FHWA-AZ-EIS-13-01-D

South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202)

Interstate 10 (Papago Freeway) to Interstate 10 (Maricopa Freeway)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Volume I: Main Text

Submitted pursuant to
42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(c), 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 33 U.S.C. § 1251
by the
Federal Highway Administration
and
Arizona Department of Transportation

in cooperation with the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Area Power Administration

April 2013

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Submitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(c), 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 33 U.S.C. § 1251

by the
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
and
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

with
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
(Cooperating Agency)
and
U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
(Cooperating Agency)
and
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
(Cooperating Agency)

Abstract

The proposed action is the construction and operation of a new multilane freeway in the metropolitan Phoenix area extending approximately 22 to 24 miles from Interstate 10 west of Phoenix to Interstate 10 southeast of Phoenix. The facility would be the final extension of State Route 202L, an element of the Maricopa Association of Governments' adopted Regional Freeway and Highway System, as outlined in its *Regional Transportation Plan*.

The proposed action is considered necessary in response to existing and projected demands on the region's transportation system. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement discusses three distinct action alternatives in the western portion of the Study Area (Western Section), one distinct action alternative in the eastern portion of the Study Area (Eastern Section), and a no-action alternative for the entire project length. When combined, the action alternatives in the Western and Eastern Sections represent a full range of reasonable alternatives. The action alternatives consist of four travel lanes in each direction (three general purpose lanes and one high-occupancy vehicle lane), with traffic interchanges generally located at major cross streets. Other alternatives were considered but eliminated from further study. These alternatives included using alternative travel modes, improving major streets, and managing traffic through such methods as transportation system management and transportation demand management.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes potential impacts of the proposed action on the natural and human-made environment, including, but not limited to, mountain preserve land, residential and commercial development, cultural resources, wildlife, waters of the United States, air quality, noise levels, and hazardous waste.

A Final State-level Environmental Assessment was completed for the South Mountain Corridor in 1988. At that time, a recommended alternative was adopted by the State Transportation Board. The proposed action represents a version of that project. Because of elapsed time and conditions that have changed since completion of the 1988 document, new studies are required.

The W59 Alternative has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Western Section. The E1 Alternative has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Eastern Section.

Americans with Disabilities Act Information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Terry Gruver, HDR Engineering, Inc., 3200 East Camelback Road, Suite 350, Phoenix, AZ 85018; phone: (602) 522-7700; fax: (602) 522-7707; e-mail: <ADOT@hdrinc.com>.

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For information about the Department's Title VI Program, please contact Eddie Edison, Civil Rights Administrator, ADOT, 206 S. 17th Avenue, MD 154A, Phoenix, AZ 85007; phone: (602) 712-7761; fax: (602) 712-8429; e-mail: <eedison@azdot.gov>.

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Paul O'Brien 4/16/13
Date of Approval

Karla S. Petty, Administrator
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Karla S Petty 4/16/13
Date of Approval

FHWA-AZ-EIS-13-01-D

South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Fact Sheet

Project Title
South Mountain Freeway

State Route Designation
SR 202L

Federal-aid Project Number
NH-202-D(ADY)

ADOT Project Number
202L MA 054 H5764 01L

NEPA Federal Lead Agency
Federal Highway Administration
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Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Regional Office
615 South 43rd Avenue
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005

Public Hearing
A public hearing to provide information and accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be held on:

DATE: May 21, 2013

Dates, times, and locations of the public hearing and other comment opportunities will be announced through notices published in newspapers of general circulation and on the project Web site, <azdot.gov/southmountainfreeway>.

DEIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation Review
A comment period will begin on the date a notice is published in the *Federal Register*. Notice will take place on April 26, 2013. The comment period during which the DEIS can be reviewed and comments can be made will end on July 24, 2013. After reading the DEIS, please provide specific written comments on its contents.

