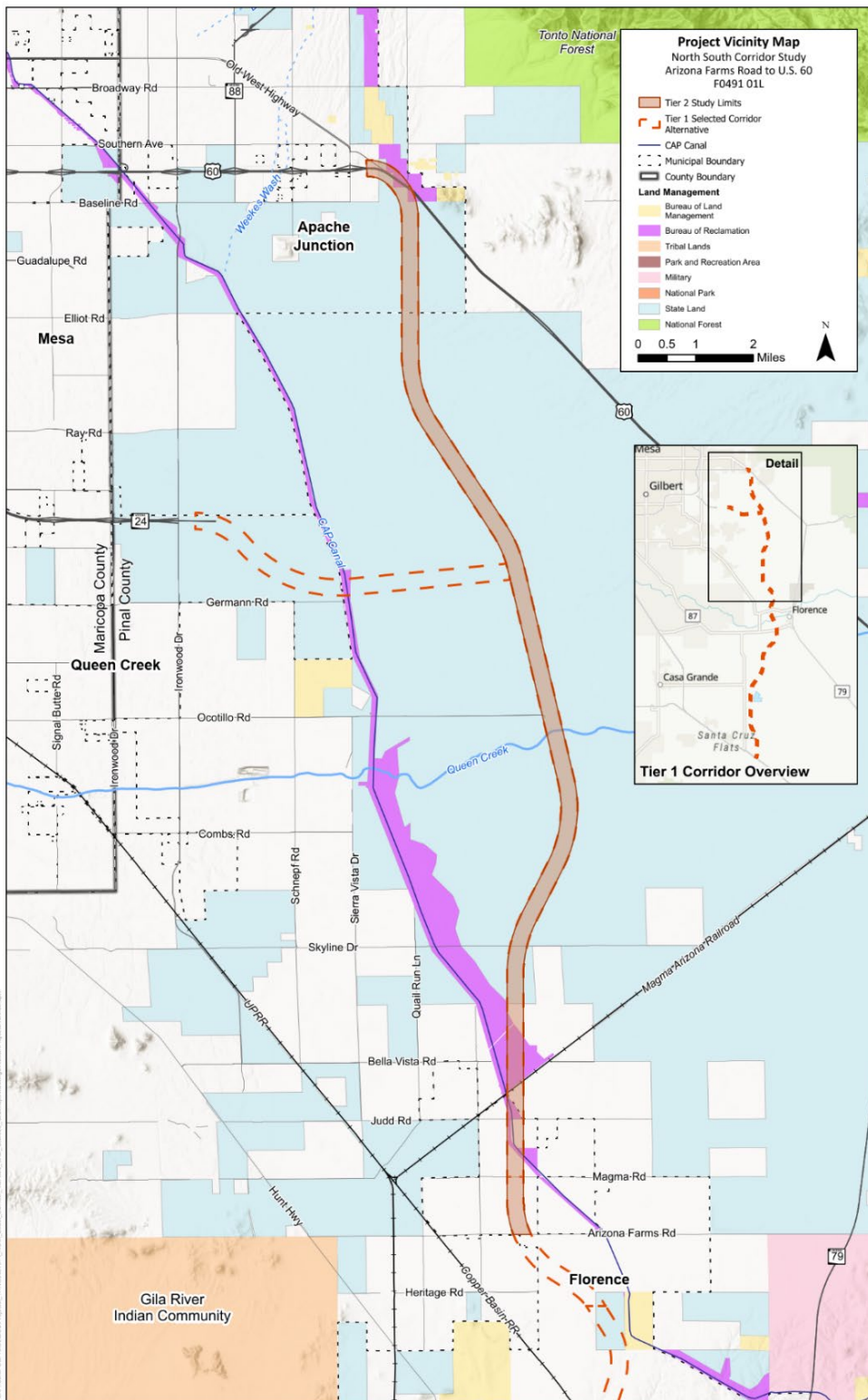


Figure 2. Vicinity Map of the North-South Segment 1, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road



2 Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies and Key Stakeholders

This section identifies the lead, Cooperating, and Participating agencies that will be involved in North-South Corridor Segment 1. It defines their roles and responsibilities and identifies several nongovernmental entities that will be key stakeholders.

2.1 Agency Roles and Responsibilities

The agencies discussed in this section (except for the lead agencies) have been formally invited by letter to participate in the study. All Cooperating and Participating agencies are responsible for:

- Participating in the scoping process
- Providing comments on the purpose and need, study methodologies and criteria, and range of alternatives
- Identifying issues of concern regarding the project's impacts on the natural and human environments
- Providing timely input on unresolved issues

2.1.1 Lead Agency

Through NEPA Assignment, ADOT has assumed the FHWA's responsibilities for complying with NEPA for most highway projects in Arizona. The environmental review and consultation as well as other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by the FHWA and ADOT. Responsibilities associated with NEPA Assignment include review and approval of NEPA documents, interagency consultation and coordination, and environmental regulatory compliance. **Table 1** shows the lead agencies for this project, including their roles and responsibilities.

Table 1. Lead Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Agency	Role	Responsibilities
ADOT	Lead, project sponsor	Manage agency and public coordination process, prepare EIS, provide opportunities for public and agency involvement, provide state funding match, approve environmental documentation, construct and maintain facility (if applicable).

2.1.2 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies are specifically requested by the lead agency to participate during the environmental evaluation process for the project. NEPA regulations—codified in 23 CFR § 771.111(d)—require that those federal agencies with jurisdiction by law concerning the action (with permitting or land transfer authority) or with special expertise regarding any potential project-related environmental impact be invited to serve as Cooperating agencies for an EIS. A state, Tribal, or local agency with similar qualifications may also become a Cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

Should a federal agency choose to decline Cooperating agency status, the agency will automatically be considered a Participating agency whether a written response is provided or not. If a federal agency should choose to decline both Cooperating and Participating agency status, the agency must submit a written response stating that it 1) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, 2) has no expertise or information relevant to the project, and 3) does not intend to submit comments on the project.

