



Loop 303

Interstate 10 to Interstate 17
Corridor History



June 2010



Loop 303, I-10 to I-17 Corridor History



Welcome!

The following slides walk the viewer through the development of the Loop 303 corridor, from 1984 through the present.





Loop 303 Corridor History



1984 The Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) West Area Transportation Analysis identified the long-term need for a highway to connect Maricopa County Route 85 to Interstate 17.



* 1985 ballot issue to fund facilities in MAG's Long-Range Transportation Plan ** 2004 ballot issue to fund facilities in MAG's Regional Transportation Plan



Loop 303 Corridor History



1985 The corridor for a new highway (called Cotton Lane/Northwest Loop) is included in MAG's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and in the State Highway System as State Route 517. Maricopa County voters approve Prop 300.* The new highway is to be built with funds raised from the tax; the voter pamphlet refers to the proposed freeway and it is shown on the pamphlet's map. The MAG Regional Council adds the proposed freeway for right of way protection.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1986 The corridor is renamed Estrella Corridor. MAG sets the proposed freeway as the lowest priority for completion.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1987 MAG approved a funding priority to construct State Route Loop 303 as an interim, two-lane, access controlled facility between Thomas Road and Grand Avenue; in exchange, developers dedicated a 300-foot right of way for most of this section on the condition that it be constructed as a freeway by 2005.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1987 The State Transportation Board renames Estrella Corridor as State Route Loop 303. A draft reconnaissance report is completed – it identifies alternative alignments within the Cotton Lane corridor.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1991 The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) completes locational studies and a state-level Environmental Assessment (EA) for the entire corridor (MC 85 to I-17); studies establish alignment and right of way needs. Funding considerations cause Loop 303 to be dropped from LRTP.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1992 Two-lane, access-controlled Loop 303 opens for travel between Thomas Road and Grand Avenue.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



1993 to 1998

- 1993:** The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) completes a Design Concept Report (DCR) from Indian School Road to Clearview Boulevard and an EA from I-10 to United States Route 60.
- 1995:** ADOT gives notice that it will abandon Loop 303 as an element of the State Highway System; MCDOT assumes role as "caretaker" for the corridor.
- 1998:** MCDOT completes a DCR for MC 85 to I-17. The State Transportation Board decides to keep Loop 303 in the State Highway System.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2001 MCDOT initiates an EA for Loop 303 with an agency scoping meeting and two public meetings.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2004 ADOT and MCDOT agree to upgrade the EA to federal standards. ADOT agrees to fund this effort.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2004 Another public meeting is held for the EA on improvements to Loop 303. Prop 400** provides funding for projects in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which includes improvements to Loop 303.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2006 MCDOT and ADOT agree to transfer the construction, operation and maintenance of Loop 303 to ADOT.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2006

State Transportation Board approved use of Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) funding to advance improvements by at least five years to Loop 303 intersections at Bell, Cactus and Waddell Roads to enhance driver safety and minimize impacts of future construction.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2008

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) published and public hearings held on Loop 303, I-10 to US 60 (Grand Avenue) improvements.



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2009

ADOT received federal approval on Final EA for Loop 303, I-10 to US 60, allowing ADOT to begin preparation of design plans to construct a new six-lane divided freeway with a freeway-to-freeway interchange at I-10 in RTP Phase II (2011-2015).



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Loop 303 Corridor History



2009

Construction started on Loop 303 improvements at Bell, Cactus and Waddell Roads. Completion is anticipated in early 2011.



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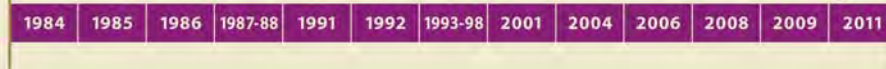




Loop 303 Corridor History



2011 Construction scheduled to begin on some sections of Loop 303, I-10 to US 60 improvements.



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For more information on Loop 303 and other Valley Freeways:

- Visit the ADOT Web site:
www.ValleyFreeways.com