Comments should be sent to:

Chaun Hill, PE, Project Manager
Arizona Department of Transportation
1655 West Jackson Street, MD126F
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Comments can also be sent by e-mail to:
projects@azdot.gov

Document Availability
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CONTENTS

Volume I: Main Text

Title Page i

Fact Sheet ii

Summary

Background Information S-1
Contents of the DEIS S-2
Comments about the Environmental Impact Statement Process S-2
Description of the Proposed Action S-4
Historical Context S-4
Purpose and Need S-5
Alternatives S-6
Screening Process S-7
Action Alternatives S-8
No-Action Alternative S-8
Impacts S-10
Measures to Mitigate Adverse Effects S-18
Identification of a Preferred Alternative S-35
Identification of a Preferred Alternative in the Western Section (W59 Alternative) S-35
Identification of a Preferred Alternative in the Eastern Section (E1 Alternative) S-38
Status of Gila River Indian Community Alternatives–At the DEIS Stage S-38
Treatment of Resources Afforded Protection under Section 4(f)–At the DEIS Stage S-38
Other Government Actions S-40
Permits and Permissions Required S-40
Areas of Concern S-40
Communications and Coordination – Involving the Public and Agencies in the EIS Process S-43
Independent Evaluation of the DEIS S-44

Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need

Purpose of the Document 1-1
Purpose of the Chapter 1-1
Context of Purpose and Need in the EIS Process 1-1
Project Location, Description, and Current Status 1-4
Historical Context of the Proposed Action 1-5
Context of the Proposed Action in Current Regional Transportation Planning 1-9
Need and Purpose for the Proposed Action 1-11
Need Based on Socioeconomic Factors 1-11
Need Based on Regional Transportation Demand and Existing and Projected Transportation System Capacity Deficiencies 1-13
Conclusions 1-21

Chapter 2 – Gila River Indian Community Coordination

Coordination Efforts and Gila River Indian Community Interaction Pertaining to the Proposed Action 2-1
Background Information 2-2
Executive Branch 2-3
Gila River Indian Community Council and Special Committees 2-3
Districts 2-3
Departments 2-3
Bureau of Indian Affairs 2-3
Gila River Indian Community Coordination 2-4
Gila River Indian Community Council and Special Committees 2-7
Governor and Lieutenant Governor 2-7
Districts 2-8
Governmental Departments 2-8
I-10/Pecos Road Landowners Association 2-9
South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team 2-9
Bureau of Indian Affairs 2-9
Other Gila River Indian Community Coordination 2-9
Content and Status of Coordination and Activities 2-10
Status of Gila River Indian Community Alignments at Time of DEIS Issuance 2-10
Treatment of Impacts on Gila River Indian Community Land 2-10
Summary of Comments Received 2-10
Future Coordination 2-10
Context of Coordination in Relation to Environmental Justice Executive Order 2-11
Conclusions 2-11

Chapter 3 – Alternatives

Background and Alternatives Development and Screening 3-1
Purpose of the Chapter 3-1
Context of Alternatives in the EIS Process 3-1
Alternatives Development and Screening 3-1
Alternatives Studied in Detail 3-40
No-Action Alternative 3-40
Action Alternatives 3-40
Traffic Analysis 3-60
Identification of a Preferred Alternative 3-65
Conclusions 3-70

Chapter 4 – Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation

Background Information 4-1
Land Use 4-3
Affected Environment 4-3
Environmental Consequences 4-9

Mitigation 4-18
Conclusions 4-19
Social Conditions 4-20
Affected Environment 4-20
Environmental Consequences 4-21
Mitigation 4-23
Conclusions 4-28
Title VI and Environmental Justice 4-29
Data Assumptions 4-29
Affected Environment 4-29
Environmental Consequences 4-31
Mitigation 4-38
Conclusions 4-38
Displacements and Relocations 4-39
Affected Environment 4-39
Environmental Consequences 4-39
Mitigation 4-44
Conclusions 4-45
Economic Impacts 4-46
Existing Conditions 4-46
Environmental Consequences 4-47
Mitigation 4-57
Conclusions 4-57
Air Quality 4-58
Regulatory Overview 4-58
Criteria Pollutants 4-58
Mobile Source Air Toxics 4-62
Environmental Consequences 4-65
Conclusions 4-79
Noise 4-80
Noise Criteria 4-80
Existing Noise Levels 4-80
Environmental Consequences 4-82
Mitigation 4-90
Other Possible Mitigation Strategies 4-91
Conclusions 4-91
Water Resources 4-93
Affected Environment 4-93
Environmental Consequences 4-97
Mitigation 4-98
Conclusions 4-101
Floodplains 4-102
Affected Environment 4-102
Environmental Consequences 4-104
Mitigation 4-106
Conclusions 4-107
Waters of the United States 4-108
Affected Environment 4-108
Environmental Consequences 4-109
Mitigation 4-110
Conclusions 4-112
Topography, Geology, and Soils 4-113
Affected Environment 4-113
Environmental Consequences 4-115
Mitigation 4-116
Conclusions 4-116
Biological Resources 4-117
Affected Environment 4-117
Environmental Consequences 4-124
Mitigation 4-126
Conclusions 4-127
Cultural Resources 4-128
Affected Environment 4-128
Environmental Consequences 4-130
Mitigation 4-146
SHPO Concurrence 4-148
Conclusions 4-148
Prime and Unique Farmlands 4-149
Affected Environment 4-149
Environmental Consequences 4-149
Mitigation 4-150
Conclusions 4-150
Hazardous Materials 4-152
Affected Environment 4-152
Environmental Consequences 4-152
Mitigation 4-153
Conclusions 4-154
Visual Resources 4-155
Affected Environment 4-155
Environmental Consequences 4-155
Mitigation 4-158
Conclusions 4-158
Energy 4-160
Affected Environment 4-160
Environmental Consequences 4-160
Mitigation 4-160
Conclusions 4-160

