



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Sonoran Corridor Federal Designation**

Today, in both the Senate and House, a bill was introduced by Senators McCain and Flake and Congresswoman McSally and co-sponsored by the entire Arizona Congressional Delegation. The bill would amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and designate the Sonoran Corridor, connecting Interstates 19 and 10, as a future interstate highway.

The Sonoran Corridor and its many job and economic development benefits have been part of our economic development plan since 2012. The draft and soon-to-be-finalized 2015-2017 Pima County Economic Development Plan have the Sonoran Corridor as a focal point. Advancing the multipurpose trade, transportation, logistics, aerospace, defense and manufacturing employment components of the Sonoran Corridor will make it a major economic driver for southern Arizona, Arizona and other Southwestern states.

Designating the Sonoran Corridor as an interstate highway will enhance and emphasize the international trade aspects of this corridor with Mexico and will add to the benefits of the CANAMEX and future Interstate 11 Corridor.

By adding a high-speed surface transportation element to the already existing interstates, improving the efficiency of the Mexico rail connection by enhancing the Nogales Line of the Union Pacific Railroad and by adding a second runway at Tucson International Airport, southern Pima County takes another step closer to becoming the logistics hub of the Southwest.

I would like to thank Senators McCain and Flake and Congresswomen McSally and Kirkpatrick, Congressman Grijalva, and the rest of the Congressional Delegation for their efforts to advance this important element of our Economic Development Plan. The new Sonoran Corridor interstate highway will foster increased trade with Mexico; develop a logistics hub for the Southwest; and substantially increase aerospace, defense and high-tech manufacturing employment within the region.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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Attached is the June 23, 2015 Press Release issued by Senator McCain, as well as the *Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act of 2015* introduced today.

CHH/mjk

Attachments

- c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
- Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
- Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
- Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works Policy
- Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Office of Strategic Planning
- Patrick Cavanaugh, Business Services Coordinator, Economic Development and Tourism



JOHN ★ McCAIN
U.S. Senator ~ *Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Contact: Brian Rogers or Julie Tarallo
(202) 224-7130

**McCain, Flake & McSally Introduce Bill to Designate
Major Trade Route in Southern Arizona**

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Congresswoman Martha McSally (R-AZ) today introduced in the Senate and House, respectively, the *Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act of 2015*, legislation that would designate the Sonoran Corridor as a future interstate to connect Interstate 19 to Interstate 10 south of the Tucson International Airport.

“The Sonoran Corridor project will have a significant impact on state, regional, and national commerce by connecting major trade routes and improving transportation along the CANAMEX Corridor and the future Interstate 11,” **said Senator McCain**. “It will allow produce, products, and people to move more efficiently, and ensure Arizona remains a key player in the future economic growth of the southwestern United States. This corridor will also serve as home to a burgeoning technology, aerospace, and defense industrial park, which will enable Arizona to continue advancing new innovations and support our state’s economic development well into the future.”

“I am pleased to support efforts by Pima County and the state of Arizona to improve trade and commerce with Mexico and the nation,” **said Senator Flake**. “I hope Congress acts quickly to recognize the corridor's potential.”

“The number one priority I hear about from Southern Arizonans is creating more economic opportunity for our region, and that’s just what this bill would do,” **said Rep. McSally**. “Construction of the Sonoran Corridor would help us attract more defense, aerospace, and tech businesses to our region and reduce congestion locally, while expanding trade connectivity for the Southwestern United States and Mexico. This high-priority project is a vital part of Southern Arizona’s future success as a leading international trade and transportation hub, and I will continue working with my colleagues to move this plan forward.”

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and leaders from across Pima County also praised the legislation:

“Congresswoman McSally, Senators McCain and Flake, and the rest of our congressional delegation have my full support in this effort,” **said Arizona Governor Doug Ducey**. “By enhancing high priority trade corridors, including Interstate 11, and significantly reducing travel time and trucking costs, the Sonoran Corridor will create jobs, strengthen Arizona’s global competitiveness and send a strong message that Arizona is open for business.”