In accordance with Title 40 CFR 1501 and 23 CFR 771.111, eight agencies have been identified to have jurisdiction in the North-South Corridor or special expertise concerning the project. In December 2023, the agencies listed in **Table 2** were invited to serve as Cooperating agencies in the development of the study's NEPA document. **Table 2** also summarizes the responses received to the invitation. **Appendix A** provides a full list of agencies and contacts invited to serve as Cooperating agencies, and **Appendix B** contains copies of the Cooperating agency letters and acceptances.

Table 2. Agencies Invited to Serve as Cooperating Agencies

Agency	Status	Role	Date of Acceptance or Response
<i>Federal</i>			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Accepted	Cooperating	01/02/2024
Bureau of Land Management	Declined	Participating	12/12/2023
Bureau of Reclamation	Accepted	Cooperating	12/08/2023
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Accepted	Cooperating	12/14/2023
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9	Accepted	Cooperating	01/18/2024
<i>State</i>			
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Accepted	Cooperating	01/10/2024
Arizona State Land Department	Accepted	Cooperating	12/11/2023
<i>County</i>			
Pinal County	Accepted	Cooperating	12/15/2023

2.1.3 Participating Agencies

Section 6002 of the SAFETEA-LU created a new category of agencies to participate in the EIS environmental review process—federal, state, Tribal, regional, and local governmental agencies with an interest in the project. Agencies invited to participate in the environmental review process are designated as a Participating agency unless the invited agency informs the lead agency, in writing, by the deadline specified in the invitation that it 1) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, 2) has no expertise or information relevant to the project, and 3) does not intend to submit comments on the project. Nongovernmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as Participating agencies.

Federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies were asked to respond affirmatively to the invitation to be designated as a Participating agency. If an agency failed to respond by the stated deadline or declined the

invitation, the agency is considered a stakeholder and will continue to receive periodic project information.

Table 3 lists the 13 agencies invited to be a Participating agency, and **Table 4** lists the 23 Tribal governments that were invited to serve as Participating agencies. Both tables provide the agency or Tribal government's response to the invitation. For those agencies that did not respond, dates of the follow-up outreach are noted in the table.

Accepting the designation as a Participating agency does not indicate support for the study nor does it provide the agency or Tribal government with increased oversight or approval authority beyond its statutory limits, if applicable. Meetings will be held with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies on an as-needed basis to discuss specific subjects of interest, concerns, and recommendations. This review process will include key milestone meetings with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies prior to the public information meetings and before the public hearings on the Draft EIS. Joint webinar updates will be held with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies, as needed.

Table 3. Agencies Invited to Serve as Participating Agencies

Agency	Status	Role	Date of Acceptance or Response	Date of Follow-Up
<i>Federal Agencies</i>				
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Rail Administration	Accepted	Participating	12/19/2023	--
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service*	Declined	Participating	--	02/04/2025
Western Area Power Administration	Declined	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024
<i>State Agencies</i>				
Arizona Department of Public Safety	No Response	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office	Accepted	Participating	12/26/2023	--
Arizona State Parks	Accepted	Participating	01/22/2024	--
<i>Regional Agencies</i>				
Central Arizona Project	Declined	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024
MAG	Accepted	Participating	12/14/2023	--
Salt River Project	No Response	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024
<i>County Agencies</i>				

Agency	Status	Role	Date of Acceptance or Response	Date of Follow-Up
Flood Control District of Maricopa County	No Response	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024
Maricopa County Department of Transportation	Accepted	Participating	12/13/2023	--
Local Agencies				
City of Apache Junction	Accepted	Participating	12/20/2023	--
Town of Florence	No Response	Stakeholder	--	01/22/2024

Table 4. Tribal Governments Invited to Serve as Participating Agencies

Agency	Status	Date of Acceptance or Response	Date of Follow-Up
Ak-Chin Indian Community	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Cocopah Indian Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Colorado River Indian Tribes	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	No Response	--	01/22/2024
For Mojave Indian Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Gila River Indian Community	Accepted	01/03/2024	01/22/2024
Havasupai Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Hopi Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Hualapai Indian Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Navajo Nation	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Declined	01/23/2024	01/22/2024
Pueblo of Zuni	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	No Response	--	01/22/2024
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Accepted	01/09/2024	--
San Juan Southern Paiute	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Tohono O'odham Nation	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Tonto Apache Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024
White Mountain Apache Tribe	Declined	12/14/2023	--
Yavapai-Apache Nation	No Response	--	01/22/2024
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe	No Response	--	01/22/2024

2.1.4 Cooperating and Participating Agency Summary

Table 5 lists a summary of seven agencies that have accepted the invitation to serve as a Cooperating agency, as well as the seven agencies and two Tribal governments that have accepted the invitation to serve as Participating agencies, under ADOT as the lead agency.

Table 5. Summary of Agencies and Tribal Governments Serving as Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Agencies and Tribal Governments	Role
Federal Agency	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Cooperating
Bureau of Land Management	Participating
Bureau of Reclamation	Cooperating
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Rail Administration	Participating
USFWS	Cooperating
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9	Cooperating
State Agency	
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office	Participating
Arizona State Parks & Trails	Participating
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Cooperating
Arizona State Land Department	Cooperating
Regional Agency	
MAG	Participating
County Agency	
Maricopa County Department of Transportation	Participating
Pinal County	Cooperating
Local Agency	
City of Apache Junction	Participating
Tribal Governments	
Gila River Indian Community	Participating
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Participating

2.2 Stakeholders

State and local agencies, as well as Tribal governments that were invited to serve as Participating agencies but did not respond to the invitation, as well as members of the public that have expressed an interest in the project and have provided contact information, will be included in the list of stakeholders and receive any email updates or other notifications.

2.3 Contact Information

Contacts for the agencies and Tribal governments that will serve as Cooperating and Participating agencies are listed in **Appendix A**.

3 Coordination Activities

This section describes coordination activities to be conducted throughout the environmental review process, including initial coordination, coordination points (milestones), and distribution of information.

