



I-17 Improvement Project

April 26, 2022 In-Person Presentation



I-17 Improvements: Anthem Way to Sunset Point

**Canon Elementary School
Black Canyon City, AZ
April 26, 2022**



Thank you for joining us for this public information meeting for the I-17 Improvement Project between Anthem Way and Sunset Point.



Tonight's Speakers

- **Jedidiah Young, Deputy Project Manager, ADOT**
- **Laura Douglas, Communications Project Manager, ADOT**
- **Alicia Jacobs, Spanish Interpreter**
- **Open House Q&A available following presentation**

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My name is Laura Douglas, the ADOT Communications Project Manager. With me is Jedidiah Young, Engineer for ADOT, Deputy Project Manager for this project. With us is Alicia Jacobs, who is available to provide Spanish interpretation during tonight's meeting.

Alicia introduces herself in Spanish, and encourages those needing translation services to visit her at the sign in area

We would also like to acknowledge the elected officials that have joined us this evening.

We hope you have had a chance to explore the open house, as we are excited to share information with you about this much-anticipated project. After the presentation, we will continue with the open house. We encourage you to direct your questions and comments to the project staff, who are located around the room and wearing name tags tonight.

Tonight's Agenda

1. Overview
2. Widening
3. Flex Lanes
4. Construction Activities
5. Public Outreach

Tonight we will present information on the Interstate 17 Improvement Project from Anthem Way to Sunset Point, which includes widening and the addition of a Flex Lanes system. We look forward to providing an update about the I-17 Improvement Project, including:

- An overview of the project need, benefits, timeline and team.
- Reviewing the widening configuration throughout the 23-mile project corridor.
- Explaining the purpose and design of the 8-mile flex lane system.
- Providing a high-level overview of construction activities.
- And, how the project team plans to connect with the communities and drivers throughout the project area.

With that, I will hand it over to Jed Young.

Project Overview

Currently, I-17 has two travel lanes in each direction between Anthem Way, north of Phoenix, and Flagstaff. The highway passes through mountainous terrain with steep, narrow lanes between Black Canyon City and Sunset Point.

- 15 MILES OF WIDENING
- EIGHT MILES OF FLEX LANES
- 10 BRIDGE WIDENINGS
2 REPLACEMENTS

Thanks Laura. The 23-mile section of Interstate 17 (I-17) between Anthem Way and Sunset Point is one of the most heavily utilized roadways in Arizona, seeing more than 1 million travelers each year.

We look forward to improving this stretch of I-17 north of Phoenix. The work includes widening 15 miles of roadway, constructing approximately eight miles of flex lanes, replacing two bridges, replacing one bridge deck, and widening 10 other bridges.

This project is divided into two segments:

Anthem Way to Black Canyon City (Widening) Improvements:

- An additional northbound and southbound lane.
- Northbound widening on the median side.
- Southbound widening on the median side in some sections and widening on the outside in other sections.

Black Canyon City to Sunset Point (Flex Lanes) Improvements:

- Construct two flexible travel (flex) lanes alongside the existing southbound lanes of I-17. The flex lanes will be separated from the southbound roadway by a concrete barrier.
- Flex lanes will be open to northbound or southbound traffic, depending on the peak traffic direction and the greatest need.



Benefits



ENHANCED SAFETY

This project will reduce congestion, which helps to improve safety by creating more space between vehicles.



ADDED CAPACITY

These improvements will better accommodate existing traffic and increased traffic as the demand on I-17 continues to grow.



IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW

Greater efficiency means drivers can get to and from the places they need to be in less time, and more safely.



SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

This project will help make I-17 a more favorable route for commercial truck drivers whose travels through the region support our local businesses.

This project will increase capacity in both the northbound and southbound directions, helping to alleviate traffic congestion during weekends and holidays.

Additionally, the creation of the flex lanes will allow peak traffic to flow more efficiently. The increased capacity and improved traffic flow will help to improve safety for everyone on the road.

