



## **Appendix B**

### **Environmental Screening Memorandum**



To: Ted Buell	
From: René Tanner	Project: La Cholla Boulevard: Ruthrauff Road to River Road
CC: Scott Stapp	
Date: October 31, 2007	Job No: 59914

**RE: Results Memorandum for Environmental Screening**

Multiple sources were consulted to complete the environmental screening inventory for the La Cholla Boulevard project. They include the scope of work, team discussions, a field review, the Pima County Geographic Information System (MapGuide), the *Initial Traffic Engineering Study for La Cholla Boulevard, River Road to Ruthrauff Road*, the Sun Tran bus route map, aerial photography, the Arizona Department of Transportation Environmental Planning Group Web site, the Regional Transportation Authority Web site, and information provided at the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting and monthly progress meetings.

The project will require:

- agency scoping,
- public involvement,
- cultural resources compliance,
- a biology review,
- western burrowing owl surveys,
- removal of unoccupied mud swallow nests on the bridge prior to construction,
- a noise analysis,
- Phase I and Phase II hazardous materials investigations and testing,
- Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting, and Clean Water Act Section 402 permitting (if disturbances are greater than 1 acre),
- asbestos testing of the bridge's concrete, and possible National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PCDEQ) for bridge demolition,
- possible Pima County Asbestos Removal/Demolition Activity Permit, and
- an Air Quality Activity Permit from PCDEQ, obtained by the contractor, for particulate matter control during construction.

Phase II hazardous materials testing at the intersection of Ruthrauff Road and La Cholla Boulevard was included in the original scope; however, Phase II testing in the area of two closed landfills within the project

area was not, but is recommended. Likewise, asbestos testing of the bridge's concrete structure and lead testing of any painted surfaces are also recommended. These items were not included in the original scope, but can be included in the Phase II testing work.

La Cholla Boulevard is a designated scenic route because of its proximity to the Rillito River and, therefore, environmentally sensitive roadway design guidelines would normally apply to this project. However, because the project area is visually characterized by mostly urban development and lacks areas of native vegetation, the Pima County Project Manager requested that the designation be waived. The design team was informed at the partnering workshop on July 24, 2007 that the requirement to use the environmentally sensitive roadway design guidelines had been waived.

### **Agency Scoping and Public Involvement**

The agency scoping meeting will be scheduled prior to the 60% design phase. The first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was held on August 7, 2007. The second CAC meeting was held on October 2, 2007. Members of the public have identified concerns regarding the traffic on La Cholla Boulevard. In particular, they noted that traffic backs up on La Cholla Boulevard and it is difficult to make left-hand turns during morning and evening rush-hour traffic. Residents have expressed concern regarding noise and safety as they relate to the close proximity of the new travel lanes to their property. They have also expressed concern regarding parking areas adjacent to their properties, which will be eliminated as a result of the roadway widening.

### **Cultural Resources**

During the field visit, the consultant archaeologist and Pima County archaeologist reviewed the project area. Following the cultural resources Class III survey, archaeological subsurface backhoe testing will be conducted in areas with no surface indications of archaeological sites but with a likelihood of containing subsurface archaeological deposits. Based on the results of the survey and testing, data recovery, if necessary, will be implemented based on Pima County and State Historic Preservation Office review and concurrence.

### **Biological Resources**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be contacted for input during the preparation of the biological report. Based on a review of the USFWS list of threatened and endangered species for Pima County by a qualified biologist, there are no endangered or threatened species issues for the project. In addition, Pima County received confirmation from the USFWS that there is no suitable habitat for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl in the project area; therefore, surveys by others will discontinue. However, the project area has potential Western burrowing owl habitat near the Rillito River, and a survey for the species will be needed prior to construction. The existing bridge does not have expansion joints; therefore, bat habitat is not present and will not be a concern during construction. However, remnants

of mud swallow nests are present. Prior to construction and the nesting season, any intact, unoccupied mud nests must be removed from the bridge to prevent nesting. The Rillito River is a potential wildlife corridor. However, the completed project will not affect this function.

### **Noise Levels**

The project is locally funded and falls under the Pima County noise policy, which considers noise mitigation when noise levels reach 66 dBA or greater. A 3 dBA noise reduction credit is given for the use of rubberized asphalt as a roadway surface treatment. While it is likely that future noise levels (2030) will exceed 66 dBA for residences closest to the road, feasibility issues, such as the need for adequate sight distance and driveway openings, may limit the ability to provide noise barriers.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Phase II testing for hazardous materials is anticipated at the intersection of Ruthrauff Road and La Cholla Boulevard, where two gasoline stations and one former gasoline station site are located. Two closed landfills south of the Rillito River, one on the east side and one on the west side of La Cholla Boulevard, are also anticipated to require testing.