3.1 National Environmental Policy Act Process Coordination

In July 2023, ADOT initiated coordination activities for this Tier 2 study. Coordination activities have included an agency scoping meeting, various technical coordination meetings with agencies and Tribal governments, and the formal invitations to Cooperating and Participating agencies (described in Section 2 of this Project Coordination Plan). A round of public involvement was conducted in August and September 2023, and a summary of the meetings held and input received is available on the project website at <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/north-south-corridor-study-proposed-new-transportation-route-pinal>. Other early coordination activities will include agency involvement in the development of a preliminary purpose and need and the range of alternatives to be considered for the project.

ADOT anticipates formally initiating the NEPA process in early 2025 by publishing a NOI in the *Federal Register*. This Project Coordination Plan would be updated at that time.

3.2 Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Required Actions

Table 6 lists key coordination points (study milestones), including which agency is responsible for activities during each coordination point; the information required at each coordination point; how the lead agencies will make information available to Cooperating agencies, Participating agencies, and the public; and who is responsible for transmitting that information and by what means.

Table 6 also lists the anticipated timeline for each study milestone. Review times for documents distributed to Cooperating and Participating agencies at each coordination point are 30 calendar days, unless noted otherwise. It is important to note that the schedule is subject to change and that periodically through the EIS process the schedule in the Project Coordination Plan will be updated to reflect the current approach and understanding. When these changes are made to update the schedule, an email notice will be sent to the Cooperating and Participating agencies and the Project Coordination Plan will be updated on the project website.

Table 6. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
Early Scoping	Conduct public scoping meetings and an agency early scoping meeting	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Direct email notification and invitation	Input on the project to better define the scope of the project	September 2023
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast, newspaper advertisements, website		
Project Coordination Plan	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with Project Coordination Plan	Cooperating agencies	Draft distributed by email	Review and comment (30-day comment period)	September 2024
		Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Distributed by email	Review	November 2024
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast of availability, website	No action requested	Available with NOI (March 2025)
Preliminary Purpose and Need (draft)	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with preliminary purpose and need statement; solicit comments	Cooperating agencies	Draft distributed by email prior to NOI release	Review and comment on Preliminary Purpose and Need statement and issues of concern (with 30-day NOI comment period)	April 2025

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
		Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Distributed by email	Review	April 2025
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast of availability, website	No action requested	Available with NOI (March 2025)
Development of Constraints Analysis	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development of preliminary alternatives and identification/evaluation of constraints within the 1,500-foot corridor	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, workshop, and one-on-one meetings	Collaboration and input on the constraints within the 1,500-foot corridor to inform the placement of specific alignment alternatives	January 2024 to March 2025
Preliminary Range of Alternatives in NOI	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies and stakeholders, with preliminary range of alternative alignments being considered; solicit comments	Cooperating agencies	Draft distributed by email prior to NOI	Review and comment on preliminary alternatives for the EIS, issues of concern, and expected project impacts (NOI comment period)	March to April 2025
		Participating agencies, and Tribes serving as Participating agencies; stakeholders	Email notification of availability, website	Review and comment on alternatives for the EIS, issues of concern, and expected project impacts (NOI comment period)	Available with NOI (April 2025)

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
NOI	Publish NOI in <i>Federal Register</i> with alternatives the EIS will consider and other supplemental information; invite agencies and the public to participate in scoping meetings	Cooperating and Participating agencies, Tribes serving as Participating agencies, and stakeholders	Email blast of availability, website, <i>Federal Register</i> publication	Comments requested once NOI is published	April 2025
Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development and review of the methodologies and level of detail required for the analysis of alternatives	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, workshop, and one-on-one meetings	Collaboration and input through the development of methodologies	January 2025 to August 2025
		Cooperating agencies	Draft distributed by email	Review and comment on proposed methodologies document (30-day comment period)	July 2025
Coordination Plan Update	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with updated	Cooperating agencies	Draft distributed by email and with NOI	Review and comment (30-day NOI comment period)	Draft available for comment within 90 days of NOI

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
	post-NOI Coordination Plan	Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Distributed by email	Review	
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast of availability, website	No action requested	
Evaluation of Alternatives and Evaluation Criteria	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with opportunity for input on evaluation criteria; solicit comments	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, meeting notes distributed by email	Provide input and comments on the evaluation of alternatives	Cooperating and Participating agency workshop in September/October 2025
Identification of the Preferred Alternative	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to review preliminary results of analyses of Draft EIS alternatives and provide input on preferred alternative	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, workshop, or one-on-one meetings	Lead agency identifies the preferred alternative with input from Cooperating and Participating agencies	Prior to completion of Administrative Draft EIS in summer 2026
Initial DCR, with Preferred Alternative	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with the opportunity to comment on the DCR	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, workshop, or one-on-one meetings	Collaboration and input on the development of the design concept	Prior to completion of Administrative Draft EIS in summer 2026

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
Review of Administrative Draft EIS	Provide Cooperating agencies with the opportunity to review the Administrative Draft EIS; Draft EIS identifies the preferred alternative and likely effects of the alternatives on the natural, social, and built environment	Cooperating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed electronically (printed copy provided upon request)	Provision of substantive comments on the Administrative Draft EIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval (30-day review and comment period)	Available for Cooperating agency review winter 2026
Public review of Draft EIS and Initial DCR	Detailed description of the affected environment, range of alternatives, and an analysis of impacts for each alternative; includes relevant agency and public input to date	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Direct electronic distribution of Draft EIS (printed copy provided upon request)	Comments on range of alternatives, affected environment, impact analysis, and identified preferred corridor (45-day minimum public review period, including public hearings)	Available for public review in summer 2026
		Stakeholders	Notice of Availability in <i>Federal Register</i> , stakeholder email blast, newspaper advertisements, website, Draft EIS availability for review at certain locations, public hearing		

Coordination Point^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
Selection of Preferred Alternative and development of Phased Implementation Plan	Detailed evaluation of alternatives, including the selection of the Preferred Alternative; Draft Phased Implementation Plan	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Progress meeting, workshop, or one-on-one meetings	Comments on evaluation of the preferred alternative and the Draft Phased Implementation Plan	Available for Cooperating agency review in fall 2026
Review of Administrative Final EIS and Pre-Final DCR	Provide Cooperating agencies with the opportunity to review of Administrative Draft Final EIS; Final EIS presents the final evaluation of environmental resources and likely effects of the selected corridor on the natural, social, and built environment	Cooperating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed electronically (hard copy available upon request)	Provision of substantive comments on the Administrative Draft Final EIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval; concurrence on selected corridor (30-day review and comment period)	Available for Cooperating agency review in winter 2027
Final EIS/ROD and Final DCR	Combined Final EIS/ROD; includes responses to comments on Draft EIS and any refinements to selected alternative	Cooperating and Participating agencies and Tribes serving as Participating agencies	Direct electronic distribution of Final EIS/ROD (printed copy provided upon request)	All stakeholders can review the documents and have 150 days from the date of Notice of Availability to protest	Spring 2027

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution ^b	Requested Action of Recipient	Time Frame
		Stakeholders	Notice of Availability in <i>Federal Register</i> , stakeholder email blast, newspaper advertisements, website, Final EIS/ ROD availability for review at certain locations		

Note: Dates in brackets are tentative or pending.