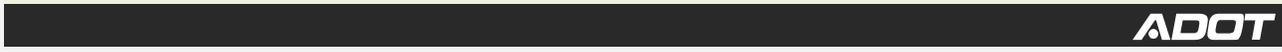


Meet the Team

Project Owner
ADOT

Developer Team
 **KIEWIT-FANN**
JOINT VENTURE

Local Subconsultants and Firms



The I-17 Improvement Project is being delivered using a method called “Design-Build-Operate-Maintain”, which means that design and construction services, as well as a period of operation and maintenance, are contracted by a single entity. This is different from the traditional approach for construction projects, known as design-bid-build, where engineers complete the design and then a contractor is hired to build what has been designed.

The design-build method changes the traditional sequence of work and allows the construction team to be involved in design. The time it takes to complete the project is reduced by overlapping the design phase and construction phase of a project.

Kiewit-Fann Joint Venture, or KFJV, has been selected as the developer team for the Project.



Project Timeline

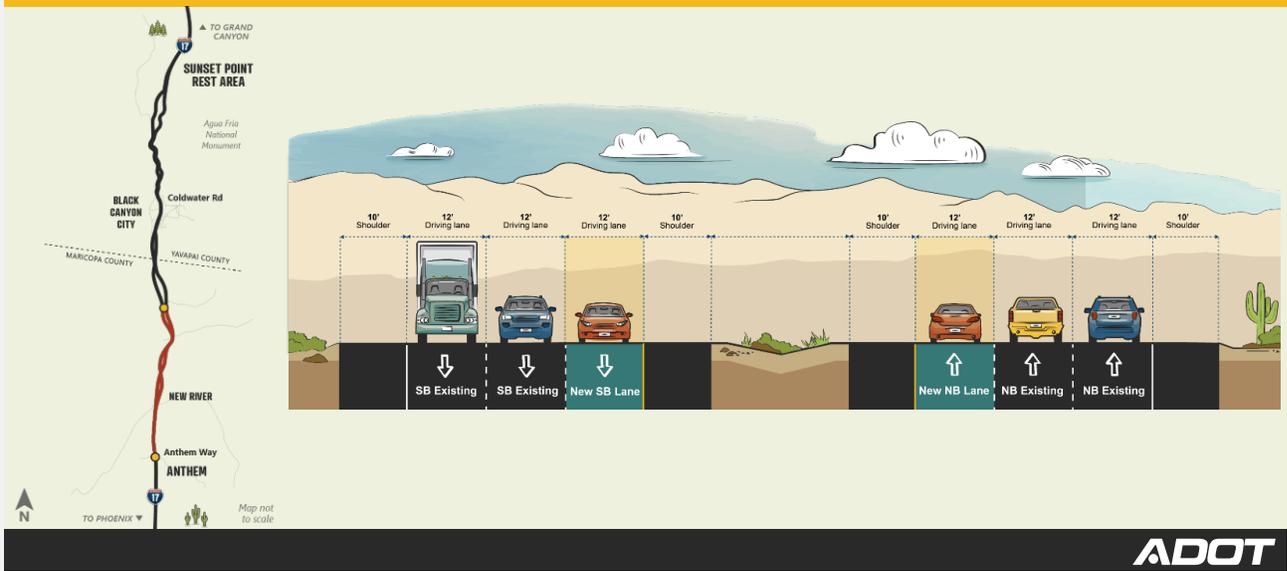


Since the design concept report was finalized in 2019, ADOT began the procurement process to select a developer team that will be responsible for final design, construction, and operations and maintenance of the project.

ADOT signed an agreement with KFJV in late 2021.

Final design and construction activities have begun, with segments of the project opening in late 2024 and 2025.