### **Clean Water Act**

The project will occur within the Rillito River, which is assumed to be a water of the United States as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Rillito River is also identified by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District as an important riparian resource. A mitigation plan will be developed to address any impacts to this resource. Work within waters of the United States is anticipated to affect less than 0.5 acre and, therefore, covered by a nationwide Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit.

The *Initial Traffic Engineering Study for La Cholla Boulevard, River Road to Ruthrauff Road* was completed during the environmental screening process. The following technical documents will be completed for the project: design concept report, noise analysis, biological report, hazardous materials report, and cultural resources report. No additional issues were identified during the environmental screening process.

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A – Environmental Screening: Questionnaire for Establishing Potential Areas of Impact

Attachment B – Environmental Screening Summary Impact Matrix

## **Attachment A**

### **Environmental Screening: Questionnaire for Establishing Potential Areas of Impact**

**Environmental Screening:  
Questionnaire for Establishing Potential Areas of Impact  
Revised: October 31, 2007**

**INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION**

**Project Identification**

- Project Name: La Cholla Boulevard: Ruthrauff Road to River Road
- Pima County Project Manager: Dean Papajohn

**Project Location and Limits**

- Location of project within Pima County: La Cholla Boulevard between Ruthrauff Road and River Road
- Limits of project:  
*From end to end:* Ruthrauff Road to River Road  
*From side to side:* typical right-of-way width is 150 feet

**Funding Source**

- Funding source anticipated for use in construction project?  
*County funding:* Y  N   
*Federal funding:* Y  N   
*Other:* Regional Transportation Authority

Source: Team discussions

**Primary Project Purpose**

- Primary purpose of project:  
*Modernize roadway (e.g., resurface, restore, rehabilitate, reconstruct, add shoulders, or add auxiliary lanes):* Y  N   
*Increase capacity:* Y  N   
*Add bicycle lanes:* Y  N  (Paved shoulders will be included for bicycle use, but this is not a primary purpose for the project.)  
*Improve safety:* Y  N   
*Other:*

Source: Team discussions, scope of work, and Pima County Department of Transportation Web site

**Existing Conditions within Project Limits**

- Roadway specifications?  
Right-of-way: 150 feet  
Pavement width: 24 feet  
Number of through lanes in each direction: 1
- Number of turning lanes?  
*Right-turn lanes:* 7  
*Left-turn lanes:* 11

- Existing intersections?  
*Number of signalized intersections:*   3    
*Number of unsignalized intersections:*  12
- Existing parking (e.g., on-street)? Y  x  N      (Parking occurs haphazardly within the right-of-way and in front of many residences along La Cholla Boulevard.)
- Existing bicycle lanes: Y  x  N
- Existing sidewalk: Y      N   x
- Existing transit stops: Y  x  N
- Other:

Source: Pima County MapGuide; SunTran Bus Route

**Project Components**

- Anticipated specifications of the project?  
*Amount of additional right-of-way to be acquired:*  
 Under 1 acre   x   1-5 acres      5-10 acres      Over 10 acres       
*Change in the vertical or horizontal alignment:* Y  x  N      (The vertical alignment may need to be raised at the bridge.)  
*New alignment:* Y      N   x    
*Pavement width to be added:*  48 feet   
*Number of through lanes to be added:*   4    
*Number of turn lanes to be added:*   5    
 Right-turn lanes   2    
 Left-turn lanes   3    
*Any associated parking (e.g., on-street):* Y      N   x    
*Bicycle lanes to be added:* Y  x  N       
*Sidewalk to be added:* Y  x  N       
*Landscaping to be added:* Y  x  N
- Number of intersections to be signalized:   0
- Other: Additional components of the project include replacement of the bridge over the Rillito River and storm drain work to accommodate the roadway widening.

Source: Team discussions, Pima County Department of Transportation Web site

**Phasing**

- Is the project:  
*A portion or phase of a unified development plan?* Y  x  N       
*One of a series of projects that may result in a cumulative set of environmental impacts on an identifiable area?* Y      N   x