^a Lead agency will distribute information to reviewing and commenting parties associated with these coordination points.

^b Information available to stakeholders and the public may be made available for comment through open houses and/or the study website, depending on coordination point.

4 Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Table 7 through **Table 9** provide draft timetables for known permits and approvals needed for the project. Additional permits and approval activities may be needed in order to issue a project decision document or construct the project, including those listed below:

- USFWS, Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Bureau of Reclamation, Central Arizona Project vehicular bridge crossing
- Arizona State Land Department right-of-way easement

During the EIS process, ADOT will work with the project's Cooperating agencies and other resource or land-managing agencies identified in this section to obtain further information on the approvals required and their time frames.

Table 7. ADOT - EIS Timetable

Milestone	Target Date
Issuance of NOI to prepare EIS and scoping outreach	March 2025
Official Notice of Availability of Draft EIS published in the <i>Federal Register</i> beginning the public comment period	Summer 2026
Issuance of a combined Final EIS/ROD	Spring 2027

Table 8. ADOT - Section 4(f) Timetable

Milestone	Target Date
Determination of Applicability of Section 4(f)	March 2025
Concurrence from Officials with Jurisdiction	Summer 2026
Approval/Conclusion of Section 4(f)	Spring 2027

Table 9. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Clean Water Act Section 404 Timetable

Milestone	Target Date
Preliminary Jurisdictional Delineation for Queen Creek Area	(Complete)
Approved Jurisdictional Delineation for Remaining Study Limits	November 2024 - ongoing
Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative Consistency Analysis	Fall 2026
Completion of Required Permits	Timing and funding on construction unknown*

*If required, permits under Section 404, 401, and 402 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained at a time closer to construction when there is sufficient design detail to prepare the permit application.

5 Tribal Involvement

The Tier 1 study identified substantial interest from several Native American Tribes, and the Tier 2 study area is within the ancestral lands of multiple Native American Tribes. ADOT will continue to coordinate and regularly report on the study's progress with the Tribal governments throughout the EIS and Section 106 process in accordance with policies and procedures established by ADOT and/or the FHWA. Section 106 consultation will follow procedures maintained by ADOT's historic preservation team and 36 CFR 800. ADOT will ensure Tribes, in particular cultural resources staff, are involved in project development beyond the scope of only the Section 106 process. Tribal governments' participation in the NEPA process and understanding the project as a whole are important to the overall process, including the development of the projects' purpose and need and alternatives development, as well as other project considerations such as the identification of biological resources and environmental justice communities and impacts. ADOT will communicate with the Tribes throughout the NEPA process.

To support our commitment to working with Tribal governments, ADOT employs a Tribal relations team with two department-wide Tribal liaisons, a Native Nations Ambassador in the State Engineer's office, a Contract Agent in the Right-of-Way Group, and a Tribal liaison with ADOT Environmental Planning. Together, this team will keep Tribes informed, consulted, and aware of this project.

The Tribes were notified of the public meetings in September 2023 and will be notified about any future public information meetings or public hearings to be conducted. ADOT formally invited all 22 federally recognized Tribes in Arizona to be Participating agencies in the NEPA process, as well as the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico.

ADOT will continue to hold breakout meetings as the cultural studies progress to provide status updates, discuss methodology, share technical information, and discuss findings and recommendations. ADOT will accommodate similar meetings with the other Tribes if requested.

6 Public Outreach

6.1 Outreach Conducted to Date

Public outreach was conducted in August and September 2023 to provide the public with an overview of the recently initiated study and solicit public input to be considered when developing the range of feasible alternatives for the North-South alignment, interchange locations, and other features. A public comment period was open from August 28 through September 27, 2023. A summary of the outreach conducted and input received is documented in the Public Involvement Summary Report available on the project website at [https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/North-South-Tier-2-Public Involvement-Summary.pdf](https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/North-South-Tier-2-Public%20Involvement-Summary.pdf).

6.2 Continued Outreach

ADOT developed a Public Involvement Plan for the North-South Tier 2 Corridor Study in compliance with the FHWA and other federal and state regulations. The EIS process conducted for the North-South Tier 2 Corridor Study will promote informed decision-making by federal, state, and local agencies.

ADOT will continue the collaboration, communication, and cooperation between all who are involved in environmental decisions, including government officials, private businesses, and the public as the project moves through the NEPA process.

Stakeholder and public input continue to provide important insight as the project team analyzes constraints within the 1,500-foot Tier 1 Corridor to identify a specific alignment for the North-South Segment 1, Tier 2 EIS and DCR. Public input will be integrated into the evaluation process before decisions are made.

7 Conflict Resolution

SAFETEA-LU provides a formal process for resolving serious issues that may delay the proposed project or may result in denial of a required approval for the proposed project. ADOT or the Governor of Arizona may invoke the Section 6002 process for issue resolution at any time. However, the conflict resolution process discussed below should be considered the first option for issue resolution prior to invocation of Section 6002.

Should an issue come to an impasse, the general process for addressing and resolving the issue would be:

1. Involved parties will identify and agree on the issue to be resolved at the project manager level.
2. The manager at the area, district, or section level will initiate the conflict resolution process.
3. ADOT will notify the Cooperating agency manager at the regional or deputy level.
4. ADOT will compile and submit all pertinent information to involved parties.
5. Involved parties will determine whether all information necessary for issue resolution has been received.
6. ADOT will hold a formal meeting (involving the first three tiers of management) to resolve the issue, followed by a 30-day review/decision period.
7. A decision will be made, recorded, and passed on to the appropriate team members.
8. The process is completed.