CONNECTING ARIZONA
IMPROVING 17
Anthem Way to Milepost 237 north of Moores Gulch

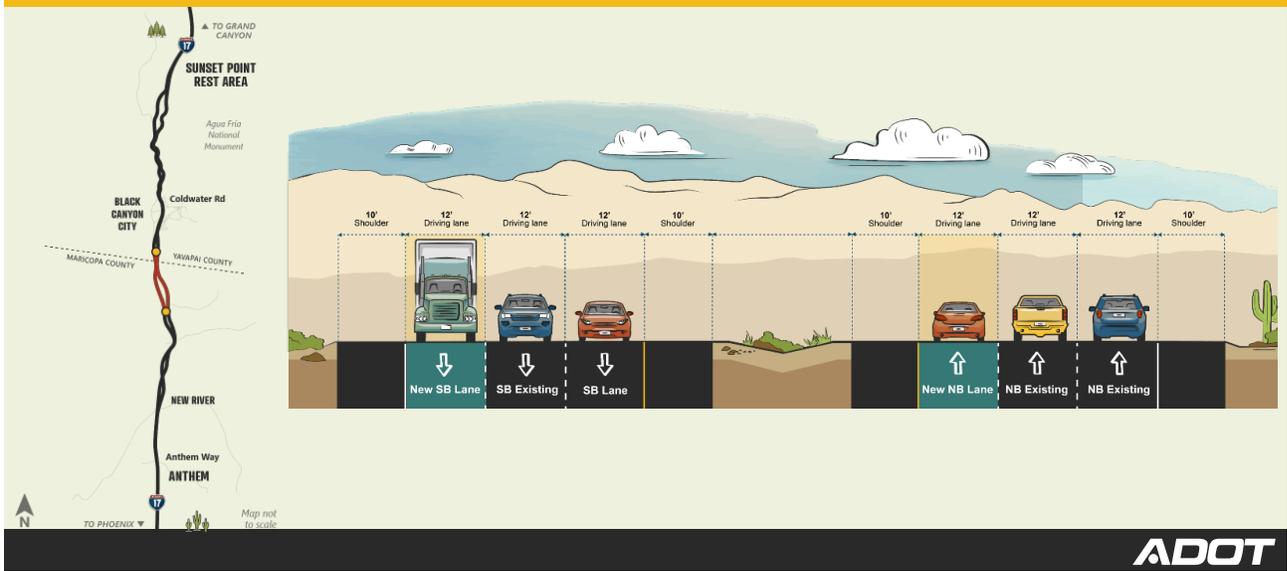


As previously stated, the 23-mile project will include widening and a flex lane system. Due to the terrain and right-of-way throughout the corridor, new lanes may be located on the inside or outside of the roadway.

The following graphics illustrate the additional lanes that will be added to the interstate.

