

[<<Back](#)

Freeway extension may cut through mountain

PHOENIX A dustup is brewing over plans to carve into South Mountain and create a canyon for a ten lane freeway.

That's if the proposed South Mountain freeway is built along Pecos Road in Ahwatukee Foothills to connect with 55th Avenue in Laveen.

There's also talk of a possible tunnel or gigantic bridge. But transportation officials say that's not likely.

Boring into South Mountain hasn't gotten the attention that tearing up neighborhoods and demolishing hundreds of homes has.

But environmentalists and park advocates are equally upset by the plan to bulldoze or bore through the South Mountain.

Some in the Gila River Indian Community feel South Mountain is sacred and should be left untouched.

Information from: The Arizona Republic, <http://www.azcentral.com>

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