Temporary Construction Impacts 4-161
Environmental Consequences and Mitigation 4-161
Conclusions 4-163
Material Sources and Waste Material 4-164
Environmental Consequences 4-164
Mitigation 4-164
Conclusions 4-164
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources 4-165
Relationship Between Short-Term Uses of the Environment and Long-Term Productivity 4-166
Secondary and Cumulative Impacts 4-167
Overview of Historic, Existing, and Future Conditions 4-167
Secondary Impacts 4-167
Cumulative Impacts 4-171
No-Action Alternative 4-177
Mitigation 4-177
Conclusions 4-177
Conclusions 4-178

Chapter 5 – Section 4(f) Evaluation

Procedures for Protecting Section 6(f) and Section 4(f) Resources 5-1
Section 6(f) 5-1
Section 4(f) 5-1
Presentation of Section 4(f) Resources, Impacts, and Measures to Minimize Harm 5-5
Public Parkland Resources (SMPP) Associated with the South Mountains 5-14
NRHP-Eligible Historic Resources (SMPP) Associated with the South Mountains 5-25
The South Mountains (Muhadagi Doag) as a Traditional Cultural Property 5-26
AZ T:12:112 (ASM) as a Traditional Cultural Property 5-28
Other Traditional Cultural Properties 5-28
Coordination 5-29
Conclusions 5-31

Chapter 6 – Comments and Coordination

Past Coordination and Project Actions 6-1
Summary of Past Agency and Public Involvement, Pre-EIS Process 6-1
Agency Coordination 6-2
Public Involvement 6-6
Future Coordination and Project Actions 6-23
EIS Process 6-23
Design Phase 6-23
Construction 6-23
Postconstruction 6-23
DEIS Distribution and Public Hearing 6-23
Context-Sensitive Solutions as Applied to the Proposed Action 6-25
Conclusions 6-29

Preparers *PRE-1*
Abbreviations and Acronyms *ACR-1*
Glossary *G-1*
Bibliography and References *REF-1*
Index *IND-1*

Tables

Table S-1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation Content Summary S-2
Table S-2 Implementation of the Proposed Freeway as the Appropriate Modal Alternative to Satisfy Purpose and Need Criteria, 2035 S-9
Table S-3 Environmental Impact Summary Matrix, Proposed Action S-10
Table S-4 Proposed Mitigation Measures, Arizona Department of Transportation, Action Alternatives S-18
Table S-5 Major Permits and Permissions S-41
Table 1-1 Purpose and Need Content Summary, Chapter 1 1-2
Table 1-2 *Regional Transportation Plan* Highlights 1-10
Table 1-3 Traffic Analysis Tools 1-13
Table 2-1 Meetings to Engage the Community, 2001–2009 2-4
Table 2-2 Meetings Focused on the Proposed On-Community Alignment, 2010–2012 2-6
Table 3-1 Alternatives Content Summary, Chapter 3 3-2
Table 3-2 Nonfreeway Alternatives Considered and Reasons for their Elimination from Further Study 3-5
Table 3-3 Western Section Alternatives Eliminated from Further Study, Second-tier Screening, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-11
Table 3-4 Renaming of Action Alternatives, Western Section 3-11
Table 3-5 Eastern Section Alternatives Eliminated from Further Study, Second-tier Screening, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-12
Table 3-6 Comparison of Displacements, W55 and W59 Alternatives 3-24
Table 3-7 Traffic Analysis Tools Used to Assess a Freeway's Effect on Identified Needs 3-27
Table 3-8 Regional Travel Times, 2035 3-34
Table 3-9 Implementation of the Proposed Freeway as the Appropriate Modal Alternative to Satisfy Purpose and Need Criteria, 2035 3-38
Table 3-10 Horizontal Alignments, W101 Alternative and Options, Western Section 3-41
Table 3-11 Alignment Features, Action Alternatives 3-48
Table 3-12 Acreage Needed, Action Alternatives, Western and Eastern Sections 3-52
Table 4-1 Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Content Summary, Chapter 4 4-2
Table 4-2 Existing Land Use, by Study Area Jurisdiction 4-3
Table 4-3 State and Federal Land Ownership, Study Area 4-7
Table 4-4 Zoning, by Study Area Jurisdiction 4-7
Table 4-5 Status of Affected Jurisdictions' General Plans and Plan Updates 4-9
Table 4-6 Existing Land Uses within Proposed Right-of-way, Action Alternatives 4-11
Table 4-7 Land Use Conversion Acreage 4-14
Table 4-8 Planned Developments Potentially Affected by Action Alternatives 4-17
Table 4-9 Impacts on Community Character and Cohesion, Action Alternatives 4-24
Table 4-10 Title VI and Environmental Justice Population Percentages, Affected Study Area Jurisdictions 4-30
Table 4-11 Protected Populations Affected by Action Alternatives 4-36