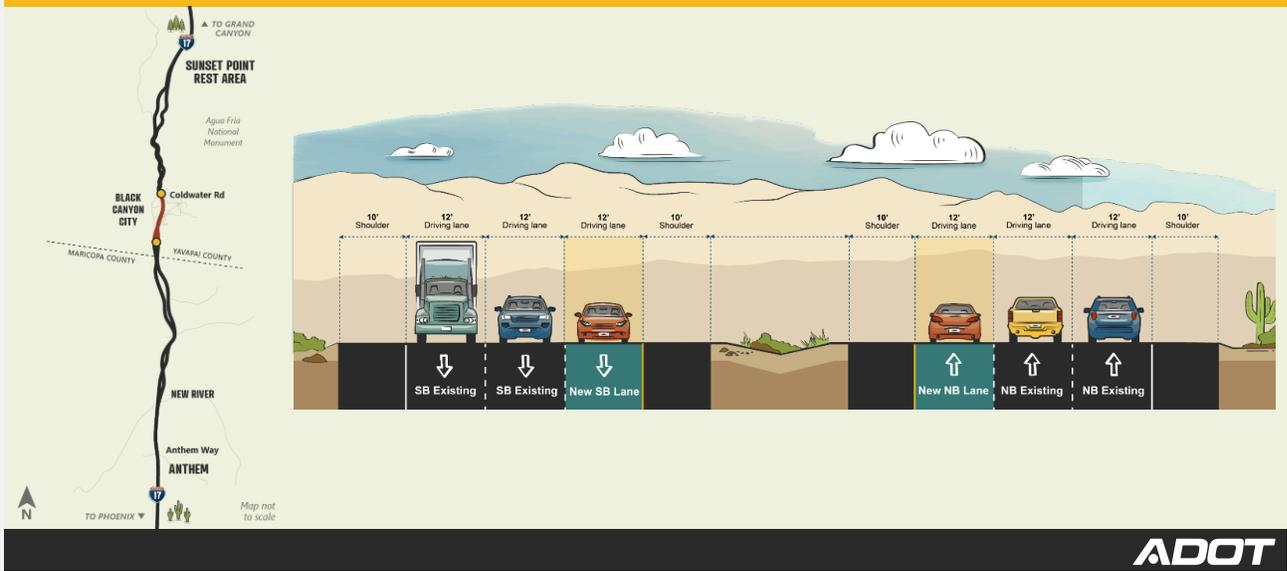
From Anthem Way to just north of Moore’s Gulch (depicted on the map to the left), crews will construct one additional lane in both directions within the existing median between the two roadways.

CONNECTING ARIZONA
IMPROVING
 17
Milepost 237 north of Moores Gulch to Milepost 241 south of Rock Springs

