



Arizona Department of Transportation
Safford District
C/o 110 S. Church Avenue, Suite 3350
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**MARCH 5TH OPEN HOUSE
DETAILS INSIDE**

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Interstate 10/State Route 90 Q & A

Why is Dark Star Road being relocated further to the north?

Several factors contributed to this relocation; safety, cost and future planning. The project's priority is to make I-10 safe to travel. This requires removing or minimizing travel hazards. The location of a two-way frontage road next to Interstate 10 (I-10) at this location is a safety hazard at night. Since the frontage road and I-10 are not lighted and will not be in the future, car lights at night on the frontage road appear to I-10 traffic as a car traveling in the wrong direction. This is a hazard that needs to be removed along with the curves on I-10.

Another factor is cost. The cost of extending a large concrete box culvert, acquiring additional right of way and maintaining a frontage road, were significant enough to justify Dark Star Road's relocation. By relocating Dark Star Road to the north, a large box culvert's length was greatly reduced, minimizing costs and other drainage issues. Right of way costs were also significantly reduced through the donation of right of way by two property owners.

The third factor is future planning. When I-10 is widened in the future, the frontage road would have to be relocated again. Due to the potential growth in the area, planning for future widening is important. Based on a combination of all these factors, relocating Dark Star Road was prudent.

What type of use is the area surrounding the existing Dark Star Road zoned for?

While much of the area surrounding Dark Star Road is currently used for agriculture, the area is zoned for residential use. Future land use zoning may include commercial use.

When is construction anticipated to begin and how long will it last?

Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2009 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.



**For More Information,
Please Contact:**
Nanette Pageau or Carol Oaks,
Community Information
(520) 885-9009
or ADOT's Safford District
Office at **(928) 432-4900**

Join our Mailing List for Design & Construction Updates

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Carol Oaks, SR 90 Community Outreach
110 S. Church Avenue, Suite 3350, Tucson, AZ 85701

Or send your e-mail to:
carol@kaneenpr.com

Interstate State Route

10/90

Traffic Interchange Project Update • Winter 2009

Dear Citizens of Benson and Cochise County:

In November 2008, you received our first newsletter updating citizens on the Interstate-10/State Route 90 Traffic Interchange (TI) project. Recently, there have been some changes to the overall construction schedule.

When design work began on the project in 2005, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) was faced with a degree of uncertainty regarding funding for construction.

At the time of the Fall 2008 newsletter's publication, the interchange project was scheduled to be constructed in two phases due to the delays in funding. Since that time, ADOT has had the opportunity to re-evaluate priorities for important construction projects around the state, and was able to secure the necessary funding to complete the I-10/SR 90 interchange project in one phase. Benefits include increased cost savings and a faster project completion date, which results in savings to the traveling public.

As originally scheduled, construction is still anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2009 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

ADOT will be holding a final design public meeting on Thursday, March 5 at Cochise College's Benson Campus to update interested residents and area businesses on design and construction aspects.

As always, we appreciate your participation, patience and cooperation as ADOT works to improve Interstate 10 and State Route 90.

Sincerely,
Bill Harmon, District Engineer, ADOT Safford District



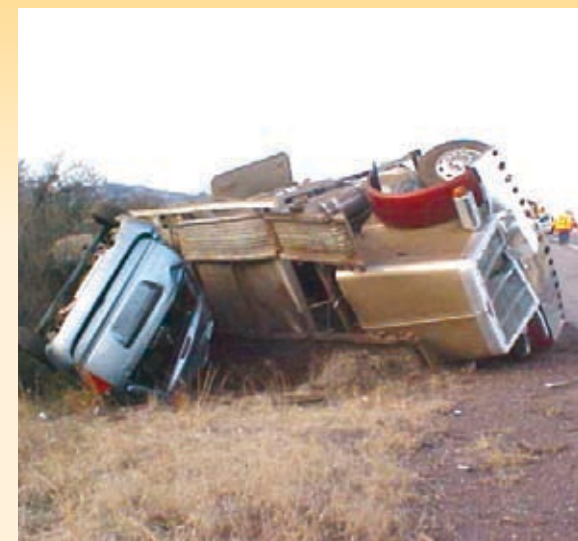
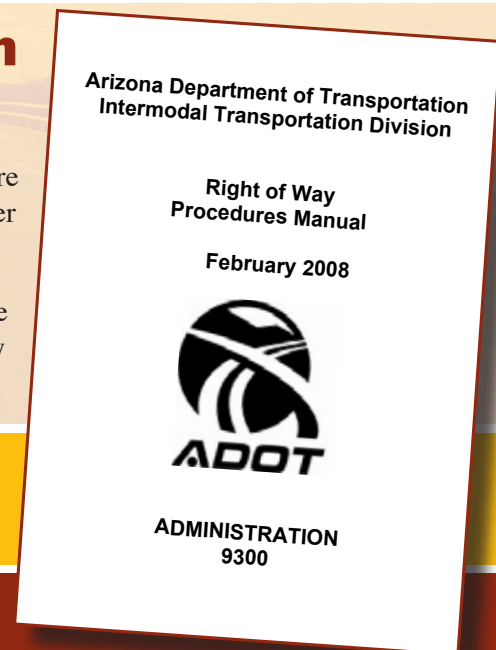
How ADOT's Right of Way Acquisition Procedure Works

Right of way refers to the land on which infrastructure is built. Infrastructure could be anything from a highway to an airport. Projects such as pipelines, power lines, or telephone facilities all require right of way.

