



# Controlled Rock Blasting

## Stakeholder Briefing

December 5, 2022



# Today's Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Overview
- Blasting Overview
- Work Schedule/Traveler Impact
- Locations
- Public Outreach
- Questions



# Introductions

- **Laura Douglas, Communications Project Manager, ADOT**
- **Annette Riley, P.E., Project Manager/Asst. State Engineer, ADOT**
- **Keela Nedens, Project Engineer, KFJV**
- **Nick Donegan, Operations Manager, M.C. Donegan, LLC**

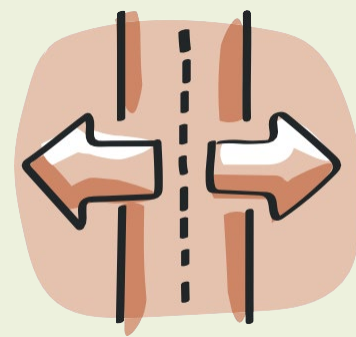


# Project Overview



Interstate 17 provides two travel lanes in each direction between Anthem Way and Flagstaff. The highway passes through rolling terrain in the southern and northern segments and mountainous terrain with steep, narrow lanes between Black Canyon City and Sunset Point.

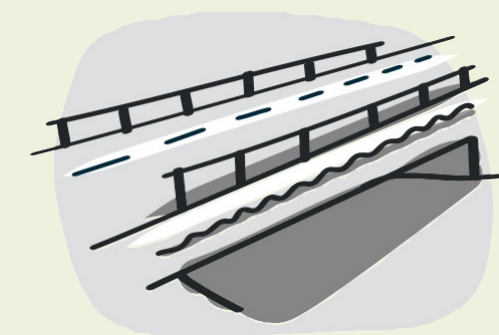
Improvements will reduce congestion and improve traffic flow and safety between Anthem Way and Sunset Point.



15 MILES OF WIDENING



EIGHT MILES OF FLEX LANES



10 BRIDGE WIDENINGS  
2 REPLACEMENTS



# Controlled Rock Blasting Overview

## Top Priority: Safety

- I-17 must be closed in both directions during blasting to keep the traveling public and work crews safe.
- Workers must be able to complete the blasting, then clear the roadway and reopen it to travelers, as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible.
- Emergency vehicles will be able to drive through the closure area on the shoulder, except when blasting is occurring.
- Crews will confirm no vehicles remain in the closure zone before blasting begins.
- All drivers need to slow down and be prepared for slowing or stopped vehicles – especially around blind corners.
- ***Driver behavior is critical to safety in the work zone.***





# Controlled Rock Blasting Overview

## What is Controlled Rock Blasting?

- A technique used to loosen the rock along the highway, where construction requires large amounts of material to be moved to accommodate widening.
- 973,000 cubic yards of rock will be removed to create additional space for new travel lanes.
- That is enough rock to fill Lake Pleasant nearly one and a half times.



# Controlled Rock Blasting Schedule

## **Blasting will occur up to three times a week, Monday – Thursday**

This work began Nov. 30 and will continue for several months.

## **Lane restrictions begin at 7 p.m.**

Crews will begin narrowing I-17 to one lane in both directions at 7 p.m. and fully close it at 10 p.m.

## **Full closures of I-17 in both directions**

North- and southbound I-17 will be closed for each blast.

## **Blasting timeframe**

Generally, blasting will **occur between 10 and 11 p.m.** However, the window of time for this work to occur is between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. The starting and ending times of each closure could vary based on blast-site, weather and traffic conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances. If crews determine there will be an extended closure, the project team will turn traffic around and detour motorists back north or south so they are not stopped indefinitely.

## **Expect Delays**

Travelers should anticipate backups of approximately **2 miles** and delays of **at least one hour**.

*(Subject to change)*





# Controlled Rock Blasting Locations

- Blasting will occur between Sunset Point and New River, anywhere there is rock face on the side of the highway.
- Approximately 119 controlled rock blasts are scheduled over the next several months.
- Blasting will happen on the north- and southbound sides of I-17.
- **Reminder:** Other project-related work is also occurring throughout the work zone. Single-lane restrictions could be in place outside of the blasting area.







# Stay Informed

## Real Time Traffic Alerts

 [AZ511.com](https://www.AZ511.com)

 [AZ511 App](#)

 [511](#)

## Controlled Rock Blasting Schedule

 [improvingi17.com/traffic-alerts](https://improvingi17.com/traffic-alerts)

## Controlled Rock Blasting FAQs

 [improvingi17.com/docs/Controlled\\_Rock\\_Blasting\\_FAQs.pdf](https://improvingi17.com/docs/Controlled_Rock_Blasting_FAQs.pdf)





Thank you for your patience and  
please travel safely!

#improvingi17

# Questions?

*For general project questions or comments:*



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