If issue resolution does not occur, a discussion of the issue and why a resolution could not be reached will be submitted to the heads (administrator, director, or commander) of the Cooperating agencies for further review.

8 Amendments to Project Coordination Plan

Table 10. Description of Project Coordination Plan Modifications

Version	Date	Change
1.1	December 2024	Original version distributed to Cooperating Agencies prior to NOI.
1.2	March 2025	Updated status of USDA NRCS to reflect they declined the invitation to be a Participating agency. Updated anticipated project timeline information and preliminary purpose and need distribution actions in Table 6.

Appendix A. Agency Contact List

Table A-1. Cooperating Agency Contact List

Agency	Name, first	Name, last	Title	Agency Role
Federal				
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Alexandra	Ryan	Project Manager	Cooperating
Bureau of Reclamation	Dominic	Graziani	Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist	Cooperating
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Robert	Lehman	Fish and Wildlife Biologist and Transportation Liaison	Cooperating
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9	Clifton	Meek	Life Scientist	Cooperating
State				
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Cheri	Bouchér	Project Evaluation Program Specialist	Cooperating
Arizona State Land Department	Karen	Dada	Planning and Engineering Manager	Cooperating
County				
Pinal County	Celeste	Garza	Deputy Director of Public Works	Cooperating

Table A-2. Participating Agency Contact List

Agency	Name, first	Name, last	Title	Agency Role
Federal				
Bureau of Land Management - Arizona	Roberta	Lopez	Senior Realty Specialist	Participating
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Rail Administration	Austen	Balthazar	Environmental Protection Specialist	Participating
State				
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office	Kim	Ryan	Compliance Specialist/Archaeologist	Participating
Arizona State Parks	George	Christianson	Chief of Operations	Participating

Agency	Name, first	Name, last	Title	Agency Role
Regional				
Maricopa Association of Governments	John	Bullen	Assistant Executive Director	Participating
County				
Maricopa County Department of Transportation	Reed	Kempton	Planning Project Manager	Participating
Local				
City of Apache Junction	Rudy	Esquivias	Development Services Director	Participating
Tribal Governments				
Gila River Indian Community	Javier	Ramos	General Counsel	Participating
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Vernelda	Grant	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Participating

Appendix B. Cooperating Agency Acceptances

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	<u>January 2, 2024</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Alexandra Ryan</u>
Address:	<u>3636 N Central Avenue, Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85013</u>
Email Address:	<u>alexandra.ryan@usace.army.mil</u>
Phone Number:	<u>602-230-6954</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1

Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Bureau of Reclamation - Phoenix Area Office, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	<u>12/8/2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>Bureau of Reclamation - Phoenix Area Office</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Dominic Graziani</u>
Address:	<u>6150 W Thunderbird Rd, Glendale, AZ 85306</u>
Email Address:	<u>dgraziani@usbr.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>(623) 773-6250</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	<u>December 14, 2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Robert N. Lehman</u>
Address:	<u>9828 N. 31st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85051</u>
Email Address:	<u>robert_lehman@fws.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>602-889-5950</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov



Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

North-South Corridor Study

1 message

Lehman, Robert N <robert_lehman@fws.gov>

Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 10:11 AM

To: "dwhitaker@azdot.gov" <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Cc: "Stewart, Laura R" <laura_r_stewart@fws.gov>, Joshua Fife <jfife@azdot.gov>, "Lehman, Robert N" <robert_lehman@fws.gov>, "Whitlaw, Heather" <Heather_Whitlaw@fws.gov>

Hello Dena,

I have attached the completed U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's consent form for the North-South Corridor Study Tier 2 NEPA process. As in the past, we will be an active partner in this crucial NEPA program.

Sincerely,

Bob Lehman

cc Joshua Fife, Heather Whitlaw, Laura Stewart

Fish and Wildlife Biologist and Transportation Liaison
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 N. 31st Avenue, Suite C3
Phoenix, AZ 85051
602-889-5950
robert_lehman@fws.gov



N-S Corridor Coop Invite Form Signed by FWS.pdf

145K

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1

Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	<u>01/18/2024</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Clifton Meek</u>
Address:	<u>75 Hawthorne Street, TIP-2 San Francisco, CA 94105</u>
Email Address:	<u>meek.clifton@epa.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>415-972-3370</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov



January 11, 2024

Ms. Dena Whitaker
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Electronically submitted to dwhitaker@azdot.gov and info@northsouthsegment1.com

RE: Cooperating Agency Status for the North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) appreciates the invitation to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the upcoming Design Concept Report and Tier 2 Environmental Study for the North-South Corridor Study, Segment 1 (US 60 to Arizona Farms Road) project. The Department accepts Cooperating Agency status in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1, for this project.

Under Title 17 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Department, by and through the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, has jurisdictional authority and public trust responsibilities to conserve and protect the state fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the Department manages threatened and endangered species through authorities of Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act and the Department's Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit. It is the mission of the Department to conserve and protect Arizona's diverse fish and wildlife resources and manage for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue coordination on this project as a Cooperating Agency. For further coordination, please contact Cheri Boucher at cboucher@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luke Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

Luke Thompson
Habitat, Evaluation, and Lands Branch Chief

en: Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form for F0491 North-South Corridor Segment 1

AZGFD #M23-12182358

azgfd.gov | 602.942.3000

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

GOVERNOR: KATIE HOBBS **COMMISSIONERS:** CHAIRMAN TODD G. GEILER, PRESCOTT | CLAY HERNANDEZ, TUCSON | MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE
JEFF BUCHANAN, PATAGONIA | JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON **DIRECTOR:** TY E. GRAY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	<u>January 8, 2024</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>Arizona Game and Fish Department</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Cheri Bouchér</u>
Address:	<u>5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix AZ 85086</u>
Email Address:	<u>cboucher@azgfd.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>623-236-7615</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov



Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Cooperating Agency Invitation

1 message

Karen Dada <kdada@azland.gov>

Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 2:06 PM

To: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>, Robyn Sahid <rsahid@azland.gov>

Cc: Ruben Ojeda <rojeda@azland.gov>

Good morning Dena,

I understood that you were sending a letter to Commissioner Sahid for her signature on the Cooperating Agency agreement. However, if you are not proceeding on that path (or even if you are), the answer is yes, the Commissioner is aware of and on board with ASLD serving as a Cooperating Agency on this project. For your confirmation, I have copied Commissioner Sahid on this email.

