To: Damon Ballesteros  
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RE: Valencia Road: Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road – Environmental Screening  
Results Memorandum

Project Information

Project Name: Valencia Road: Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road
Pima County Project #: 4VAKDP
Project Manager: Damon Ballesteros

Background

The Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) in cooperation with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) proposes to widen approximately three miles of Valencia Road between Alvernon Way and Wilmot Road from a four-lane arterial roadway into a six-lane arterial roadway (Figure 1). The Intra-Government Agreement (IGA) with the RTA calls for this project to be completed in one phase. Once completed, this project, in conjunction with three other RTA funded projects on Valencia Road, will serve as the major east-west arterial corridor that links Houghton Road/I-10 in the east to I-19 in the west.

This project includes the conceptual design resulting in a Design Concept Report (DCR) for the roadway improvements from approximately 900 feet east of Alvernon Way to 1,000 feet east of Wilmot Road and an Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR) for the roadway improvements. Construction of the Valencia Road project is planned for the 2012 to 2016 implementation period of the 20 year RTA plan.

Project Setting

The project area is located along Valencia Road from approximately 900 feet east of Alvernon Way to 1,000 feet east of Wilmot Road (Figure 2). The typical project right-of-way is 150 feet to 250 feet wide. Analysis for the environmental screening included a study area of at least 1000 feet from the centerline of Valencia Road. Certain project resources such as hazardous materials and special status species were examined to a distance of one mile and three miles, respectively. The Project area is Township 15 South, Range 14 East, Sections 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15; Township 15 South, Range 15 East, Section 7 (Figure 3).
The land use adjacent to Valencia Road is a mix of moderate- to high-density residential neighborhoods; undeveloped land; commercial/industrial; the Union Pacific rail line; and institutional properties. Other land uses in the project area also include parks; a community center; fire stations; and Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Between Alvernon Way and I-10, land use is primarily medium- to high-density residential neighborhoods, gas stations, vacant/undeveloped land, and Desert View High School. Land use between I-10 and Wilmot Road is a mix of medium- to high-density residential neighborhoods; vacant/undeveloped land; Chevron/Jack In The Box; Arizona Army National Guard training center; Pima Air and Space Museum; and the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR). Thomas Jay Littleton Regional Park is located south of Valencia Road along with the Julian Wash Linear Park.

Zoning ordinances and land use regulations for the project area fall within the jurisdictions of both Pima County and the City of Tucson. The existing zoning designations for the project area in Pima County include: Residential (TH, CR-3, CR-4, and CMH-1); Business (CB-2); Industrial (CI-1 and CI-2). Existing City of Tucson zoning regulations for the project area include: Single-Family Urban Residential Low Density (including schools and parks) (R-1), Single-Family Urban Residential Medium Density (R-2), Commercial (C-2), and Light Industrial (I-1).

**Proposed Project**

The project will construct two additional travel lanes (1 eastbound lane, 1 westbound lane), raised medians, left-turn lanes, and signalized intersections that will concentrate turning movements, thereby improving traffic operation and reducing the number of potential collisions along the corridor. The project will provide an all-weather travel surface for the road through construction of drainage improvements including cross-drainage improvements and a stormwater collection and conveyance system. The project will also improve mobility through the provision of a multi-use lane and meet ADA requirements. It is expected that the additional lanes can be designed within the existing right of way, and no additional horizontal or vertical alignment work will be needed.

The project includes the construction of the following specific improvements:

- Widen Valencia Road from a four-lane roadway to a six-lane roadway (three lanes eastbound and three lanes westbound) from approximately 900 feet east of Alvernon Way to 1,000 feet east of Wilmot Road.
- Design speed for this project is 50 mph and will be posted for 45 mph.
- Construct raised medians throughout the length of the project.
- Concentrating turning movements by the construct of turning lanes at Valencia Road and Craycroft Road; and Valencia Road and Wilmot Road.
- Widen Valencia Road at the I-10 underpass from a four-lane roadway to a six-lane roadway.
- Widen the existing bridge at the UPRR crossing from a four-lane roadway to a six-lane roadway.
• Construct a new eastbound right turn lane at the eastern Jack in the Box driveway, east of I-10.
• Install a traffic signal at the intersection of Valencia Road and Littletown Road.
• Improve and expand existing stormwater drainage system.
• Construct bicycle/multi-use lane on both sides of Valencia Road between Alvernon Way and Wilmot Road.
• Construct sidewalks along both sides of Valencia Road throughout the project area.
  o Sidewalks, crosswalks, and access ramps will be ADA-compliant.
• Install landscape improvements and public art within project medians and along the shoulders to the right-of-way limit.