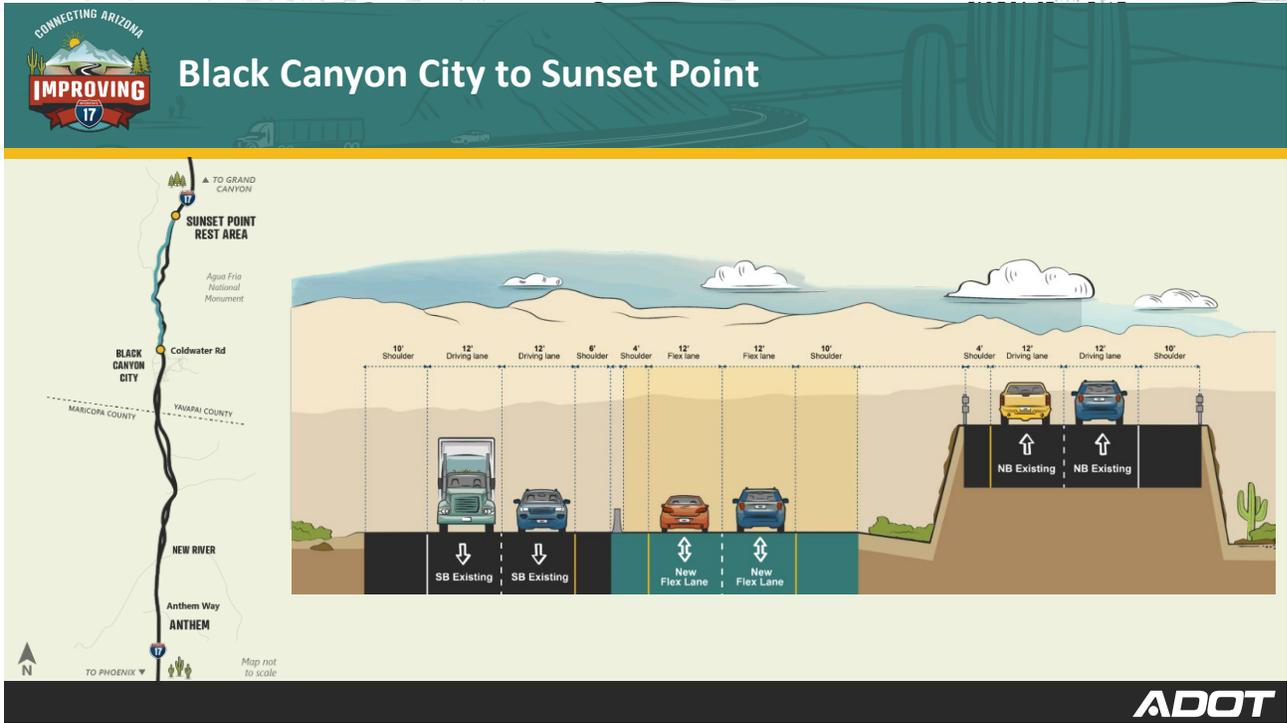


From north of Moore’s Gulch to just south of Rock Springs, the southbound lane will be constructed on the outside, while the northbound lane will be constructed in the median.

CONNECTING ARIZONA
IMPROVING
 17
Milepost 241 south of Rock Springs to Black Canyon City



Through Black Canyon City, one lane will be added in each direction within the median.



Between Black Canyon City and Sunset Point, a flex lane system will be constructed. This will require significant earthwork activity to widen southbound I-17 to add two lanes, which will be separated from the existing roadway with a concrete barrier. Northbound I-17 will remain unchanged.

CONNECTING ARIZONA IMPROVING 17

Flex Lanes - Overview

LOCATION
Between Coldwater Road and Sunset Point.

ADJACENT TO SOUTHBOUND LANES
Separated by a concrete median barrier.

TO GRAND CANYON

SUNSET POINT REST AREA

Agua Fria National Monument

Coldwater Rd

BLACK CANYON CITY

MARICOPA COUNTY YAVAPAI COUNTY

ADOT

The infographic includes a map of I-17 showing the project location between Coldwater Road and Sunset Point, with labels for Grand Canyon, Sunset Point Rest Area, Agua Fria National Monument, and Black Canyon City. It also shows the county boundaries of Maricopa and Yavapai. A cross-section diagram illustrates the lane configuration: 15' shoulder, 12' driving lane, 12' driving lane, 6' shoulder, 4' shoulder, 12' flex lane, 12' flex lane, 15' shoulder, 4' shoulder, 12' driving lane, 12' driving lane, 15' shoulder. Below the cross-section, it indicates 'SB Existing' lanes, 'New Flex Lane' lanes, and 'NB Existing' lanes.

We understand there is a lot of curiosity and excitement regarding the 8-mile flex lane system that will be included in this project, so we would like to spend some time explaining why it was chosen for this stretch of interstate and how it will operate.

Flex lanes are a system that allows ADOT to vary the number of northbound or southbound lanes during peak travel times, or if there is a crash or another emergency situation that causes traffic delays.

Two additional lanes will be constructed adjacent to the existing southbound lanes. They will be open to northbound or southbound traffic, depending on peak travel times or the greatest need.

Widening the highway in both directions between Black Canyon City and Sunset Point was studied, however several factors contributed to the decision to deem it an unfeasible alternative during the environmental study:

- Much of the northbound stretch of I-17 from Black Canyon City to Sunset Point is in an extremely mountainous area. This difficult terrain would require extensive modifications to the existing roadway to meet current design standards, beyond simply just widening the lanes and adding additional shoulder area.
- Causing minimal disruptions to this highly traveled corridor was another major factor when considering alternatives. Widening the existing roadway would cause an extreme disruption to traffic over a prolonged period of time with no viable alternative route available.
- To widen the lanes, complete closures of at least one and possibly both lanes in both directions would be needed to complete earthwork operations, including blasting and mitigation of rockfall hazards.
- These factors would cause extreme traffic interruptions and the cost would be prohibitive.

Flex Lanes - Access

Crossover Entrances

Provide access at both ends of the flex lanes.



Swing Gates

Block crossover entrances when closed.

Net Barrier Systems

Stop vehicles in either direction from entering the flex lanes when closed.