ADOT's timeline goal for the I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange project is to complete all escrows or Orders of Immediate Possession by May 1st. ADOT's Right of Way team is currently working with those individuals whose property is affected.

To review a copy of policies and procedures related to the Federal Aid Highway Systems, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapg/cfr0470a.htm

If you would like to obtain a copy of ADOT's Right of Way Procedures Manual, please call (602) 712-7316.



Crews divert traffic at the scene of an accident near one of the I-10 curves.

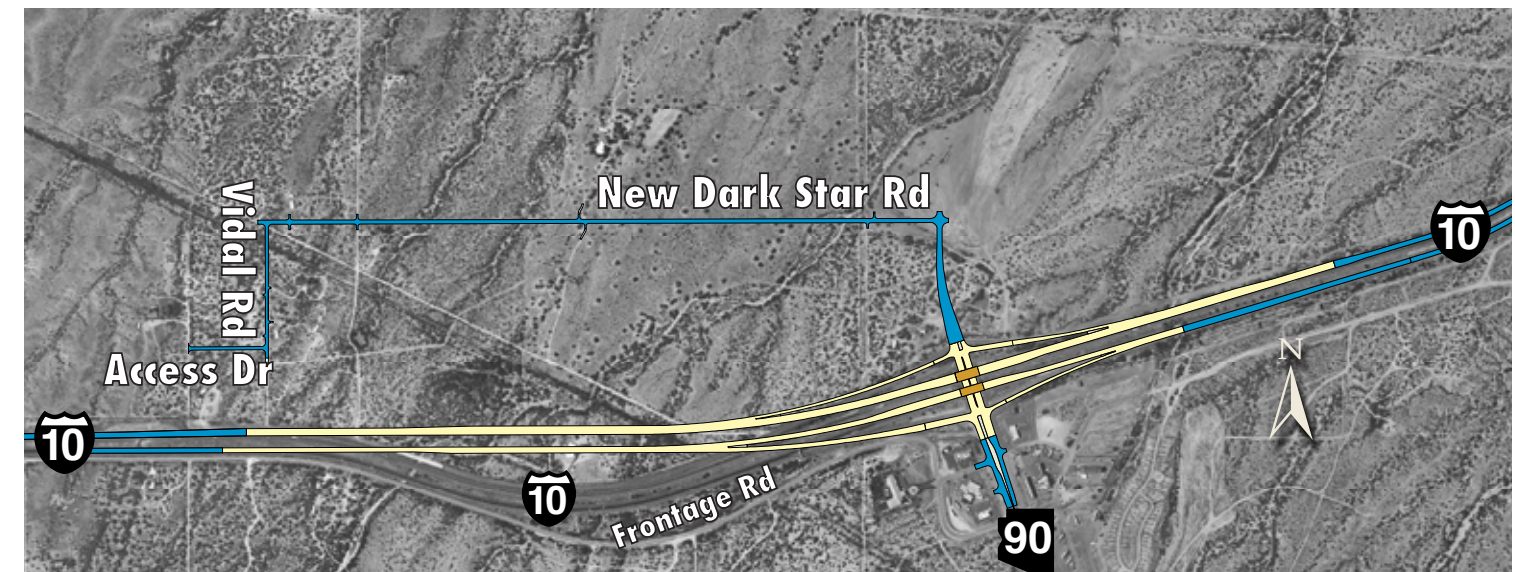
Safety is Our #1 Priority

ADOT considers safety first, every time and at every stage of a project. The main goals of the I-10/SR 90 project are to improve the safety of the corridor and increase the capacity of the interchange. Safety improvements include removing the curves on I-10 between mileposts 301 and 302 and straightening the alignment of the interstate. This process will involve reconstructing both the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-10 just west of the I-10/SR 90 traffic interchange.



Aerial view of the I-10/State Route 90 Traffic Interchange.

Environmental Re-evaluation for I-10/SR 90 Interchange Project Currently Under Review



A schematic view of the I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange improvements.

When ADOT proposes to improve or construct a road, an environmental process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act is followed. That process considers potential impacts to the environment and related social and economic effects. If there are changes to the proposed project design, ADOT's environmental staff re-evaluates the potential affects of the proposed road construction or improvement. This requires Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval. FHWA must then ensure that the environmental documentation for the proposed action is still valid, prior to proceeding with construction.

ADOT has prepared an environmental re-evaluation for the I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange and has forwarded this document to FHWA for review.

The purpose of the re-evaluation is to assess whether the 2001 I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) is still valid, up-to-date, and complete. The re-evaluation considers two primary questions:

- Are there changes to the proposed action that would result in new significant impacts that were not evaluated in the 2001 EA/FONSI?
- Are there changes to the affected environment, such as new information, circumstances, laws, regulations, or local ordinances that would result in impacts that were not evaluated in the EA/FONSI?

This effort will address changes to the project concept, including re-examination of typical sections, alignment revisions, changes to roadway or access locations, and verification that any changes are consistent with the findings and permit requirements of the original document.

Project Funding

The I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange project uses funds from both FHWA and ADOT. Because federal funds will be used to reconstruct the I-10/SR 90 Traffic Interchange, the proposed design changes are reviewed by ADOT and FHWA prior to construction. Once this review and the design plans are completed, the construction project will begin.

DON'T FORGET!

ADOT's Interstate 10/State Route 90 OPEN HOUSE is
Thursday, March 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Presentation begins at 6:00 p.m.)
 at Cochise College's Benson Campus
 1025 S. Highway 90 (one mile South of the I-10/SR 90 Interchange)