Table 4-12 Potential Displacements, Action Alternatives 4-39
Table 4-13 Summary of Business Displacements, Action Alternatives 4-42
Table 4-14 Summary of Businesses within 300 Feet of Action Alternatives 4-44
Table 4-15 Acreage of Taxable Land Uses, by Jurisdiction, Action Alternatives 4-46
Table 4-16 Land Valuation Assumptions Used to Estimate Property Tax Impacts Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition 4-47
Table 4-17 Reductions in Local Annual Property Tax Revenues Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition, Existing Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-48
Table 4-18 Assumptions Used to Estimate Retail Sales Tax Impacts Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition 4-49
Table 4-19 Reductions in Annual Retail Sales Tax Revenues Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition, Existing Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-50
Table 4-20 Estimated Acreage of Future Study Area Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-51
Table 4-21 Acreage of Future Taxable Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-52
Table 4-22 Reductions in Local Annual Property Tax Revenues Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition, Future Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-53
Table 4-23 Reductions in Annual Sales Tax Revenues Resulting from Right-of-way Acquisition, Future Land Uses, Action Alternatives 4-54
Table 4-24 Estimates of Total Tax Revenue Impacts, Property and Sales Tax Combined, Dollars per Year, Action Alternatives 4-55
Table 4-25 Estimated Value of Motorists' Travel Time 4-56
Table 4-26 Economic Benefit of Reduced Regional Traffic Congestion, Action Alternatives 4-57
Table 4-27 National Ambient Air Quality Standards 4-59
Table 4-28 Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, Maricopa County, 2002 4-64
Table 4-29 Annual Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Concentrations, South Phoenix 4-64
Table 4-30 Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, South Phoenix 4-65
Table 4-31 Maximum Projected 1-hour Carbon Monoxide Concentrations at Intersections/Interchanges 4-66
Table 4-32 Maximum Projected 8-hour Carbon Monoxide Concentrations at Intersections/Interchanges 4-67
Table 4-33 PM_{10} Monitoring Locations, Results, and Nearby Road Characteristics, 2009 4-68
Table 4-34 Modeled Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, Western Subarea Alternatives 4-72
Table 4-35 Modeled Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, Eastern Subarea Alternatives 4-73
Table 4-36 Modeled Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, Regional Area, Assuming W59 Alternative 4-74
Table 4-37 Statewide and Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions Potential, Relative to Global Totals 4-78
Table 4-38 Federal Highway Administration Noise Abatement Criteria 4-79
Table 4-39 Ambient Noise Monitoring Results, Western and Eastern Sections 4-83
Table 4-40 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections 4-85
Table 4-41 Potentially Affected Wells, Action Alternatives 4-98
Table 4-42 Estimated Acreage of Floodplain Impacts, Western Section, Action Alternatives 4-105
Table 4-43 Area of Impact to Jurisdictional Waters, Western Section, Action Alternatives 4-109
Table 4-44 Arizona Wildlife of Special Concern 4-120
Table 4-45 Threatened and Endangered Species Potentially Occurring in Maricopa County 4-123
Table 4-46 Archaeological Resources Affected, Action Alternatives 4-131
Table 4-47 NRHP-eligible Historical Sites (non-TCP), Action Alternatives 4-132
Table 4-48 Record of Section 106 Consultation 4-133
Table 4-49 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Prime and Unique Farmlands, Western and Eastern Sections 4-150
Table 4-50 Hazardous Materials Impacts, Associated with Action Alternatives 4-152
Table 4-51 Visual Impacts, Action Alternatives 4-157
Table 4-52 Annual Regional Energy Consumption, 2035 4-160
Table 4-53 Potential Major Utility Impacts, Action Alternatives 4-163
Table 4-54 Earthwork Quantities, Action Alternatives 4-164
Table 4-55 Resources Not Subject to Secondary Impact Analysis 4-168
Table 4-56 Secondary Impacts, Action Alternatives 4-169
Table 4-57 Resources Not Subject to Cumulative Impacts Analysis 4-172
Table 4-58 Representative Project-specific Mitigation Measures 4-176
Table 5-1 Section 4(f) Evaluation Content Summary, Chapter 5 5-2
Table 5-2 Documented Coordination Associated with Section 4(f) Resources 5-29
Table 5-3 Direct Use of Section 4(f) Resources 5-31
Table 6-1 Public Involvement Tools 6-8
Table 6-2 Public Comment Summary, Phase 3 6-13
Table 6-3 Questions and Comments Received During November 2005 Public Meeting Presentations, Phase 4 6-14
Table 6-4 Summary of Public Comments, Phase 4 6-16
Table 6-5 Additional Phase 4 Comments Received during and after the February 2010 Public Meeting 6-21
Table 6-6 Additional Phase 4 Comments Received during and after the February 2011 Public Meeting 6-22
Table 6-7 Application of Context-Sensitive Solutions in the EIS Process 6-26