Methods

Multiple sources were consulted to complete the environmental screening inventory for the project. Sources include the RTA Implementation Plan, project scope of work, project technical reports, project team discussions, field reviews, the Pima County Geographic Information System (MapGuide), and aerial photography. These sources were reviewed to provide an initial indication of potential environmental impacts to the surrounding physical, social, and economic environment that may result from construction and operation of the project.

The project will require:

• Drainage
  • Clean Water Act 404/401 permitting, and Clean Water Act Section 402 permitting
  • 100-Year Floodplain
  • Biological Resources
  • Air Quality
  • Noise Levels
  • Hazardous Materials
  • Historical Preservation
  • Neighborhood/Public Involvement

Drainage

The existing storm drainage system along Valencia Road consists of storm drainage pipes under Valencia Road that outlet to storm drain channels that parallel Valencia Road west of I-10. Storm water from Valencia Road west of I-10 discharges into an existing off-site detention basin located on an Arizona State Land Department parcel, southeast of the Valencia Road/Alvernon
Way intersection. West of I-10 stormwater from Valencia Road outlets into two storm drainage channels that discharges into the Julian Wash. The project will be designed to improve the current capacity of the storm drainage system, with the addition of larger pipes and culverts, while allowing for the basic configuration of the storm drainage system to remain largely unchanged.

Two named washes (the Earp Wash and Julian Wash) and three storm drain channels cross Valencia Road in the project area. Preliminary site reconnaissance indicates that these drainages are Waters of the United States (Waters). A jurisdictional delineation will be completed to ascertain the location and extent of Waters within the project area. Work within Waters is anticipated to affect less than 0.5 acre at each crossing and, therefore, would be covered by a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) #14. Should impacts to Waters exceed 0.5 acre at a crossing, a CWA Section 404 Individual Permit would be required.

Clean Water Act 401/404 permitting, and Clean Water Act Section 402 permitting

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 water quality permit would be included under a Nationwide Permit #14. If a CWA Section 404 Individual Permit is required, an individual Section 401 water quality permit would be required from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). ACWA Section 402 authorization is required because the project will disturb more than 1 acre of land. Compliance with the permit can be obtained by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) with ADEQ to use the statewide Construction General Permit, along with the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

100-Year Floodplain

Two Flood Insurance Rate Maps (Map Number: 04019C2245K and 04019C2265K) were reviewed and showed that the project is in areas designated as Zones A and A0 at the following locations:

- Zone A [Earp Wash area]
- Zone X [I-10 to UPRR tracks]

The project will not substantially modify the topography of the floodplain either by placement or removal of materials within the floodplain. There is no anticipated change in the flood elevation.

Biological Resources

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be contacted for input during the preparation of the biological evaluation. Based on a review of the USFWS list of threatened and endangered species for Pima County by a qualified biologist, there are no endangered and/or threatened species issues for the project. A Technical Assistance letter documenting effects on federally listed species for the project will be requested from the USFWS.

A vegetation survey and mitigation plan of the project area will be completed in accordance with Chapter 4 – Environmentally Sensitive Roadway of the Pima County Roadway Design Manual.
The project will impact regulated riparian habitat protected under the Pima County Riparian Ordinance. Impacts to regulated riparian habitat will be assessed in coordination with Pima County Regional Flood Control District.

Buffelgrass [invasive plant species] is found largely with in the right of way and drainages adjacent to the project area and could be disturbed during construction. A Buffelgrass Eradication plan would be completed to address treatment of existing infested areas.

Air Quality

Work associated with widening of the bridge at the UPRR and at the I-10 underpass may require completion of a National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

The contractor will need to apply for an air quality/dust control permit through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the bridge demolition work.

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. A noise analysis will be completed to determine future noise levels in the project area. While it is possible that future noise levels will exceed 66 dBA for residences closest to the road, feasibility issues, such as the need for adequate sight distance and driveway openings, as well as Pima County policy may limit the ability to provide noise barriers.

*It should also be noted that the project is also located in the Davis Monthon Air Force Base flight path and noise overlay zone.

Hazardous Materials

A Preliminary Initial Site Assessment (PISA) has been completed for the project. Previous PISA studies which overlap onto portions of the project area indicate that past and present land uses in the project vicinity have involved the salvage of military aircraft, munitions, and related equipment.

No recognized environmental conditions (RECs) were observed within the existing right-of-way. Potential hazardous waste sites occur within the project vicinity, should new right-of-way or easements be acquired, a Phase 1 ESA should be completed prior to acquisition. It should be noted that numerous concrete culverts and storm drains (beneath Valencia Road) occur. Concrete manufactured prior to 1985 may contain asbestos. In addition, features or structures suspected of containing lead-based paint (LBP) such as road stripping may be encountered in the project area. To determine proper disposal methods, sampling of suspect asbestos-containing concrete culverts installed prior to 1985, and any structures containing suspect LBP materials should be completed prior to demolition or removal.

