



City of Phoenix
STREET TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Sonoran Desert Drive Alignment Study Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What is the history of this project?

Sonoran Desert Drive (formerly Lone Mountain Road) has been planned as an important east-west alignment between Interstate 17 and northeast Phoenix since 1987. It can be found on Street Classification Maps since 1998, in the 2007 Sonoran Parkway Corridor Study, and in the North Gateway Village Core Plan dated January 30, 2008. Sonoran Desert Drive is part of the City's major roadway grid system which identifies an arterial roadway every mile to ensure that traffic can safely and efficiently move through an area whether it is residential or commercial.

The northern alignment, Dove Valley Road, was determined in 2006 and design of the roadway began in 2008. Construction of the new roadway began in October 2010 and was recently completed and open to traffic in May 2013.

A major portion of the southern alignment, **Sonoran Desert Drive**, was also determined in 2007. Initiation of the current Sonoran Desert Drive Alignment Study is based on a recommendation from the **Stakeholder Solutions Based Forum** held on June 28, 2011 to determine a preferred alignment for this future transportation priority. Community stakeholders wanted to ensure that the Sonoran Desert Drive alignment and the preferred right-of-way was determined in advance of future development so that this major arterial roadway connecting to SR 303 can be designed and built expeditiously when it is deemed necessary. Construction of this new roadway will be determined upon development of the adjacent area between Interstate 17 and Cave Creek Road. You can find additional information about the Stakeholder Solutions Based Forum at <http://phoenix.gov/streets/construction/sonoran.html>

Q2: Why is another roadway connection needed?

As developments are planned and built in the area additional growth will occur. The City's arterial grid network has major roadways every mile as required for traffic flow. This alignment has been planned since 1987.

Q3: What kind of input will the community have in the study process?

Although the Sonoran Desert Drive alignment has been planned for some time, many detailed components including associated roadway connections, new pathways, connectivity to the Sonoran Preserve, aesthetics, intersection alternatives and the required right-of-way will be determined during the process of this study. Community input is a vital component for the completion and success of this important study.

Q4: When will Sonoran Desert Drive be constructed?

Construction of this new roadway will be dependent upon development of the adjacent area between Interstate 17 and Cave Creek Road. The City currently has no funding identified for design, right-of-way, or construction in the 5 year capital improvement program.

Q5: How can I provide input or become involved in the project?

Provide comments or questions to the project team by clicking on the 'Comment Form' link on the website at www.sonorandesertdrivestudy.com. Attend and participate in the public open houses. Email us at inroadsinfo@cox.net. Mail comments to SDD Alignment Study Team: attention Lori Pearce, 15849 N. 71st Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, or call Lori Pearce at 480-281-1506.

Q6: Can we vote for our favorite alternatives/solutions?

Community and stakeholder input will be considered and incorporated as a high priority. However; some conditions cannot be determined based on a popular vote because natural conditions such as environment, terrain, major drainage and wash locations, as well as traffic analysis, cost, constructability, etc. that impact the community at large must all be factored into the final recommendations.

Q7: When will Sonoran Desert Drive be connected to I-17?

A definitive time has not yet been determined, however; the City is currently engaged in a Public/Private Partnership and is exploring potential options. You may find additional data at the Sonoran Desert Drive I-17 to North Valley Parkway website www.sonorandesertdrive.com. Traditionally, connections such as this one are determined based upon the development of the area, which creates the need and allows for a cost sharing of the roadway improvements. In this particular case, a major bridge over Skunk Creek will be required along Sonoran Desert Drive to connect North Valley Parkway to I-17. The Dove Valley Road connection from North Valley Parkway to I-17 is scheduled to open in Fall 2013.

Q8: What is the ultimate build out planned for Sonoran Desert Drive?

The ultimate roadway will provide three lanes in each direction with a median from I-17 to Cave Creek Road. Development of the area adjacent to Sonoran Desert Drive will determine the need, schedule, and limits of construction along this alignment. The ultimate arterial road build out is anticipated to be very similar to that of North Valley Parkway.

Q9: What are the goals of this alignment study?

The goals of this alignment study are:

- 1) To refine the alignment set forth in the completed 2007 study based on current land use/development plans and community input.
- 2) To develop and solicit community feedback for alternative intersection configurations for Sonoran Desert Drive and Dove Valley Road.
- 3) To determine the collector roadway connection points between Sonoran Desert Drive and Dove Valley Road.
- 4) To define characteristics that make up the Sonoran Desert Drive Scenic Corridor by working closely with the community.

Q10: When the Loop 303 freeway eventually connects to Sonoran Desert Drive, will more houses be built?

Most likely, yes, more houses will be built in this area. Development adjacent to Sonoran Desert Drive will be subject to approved land uses based upon the City's General Plan which is administered by the Planning & Development Department. The General Plan can be accessed at the following website: <http://phoenix.gov/PLANNING/gpindex.html>

Q11: How close will the roadway be to the communities?

The only community currently adjacent to Sonoran Desert Drive is the Sonoran Foothills community, and the roadway is already constructed between North Valley Parkway to east of Paloma Parkway. That existing roadway will continue east as shown on the project map.

Q12: How does State Trust Land get sold?

It is the Land Department's responsibility, on behalf of the beneficiaries, to assure that all Trust land transactions are consistent with the State's mandate to achieve the highest and best use of the land in order to maximize revenues to the Trust's beneficiaries. For more information please visit Arizona State Land Departments website at: <http://www.azland.gov/programs/realestate/sections/sales.htm>.