Commissioner, no response necessary, unless you object to ASLD's role as Cooperating Agency on the North-South Tier 2 effort.

Thank you all,

Karen Dada, AICP | Assistant Director, Real Estate Division
Arizona State Land Department

1110 West Washington Street | Phoenix, AZ 85007

O: 602-542-3118 | kdada@azland.gov

Funding Arizona Public Schools and Institutions since 1915



On Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 6:51 AM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Hello Karen,

Thank you again for accepting the Cooperating Agency role - I look forward to working with you.

Both agencies, ASLD and ADOT, have fairly new directors and I believe they have spoken to each other about this project - my management wanted to ensure the new ASLD director was in the loop of ASLD's role as a CA. Please let me know if the role of the CA has been communicated to the ASLD's director, and if you need anything from my end.

Thank you for your time :)

Regards,
Dena

On Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 1:55 PM Karen Dada <kdada@azland.gov> wrote:

Hi Dena,

ASLD's completed form is attached. Please include Ruben Ojeda and I on future communications.

Thank you.

Karen Dada, AICP | Manager, Planning and Engineering Section
Arizona State Land Department

1110 West Washington Street | Phoenix, AZ 85007

O: 602-542-3118 | kdada@azland.gov

Funding Arizona Public Schools and Institutions since 1915



On Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 1:52 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Hello Ms. Data,

I realized there was a glitch in the original "Coop. Invite Form" - the fixed version is attached :)

Regards,
Dena

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 11:27 AM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Good morning Ms. Data,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Cooperating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02

205 S. 17th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

dwhitaker@azdot.gov

480.601.2964

www.azdot.gov - ENV



North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the County of Pinal, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date: 12-15-2023

Name of Organization: Pinal County *Celeste Garza*

Agency Contact for this project: Celeste Garza, Deputy Director of Public Works

Address: PO BOX 727, Florence AZ 85132

Email Address: celeste.garza@pinal.gov

Phone Number: 520.866.6402

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

Appendix C. Participating Agency Acceptances

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the _____, wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

Thank you but, _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]

Date:	12/12/2023
Name of Organization:	Bureau of Land Management - Arizona
Agency Contact for this project:	Celina Martinez
Address:	1 North Central Ave, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Email Address:	crmartin@blm.gov
Phone Number:	602-417-9349

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 11:36 AM

To: Martinez, Celina R <crmartin@blm.gov>

Cc: Morberg, Mark D <mmorberg@blm.gov>; Sparks, Amanda <asparks@blm.gov>; Werner, William E <wwerner@blm.gov>; Dingman, Colleen J <cjdingman@blm.gov>; Dixon, Michael S <mdixon@blm.gov>; Lindsey, Tyler J <tlindsey@blm.gov>; Cowger, Lane D <lcowger@blm.gov>; Fink, Elena M <efink@blm.gov>; Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Cooperating Agency Invitation

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning Ms. Martinez,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Cooperating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Regards,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02

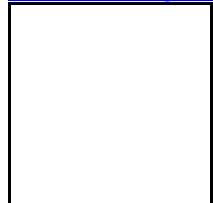
205 S. 17th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

dwhitaker@azdot.gov

480.601.2964

www.azdot.gov - ENV



North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Federal Railroad Administration, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:	<u>12/19/2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>Federal Railroad Administration</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Austen Balthazar</u>
Address:	<u>1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590</u>
Email Address:	<u>austen.balthazar@dot.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>304-785-7498</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

From: Suciu Smith, Deborah (FRA) <deborah.suciu.smith@dot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:24 AM
To: Dena Whitaker
Cc: nedwards2; Bragg, Rodney; NSCS_AdminRecord; Balthazar, Austen (FRA); Zschomler, Kristen (FRA)
Subject: RE: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation
Attachments: F0491_PA-Invite Form (fillable.)_fixed-FRA.pdf

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Good morning Dena

Thank you for your December 8, 2023 transmittal inviting the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to serve as Participating Agency for the North-South Corridor Study Segment 1 (NSCS Segment 1) Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FRA accepts your invitation.

Based on the information included with your transmittal, FRA understands the proposed project includes the potential for rail components that were mentioned in the Tier 1 EIS in which the FRA was a Cooperating Agency under NEPA.

FRA reviewed the proposed scope of the project and agrees to serve as a Participating Agency. FRA's interest in a project is to preserve safe, reliable, and efficient rail operations. If conditions or the scope of the project change, please notify us and we will re-evaluate our participating agency status at that time.

Thank you again for your consideration. **Austen Balthazar**, Environmental Protection Specialist in the FRA Office of Environmental Program Management, will be the primary point of contact for the project. Austen Balthazar can be reached at austen.balthazar@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah Suciu Smith (she/her/hers)

USDOT || Federal Railroad Administration

RRD-30 Office of Environmental Program Management || Major Projects Team Lead

deborah.suciu.smith@dot.gov || 202-578-9221

Time Zone || Eastern Daylight Time

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 4:56 PM
To: Suciu Smith, Deborah (FRA) <deborah.suciu.smith@dot.gov>
Cc: Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>; nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Smith,

I realized there was a glitch in the original "PA-Invite Form" - the fixed version is attached :)

Regards,
Dena

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 2:03 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Smith,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02
205 S. 17th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007
dwhitaker@azdot.gov
480.601.2964
www.azdot.gov - ENV



North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:	<u>12/26/2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>Arizona State Historic Preservation Office</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Kim Ryan, Compliance Specialist / Archaeologist</u>
Address:	<u>1110 W. Washington St. #100, Phoenix, AZ 85007</u>
Email Address:	<u>kryan@azstateparks.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>602.542.7142</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:36 AM
To: Bragg, Rodney; nedwards2
Cc: NSCS_AdminRecord
Subject: F0491 NS Seg1: PA Accept, BLM

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Report Suspicious

Hi Rodney and Nick,

Just an FYI for you, and for AECOM's admin record - the AZ State Parks & Trails has accepted the role as a Participating Agency.