Historic Preservation

During the cultural resources survey, SWCA Environmental Consultants identified three previously recorded National Registered of Historic Places (NRHP), one newly recorded site and
10 isolated occurrences. None of the sites surveyed that are listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project.

SWCA recommends a finding of *no historic properties affect* for this project.

Note: Isolated Occurrence number 10, is a road side memorial and should be treated in accordance with PCDOT’s procedures. It is recommended that a pre-construction survey of the project route be completed to locate any memorials.

**Neighborhood and Public Involvement**

Agency scoping meetings will be scheduled prior to the 60 percent design phase. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been formed. Up to six CAC meetings are planned as part of the public involvement process during the preparation of the DCR, EAMR, and Final Design. To date, three CAC meetings have been held: February 22, 2011, April 19, 2011 and May 17, 2011. A fourth meeting is planned on June 8, 2011. The first of two public open houses was held on May 17th, 2011 and a second on June 8, 2011.

**Environmental Documents**

Valencia Road is designated by Pima County as an Environmentally Sensitive Roadway; the project will include assessment and mitigation tools described in Pima County Environmentally Sensitive Roadway Guidelines. The following technical documents will be completed for the project: DCR, EAMR, noise analysis, jurisdictional delineation, biological evaluation, PISA, vegetation surveys, releve reports, riparian habitat impact analysis, visual resource inventory, and cultural resources report. Clean Water Act Section 404/402/401 permitting will be initiated for each project phase after Stage III design is complete. No additional environmental 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
INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Project Identification

- Project Name: Valencia Road: Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road (4VAKDP)
- Pima County Project Manager: Damon Ballesteros

Project Location and Limits

- Location of project within Pima County:
  Southeastern Pima County, Tucson Metropolitan Area,
  Township 15 South, Range 14 East, Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15;
  Township 15 South, Range 15 East, Section 7
- Location of project within City of Tucson:
  Township 15 South, Range 14 East, Section 12
- Limits of project: Valencia Road
  From end to end: Beginning from approximately 900 feet east of Alvernon Way to 1,000 feet east of Wilmot Road. Approximately, 6280 feet of the western project terminus area, is located within City of Tucson jurisdiction.
  From side to side: Typical right-of-way width is 150 feet to 250 feet

Funding Source

- Funding source anticipated for use in construction project:
  County funding: Yes
  Federal funding: No
  Other: Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Project #24. Construction is planned for the second implementation period (2012 to 2016) of the 20-year RTA plan.

Primary Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to widen Valencia Road between Alvernon Way and Wilmot Road to a six-lane divided road. The project will reduce delays caused by heavy traffic volumes during peak travel hours and future traffic congestion on Valencia Road by providing additional capacity and more efficient intersection operation. The project will construct raised medians, left-turn lanes, and signalized intersections that will concentrate turning movements, thereby
The project will improve traffic operation and reducing the number of potential collisions along the corridor. The project will provide an all-weather travel surface for the road through construction of drainage improvements including cross-drainage improvements; and an updated stormwater collection and conveyance system. The project will also improve pedestrian mobility through the provision of six foot sidewalks and six foot multi-use lane for bicycle access. These amenities will be located on the north and south side of Valencia road. The project will also provide for an expanded bridge crossing at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) overpass. Primary purpose of project:

Modernize roadway (e.g., resurface, restore, rehabilitate, reconstruct, add shoulders, or add auxiliary lanes): Yes

Valencia Road is considered to be a key, east-west corridor in the RTA plan. The project will improve traffic flow and increase mobility to Tucson International Airport and business/industrial parks.

Increase capacity: Yes

Projects will expand through traffic on a continuous east-west corridor in the urban core of Tucson, from I-10/to Houghton Road to I-19.

Add bicycle lanes: Yes

Six foot multi-use paths will be added on each side of the road, through the whole project.

Improve safety: Yes

The improved safety element will include: intersection and capacity improvements; transit corridor bus pullouts; signal technology upgrades; improvements to existing railroad crossing and bridges and pedestrian safety.

Other: Yes

Sidewalks will be added the entire length of the project to improve pedestrian safety and will comply the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for pedestrian crossings and transit stops.