Figures

Figure S-1 Location of the Study Area, Maricopa County S-1
Figure S-2 Location, Phoenix Metropolitan Area S-2
Figure S-3 Environmental Impact Statement Process S-3
Figure S-4 The Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Freeway System, 1985 and 2003 S-4
Figure S-5 Historical and Projected Growth S-5
Figure S-6 Growth Distribution S-6
Figure S-7 Alternatives Development and Screening Process S-7
Figure S-8 Action Alternatives S-8
Figure S-9 Typical Eight-lane Freeway Section S-10
Figure S-10 Comparative Analysis, Action Alternatives, Western Section S-37
Figure S-11 Sovereign Nation and Section 4(f) Constraints, Action Alternatives S-39
Figure 1-1 Study Area 1-3
Figure 1-2 Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Freeway and Highway System, 1985 and 2003 1-6
Figure 1-3 Westward Ho Hotel, 1939 1-7
Figure 1-4 Growth Rates, 1950–2000 1-8
Figure 1-5 Historic and Projected Population Distribution, 1955–2030, Phoenix Metropolitan Area 1-9
Figure 1-6 Projected Growth Rates, 2000–2035 1-11
Figure 1-7 Geographic Distribution of Projected Growth by Subregion, 2005–2035 1-12

Figure 1-8 Average Daily Traffic Volumes on Freeways and Arterial Streets (without the Proposed Action), 2010 and 2035 1-15
Figure 1-9 Duration of Level of Service E or F, Morning Commute on Freeways, 2010 and 2035 1-17
Figure 1-10 Duration of Level of Service E or F, Evening Commute on Freeways, 2010 and 2035 1-18
Figure 1-11 Cut-line Analysis, 2010 and 2035 1-19
Figure 1-12 Met and Unmet Demand, 2010 and 2035 1-20
Figure 1-13 Modeled Travel Times without the Proposed Action, 2010 and 2035 1-20
Figure 2-1 Gila River Indian Community and its Governing Districts 2-2
Figure 3-1 Regional Context, Proposed Action 3-3
Figure 3-2 Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-4
Figure 3-3 Met and Unmet Demand with and without Modal Improvements, 2035 3-4
Figure 3-4 Corridor Locations, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-7
Figure 3-5 Early Alignment Siting Efforts, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-7
Figure 3-6 Western and Eastern Section Alternatives, First-tier Screening, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-10
Figure 3-7 Alignment Adjustments, Third- and Fourth-tier Screening, Western Section, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-14
Figure 3-8 Design Adjustments, Third- and Fourth-tier Screening, Eastern Section, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-15
Figure 3-9 Duration of Level of Service E or F on Eight-lane and Ten-lane Freeways, Morning Commute, 2035 3-21
Figure 3-10 Duration of Level of Service E or F on Eight-lane and Ten-lane Freeways, Evening Commute, 2035 3-22
Figure 3-11 Alignment and Design Adjustments, Fifth-tier Screening, Alternatives Development and Screening Process 3-26
Figure 3-12 Projected Average Daily Traffic Volumes on Freeways and Arterial Streets with and without the Proposed Freeway, 2035 3-29
Figure 3-13 Cut-line Analysis with and without the Proposed Freeway, 2035 3-30
Figure 3-14 Met and Unmet Demand with and without the Proposed Freeway, 2035 3-31
Figure 3-15 Duration of Level of Service E or F with and without the Proposed Freeway, Morning Commute on Freeways, 2035 3-32
Figure 3-16 Duration Level of Service E or F with and without the Proposed Freeway, Evening Commute on Freeways, 2035 3-33
Figure 3-17 Representative Travel Times with and without the Proposed Freeway, 2035 3-34
Figure 3-18 Select Link Analysis, Origins and Destinations within and outside the Region, 2035 3-36
Figure 3-19 Summary of Action Alternatives Considered and Eliminated 3-39
Figure 3-20 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, W59 Alternative, Western Section 3-42
Figure 3-21 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, W71 Alternative, Western Section 3-43
