

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) completed a corridor study for US 93 from Wickenburg to Kingman and recommended capacity and design improvements along the length of the corridor to accommodate projected future traffic volumes (ADOT 1992). The purpose of the study was to develop a long-range plan to improve US 93 to meet the capacity, operational, and safety needs of the traveling public.

In 1999, ADOT initiated a study of improvements to US 93 from the US 60/State Route (SR) 74 intersection to the Santa Maria River. This study was subsequently divided into three interrelated US 93 improvement projects: improvements from the SR 89 junction to the Santa Maria River, a bypass around Wickenburg, and an Interim Improvement Project in downtown Wickenburg. The proposed improvements to US 93 from the US 93/SR 89 junction to the Santa Maria River are the subject of this Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Interim Improvement Project in downtown Wickenburg on October 3, 2003. The bypass around Wickenburg would be addressed in a future environmental document.

This document has been prepared, concurrent with a location/design concept study, to document the development of feasible alternatives for the proposed project. This DEA assesses the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative and the No Action Alternative. In addition, this document summarizes the alternatives development process, explains the rationale for eliminating or recommending specific alternatives, and summarizes the public participation process.