Source: Scope of work and team discussions

**Traffic:**

- Existing average daily traffic (ADT) in the project area (2007)?  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. SB (btwn Wetmore Rd. & Ruthrauff Rd.) ADT: 3,977  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB (btwn Wetmore Rd. & Ruthrauff Rd.) ADT: 3,216  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB/SB (btwn Ruthrauff Rd. & Curtis Rd.) ADT: 23,149  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. SB (btwn Curtis Rd. & River Rd.) ADT: 13,384  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB (btwn Curtis Rd. & River Rd.) ADT: 15,025  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. SB (btwn River Rd. & Sunset Rd.) ADT: 14,101  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB (btwn River Rd. & Sunset Rd.) ADT: 15,743  
*Street:* Ruthrauff Rd. EB/WB (btwn La Cholla Blvd. & Romero Rd.) ADT: 18,926  
*Street:* Ruthrauff Rd. WB (btwn Highway & La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 14,911  
*Street:* Ruthrauff Rd. EB (btwn Highway & La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 13,256  
*Street:* Curtis Rd. EB/WB (btwn Davis Ave. & La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 6,105  
*Street:* River Rd. EB/WB (btwn La Cholla Blvd. & La Cañada Dr.) ADT: 36,732
  
- Projected ADT in the project area for the build year (2030)?  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB/SB (btwn Ruthrauff Rd. & Curtis Rd.) ADT: 41,000  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. NB/SB (btwn Curtis Rd. & River Rd.) ADT: 44,000  
*Street:* Curtis Rd. EB/WB (W. of La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 7,000  
*Street:* Ruthrauff Rd. EB/WB (W. of La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 37,000  
*Street:* Ruthrauff Rd. EB/WB (E. of La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 6,105  
*Street:* River Rd. EB/WB (E. of La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 57,000  
*Street:* River Rd. EB/WB (W. of La Cholla Blvd.) ADT: 39,000  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. EB/WB (N. of River Rd.) ADT: 53,000  
*Street:* La Cholla Blvd. EB/WB (S. of Ruthrauff Rd.) ADT: 11,000

Source: *Initial Traffic Engineering Study for La Cholla Blvd., River Rd. to Ruthrauff Rd.*  
(Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; September 2007)

**Land Uses**

- Existing adjacent land uses? Check all that apply and bold primary uses.  
*Commercial (e.g., **retail businesses**, service businesses):* Y x N \_\_\_\_  
*Institutional (e.g., schools, hospitals, social services agencies):* Y \_\_\_\_ N x \_\_\_\_  
*Residential (e.g., **single family houses**, apartments, townhouses):* Y x N \_\_\_\_  
*Vacant lots:* Y x N \_\_\_\_  
*Industrial (e.g., **light industry**, heavy industry):* Y x N \_\_\_\_

Recreational (e.g., parks, sports fields): Y \_\_\_ N x

Other:

Source: Pima County MapGuide

### **Property Ownership**

- Existing land ownership:

Majority public: Y \_\_\_ N x

Majority private: Y x N \_\_\_

About evenly divided between public and private: Y \_\_\_ N x

Other:

Source: Pima County MapGuide

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORIES**

### **Drainage**

- Will any storm water drain from the project discharge into detention or retentions basins on site? Y \_\_\_ N x

Source: Team discussions

### **Section 401/404**

- Are any culverts likely to be installed, replace, or extended? Y x N \_\_\_
- Are there any bridges being upgraded, extended, or replaced? Y x N \_\_\_
- Is there any bank protection required in the construction of this project? Y x N \_\_\_ (No additional bank protection is anticipated; however, portions may need to be reconstructed.)
- Are there any wetlands within the project area? Y \_\_\_ N x
- Are there any riparian areas within the project vicinity? Y x N \_\_\_
- Is it anticipated that there will be any discharge of dredged or fill material into “waters of the United States”? Y x N \_\_\_

Source: Team discussions, Pima County MapGuide

### **Floodplain**

- Is the project area within a 100-year floodplain delineated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map? Y x N \_\_\_ If “yes,” will the project substantially modify the topography of the floodplain either by placement or removal of materials within the floodplain? Y \_\_\_ N x

Source: FEMA Floodplain Map Panel 1617 of 4700

### **Biological Resources**

- Are there listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and/or candidate species likely to be found in the project vicinity? Y \_\_\_ N x
- Are listed special status species likely to be found in the project vicinity? Y x N \_\_\_
- Are protected native plants likely to be found in the project vicinity? Y x N \_\_\_

- Are construction activities anticipated to remove/disturb any vegetation? Y  N
- Is the project within the Conservation Land System? Y  N
- Is the project along a designated Scenic Route? Y  N  (River Road is a designated scenic route.)

Other: The Western burrowing owl is a special-status species in Pima County. In addition, mud swallows are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Both may be present within the project area. A survey for the Western burrowing owl will be completed prior to construction. It is recommended that any mud swallow nests be removed from the bridge prior to construction.

A native plant inventory will be prepared by McGann and Associates. While there are native plants in the right-of-way, most have been removed over the years.