Figure 3-22 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, W101 Alternative Western Option, Western Section 3-44
Figure 3-23 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, W101 Alternative Central Option, Western Section 3-45
Figure 3-24 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, W101 Alternative Eastern Option, Western Section 3-46
Figure 3-25 Horizontal and Vertical Alignments, E1 Alternative, Eastern Section 3-47
Figure 3-26 System Traffic Interchange Configurations, Action Alternatives, Western Section 3-49
Figure 3-27 System Traffic Interchange Configuration, Action Alternative, Eastern Section 3-50
Figure 3-28 Proposed Service Traffic Interchanges, Action Alternatives, Western and Eastern Sections 3-51
Figure 3-29 Local Access Modifications, Service Traffic Interchanges, W59 Alternative, Western Section 3-53
Figure 3-30 Local Access Modifications, Service Traffic Interchanges, W71 Alternative, Western Section 3-54
Figure 3-31 Local Access Modifications, W101 Alternative, Service Traffic Interchanges, Partial and Full Reconstruction Options, Western Section 3-55
Figure 3-32 Local Street Realignments, W59 Alternative (Preferred Alternative), Western Section 3-56
Figure 3-33 Local Street Realignments, E1 Alternative (Preferred Alternative), Eastern Section 3-57
Figure 3-34 Typical Eight-lane Freeway Section 3-58
Figure 3-35 Earthwork Quantities, Action Alternatives, Western and Eastern Sections 3-59
Figure 3-36 Planning-level Cost Estimates, Action Alternatives, Western and Eastern Sections 3-59
Figure 3-37 Projected Traffic Volumes, Freeways and Arterial Streets, 2035 3-61
Figure 3-38 Projected Traffic Volumes, Action Alternatives, 2035 3-62
Figure 3-39 Modeled Level of Service, Action Alternatives, 2035 3-63
Figure 3-40 Modeled Level of Service, Interstate 10, Western Section, 2035 3-66
Figure 3-41 Comparative Analysis, Action Alternatives, Western Section 3-67
Figure 4-1 Jurisdictions 4-4
Figure 4-2 Land Ownership 4-5
Figure 4-3 Existing Land Uses 4-6
Figure 4-4 Planned Developments, 2009 4-8
Figure 4-5 General Plan Land Use Designations 4-10
Figure 4-6 Land Leased for Rio Salado Oeste Restoration Project from Bureau of Land Management 4-14
Figure 4-7 State Trust Land, Eastern Section 4-15
Figure 4-8 Distinct Communities 4-22
Figure 4-9 Public Facilities and Services 4-23
Figure 4-10 Minority Populations Distribution 4-31
Figure 4-11 Low-income Populations Distribution 4-32
Figure 4-12 Elderly Populations Distribution 4-33
Figure 4-13 Disabled Populations Distribution 4-34
Figure 4-14 Female Heads of Household Populations Distribution 4-35
Figure 4-15 Potential Business Relocations, W101 Alternative and Options 4-41
Figure 4-16 Potential Business Relocations, W71 Alternative 4-41
Figure 4-17 Potential Business Relocations, W59 Alternative 4-41
Figure 4-18 Comparison of National Economic and Demographic Growth Indicators and Air Emissions, 1970–2005 4-58
Figure 4-19 Annual Second High 8-hour Carbon Monoxide Concentrations, Phoenix, 1980–2009 4-60
Figure 4-20 Nonattainment Areas for Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, and Ozone, Maricopa County 4-61
Figure 4-21 Exceedances of Maximum 8-hour Ozone Concentrations, Phoenix, 1990–2009 4-61
Figure 4-22 Regional PM_{10} Emissions Sources, Phoenix, 2008 4-62
Figure 4-23 Sources of the 188 Hazardous Air Pollutants Regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency 4-62
Figure 4-24 Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, 1999, On-road Versus Other Sources 4-62
Figure 4-25 Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, Maricopa County 4-64
Figure 4-26 National MSAT Emission Trends, 1999–2050 4-70
Figure 4-27 Modeled Assessment Areas, Mobile Source Air Toxics, Maricopa County 4-71
Figure 4-28 Priority Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions as a Function of Vehicle Speed 4-71

