

**ADOT Intercity Rail Study:** A current study that is exploring possible routes to connect Phoenix and Tucson by rail.

**Alignment:** Potential or planned route.

**Corridor:** A wide area of land where a route alternative may potentially be located in the future.

**Corridor Opportunity Area:** The 300 square-mile area within the North–South Corridor Study project study area is being evaluated for a potential new transportation route. The Corridor Opportunity Area was presented to the public in fall 2010.

**Corridor Segment:** Smaller sections of the Corridor Opportunity Area to help easily identify opportunities and challenges that may determine whether the selected route alternative could be placed there.

**Cultural Resources:** Historic buildings or districts, archaeological sites and Native American historical and cultural sites.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that records the findings and impacts of the proposed project to the human and natural environment. It also explains what steps would be taken to lessen or mitigate major impacts that may be caused by the proposed project.

**Facility:** A highway or freeway built to accommodate multimodal transportation needs.

**Fissure:** Crack or crevice in the ground that may form as a result of the gradual settling or sinking of a land area.

**Geotechnical:** The use of technology to determine the earth's composition or soil structure that is conducted before engineering projects begin.

**Location/Design Concept Report (L/DCR):** A technical study and analysis of potential route alternatives. It identifies a preferred alternative, defines initial right of way requirements and recommends an implementation plan that includes project costs and preliminary design plans.

**Mitigation:** Efforts made to lessen the severity or extent of potential major impacts to the public or the environment from the proposed project.

**Multimodal:** A combination of multiple types of transportation modes that includes bicycles, public transit, vehicles, pedestrians and other forms of transportation.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** A law that requires all federal agencies to evaluate what possible impacts a proposed project would have on humans and the natural environment. It was established to create procedural requirements in the form of environmental documents for local, state and federal projects that involve federal funds. NEPA includes three levels of environmental documentation, based on the level of anticipated environmental impact, which are: an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (EA) and Categorical Exclusion (CE). It is used as a tool for decision-making, based on the positive and negative environmental effects identified for a proposed project. ADOT projects that use federal funds must follow the NEPA process for obtaining the necessary environmental clearance.

**No-Build Option:** Evaluation of not taking action or not making improvements within the corridor.

**Possible Route Alternative:** Possible options, opportunities or places to locate a roadway or transportation improvement.

**Public-Private Partnerships (P3):** A partnership between a public agency and private-sector organizations or individuals committed to building or improving public transportation facilities by helping with funding that could enhance or add improvements to public roadways, transit opportunities and other transportation facilities.

**Right of Way (ROW):** The public or private land needed for construction or roadway improvements.

**Screening:** The process to narrow down the possible route alternatives. To narrow down the alternatives, the study team will evaluate public input, agency input and technical analysis, including engineering and environmental considerations, rail and transit, and the potential cost of each possible route alternative.

**Stakeholder:** A person, company, group or agency that may be directly or indirectly affected by a project or study.

**Subsidence:** The gradual settling or sinking of a land area. May lead to cracks or crevices in the ground. Land subsidence is often attributed to excessive ground-water pumping.

**Sun Corridor:** The area in Arizona between the Arizona/Mexico border and the Prescott area. (A significant level of growth is anticipated in this corridor over the next 20 to 30 years.)