### **Air Quality**

- Is the project in an:
  - Attainment area?* Y  N
  - Nonattainment area?* Y  N  If “yes,” what are the pollutants of concern?
  - Maintenance area?* Y  N  If “yes,” what are the pollutants of concern? Carbon monoxide

Source: ADOT Environmental Planning Group – Air Quality Maps

### **Noise**

- Are there sensitive noise receptors in the area? Y  N  If “yes,” identify type of noise receptors and briefly describe:
  - Residences:*  (Residences are located along La Cholla Boulevard within the project area.)
  - Schools:*
  - Hospitals:*
  - Churches:*
  - Parks:*  (The Rillito River Park crosses under the Rillito River bridge.)
- When the project is completed and used as anticipated, is it likely to contribute to any exceedances of noise quality standards? Y  N

Source: Aerial photographs and project scope

### **Utilities**

- Will the construction include any utility involvement? Y  N  If “yes,” what kind of work is anticipated?
  - Utility relocation:* Comcast, Pima County Wastewater, Southwest Gas, Tucson Electric Power, Tucson Water, Qwest, and Xspedius Communications
  - Temporary disconnection of service:* Comcast, Southwest Gas, Tucson Electric Power, and Qwest
  - Utility replacement:* Comcast, Pima County Wastewater, Southwest Gas, Tucson Electric Power, Tucson Water, Qwest, and Xspedius Communications

- Are there any scheduled plans for utility upgrades in the vicinity that are related to the project? Y  N  Tucson Water wants to extend its 12” line north to Curtis Rd. and then west on Curtis Rd. to the end of the road improvements.

Source: HDR project manager and team meetings

### **Hazardous Materials**

- Is it likely that any hazardous wastes or hazardous substances in the past have been generated, treated, stored, released, discarded or disposed of on site or are any such wastes now accumulated on site? Y  N  Don't know
- Have any test borings been performed? Y  N  If “yes,” were any wastes discovered on the premises in the course of the test borings or excavation work for the project? Y  N

Source: HDR hazardous materials specialist

### **Historic Preservation**

- Are there any cultural resources (archaeological or historic) in the vicinity of the project area that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places? Y  N
- Are any of these sites considered “Priority Cultural Resources?” Y  N
- If the answer is “yes,” to either or both the questions above, please list the resource(s)/site(s): Hodges Ruin AZ AA:12:18 (ASM) and a prehistoric scatter recorded as AZ AA:12:29 (ASM)
- Of those properties listed or eligible, are any located near enough to the project to be affected by the project location, construction, or anticipated future traffic? Y  N  If “yes,” please specify the properties and very briefly the anticipated effect. Hodges Ruin AZ AA:12:18 (ASM) and a prehistoric scatter recorded as AZ AA:12:29 (ASM) will be adversely affected by the proposed construction.
- Are there any structures likely to be 50 years old or older within or adjacent to the project area? Y  N  If “yes,” please list addresses below:

Source: HDR and Pima County archaeologists, and Pima County Assessor’s Web site

### **Visual Impact**

- Is the project likely to affect noticeably the views from adjacent properties? Y  N  If “yes,” briefly describe: If noise walls are constructed, some views from adjacent properties will be affected.
- Is the project likely to cause a noticeable change in the foreground, middle-ground, or background view from the road? Y  N  (Foreground views will be changed with the addition of four travel lanes.)

Source: Project scope

### **Neighborhood/Social Impact**

- Is there likely to be any commercial or residential displacement due to the construction of this project? Y  N
- Are there likely to be any temporary changes in:  
*Business access:* Y  N

*Parking:* Y  N  (No on- or off-street parking will be provided within the right-of-way.)

*Other:*

- Are there likely to be any permanent changes in:

*Traffic service:* Y  N

*Traffic circulation:* Y  N

*Parking:* Y  N  (The current design will eliminate off-street parking. The project will not replace parking areas.)

*Other:*

- Is the project likely to affect continuity in neighborhoods in the vicinity? Y  N

Source: Project scope and team discussions

### **LOCAL JURISDICTION/AGENCY COORDINATION**

- Are there local jurisdictions and governmental agencies with whom coordination is anticipated or has begun? Y  N  If “yes,” who are they?

*City of South Tucson*

*City of Tucson*

*Oro Valley*

*Pascua Yaqui Tribe*

*Tohono O’odham Nation*

*Town of Marana*

*Town of Sahuarita*

*Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)*

*Arizona Department of Transportation*

*Arizona Game and Fish Department*

*Arizona State Land Department*

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

*U.S. Federal Highway Administration*

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*Pima County Parks and Recreation*

*Pima County Department of Environmental Quality*

*Regional Transportation Authority*

*Sun Tran*

- Note any issues for coordination that have been identified to date: None.