For illustrative purposes only



The flex lanes will be equipped with an electronic gate system and net barriers that slow and stop vehicles from entering the roadway in the wrong direction.

In addition, there will be overhead signs alerting drivers to which direction is in use.

The entire system will be monitored and controlled by ADOT's Traffic Operations Center.



Flex Lanes - Operations

NORMAL OPERATIONS

Open to northbound traffic Monday through Saturday.

Open to southbound traffic on Sunday.

HOLIDAY OPERATIONS

Open direction will be adjusted as needed to accommodate travel during holidays.

INCIDENT OPERATIONS

Open direction can switch to alleviate backups due to congestion or an unexpected incident.

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Typically, the flex lanes will be:

- Open to northbound traffic Monday through Saturday
- Open to southbound traffic on Sundays

ADOT will adjust the direction of the flex lane as needed to accommodate holiday travel and unexpected congestion due to an incident.

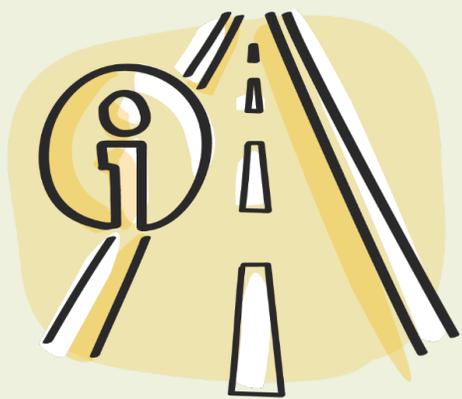
Should an incident occur within the flex lanes, traffic can be diverted back to the southbound lanes.

- There are four locations where barrier gates will be installed in the barrier between the flex lanes and the existing southbound general purpose lanes.
- These barrier gates will allow emergency vehicles to open the gates and clear traffic out of the flex lanes and into the southbound general purpose lanes.



Preconstruction Activities

- Geotechnical Investigations**
To determine soil conditions for roadway design.
- Environmental Surveys**
Such as evaluating bird migratory patterns.
- Plant Salvage**
Removing and relocating viable native plants to a temporary nursery.
- Clearing Median and Shoulders**
To prepare for interstate widening and traffic shifts.
- Overnight Lane Closures**
7 p.m. to 6 a.m.



This project officially started in November 2021. Although construction will not begin until later this year, ADOT and KFJV are coordinating daily to prepare for construction along this critical section of interstate.

As you might imagine, there is a lot of work that needs to happen before construction can begin; for example, the team needs to develop and complete numerous written documents, such as a baseline schedule for the next three years of work, a traffic management plan, emergency action plans, and other critical documents. Then, all of those documents must be reviewed and approved.

Throughout the past few months, drivers may have seen some work along the shoulders or even experienced lane restrictions on I-17 between Anthem Way and Sunset Point. This has been for geotechnical investigations – where large drilling equipment take samples of the ground in various locations to determine soil conditions and assist with the design of bridge widenings and other project elements.

The team also has been working on surveys to identify migratory bird patterns and develop mitigation strategies to prevent conflicts during nesting season. There are months of work that go into a huge design-build project like this before the major construction starts.

Another activity that will take place prior to major construction will be plant salvage, which is the process of relocating viable native species of plants to a temporary nursery and then replacing them after construction.

This work requires weeknight lane restrictions and closures.

Major Construction

Earthwork and Excavation

Balancing material throughout corridor.

Controlled Rock Blasting

Will require brief full closures for safety.

Bridge Widening/Replacements

Will require phased traffic control.

Shoulder Restrictions

Used to widen roadways | emergency pullouts every two miles.



