

We Need Your Input

Riggs Road

Improvement Project

Ellsworth Road to Meridian Road

Design Phase Public Input Meeting

**Design Phase
Public Input Meeting**

**Thursday, December 13, 2012
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Town of Queen Creek Town Hall
22350 S. Ellsworth Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142**

Project Overview

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in partnership with the Town of Queen Creek, is in the process of preparing roadway design plans to widen and extend Riggs Road from Ellsworth Road, eastward approximately three miles to Rittenhouse Road.

Current and forecasted growth has established the need for improved roadway connectivity and traffic distribution in the Southeast Valley. This Riggs Road Improvement Project explores a future east/west transportation network solution that addresses regional traffic flow while specifically serving the transportation needs of residents and businesses of Queen Creek.

It is anticipated that this segment of Riggs Road will be constructed in two phases to accommodate increased traffic volumes associated with area growth and development. Current proposed improvements include design and construction of an interim two-lane divided roadway (one travel lane in each direction) with raised medians and a bike lane/ shoulder. Interim drainage improvements include the construction of roadside channels and retention basins. Sufficient public right-of-way is being acquired as part of this current interim project to accommodate the future six-lane roadway (three travel lanes in each direction) when needed. Future additional improvements, to be completed by the Town of Queen Creek and developers, will include sidewalk, bike path, street lighting and landscaping. Ultimate drainage improvements are anticipated to include curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway and a storm drain system

Roadway Design Goals and Objectives

- Define long-term corridor needs and requirements
- Address future traffic demand
- Provide an all-weather roadway
- Identify median break locations
- Improve regional connectivity
- Coordinate with other current and ongoing projects
- Support community development and future land use plans
- Develop a timeline for improvements
- Provide a coordinated drainage solution for Maricopa County and the Town of Queen Creek
- Identify future roadway right-of-way needs

Roadway Design Goals and Objectives Project Issues and Challenges

- Multi-agency coordination
- Address current and future development
- Incorporate local and regional transportation network needs
- Environmental and cultural resource considerations
- Forecasting of future traffic demand associated with changing land use and development plans
- Roadway operation to achieve mobility/access balance
- Relocation and accommodation of existing and proposed utilities

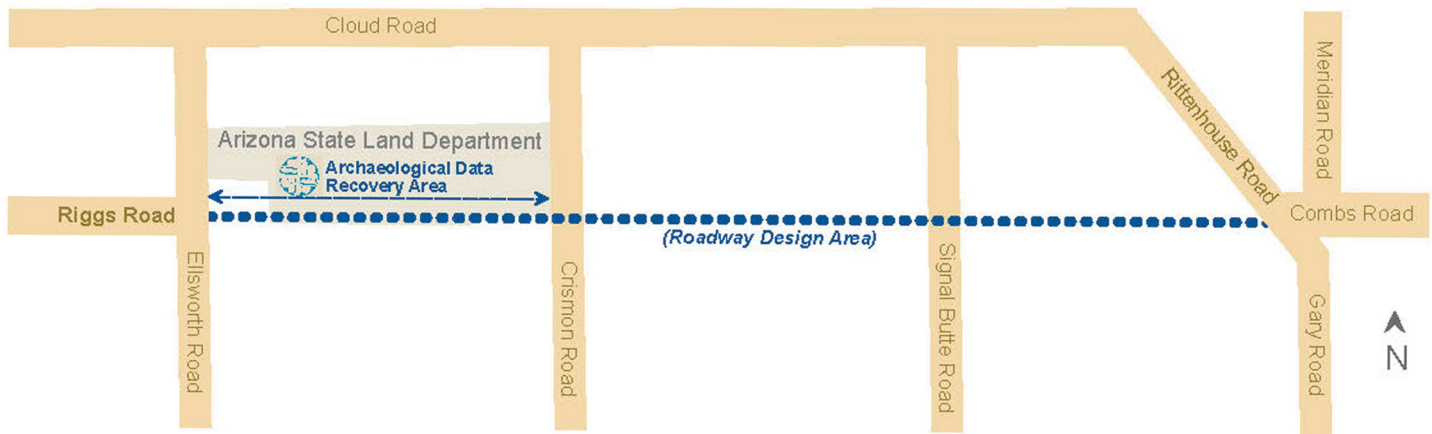


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Right Road Right Time Right Cost

