

**Department:** County Administrator's Office  
**Date:** 12.30.14

**Future Pima County Bond Election Proposed Project**

**Project Name:** Sonoran Corridor Highway Improvements between the Aerospace Parkway and I-10 .

**Location:** Within the proposed Sonoran Corridor connecting Interstate 19 just north of the Pima Mine Road interchange to Interstate 10 at Rita Road; specifically along the Old Vail Connection alignment between the Aerospace Parkway and Rita Road.

**Scope:** This project will provide sufficient funding to initiate the long-term interstate investment of an auxiliary interstate highway, also known as the Sonoran Corridor, connecting Interstate 19 just north of the Pima Mine Road interchange to Interstate 10 at Rita Road. Total costs of the project are estimated at \$90 million. The proposal is for \$31 million in County bond funding to (1) Initiate advanced planning including continuing existing coordination with other potential funding sources, (2) Design the northern portion of the Sonoran Corridor from the Aerospace Corridor south of Raytheon to Rita Road and I-10, (3) start and complete right of way acquisitions between the Aerospace Parkway and Rita Road, and (4) if funds remain, construct a first phase of the Sonoran Corridor from Alvernon to Rita Road. The remainder phases would be part of the larger transportation investment to be funded through both federal and state transportation related revenues.

**Benefits:** The project is part of a larger effort to increase export-based primary employment within Pima County in a location that has historically been the manufacturing and high technology job employment center of the region. This high speed connector will facilitate surface transportation mobility in this high tech and manufacturing center connecting the employment centers at the UA Science and Technology Park, now employing over eight thousand employees to the airport environs and aerospace and defense employment centers, employing over eighteen thousand employees. In addition, this surface transportation connection will facilitate the emergence of a major logistics center for the southwest where air, rail and surface transportation facilities are all combined to create logistics center advantages for employment growth. The facilities will interconnect the planned 2,400 acre Aerospace, Defense and Technology Research and Business Park. The primary export-based employment center is patterned after other successful job centers that exist in proximity to rail, air and freeway transportation capacity. Finally, this route will create a much more efficient transportation route to Tucson International Airport from the east and south.

**Costs:** \$90,000,000

**Bond Funding:** \$31,000,000

**Other Funding:** Other funding will be necessary to complete other segments.

**Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date:** TBD

**Project Management Jurisdiction:** Pima County

**Future Operating and Maintenance Costs:** All State highways are maintained by the State.

**Regional Benefits:** The Sonoran Corridor is not only an economic driver for Southern Arizona, but all communities to the south, the State of Arizona and the Southwestern United States as the gateway to Arizona's largest trading partner and the rapidly expanding economy in Mexico.

**Supervisor District of Project Location:** District 2 and 4 – Ramon Valadez and Ray Carroll