Source: Regional Transportation Authority Implementation Plan and project team discussions

Existing Conditions within Project Limits

- Roadway specifications:
  
  Right-of-way: Varies: 150 feet – 250 feet
  
  Pavement width: 26 feet [eastbound] 26 feet [westbound]
  
  Number of through lanes in each direction: 2

- Number of turning lanes:
  
  Right-turn lanes: 10
  
  Left-turn lanes: 21

- Existing intersections:
Environmental Screening Questionnaire for  
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Valencia Road: Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road  
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Number of signalized intersections: 5
1. Valencia Road at Desert View High School (Half Signal)  
2. Valencia Road at Swan Road /Benson Highway  
3. Valencia Road at I-10 [Exit 267 eastbound off-ramp/westbound on-ramp] Arizona  
   Department of Transportation (ADOT) jurisdiction]  
4. Valencia Road at I-10 [Exit 267 westbound off-ramp/eastbound on-ramp] (ADOT)]  
5. Valencia Road at Wilmot Road [located inside City of Tucson (COT) boundary]  

Number of unsignalized intersections: 4
1. Valencia Road at Columbus Boulevard  
2. Valencia Road at Mesquite Desert Trail  
3. Valencia Road at Littletown Road  
4. Valencia Road at Craycroft Road [west side of intersection located in COT boundary]  

- Existing parking (e.g., on-street): No  
- Existing bicycle lanes: Yes  
  Two six foot multi-use paths, one in each direction.  
- Existing sidewalk: Yes, intermittent.  
- Existing transit stop: Yes  
  SunTran Route 26; Valencia Road between Alvernon Way and Littletown Road  
- Other: Yes  
  1. Union Pacific Railroad underpass located at existing four-lane Bridge.  
  2. Valencia Road (four-lane) underpass at I-10.  

Source: Pima County MapGuide accessed December 6, 2010, January 10, 2011, and March 31, 2011; and project team discussions.

Project Components

- Anticipated specifications of the project:
  
  Amount of additional right-of-way to be acquired: None  
  Proposed roadway widening is anticipated to occur within existing right-of-way. Drainage easements and temporary construction easements may be required. Location and dimensions of easements will be available in the Stage I Design Plans/Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report.  
  Change in the vertical or horizontal alignment: None  
  New alignment: None
Pavement width to be added: 13 feet eastbound and 13 feet westbound.

Number of through lanes to be added: Two, one in each direction.

Number of turn lanes to be added: None anticipated. Proposed design would match existing conditions. However, new turn lanes could be added depending on the result of the traffic analysis.

Right-turn lanes: None

Left-turn lanes: None

Any associated parking (e.g., on-street): No

Bicycle lanes to be added: Yes

6-foot-wide multi-use lanes will be added in both directions of Valencia Road between Alvernon Way and Wilmot Road. Lanes will be located within striped shoulders.

Sidewalk to be added: Yes

1. Proposed design would add 6-foot sidewalks adjacent to the back of curb on both sides of the roadway.

2. Sidewalks, crosswalks, and access ramps will be ADA compliant.

Landscaping to be added: Yes

Number of intersections to be signalized: 5

1. Valencia Road at Desert View High School (Half Signal)
2. Valencia Road at Benson Highway/Swan Road
3. Valencia Road at I-10 [Exit 267 eastbound off-ramp/westbound on-ramp]
4. Valencia Road at I-10 [Exit 267 westbound off-ramp/eastbound on-ramp]
5. Valencia Road at Wilmot Road (COT boundary).

Other:

Signalization of Valencia Road at Littletown Road will be investigated.

Source: Regional Transportation Authority Implementation Plan and project team discussions.

**Phasing**

Is this project:

A portion or phase of a unified development plan: No

One of a series of projects that may result in a cumulative set of environmental impacts on an identifiable area: Yes

This project is part of three other projects to improve the Valencia Road corridor eastward from I-19 to Houghton Road, including:

1. RTA Project #21 Valencia Road: Wade Road to Mark Road.
Environmental Screening Questionnaire for
Establishing Potential Areas of Impact

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2. RTA Project #23 Valencia Road: I-19 to Alvernon Road (Controlled Access Improvements).
3. RTA Project #25 Valencia Road: Kolb Road to Houghton Road.

When completed, the Valencia Road corridor will have been improved from Wade Road east to Houghton Road. The projects are scheduled to occur over a 25-year period, culminating in approximately, 2026.

Source: Regional Transportation Authority Implementation Plan

Traffic:
- Existing average daily traffic (ADT) in the project area (2010/2011):
  Valencia Road [Alvernon Way to Interstate 10] = 26,488
  Valencia Road [Interstate 10 to Wilmot Road] = 24,613
  Valencia Road [East of Wilmot Road] = 27,623
- Projected ADT in the project area for the build year (2035):
  Valencia Road [Alvernon Way to Interstate 10] = 42,400
  Valencia Road [Interstate 10 to Wilmot Road] = 39,400
  Valencia Road [East of Wilmot Road] = 43,200

Source: Pima County Department of Transportation, Draft Traffic Analysis Report.