Major construction activities will include what is listed on this slide, and the public should be prepared for the following activities over the next three years:

- Daytime and overnight construction activities
- Traffic detours
- Lane closures (during weeknights, Sundays through Thursdays on the northbound side and Mondays through Thursdays on the southbound side).
- Controlled rock blasting
- Construction noise (e.g., rock blasting and crushing, equipment)
- Construction lighting
- Reduced speeds



Allowable Lane Closure Times

Southbound Lane Closures

- 7 p.m. Mon to 6 a.m. Tues
- 7 p.m. Tues to 6 a.m. Wed
- 7 p.m. Wed to 6 a.m. Thurs
- 7 p.m. Thurs to 6 a.m. Fri
- 7 p.m. Fri to 6 a.m. Sat

Northbound Lane Closures

- 7 p.m. Sun to 6 a.m. Mon
- 7 p.m. Mon to 6 a.m. Tues
- 7 p.m. Tues to 6 a.m. Wed
- 7 p.m. Wed to 6 a.m. Thurs
- 7 p.m. Thurs to 6 a.m. Fri

Construction is not anticipated to impact weekend or holiday travel.

And here is the anticipated schedule and phasing of construction activities through 2025. Please note this schedule is subject to change.



Primary Takeaways



ADOT is improving I-17 north of Phoenix
Enhancing safety, reducing congestion



I-17 open through construction
Travel lanes open on weekends, weekdays and holidays
Weeknight-only lane closures



Before I hand it back to Laura, I'd like to point out two primary takeaways you really need to know, but also share with your friends, family and colleagues.

ADOT is improving I-17 north of Phoenix – this will enhance safety and reduce congestion along this key commerce corridor we all use.

Also, I-17 will be open through construction. There will be no scheduled weekday or weekend lane closures, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The project will require lane closures, which will only occur on weeknights.

With that, I will hand it back to Laura to talk about how you can stay informed throughout the project.

Notifications

Weekly Emails

Lane restrictions on I-17 scheduled for the week ahead between New River and south of Flagstaff Sunday, March 13, through Saturday, March 19
 Arizona Department of Transportation sent this e-alert at 03/12/2022 09:14 PM MST. If you receive late alerts on this and other ADOT news, sign up above to receive our City/Citywide notices. Please check back to email this message again to connect@adot.az.gov for more info.

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Lane restrictions on I-17 scheduled for the week ahead between New River and south of Flagstaff Sunday, March 13, through Saturday, March 19

As work continues on Interstate 17 north of Phoenix for fiber optic cable installation and the [I-17 Improvement Project between Anthem, Ula, and Superstition](#), motorists should expect several intermittent lane closures in the week ahead, beginning Sunday, March 13. The Arizona Department of Transportation urges motorists to **slow down, be prepared to merge into the open lane and use caution around construction personnel and equipment** while the following restrictions are in place:

New River to Black Canyon City

The following nightly lane closures are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. beginning Monday, March 14, and continuing through the morning of Saturday, March 19:

Northbound I-17

- Tuesday, March 15, and Wednesday, March 16:
 - Northbound I-17 will be narrowed to one lane (left lane closed) at the New River bridge (exit 232).
- Thursday, March 17:
 - Northbound I-17 will be narrowed to one lane in increments (left lane closed) between Moore's Gulch (intercept 238) and Rock Springs/Black Canyon City (exit 242).

Southbound I-17

- Monday, March 14, through Wednesday, March 16:
 - Southbound I-17 will be narrowed to one lane (left lane closed) south of Moore's Gulch (intercept 238).

Construction Notices

Construction Notice

Pre-Construction Activities Continue

Northbound I-17 near Moore's Gulch Bridge to just south of Black Canyon City (between intercepts 239 and 242) traffic will be narrowed to one lane overnight between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

CURRENT PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- CLEARING**
Clearing, grubbing, and site removal will occur within the project limits.
- FENCING**
Temporary fencing along right-of-way will be installed and construction signage will be erected.
- TEMPORARY ROADWAY**
Temporary construction roadway and groundwater controls will be installed.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

Please don't drink and drive! Stay safe, sober! Obey construction signs! Minimize Distractions! Plan ahead!

