The challenge and the opportunity

The CANAMEX corridor (shown at right) has been completed in Canada and is almost complete in the United States and Mexico. One of those unfinished segments lies between Las Vegas and Mexico, and its design and construction will have a major impact in southern Arizona.

The Sun Corridor

Estimates for our Sun Corridor region (below, right) project that our trading volumes can build an economy for this area larger than that of the United Arab Emirates. Studies consistently show that our transportation infrastructure can develop the necessary capacity to move goods and services to and from Mexico and especially to our west and north. The future is extremely bright if we are prepared for it.

A multi-pronged rationale for a high priority.

Mexico is more than a close neighbor. It’s one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

• There are over 240 aerospace companies in Mexico.
• It’s the world’s leading exporter of tomatoes ($2.03 billion in 2011).
• It’s the world’s leading exporter of beer ($2.02 billion in 2011).
• The Port of Guaymas is scheduled for major expansion.
• The Mexican government has committed over $300 billion for infrastructure investment over the next six years.

As much as importing goods and services from Mexico is an important trade and transportation factor, so is the export of goods and professional services from the U.S. into Mexico.

What does this mean for us?

As for the Intermountain West Corridor, as soon as it’s complete, it will:

• greatly increase our region’s economic diversification.
• strengthen our air, rail and surface capabilities.
• help us retain an educated and highly trained labor force.
• continue our role as a significant hub for both sides of the border.

More than $490 million has already been invested in the trade corridor from the Hoover Dam bypass in the north to the Mariposa Port of entry at Nogales on our southern border. In order to realize the benefits of that existing investment, as well as to prepare for the projected increase that the import and export trade will demand, we need to complete this link.
How we can maximize our future opportunities

These steps will help define the entire Intermountain West Corridor:

1. Fund and build State Route 189 – the Mariposa to I-19 connection.

2. Designate the Intermountain West Corridor from Nogales to Phoenix, through the Tucson area, as a priority corridor and the international leg of a future Interstate 11.

3. Encourage the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate a new state route connecting I-19 to I-10 functioning as an Auxiliary Interstate Highway.

4. Support the Arizona Congressional delegation’s efforts to identify and fund the I-11 segment from Phoenix to Nogales, as well as the Auxiliary Interstate Highway connecting I-19 and I-10, in any future federal surface transportation legislation.

5. Support air, rail and surface transportation improvements to develop regional logistics services, including an additional runway at Tucson International Airport and rail/freight interfaces at the Port of Tucson and Red Rock.

Two options showing possible routes from the northern connection from I-11 to I-19 in Sahuarita, providing added capacity for import and export traffic to complete the southern segment of the CANAMEX Highway.