

## **1 OVERVIEW**

ADOT and Graham County hosted an open house for Alternate Route Study on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the Graham County General Services building in Safford. The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of the study and summary of the existing and future roads level of service. Alternate route focus area, future work tasks and the project schedule were also presented. The meeting was intended to be informative while gathering public input on issues and opportunities to be considered during the study. Study team members were present during the meeting to answer questions and to collect comment letters.

## **2 NOTIFICATION**

Meeting advertisement was published in Eastern Arizona Courier newspaper both on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 and Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The advertisement outlined the purpose of the meeting and also provided contact information for the project management team.

Attendees were encouraged to leave comments either during the meeting or later within two weeks from the meeting either through mail, email or fax.

## **3 MEETING DETAILS**

There were 23 attendees at the public meeting, many of whom contributed comments. The concerns expressed were focused on traffic safety, street connectivity, and creating a livable community. Attendees were encouraged to leave comments either during the meeting or later within two weeks from the meeting either through mail, email or fax. The comments are summarized below and included verbatim in the Appendix.

## **4 COMMENT SUMMARY**

The comments from the meeting suggested the alternate route for the state routes US 60 and US 191 bypass mainly in three specific areas i.e. to the north along Gila River, to the east of Artesia Road, or to the west on Bureau of Land management (BLM) land.

About one third of the comments indicated that alternate route should go to the north of the City of Safford and Town of Thatcher, north or south of the Gila River. Specifically, one of the comments states that the alternate route should “Start at 191 and 70 intersection go north across the Gila River then turn west to the Gila River Bridge”.

One of the comments suggested alternate route to veer east of Artesia Road. As pointed out, this would help specifically to take some traffic load off Artesia area and to meet future traffic demand as new developments are expected in this area. Another comment identified BLM land south of Safford as an opportunity to be used for bypass to shorten the distance to Tucson. As indicated, this would also help in the development of the area between Mt. Graham and the farming land. If the alternate route goes to Pima, as mentioned by one of the attendees, it should connect to Highway 70 west of the Pima.

## **APPENDIX A: COMMENTS**

- Please, please, please, consider re-routing the I-10 bypass into the 191 right-of-way. Make both I-10 and the by-pass 8 lane (4 each way). You will assist in solving traffic and economic problems for everyone but the developers.
- As an overall view, consider building a beltway (or several linked beltways) around the Pima-Thatcher-Safford metro area (don't worry it will be before long) to avoid the Phoenix-Tucson problems.
- Consider connecting some of our small roads i.e. Stockton to Montierth – Powerline to 20<sup>th</sup> – to Stadium Way; this will begin the process of beltway thinking. There are others that will also be beneficial (366 to Barney or Montierth)
- Alternate route should veer east approx 3 miles of Artesia Road – take pressure off Artesia area where Prina plans to develop.
- Create a 70 bypass north of Safford on south side of river or north side of river.
- The route should connect to Highway 70 west of Pima if route goes to Pima.
- Start at 191 and 70 Clifton intersection go north across the Gila river then turn west to the Gila River Bridge @ bypass
- At the point of 191 and 266 make a bypass to the intersection of 191 and 70.
- I would like to see the BLM land south of Safford used as a road to leave Highway 191 and connect with US 70 about where Klondyke Road turns off the US 70. This could shorten the distance to Tucson for everyone in the Valley except Safford and open up the area between Mt. Graham and the farming area to development.
- Don't need on the graham side. Put on the other side of river.

**Arizona Department of Transportation  
Graham County**



**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
**Graham County Small Area  
Transportation Study (SATS) &  
Graham County Alternate Route Study**



**A public open house will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2008  
at the following location:**

**Graham County  
General Services Building**  
921 Thatcher Boulevard  
Safford, Arizona 85546  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Graham County, in coordination with Safford, Thatcher and Pima, have initiated two transportation studies in Graham County, a Small Area Transportation Study (SATS) to examine regional travel and an Alternate Route Study to examine potential new corridors in the region.

The SATS examines current and projected travel demand to provide recommendations for future transportation improvements. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform the public of the existing and future population, employment and travel characteristics of the region and to gather public input on issues and opportunities to be considered during the study.

The Alternate Route Study examines regional travel and will propose a new alternate route for traffic traveling through the region. In this meeting, existing and long term conditions in the area will be presented as information for the public. Input will be collected through public comment to understand concerns and potential improvements for this specific corridor.

Study team members will be present to answer your questions and address your concerns. Maps of the project area and informational exhibits will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Written comments may be submitted by August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008, to:

**Graham County SATS**

Graham County c/o Will Wright  
921 Thatcher Blvd  
Safford, Az 85546  
Phone: (928) 428-0410  
Fax: (928) 428-8825  
Email: [wwright@graham.az.gov](mailto:wwright@graham.az.gov)

**Graham County Alternate Route Study**

ADOT c/o Charlene FitzGerald,  
206 S. 17th Ave 310B  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone: (602) 712-6196  
Fax: (602) 712-3046  
Email: [cfitzgerald@azdot.gov](mailto:cfitzgerald@azdot.gov)

**GRAHAM COUNTY  
ALTERNATE ROUTE STUDY**

8/7/2008

Graham County General Services, 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford

*Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns regarding the Alternate Route Study in Graham County.*

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Please return at meeting or to  
Becky Fly, flyb@pbworld.com or  
480-966-9234 (FAX) no later than Aug. 15th



# Graham County Alternate Route Study

- **Study Need**
  - Plan for regional growth / local development (Horizon years of 2020, 2030, 2040)
  - Provide an alternative for regional travel
  
- **Study Goals and Objectives**
  - Create a “vision” for an Alternate Route and develop a plan for achieving the vision
  - Define the role of an Alternate Route in the regional system
  - Define long-term corridor needs and requirements
  - Establish principles, policies and guidelines for corridor improvements
  - Develop / evaluate alternate route alternatives
  - Provide recommendations based on local input for the preferred alternate route
  - Coordinate with other current ongoing area studies to ensure an integrated roadway corridor system
  
- **Study Challenges**
  - Incorporate regional and local travel
  - Address current and future development
  - Address engineering challenges
  - Consider roadway environment



# Graham County Alternate Route Study

- **Project Stakeholders**

- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
- Graham County
- City of Safford
- Town of Thatcher
- Town of Pima
- South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)

Milestone	
Existing and Future Condition Analysis (Working Paper No 1)	July 2008
Public Meeting No 1	August 2008
Determination of Need and Feasibility – Development of Alternatives (Working Paper No 2)	Fall 2008
Public Meeting No 2	Late Fall 2008
Alternative Analysis and Recommendation of Preferred Alternative (Working Paper No 3)	Winter 2009
Final Report	Spring 2009



# Graham County Alternate Route Study Level of Service