Land Uses
- Existing adjacent land uses:
  Commercial (e.g., retail businesses, service businesses): Yes
    1. Diamond Shamrock, 4865 E. Valencia, CB-2
    2. Chevron/Jack in the Box, 5000 S. Valencia, CB-2
  Institutional (e.g., schools, hospitals, social services agencies): Yes
    1. Desert View High School, 4101 E. Valencia Road, City R-1
    2. Davis Monthan Air Force Base, City I-1
    3. Arizona Army National Guard, 5500 E. Valencia Road, City I-1
    4. Pima Air and Space Museum, 6000 E. Valencia Road, City I-1
  Residential (e.g., single family houses, apartments, townhouses): Yes
    1. Desert Vista Terrace Subdivision [East of Desert View High School] City R-2
    3. Valstate II Subdivision [Valencia Road east of Swan Road] CR-4
    4. Empire Vista Subdivision [Littletown Road east of Valencia Road] CR-3
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Project Vicinity ½ mile

1. Tucson Fire Department, Station No. 22, 6810 S. Alvernon Way
2. Rural/Metro Fire Department, Station No. 71, 4445 E. Benson Highway
3. Lauffer Middle School, 5385 E. Littletown Road
4. Craycroft Elementary School, 5455 E. Littletown Road

Vacant lots: Yes, a total of 17 undeveloped parcels:

2. Parcel 140-32-006B, 10.5 acres, private parcel, 4545 E. Valencia Road, north of Valencia Road west of Benson Highway.
3. Parcel: 140-32-007D, 5.32 acres, private parcel, no assigned street address, north of Valencia Road and west of Benson Highway.
4. Parcel: 140-36-007A, 5.04 acres, private parcel, 4711 E. Valencia Road, north of Valencia Road west of I-10.
7. Parcel: 140-39-043B, 3.08 acres, private parcel, no assigned street address, adjacent to W. I-10 Exit ramp, south of Valencia Road, parcel has no direct access to Valencia Road.
8. Parcel: 140-39-043D, 1 acre, private parcel, 5030 E. Valencia Road, south of Valencia Road and east of Chevron/ Jack in the Box Restaurant.
9. Parcel: 140-39-0420, 7.71 acres, private parcel, no assigned street address, south of Valencia Road and bordering the Empire Heights Home Owners Association common area to the west.
10. Parcel: 140-36-0050, 148.30 acres, private parcel, 4975 E. Benson Highway. The parcel is split by Valencia Road. The northern section of parcel is bordered on the east by the Julian Wash and west by west bound I-10 and south by Valencia Road. The southern section of the parcel is bound to the north by Valencia Road, south by Littletown Road and Lauffer Middle School to the east.
11. Parcel: 140-36-004C, 100.51 acres, private parcel, 4743 E. Frontage Road, north of Valencia Road, west of Union Pacific Railroad.
12. Parcels: 140-36-004J, 3.41 acres, 5280 E. Valencia Road; 140-36-004G, 3.27 acres; 140-36-004E, 2.73 acres; 140-36-004F, 2.84 acres; and 140-36-004H, 2.84 acres; areas are held by Pima County. In total, the 5 parcels are 15 acres of undeveloped-subdivided land and are located south of Valencia Road north of Littlestown Road.
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13. Parcel: 140-36-0100, 5.80 acres, private parcel, no assigned address, south of Valencia Road and north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

14. Parcel: 140-36-0010, 166.13 acres, private parcel, 5900 S. Craycroft Road, north of Valencia Road and west of Craycroft Road.

15. Parcel: 140-36-013B, 34.43 acres, private parcel, no assigned address, south of Valencia Road and west of Wilmot Road.

16. Parcel: 140-36-013A, 39.05 acres, private parcel, no assigned address, south of Valencia Road and west of Wilmot Road.

17. Parcel: 141-03-024D, 9.73 acres, private parcel, 6195 and 6201 S. Wilmot Road, south of Valencia Road and east of Wilmot Road.

Industrial (e.g., light industry, heavy industry): Light industry

1. Union Pacific Railroad crosses Valencia Road north of Littletown Road.

2. Unisource Energy Corporation, easement adjacent to west side of Union Pacific Railroad line and north of Valencia Road.

3. Amelco Inc., 5951 S. Wilmot Road

4. Venco Inc., 6001 S. Wilmot Road

Project Vicinity


2. HDS Truck Driving Institute, 6251 S. Wilmot Road.

Recreational (e.g., parks, sports fields): Yes [in project vicinity]

1. Thomas Jay Littletown Regional Park, 6465 S. Craycroft Road

Others: Yes

Project Vicinity

1. Littletown Community Center, 6465 S. Craycroft Road


Property Ownership

- Existing land ownership:

  Majority public: No

1. United States Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

2. Arizona Army National Guard

3. Arizona State Lands Department

4. Arizona Department of Transportation

5. Pima County
Establishing Potential Areas of Impact

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ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORIES

Drainage

- Will any stormwater drain from the project discharge into detention or retention basins on the site: No

Stormwater will discharge into an existing off-site detention basin located on an Arizona State Land Department parcel 140-411-400, southeast of the Valencia Road/Alvernon Way intersection.

