



SR 195: I-8 to US 95 Frequently Asked Questions

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), held a public information meeting on September 17, 2009, to present recommendations from the May 2009 *Alternative Selection Report and Environmental Overview* and to seek specific comments on the recommendations of the proposed extension of State Route 195 (SR 195) between Interstate 8 (I-8) and US Highway 95 (US 95) in Yuma County, Arizona. The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions compiled from the questions and comments received both during and after this meeting.

Public Opinion:

Question: What is the role of public opinion in the decision process?

Response: Public opinion is an important part of the evaluation process. All comments received from the public and other parties are taken into consideration when evaluating the alternatives and making the final decision.

Question: Does ADOT have a preferred alternative, and if not, how will the final decision be made?

Response: Federal funding requirements call for the consideration of alternatives. The original list of alternatives for this project consisted of eight alternatives, which were narrowed down to the current four “build” alternatives based on various engineering criteria, environmental criteria, and public input, as well as a “no-build” alternative. A thorough investigation of the remaining alternatives must now be carried through the evaluation process, including the environmental studies and engineering design concept report before a final decision can be made. ADOT does not have a favored alternative. The remaining alternatives are each being evaluated against engineering, socioeconomic, and environmental criteria (including public comment) and a final decision cannot be predicted or made before completion of this process.

Question: Why is ADOT still considering a route along Araby Road? The citizens of Yuma have been concerned about the truck traffic on the Araby corridor for a decade and have expressed this to ADOT. This has been “truck restricted” since 1999. Why would ADOT want to ignore the City of Yuma and citizens concerns and connect SR/195 via Araby Road since several neighborhoods' (Bluffs and Cresta Gila) only access is off Araby Road?

Response: The specific goal of September’s public meeting was to share the preliminary recommendations of the study with the public and gather public comments. The study is far from over; public opinion is an important part of the evaluation process and will be a consideration in the final decision. ADOT currently has a signed agreement with the City of Yuma, Yuma County, and other governmental bodies to use a route designated during the 1990s to connect SR 195 between I-8 and US 95. If ADOT is to change that route, then this study process which includes an Environmental Assessment is the path to do so.



Cost:

Question: What is the estimated cost of each remaining alternative?

Response: The relative costs of the major elements of each alternative (pavement, structures, and earthwork) were included in the May 2009 *Alternative Selection Report and Environmental Overview*, which is available at:
www.azdot.gov/highways/Projects/SR195_I8_to_US95/Index.asp.

An alternative selection report does not require a cost analysis; however, because much interest in costs was anticipated, an order of magnitude estimate was developed for the alternatives. The costs in the alternative selection report do not include numerous construction cost items or right-of-way and are intended only to present order-of-magnitude comparisons. The design concept report during the next phase of study will provide a detailed cost estimate for each remaining alternative.

Question: Will any additional right-of-way be necessary?

Response: Yes, new right-of-way will be required by each of the build alternatives being carried forward for further study. The amount needed will vary depending on the alternative.

Traffic:

Question: What type of traffic is expected to use this route?

Response: A mixture of traffic types including cars, trucks, and heavy trucks is anticipated. Whichever route is selected, the project design will accommodate a mix of traffic types.

Question: Where is the traffic going?

Response: The traffic model indicates that approximately 17% of travelers want to connect from the new port of entry to I-8 west, 21% to US 95 northeast, and 38% to I-8 east. The remaining traffic will travel to destinations within the Yuma area.

Community Concerns:

Question: Will access concerns be a factor in the decision making process?

Response: Depending on the alternative, changes to local roadways are anticipated to limit access to SR 195. Access limitation measures are necessary to reduce the number of conflict points and improve through traffic efficiency. Access will be provided under all alternatives for all local developments including colleges, schools, and subdivisions. All traffic will be able to access both directions, although the use of a median U-turn or other intersection may be recommended in order to make overall traffic flow at intersections more efficient. A range of access options will be further developed and evaluated in the engineering design concept report.



Question: Will safety be a factor in the decision making process?

Response: Whichever route is selected, the design will meet current design standards and provide a safe roadway that will accommodate a mix of traffic types.

Question: Will access for farm equipment be a factor in the decision making process?

Response: ADOT recognizes the importance of agriculture in the Yuma area and will design a route under any of the alternatives that maintains access for farmers to the roads.