Project Area



Project Milestone Schedule

Public Information Meeting

December 13, 2012

Roadway Design (90% complete)

December 2012

Archaeological Fieldwork and Associated Outreach Activities

December 2012-Spring 2013

Roadway Design (100% complete)

May 2013

Next Steps

This interim 2-lane roadway project is currently funded for the design and environmental mitigation phases of project development only. It is anticipated that construction will start during fiscal year 2015-2016.

Stakeholders

- Maricopa County Department of Transportation
- Town of Queen Creek
- Flood Control District of Maricopa County
- Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
- Pinal County
- Impacted Tribal Communities
- Major Utilities
- Area Residents, Businesses, Property Owners and Developers

Public Outreach

Gaining consensus among the agencies and the public is critical to the success of this roadway design project and implementation of its recommendations to provide an efficient transportation system for the long term. In addition to multiple multi-agency Technical Advisory Committee meetings, a design public input meeting is currently scheduled for December 13, 2012.

For more information, contact: Nariman Zadeh at (602) 506-8623 or write to him at: MCDOT, 2901 W. Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009, or e-mail at: NarimanZadeham@mail.maricopa.gov; or contact Roberta Crowe, MCDOT Public Information Officer: 602-506-8003, robertacrowe@mail.maricopa.gov.

Community Outreach and Education Program

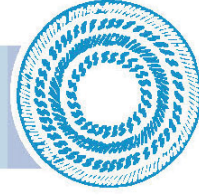
- Speakers Bureau/Traveling Exhibit
- Elementary School Presentations/Curriculum
- Archaeology Kids Coloring Book
- Neighborhood meetings
- Public input meeting
- Website/blog

Contact

Over the next few months, project team members will be on site gathering preliminary information in advance preparation of archaeology site excavation activities.

If you have concerns about Pozos de Sonoqui site safety or security throughout the project schedule, please call the **24-hour MCDOT Construction Hotline at 480-350-9288.**

POZOS DE SONOQUI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



Recent findings have yielded evidence of a major Hohokam habitation site, with an occupational life of 1,000 years spanning the Colonial, Sedentary, and Classic periods of modern history, that still exist below the “plow zone” of the future Riggs Road corridor within the project limits.

An important aspect of the Riggs Road design effort is the essential fieldwork associated with the excavation and documentation of the Pozos de Sonoqui Archaeological Site. The project includes recovery of archaeological information and the preparation of a comprehensive report to fulfill environmental and cultural resources compliance regulations. It is anticipated that archaeological fieldwork will begin in December 2012 and be completed by Spring 2013.

The project team is committed to engaging the community in a collaborative effort to ensure success and safety of the archaeological recovery effort. The intent is to develop a framework that sustains a community education program beyond project completion.

Archaeological Site Recovery Objectives

- Perform archaeological data recovery in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Implement a data recovery plan following the highest scientific standards to optimize site analysis and interpretation
- Obtain cultural resource clearance to advance roadway design efforts
- Establish the reliance of the Pozos de Sonoqui village on the Queen Creek Delta and the wider Hohokam region
- Provide the Town of Queen Creek with an enduring source of community heritage and pride
- Provide an enriching community outreach and cultural education program surrounding archaeological site activities



Ellsworth Road at the Empire Road intersection – Earlier cultural resources surveys established the western boundary of the multi-layered Pozos de Sonoqui Archaeological Site based on the discovery of ancient hearth ashes and other scattered artifacts and Hohokam household features and structures.



Great care is exercised as highly trained archaeologists meticulously excavate the many layers of the Pozos de Sonoqui Archeological Site to learn more about this ancient Hohokam village and the lives, industry and culture of the southwestern desert dwellers who once inhabited it.



The exposed cross section slice of a wall within an excavated pit reveals evidence of prehistoric water storage basin structures.