Source: Project team discussions

Section 401/404

- Are any culverts likely to be installed, replaced, or extended: Yes

The existing five cell concrete box culvert (5-10’x10’x140’) at the Julian Wash could be extended.

- Are there any bridges being upgraded, extended, or replaced: Yes

Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad would be upgraded and widened. No potential Waters of the United States exist at this location.

- Is there any bank protection required in the construction of this project: Yes

Bank protection may be constructed at the Julian Wash.

- Are there any wetlands within the project area: No

- Are there any riparian areas within the project vicinity: Yes

Pima County Wash Ordinance Classification:

1. Two Class C Xeroriparian sites
2. Two Class D Xeroriparian sites.

- The proposed project will be reviewed by Pima County Regional Flood Control District for impacts to mapped riparian habitat whenever more than 1/3 of an acre of a project’s regulated riparian habitat is disturbed. Is it anticipated that there will be any discharge of dredged or fill material into “Waters of the United States”: Yes.
Section 401 will be completed under the 404 permit.
Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 is anticipated.
Source: Project team discussions, field survey conducted on 7, October 2010

**Floodplain**

- Is the project area within a 100-year floodplain delineated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map: Yes

  1. Zone A [Earp Wash area]
  2. Zone Z [I-10 to UPRR tracks]

  If “yes,” will the project substantially modify the topography of the floodplain either by placement or removal of materials within the floodplain: No


**Biological Resources**

- Are there listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and/or candidate species likely to be found in the project vicinity: No

  1. Pima Pineapple Cactus; ESA listed endangered – no habitat in project area; no cacti detected during field survey on 7 October 2010.
  2. Lesser Long-nosed Bat; ESA listed threatened – no habitat in project area detected during field survey on 7 October 2010.

- Are listed special status species likely to be found in the project vicinity: No

  1. Western Burrowing Owl; Migratory Bird Treaty Act – no habitat in project area; no owls or burrows detected during field survey on 7 October 2010.
  2. Cliff Swallow; Migratory Bird Treaty Act – no birds or indices of nesting found under bridges or drainage features during survey on 7 October 2010.
  3. Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl; State Sensitive Species – no habitat in project area. No owls detected during 2009 survey completed by EEC Inc.
  4. Bats; State Sensitive Species – no bats or indices of bat roosting found under bridges or drainage features during survey on 7 October 2010.

- Are protected native plants likely to be found in the project vicinity: Yes

  1. Preliminary field survey found creosote-bursage desertscrub with scattered elements of Sonoran paloverde-mixed cactus desertscrub. Vegetation survey of the project area will be completed in accordance with Chapter 4 Environmentally Sensitive Roadway of the Pima County *Roadway Design Manual*.

- Are construction activities anticipated to remove/disturb any vegetation: Yes
1. Roadway widening and drainage improvements are anticipated to remove/disturb vegetation.

2. Buffelgrass [invasive plant species] is found in the project area and could be disturbed during construction. A Buffelgrass Eradication plan would be completed to address treatment of infested areas.

• Is the project within the Conservation Land System: No

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Ecological Services website accessed September 13, 2010; Arizona Game and Fish Department On-line Environmental Review Tool accessed September 13, 2010; Pima County MapGuide accessed September 13, 2010; Field Surveys 7 October 2010; CFPO Survey 2009.

Air Quality

• Is the project in an:

  Attainment Area: Yes

  Nonattainment Area: No

  Maintenance area: Yes, CO Attainment Area with Limited Maintenance Plan.

Emission Sources: Vehicular emissions:


Work associated with widening of the bridge at the UPRR and at the I-10 underpass may require completion of a National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

The contractor will need to apply for an air quality/dust control permit through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the bridge demolition work.

Source: Pima Association of Governments and 2008 Revision to the Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan for the Tucson Air Planning Area 2010

Noise

• Are there sensitive noise receptors in the area: Yes

  Residences: Multiple homes within master-planned communities are located within the project study area.

  Schools: 3

    1. Desert View High School
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2. Lauffer Middle School
3. Craycroft Elementary School

Hospitals: No
Churches: No
Parks: Yes
1. Thomas Jay Littletown Regional Park
Others: No

- When the project is completed and used as anticipated, is it likely to contribute to any exceedances of noise quality standards: No

Note: A portion of the project is located in the Davis Monthon Air Force Base flight path and noise overlay zone.