“This is all about jobs,” said **Sharon Bronson, Pima County Board of Supervisors Chair**. “Pima County and Tucson are perfectly situated to be the logistics hub of the Southwest. We need all of our local, state, federal and business community partners to all work together to capitalize on this opportunity and make it a reality. Which is why I’m thrilled that our Congressional delegation and Governor Ducey have rallied around the *Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act* and will work together to have the Congress designate the corridor a future part of the interstate highway system.”

“The Sonoran Corridor will eliminate a bottleneck on the critical I-19 to I-10 trade route between Arizona and Mexico, improve connectivity between multimodal logistics hubs, and provide much better access to two of Tucson and Southern Arizona's largest employers: Raytheon Missile Systems and the University of Arizona's Science and Technology Park,” said **Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild**. “Its construction will provide many economic benefits to our state and region, and I appreciate the efforts of Representative McSally, Senators McCain and Flake, and co-sponsoring Representatives Grijalva, Kirkpatrick, Gallego, Sinema, Schweikert and Franks to prioritize this project.”

“The Tucson Metro Chamber commends Senator McCain, Senator Flake and Congresswoman McSally for proposing this designation of a vital surface transportation route that is central to the developing transportation and logistics industries in Southern Arizona,” said **Michael Varney, President and CEO of the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce**. “The Interstate route connecting I-19 to I-10 south of Tucson International Airport is a key component in economic development for this region.”

“The Tucson Hispanic Chamber and our affiliated chambers in Nogales, Douglas and Sierra Vista applaud Congresswoman McSally and Senators McCain and Flake for their leadership with the Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act,” said **Lea Márquez Peterson, President of Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**. “The passage of this bill will enhance the importance of a key trading route from Mexico to the United States.”

The Sonoran Corridor will create an alternative route that will enable the hundreds of thousands of freight vehicles traveling through the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales each year to avoid having to pass through the congested city of Tucson to reach major trade routes using I-10. This development is estimated to reduce total travel by 12 miles and 20 minutes per truck, connecting southern Arizona to agricultural regions, infrastructure and manufacturing centers, and existing high priority corridors of the National Highway System. The Sonoran Corridor will also be home to the new Aerospace Parkway next to Tucson International Airport, which has the potential to become one of the largest manufacturing and logistics hubs in the Southwest.

The Sonoran Corridor would also help to connect the Intermountain West Corridor and future Interstate 11, which will open travel from Mexico to Canada and increase trade and job opportunities for Arizonans. In March, Senators McCain and Flake introduced the [Intermountain West Corridor Development Act of 2015](#), which would extend the I-11 through the State of Nevada to Interstate-80 and south toward Arizona’s southern border.

The text of the Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act of 2015 is attached.

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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Sonoran Corridor connecting Interstate 19 to Interstate 10 south of the Tucson International Airport, as a future part of the Interstate System.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Sonoran Corridor connecting Interstate 19 to Interstate 10 south of the Tucson International Airport, as a future part of the Interstate System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sonoran Corridor
5 Interstate Development Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that the designation of the Sonoran
3 Corridor Interstate connecting Interstate 19 to Interstate
4 10 south of the Tucson International Airport as a future
5 part of the Interstate System would—

6 (1) enhance direct linkage between major trad-
7 ing routes connecting growing ports, agricultural re-
8 gions, infrastructure and manufacturing centers,
9 and existing high priority corridors of the National
10 Highway System; and

11 (2) significantly improve connectivity on the fu-
12 ture Interstate 11 and the CANAMEX Corridor, a
13 route directly linking the United States with Mexico
14 and Canada.

15 **SEC. 3. ROUTE DESIGNATION.**

16 (a) HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS ON NATIONAL HIGH-
17 WAY SYSTEM.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface
18 Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2032;
19 119 Stat. 1210) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(81) State Route 410, the Sonoran Corridor
22 connecting Interstate 19 to Interstate 10 south of
23 the Tucson International Airport.”.

24 (b) FUTURE PARTS OF INTERSTATE SYSTEM.—Sec-
25 tion 1105(e)(5)(A) of the Intermodal Surface Transpor-
26 tation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2033; 119 Stat.

3

1 1213) is amended in the first sentence by striking “and
2 subsection (c)(57)” and inserting “subsection (c)(57), and
3 subsection (c)(81)”.