Dena

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 10:03 AM
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation
To: David Jordan <djordan@azstateparks.gov>

Thank you David :) We're noting here that ASPT has accepted the role to be a Participating Agency.

Dena

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 9:02 AM David Jordan <djordan@azstateparks.gov> wrote:
Hi Dena,

Yes, we would be happy to help.

Happy trails,
David Jordan
Chief of Operations
Arizona State Parks & Trails
1110 W. Washington St., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 576-1448
djordan@azstateparks.gov
1-877-MY-Parks|AZStateParks.com



On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 8:59 AM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Hi David,

Thank you for reviewing the invitation/project information. Unfortunately, you seemed to have gotten my glitchy version of the invite form, I apologize for that.

I'd like to confirm through this email -

Is ASPT accepting the role and wish to participate as a Participating Agency?

Dena

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 8:51 AM David Jordan <djordan@azstateparks.gov> wrote:

Hi Dena,

Thanks for the invite.

See the attachment.

Happy trails,

David Jordan

Chief of Operations

Arizona State Parks & Trails

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 576-1448

djordan@azstateparks.gov

1-877-MY-Parks|AZStateParks.com



On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 1:44 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Jordan,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02

205 S. 17th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

dwhitaker@azdot.gov

480.601.2964

www.azdot.gov - ENV



From: Thomas Fitzgerald <tfitzgerald@cap-az.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Dena Whitaker; Graziani, Dominic J
Cc: Patrick Kernan, P.E.; Crystal Thompson; nedwards2; Bragg, Rodney; NSCS_AdminRecord
Subject: RE: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

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Report Suspicious

Good morning Dena. CAWCD operates and maintains the CAP system on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) while Reclamation retained the environmental review and compliance responsibility. As a result, Reclamation will be the main Participating Agency that will comment on the Tier 2 EIS but CAWCD would still like to receive the information. Any comments generated by CAWCD will be shared with Reclamation who would then submit the compiled comments back to ADOT.

Thank you for including CAWCD in this process.

Thomas Fitzgerald

LAND AND SURVEY SUPERVISOR

O (623) 869-2209 M (602) 292-1450

E tfitzgerald@cap-az.com

L [23636 North 7th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85024](#)

Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you CAN do.

John Wooden

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Thomas Fitzgerald <tfitzgerald@cap-az.com>
Cc: Patrick Kernan, P.E. <pkernan@cap-az.com>; Crystal Thompson <cthompson@cap-az.com>; Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>; nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

Good afternoon Mr. Fitzgerald,

Hope all is well, and Happy New Year :)

I am following up on the Participating Agency Invitation sent in December; please let me know if you have any questions on the documents attached.

Regards,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner
480.601.2964

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dena Whitaker** <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Date: Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 2:49 PM

Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

To: <tfitzgerald@cap-az.com>

Cc: <pkernan@cap-az.com>, <cthompson@cap-az.com>, Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>, Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>, <nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com>

Hello Mr. Fitzgerald,

I realized there was a glitch in the original "PA-Invite Form" - the fixed version is attached :)

Regards,
Dena

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 1:48 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Fitzgerald,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner
Mail Drop: EM02
205 S. 17th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007
dwhitaker@azdot.gov
480.601.2964
www.azdot.gov - ENV

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Maricopa Association of Governments, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:	<u>12/14/2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>Maricopa Association of Governments</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Edward (Ted) Brown</u>
Address:	<u>302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85283</u>
Email Address:	<u>ebrown@azmag.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>602-452-5082</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the _____, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:	12/13/2023
Name of Organization:	Maricopa County Department of Transportation
Agency Contact for this project:	Reed Kempton
Address:	2901 W. Durango St. Phoenix, AZ 85009
Email Address:	Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.gov
Phone Number:	602-506-7742

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

Rietz, Jessica

From: Reed Kempton (DOT) <Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.Gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Dena Whitaker
Cc: nedwards2; Bragg, Rodney; NSCS_AdminRecord
Subject: RE: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

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Hi Dena,

Thanks for the update. I'm looking forward to the study.

Reed



Reed Kempton
Planning Project Manager
Transportation Engineering
2901 W Durango Phoenix, AZ 85009
O: 602-506-7742 **C:** 602-291-5533
E: Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.gov
[\[Maricopa.Gov \]](http://Maricopa.Gov)
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Reed Kempton (DOT) <Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.Gov>
Cc: Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>; nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

Hi Reed,

Thank you for the response, and letting me know about the glitch in the PDF. I've saved this email as well as the form you've filled out to document that MCDOT has accepted to participate as a Participating Agency.

Side note - I figured out where I went wrong with the form; the glitch is fixed. You don't have to fill out this "new / fixed version", but if you'd like to, the blank form is attached :)

Dena

On Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 3:06 PM Reed Kempton (DOT) <Reed.Kempton@maricopa.gov> wrote:

Hi Dena,

MCDOT wishes to participate in the process for the North-South Corridor study. The attached fillable form automatically filled the NO line with whatever was typed into the Yes line. It was all or nothing. The answer is Yes.

Thanks,

Reed



Reed Kempton

Planning Project Manager

Transportation

Engineering

2901 W Durango Phoenix, AZ 85009

O: 602-506-7742 **C:** 602-291-5533

E: Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.gov

[Maricopa.Gov]

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 2:09 PM

To: Reed Kempton (DOT) <Reed.Kempton@Maricopa.Gov>

Cc: Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>;
nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com

Subject: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

Good afternoon Mr. Kempton,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to agencies to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker

Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02

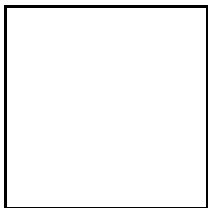
205 S. 17th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

dwhitaker@azdot.gov

480.601.2964

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North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the City of Apache Junction, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:	<u>December 20, 2023</u>
Name of Organization:	<u>City of Apache Junction</u>
Agency Contact for this project:	<u>Rudy Esquivias</u>
Address:	<u>300 E Superstition Blvd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119</u>
Email Address:	<u>resquivias@apachejunctionaz.gov</u>
Phone Number:	<u>480-474-2645</u>

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the Gila River Indian Community, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive information on the project.