Forward to the U.S. Dept. of Highways Act of 2005, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination and authority, ADOT has adopted measures to the best of its ability to ensure equal access to its facilities. However, the design of temporary construction based on language or visually impaired control Language@adot.gov or 800.368.7323. Requests should be made in writing as possible to ensure the best level of service to address the accommodations.

Contact Us: improving17@adot.gov | www.adot.gov | 877.476.1717

ADOT IMPROVING I-17

Doorhangers

ADOT | I-17 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
ACTIVIDAD DE CONSTRUCCIÓN

Controlled rock blasting is scheduled for /
 La voladura de roca controlada está programada para

**Day, Month No., Year /
 Día, Mes No., Año**

between the hours of / entre las horas de
9 a.m. and / y 5 p.m.

The blasting work is necessary to facilitate construction of the I-17 Improvement Project. Blasting events will be seismically monitored to ensure the vibration levels are contained within acceptable industry levels.

El trabajo de voladura es necesario para facilitar la construcción del Proyecto de mejora de la I-17. Los eventos de voladuras serán monitoreados sísmicamente para asegurar que los niveles de vibración estén contenidos dentro de los niveles aceptables de la industria.

Month / Mes: 2022

Construction Information / Información de Construcción: 877-476-1717 | www.improving17.com



Thanks Jed.

The Project team will keep the public informed of construction activities through several methods:

- Weekly emails sharing upcoming lane restrictions and closures along I-17 and impacted cross streets.
- Construction notices explaining major construction activities and what to expect.
- Doorhanger notices to businesses and residents located near construction areas.

Public Outreach

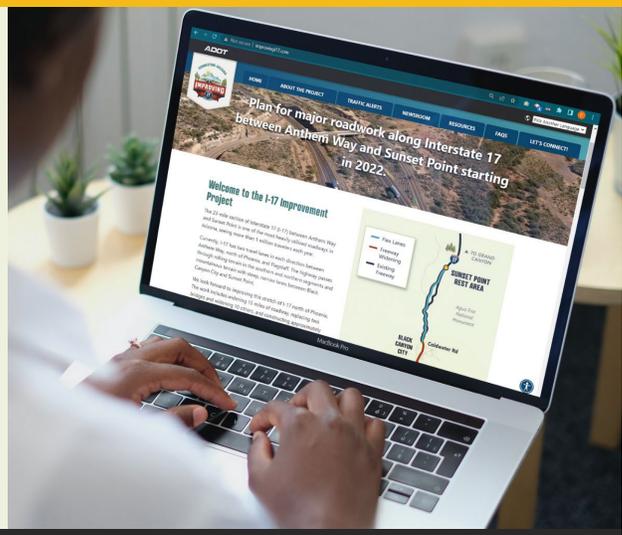


 improvingi17.com

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 877.476.1717

 **I-17 Improvement Project**
c/o Central Creative
24 W Camelback Rd, Suite A-479
Phoenix, AZ 85013



We have several different ways you can comment or ask questions about the project.

You can comment or ask questions:

- By asking the project team during tonight's open house
- Filling out a card or online comment at the Comment Table
- Emailing the team at info@improvingi17.com
- Calling the project hotline at 877.476.1717
- Mailing your questions to the project team

The project website (improvingi17.com) is a great resource for up-to-date information on this major project. You can access the website right now from your smartphone by scanning the QR Code located in the upper right-hand corner of this slide.

Information will be posted regularly under the traffic alerts tab. We encourage you to sign up for weekly construction updates and traffic alerts. Visit improvingi17.com/traffic-alerts... or call 511.



Questions?

Join the Open House and connect with the Project Team until 7:30 p.m.



Once again, thank you very much for your interest in this project and your participation. This concludes the presentation, and we welcome you to visit the open house and speak with project team members, so you can ask questions and provide comments.