- Briefly describe coordination efforts planned or underway:
  - Coordination with the tribes will be initiated during the cultural resources consultation.
  - The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be invited to the agency scoping meeting to review the project scope.
  - The jurisdictional delineation and Nationwide 404 permit will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
  - The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) was contacted for information regarding leaking underground storage tanks and other hazardous materials.
  - The project team will work with Sun Tran to plan bus pullout locations
  - The project team will work with the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department to gain Rillito River Park access
  - The County will coordinate funding for the project with the Regional Transportation Authority through an Intergovernmental Agreement.
  - The contractor will need to apply for a Clean Water Act Section 402 permit from ADEQ if soil disturbances are greater than one acre.
  - The contractor will need to apply for an air quality permit through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the bridge demolition work.
  - The contractor may need to apply for a Pima County Asbestos Removal/Demolition Activity Permit.
  - The contractor may need to prepare a National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the bridge demolition work.

Source: Scope of work and team discussions

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- Has a Public Involvement Plan been developed for the project? Y x N \_\_\_\_
- Has a Citizen Advisory Committee been formed, or is one being formed? Y x N \_\_\_\_
- Have any public meetings been scheduled? Y x N \_\_\_\_ If “yes,” have any meetings been held to date? Y x N \_\_\_\_

CAC meetings were held on August 7, 2007 and October 2, 2007.

- Has any information useful to project development been identified through any public interaction to date? Y x N \_\_\_\_ If “yes,” briefly describe:

Traffic backs up on La Cholla Boulevard and it is difficult to make left-hand turns during morning and evening rush-hour traffic. In addition, pedestrians are having difficulty crossing Ruthrauff Road at La Cholla Boulevard with the current timing of the light. Traffic backs up on La Cholla Boulevard at Curtis Road due to the presence of long trucks making left- and right-hand turns onto Curtis Road. Residents have expressed concern regarding the proximity of traffic to their homes as a result of the widening and the loss of their current parking.

- Is there any known controversy over this project to date? Y  N  If "yes," briefly describe:

Residents are concerned about the proximity of traffic to their homes as a result of the widening and the loss of their existing parking.

Source: CAC meetings

### PERMITS

- Anticipated permits and/or approvals?

404 Permit:

401 Certification:

Sole Source Aquifer:

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) clearance:

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):

National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)

Air Quality Activity

Pima County Asbestos Removal/Demolition Activity Permit

Completed by:



René Tanner, Sr. Environmental Planner

Date:

10-31-2007



## **Attachment B**

### **Environmental Screening Summary Impact Matrix**

**Environmental Impact Screening Summary Impact Matrix**

**Project Name:** La Cholla Boulevard: Ruthrauff Road to River Road

**Project Limits:** Ruthrauff Road to River Road

*Revised: October 31, 2007*

	Potentially Affected Environmental Categories →	Water Quality	100-year Floodplain	Protected Waterways	Visual Quality / Viewsheds	Protected Plants / Vegetation	Protected Animals / Wildlife	Cultural Res. (archaeological and historic)	Air Quality	Noise	Hazardous Materials	Land Uses / Community Character
<b>Applicable to project (✓)</b>	<b>Project Construction and Operation Activities ↓</b>											
✓	Change in the vertical or horizontal alignment	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	M	0	X
	New alignment											
✓	Added capacity (i.e., through lanes)	X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X	H	M	M
✓	Milling/grading	0	0	0	0	0	0	H	X	0	0	0
✓	Change in access (e.g., driveways, intersections)	0	0	0	0	0	0	H	0	0	0	M
✓	Clearing and grubbing	X	0	X	X	X	X	H	X	X	X	X
	Excavation											
	Cut slope											
✓	Demolition	X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X	X	M	0
✓	Demolition debris disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	M	0
✓	Acquisition of additional right-of-way	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	0	0	M	0
✓	Temporary Construction Easements	X	X	X	0	X	X	H	0	0	X	0
✓	Discharge of dredge or fill material	X	X	X	0	X	X	H	M	0	X	0
✓	Channeling and dredging	X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X	0	X	0
	Hauling											
	New signals											
✓	Storm water drainage	X	0	X	0	X	0	H	0	0	0	0
✓	Construction equipment	X	0	X	0	X	0	H	X	X	X	0
	Detour route											

**Matrix Key:**

0 = no involvement

X = potential involvement, but no or minimal impact

M = potential moderate impact

H = potential high impact