Date: January 3, 2024

Name of Organization: Gila River Indian Community

Tribal government Contact for this project: Mr. Javier Ramos

Address: 525 West Gu u Ki Sacaton, Arizona 85247

Email Address: Javier.Ramos@gric.nsn.us

Phone Number: (520) 562-9760

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

From: Karl Hoerig <khoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:54 AM
To: Dena Whitaker; Peter Yucupicio
Cc: nedwards2; Rebecca Clarke Robinaugh; NSCS_AdminRecord
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

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You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Dena,

It is not evident that any of the project area included in the North-South Segment 1 is under the jurisdiction of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, so it does not appear appropriate for the Tribe to be a Participating Agency. Pascua Yaqui Tribe does wish to be consulted regarding historic and culturally important properties affected by the project.

With warmest regards,
Karl Hoerig

Karl A. Hoerig, Ph.D.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
5100 W. Calle Tetakusim, Room 130
Tucson, AZ 85757
(520) 883-5116
karl.hoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Peter Yucupicio <Peter.S.Yucupicio@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov>
Cc: Karl Hoerig <khoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov>; Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Rebecca Clarke Robinaugh <rcrobinaugh@azdot.gov>; nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com <nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com>
Subject: Fwd: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

CAUTION - Beware External Email - Think Before You Act.

WARNING - This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

Dear Chairman Yucupicio,

I hope all is well, and Happy New Year :)

I am following up on the Participating Agency Invitation sent in December; please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner
480.601.2964

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dena Whitaker** <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 4:09 PM
Subject: Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation
To: <peter.s.yucupicio@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov>
Cc: karl.hoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov <karl.hoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov>, Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>, Rebecca Clarke Robinaugh <rcrobinaugh@azdot.gov>, <nses_adminrecord@aeecom.com>

Dear Chairman Yucupicio,

I realized there was a glitch in the original "PA-Invite Form" - the fixed version is attached.

Regards,
Dena

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 5:48 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Dear Chairman Yucupicio,

ADOT is initiating the process of formally extending invitations to federal, state, local, and Tribal governments to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your Tribe has been identified as one that has jurisdiction in the North-South Corridor. With the attached letter, we extend your Tribal government an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project (*Participating Agencies*, as defined by the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act, are those with an interest in the project and is inclusive of state, local, and Tribal governments).

Attached is a letter and acceptance form containing further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,

Dena Whitaker
Senior Environmental Planner

Mail Drop: EM02

205 S. 17th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

dwhitaker@azdot.gov

480.601.2964

www.azdot.gov - ENV



North-South Corridor Study Tier 2, Segment 1 Participating Agency Acceptance Form

North-South Corridor (NSCS) Design Concept Report (DCR) Tier 2 Environmental Study, US 60 to Arizona Farm Road (Segment 1)

Yes, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, wishes to be a **Participating Agency** in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1.

Or;

No, the _____, does **not** wish to be a Participating Agency in accordance with Section 40 CFR 1501.8 of the CEQ NEPA Implementing Regulations and under 23 U.S.C. 139(d) for the NSCS Tier 2 Study, Segment 1. Unless requested otherwise your Tribal government will be listed in a distribution list and continue to receive information on the project.

Date:

01/09/24

Name of
Organization:

San Carlos Apache Tribe

Tribal government
Contact
for this project:

Historic Preservation & Archaeology Dept.
Vernelda Grant, THPO

Address:

P.O. Box 0, San Carlos, AZ 85550

Email Address:

APACHEVERN@YAHOO.COM

Phone Number:

(928) 475-5797

Please return to:

Dena Whitaker
Environmental Planning Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
ADOT NSCS Segment 1 c/o HDR, Inc.
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 2500
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(480) 601-2964
dwhitaker@azdot.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Beyman, David - FPAC-NRCS, AZ** <david.beyman@usda.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 11, 2025 at 3:04 PM
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation
To: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>

Dena,

We appreciate your invitation and offer. However, after sharing this internally with our environmental staff and leadership, the consensus is that this effort is outside of our area of expertise and we politely decline the offer to be a formal participating agency.

DAVE BEYMAN, P.E.

State Conservation Engineer

Phoenix State Office | Engineering Team



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

230 North 1st Avenue, Ste 509, Phoenix, AZ, 85003

p: (602) 285-6351 | c: (602) 680-9859

From: Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Beyman, David - FPAC-NRCS, AZ <david.beyman@usda.gov>
Cc: Nicholas Edwards <nedwards2@azdot.gov>; Bragg, Rodney <Rodney.Bragg@aecom.com>; Rietz, Jessica <jessica.rietz@aecom.com>; nscs_adminrecord@aecom.com
Subject: [External Email]Re: ADOT, North-South Segment 1 Tier 2 EIS, Participating Agency Invitation

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Good morning Mr. Beyman,

I am following up on the invitation email we sent on November 19, 2024 - please see the email below and the attachments for details.

Please let us know by next Monday if USDA would be interested in becoming a formal Participating Agency for ADOT's North-South Segment 1 Study (F0491).

Regards,

Dena Whitaker

Senior Environmental Planner

480.601.2964

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 5:20 PM Dena Whitaker <dwhitaker@azdot.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Beyman,

ADOT is formally extending an invitation to your agency to participate in the NEPA process for the North-South Corridor, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road (Segment 1). Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the North-South Corridor.

With the attached letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the NEPA document for this project.

An Early Agency Meeting was held in August 2023; the meeting presentation slide is attached for your reference.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the North-South Corridor Tier 2 Study, US 60 to Arizona Farms Road.

Sincerely,
Dena Whitaker



Dena Whitaker
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

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Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Website: [azdot.gov - Environmental Planning](https://www.azdot.gov/EnvironmentalPlanning)

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