

THE TRAIL TIMES

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Maricopa Trail is finished! In November of 2018, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department announced the completion of the Maricopa Trail, its biggest trails-related accomplishment to date. The 315-mile long trail (yes, it's actually 315 miles long) travels in loop around the the City of Phoenix, connecting all of the county's mountain parks. We offer our heartiest congratulations to director R.J. Cardin and his exceptional team of trail advocates and builders for their terrific achievement. And now you're probably wondering, Phoenix has theirs...what about *ours*? Well, the Maricopa Trail gives us a really good rationale for our trail, the round-the-city 180-mile Tribute Trail, and we're making our way on it, slowly but surely. Stay tuned!

Sun Corridor Trail news. The formalization of the Sun Corridor Trail is moving ahead smartly. We conducted an all-partners meeting in May at the County Supervisors Association of Arizona in Phoenix, and we had a lot of participants at the meeting, both in the room and on the phone. We looked at the first draft of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and we received lots of beneficial comments that we can use to make it better. A key idea we received was to organize a new non-profit, called the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Director R.J. Cardin talked about doing a mission and vision statement for the organization, and we charged him with drafting it up. Our next meeting—and our biggest yet—is slated for this August at the same location.

CAP Bridge planning is nearing completion. The CAP Bridge Over 1-10 in Marana is close to having its concept finished, and this summer we'll meet with each project partner one more time to make sure everyone is fully informed about the bridge, and has had the opportunity to give us whatever comments they may have. The property owners on both sides of I-10 have seen our plans, as well as the Moore Road alignment for the bridge, and most liked it very much. We're 70% of the way done with the planning part of the project.

CAP Tangerine Trailhead and Trail project close to construction. The CAP Tangerine Trailhead and seven-mile section of the CAP Trail is just about ready to begin construction; we're just tying up the last of the loose ends. We're partners with the Town of Marana on this project, and because it's located in Marana's jurisdiction, a terrific Marana DOT project manager, Kurt Schmidt, will oversee construction (the contractor for the project will be Kappcon). The project will extend from just north of Tangerine Road to the Pima-Pinal county line, where it will be met by the 10-mile CAP Trail project that will be undertaken by Pinal County, which will also be done this calendar year. 2019 is looking like the year of the CAP Trail!

Adamson-Catino Trail impending. Yes, I know, you've heard it before, but I have a feeling that this 1.7 mile-long trail will be finished this calendar year. We've been waiting for UPRR to approve our easement to get under their bridge on the Nogales line, and they're finally working on it. Keep your fingers crossed!

Volunteer opportunities! Our Trails Coordinator, Neil Stitzer, is taking on volunteers for trail construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation, so if you'd like to do it (or learn how it's done), send him an email neil.stitzer@pima.gov. No experience necessary. Thanks!