Utilities

- Will the construction include any utility involvement:

  Utility relocation: Yes
  Temporary disconnection of service: Yes
  Utility replacement: No

- Are there any scheduled plans for utility upgrades in the vicinity that are not related to the project: Coordination efforts are currently underway with utility providers.

Source: Project team discussions

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: No

No recognized environmental conditions (RECs) were observed within the existing right-of-way. Potential hazardous waste sites occur within the project vicinity, should new right-of-way or easements be acquired, a Phase 1 ESA should be completed prior to acquisition.

- Have any test borings been performed: Yes.

  Soil borings are being completed as part of the geotechnical investigations for the project.
  To date, no contaminated soils were detected.
Environmental Screening Questionnaire for
Establishing Potential Areas of Impact

March 4, 2011

1 Source: Project team discussions

2 Historic Preservation

3 • 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: Yes

5 NRHP Eligibility: Previously Determined Eligible:

6 1. AZ AA:12:875(ASM)- El Paso Natural Gas Line No.1007


8 3. AZ FF:917(ASM)- Former U.S. Highway 80 and State Route 80

9 NRHP Eligibility: Recommended Not Eligible:


11 Site is located on County-owned parcels: 140-36-004J, 140-36-004G, 140-36-004E, 140-
12 36-004F, and 140-36-004H, bounded by Valencia Road to the northwest and the UPRR
to the northeast. Ten Isolated Occurrences (IOs) where recorded during pedestrian
14 survey.

15 • Are any of these sites considered “Priority Cultural Resources”: No

16 • 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: Yes

18 One road side memorial was located within the survey boundaries of AZ BB: 13:816(ASM).

19 PCDOT will follow special procedures, should the memorial be disturbed.

20 • Are there any structures likely to be 50 years old or older within or adjacent to the project
   area: No

22 Source: “Valencia Road Improvements, Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road: Cultural Resources
   Inventory, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona” March, 2011

24 Visual Impact

25 • Is the project likely to affect noticeably the views from adjacent properties: Possibly

26 1. Should noise walls be constructed, some views from adjacent properties will be
   affected. To date, they do not appear to be necessary.
2. The existing bridge at the UPRR would be widened, but no change to the existing bridge profile is anticipated including any additional horizontal supports.

3. Widening Valencia Road under Interstate 10 would not result in modification to the existing bridge. Horizontal bridge supports would remain in place. Existing wing walls would be modified to accommodate roadway widening, but is not anticipated to result in visual impacts.

- Is the project likely to cause a noticeable change in the foreground, middle-ground, or background views from the road: No

Foreground views could experience minimal or no change with the addition of two travel lanes.

- Is the project along a designated Scenic Route: Yes

Valencia Road is a designated scenic, major route.


Neighborhood/Social Impact

- Is there likely to be any commercial or residential displacement due to the construction of this project: No

Project is anticipated to occur within existing right-of-way.

- Are there likely to be any temporary changes in:

  **Business access:** Yes

  Access to businesses will be maintained throughout the project corridor during construction. Businesses may experience short-term and temporary delays to access during construction.

  **Parking:** No

  **Other:** Residential, Schools

1. Access to residences and schools will be maintained throughout the project corridor during construction; however, short-term and temporary delays to access may be experienced during construction.

2. Sun Tran bus route 26 would continue to operate, but short-term and temporary delays could occur.

- Are there likely to be any permanent changes in:

  **Traffic Service:** Yes

  The proposed project will improve traffic service and circulation patterns.

  **Traffic circumstances:** Yes

  The proposed project would improve traffic service.
Parking: No

Other: Yes

The proposed project would improve multi-model transportation opportunities and access.

No long term traffic detours are anticipated.

• Is the project likely to affect continuity in neighborhoods in the vicinity: Yes

The proposed project would improve neighborhood continuity by providing improved traffic efficiency, pedestrian circulation, ADA compliance, bicycle lanes and additional commuter bus options.

• Note: Institutional land use in the project area and vicinity could be impacted by temporary road closures and traffic delays during construction.

Source: Project team discussions

LOCAL JURISDICTION/AGENCY COORDINATION

• Are there local jurisdictions and governmental agencies with whom coordination is anticipated or has begun: Yes

City of South Tucson: No
City of Tucson: Yes
Pascua Yaqui Tribe: Yes
Cultural resources coordination
Tohono O’odham Nation: Yes
Cultural resources coordination
Town of Marana: No
Town of Sahuarita: No
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Yes
  1. Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Permitting
  2. Clean Water Act Section 402 Stormwater Permitting
Arizona Department of Transportation: Yes
Right-of-Way Use Permit for construction at Interstate 10
Arizona Game and Fish Department: Yes
Wildlife movement, coordination, and project evaluation.
Arizona State Land Department: Yes
Right-of-way use permit and possible vegetation impacts

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers: Yes
  1. Jurisdictional delineations approval
  2. Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting

U. S. Bureau of Land Management: No
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency: No
U.S. Federal Highway Administration: No
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Yes
Endangered Species Act Technical Assistance

Other
Regional Transportation Authority: Yes

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality: Yes

Pima County Regional Flood Control District: Yes
Riparian Mitigation Plan (if needed).