Figure 4-29 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W101 Alternative and Options 4-81
Figure 4-30 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W71 Alternative 4-81
Figure 4-31 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W59 Alternative 4-81
Figure 4-32 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, Eastern Section 4-82
Figure 4-33 Noise Barrier Process 4-92
Figure 4-34 Major Surface Water Resources 4-94
Figure 4-35 Watersheds in the Region 4-95
Figure 4-36 Study Area Active Groundwater Wells 4-96
Figure 4-37 Irrigation Canals 4-99
Figure 4-38 100-year Floodplains 4-103
Figure 4-39 Waters of the United States, Western Section 4-108
Figure 4-40 Typical Ephemeral Washes, Eastern Section 4-109
Figure 4-41 Plant Communities Adjacent to Action Alternative Alignments 4-118
Figure 5-1 Section 4(f) in the EIS Process as Applied to the Proposed Action 5-3
Figure 5-2 Alignment Adjustments, Action Alternatives, Western and Eastern Sections 5-4
Figure 5-3 Section 4(f) Resources in the Study Area 5-5
Figure 5-4 Properties Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (not associated with the South Mountains or Traditional Cultural Properties) 5-6
Figure 5-5 Recreational Trails System 5-8
Figure 5-6 Public School Recreational Facilities 5-10
Figure 5-7 Public Parkland 5-12
Figure 5-8 Public Parkland Resources (Phoenix South Mountain Park/Preserve) Associated with the South Mountains 5-15
Figure 5-9 Photo Simulations, Proposed Roadway Cuts through Ridges of the South Mountains 5-16
Figure 5-10 Cross Sections, Proposed Roadway Cuts through Ridges of the South Mountains 5-17
Figure 5-11 Profile, Tunnel Alternatives 5-19
Figure 5-12 Profile, Medium Bridge Alternatives 5-21
Figure 5-13 Profile, High Bridge Alternatives 5-22
Figure 5-14 Comparison, 1988 South Mountain Freeway Alignment and Proposed Freeway Alignment 5-23
Figure 6-1 Public Involvement, South Mountain Freeway History 6-1
Figure 6-2 Public Involvement, Phase 2 6-12
Figure 6-3 Public Involvement, Phase 3 6-12
Figure 6-4 Public Involvement, Phase 4 6-15

Appendices

Volume II: Appendices for Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6

Chapter 1 Purpose and Need

Appendix 1-1 Agency Letters and Communication A1

Chapter 2 Gila River Indian Community Coordination

Appendix 2-1 Section 106 Consultation A223

Chapter 4 Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation

Appendix 4-1 ADOT Relocation Assistance Program Policy A429
Appendix 4-2 Dust Control Permit A465
Appendix 4-3 Operating Agreement A487
Appendix 4-4 Programmatic Agreement A493
Appendix 4-5 Farmland Conversion A511

Chapter 5 Section 4(f) Evaluation

Appendix 5-1 Properties Excluded from Section 4(f) Consideration A515
Appendix 5-2 Section 4(f) Correspondence A523

Chapter 6 Comments and Coordination

Appendix 6-1 Notice of Intent A553
Appendix 6-2 Newsletters and Advertisements A555
Appendix 6-3 South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team A587