Arizona Department of Agriculture: Yes

Arizona Native Plant Law - Notice of Intent to Clear Land

Arizona Department of Water Resources: No
State Historic Preservation Office: Yes
Consultation on impacts to cultural/archeological resources

Federal Emergency Management Agency: Yes

U.S. Department of Defense: Yes

- Note any issues for coordination that have been identified to date:
  No issues to date
- Briefly describe coordination efforts planned or under way:
  1. Regional Transportation Authority is funding the project through an intergovernmental agreement.
2. Pima County will coordinate with the Pima County Regional Flood Control District to develop a Riparian Mitigation Plan.

3. Pima County will submit the Biological Evaluation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and request a Technical Assistance Letter.

4. The contractor will need to apply for an air quality/dust control permit through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the bridge demolition work.

5. The contractor may need to apply for a Pima County Asbestos Removal/Demolition Activity Permit.

6. The contractor may need to prepare a National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification through the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality to complete the bridge demolition.

7. Notice of Intent to Clear Land will be submitted to the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

8. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office and the tribes has been initiated.

9. PCDOT and the contractor will need to apply for a Clean Water Act Section 402 authorization from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality if soil disturbances are greater than one acre.

10. A Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality permit will be submitted to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality if an Individual Section 404 permit is required.

11. A preliminary jurisdictional delineation and Section 404 application will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Source: Project team discussions

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

• Has a Public Involvement Plan been developed for the project: Yes

Public Involvement Plan is being developed by Pima County.

• Has a Citizen Advisory Committee been formed, or is one being formed: Yes.

Citizen Advisory Committee has been formed.

CAC Meeting Schedule

CAC Meeting #1 February 22, 2011

CAC Meeting #2 April 19, 2011

CAC Meeting #3 May 17, 2011

CAC Meeting #4 June 8, 2011

• Have any public meetings been scheduled: Yes
Public Meeting Schedule

- Public Meeting #1 March 15, 2011
- Public Meeting #2 June 15, 2011
- Public Hearing August 16, 2011

- Has any information useful to project development been identified through any public interaction to date: No
- Is there any known controversy over this project to date: No

Source: Project team discussions

PERMITS

- Anticipated permits and/or approvals:

  - Jurisdictional Delineation: Yes
  - 404 Permit: Yes, Nationwide Permit
  - 401 Certification: Covered under Nationwide Permit
  - Sole Source Aquifer: No
  - State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) clearance: Yes
  - Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES): Yes
  - Other,
  - Conditional Letter of Map Revision/Letter of Map Revision: No
  - Air Quality Permit: Yes
  - Asbestos Removal/Demolition Activity Permit: Possible
  - Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report: Yes
  - Riparian Mitigation Plan: Yes
  - Native Plant Protection Notification: Yes
  - Temporary Dewatering Permit: No
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clearance: Yes
  - National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification: Yes

Completed by:

Jean Paul Charpentier, Environmental Planner

Date: March 4, 2011
# Environmental Impact Screening Summary Impact Matrix

**Project Name:** Valencia Road: Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road  
**Project Number:** #4VAKDP  
**Project Limits:** Valencia Road from Alvernon Way to Wilmot Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicable to the Project</th>
<th>Potentially Affected Environmental Categories</th>
<th>100-year Floodplain</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Air Quality</th>
<th>Cultural Resources</th>
<th>Hazardous Materials</th>
<th>Noise</th>
<th>Protected Plants</th>
<th>Protected Riparian</th>
<th>Protected Wildlife</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
<th>Right-of-Way</th>
<th>Section 401/404</th>
<th>Visual Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Change in the vertical or horizontal alignment</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>New alignment</td>
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<td>Added capacity (i.e., through lanes)</td>
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<td>Milling/grading</td>
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<td>Change in access (e.g., driveways, intersections)</td>
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<td>Clearing and grubbing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Matrix Key:  
0 = no involvement (e.g. if there is no protected wildlife in the area then there would be no involvement with wildlife during project activities)  
X = potential involvement, but no or minimal impact (e.g. there may be listed wildlife in the vicinity of the project, but no evidence of wildlife in the project area itself, therefore there would be no or minimal impact)  
M = potential moderate impact (e.g. one protected plant is found that would be affected)  
H = potential high impact (e.g. a cluster of protected plants are found, the area serves as habitat for a protect species)