

# Interstate 11

**High-priority projects underway on Nogales to Las Vegas highway**

**Project purpose**

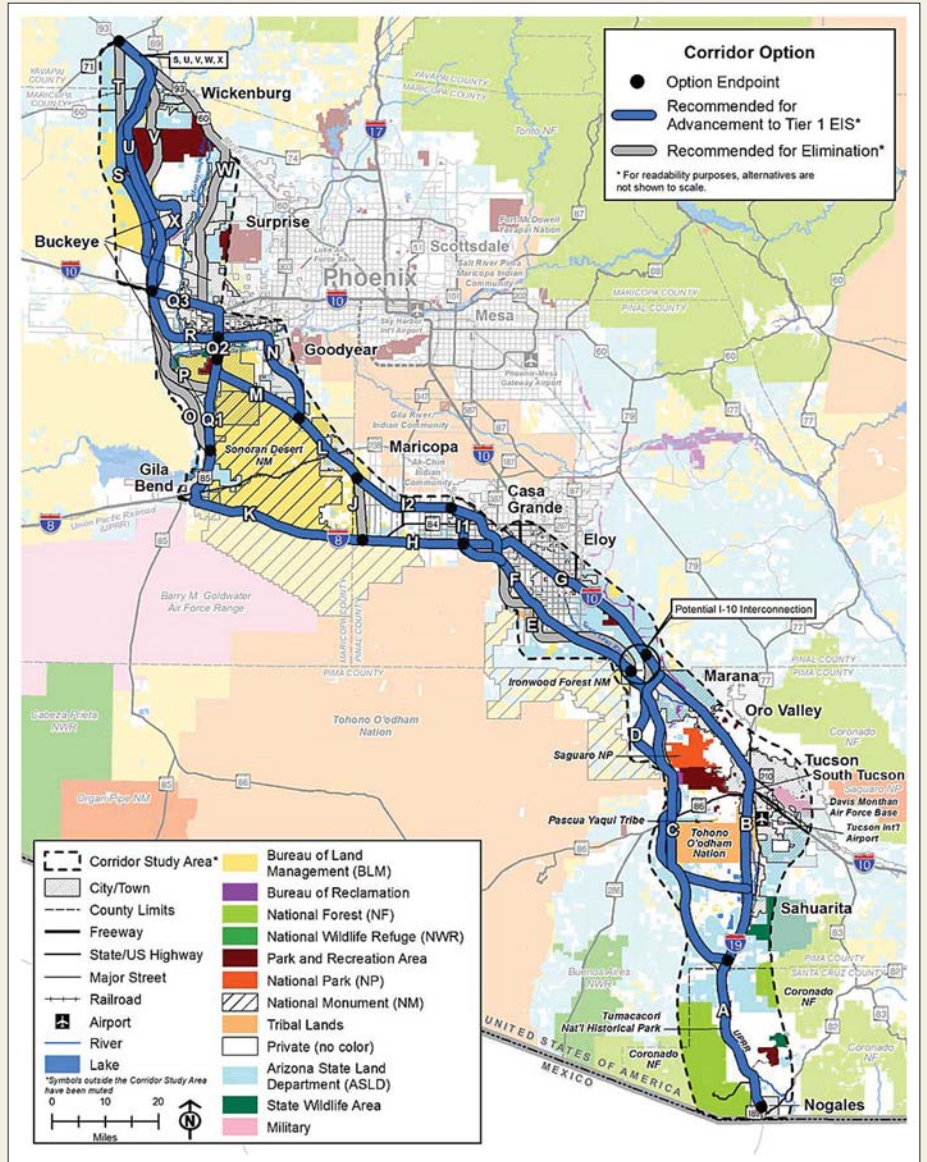
- Provide a high-priority, access-controlled, north-south transportation corridor
- Support improved regional mobility for people, goods, and homeland security
- Connect major metropolitan areas and markets with Mexico and Canada
- Enhance access to the high-capacity transportation network to support economic vitality

New Interstate 11 is planned to (a) connect Phoenix and Las Vegas, the two largest cities in the country not directly connected by an interstate highway; while (b) spanning Arizona from Mexico to Nevada. Since 2014, signs have marked US 93 in Arizona as the “Future I-11 Corridor.” In 2015, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, formally designated the I-11 corridor in Arizona, generally following AZ 189 and Interstate 19 from Nogales to Tucson, I-10 from Tucson to Phoenix, and US 93 from Wickenburg to Hoover Dam on the Nevada state line.

The designation didn’t include funding but identified I-11 as a high-priority corridor eligible for federal funding. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is working with federal, state and local partners to identify funding for I-11, expected to incorporate a combination of new and existing roadways. Having invested over half a billion dollars over 20 years to turn much of the primary route between Phoenix and Las Vegas into a modern four-lane divided highway, ADOT has committed additional funds for US 93 over the next five years.

As I-11 comes closer to reality in Arizona, US 93 would be upgraded to interstate highway standards, including high-spec traffic interchanges. Currently all but 39 miles of the 200-mile drive from Wickenburg to the Nevada state line has been upgraded to a four-lane divided highway to improve traffic flow, support movement of freight and enhance safety through this heavily traveled area. The entire northern segment of US 93 from the Nevada state line to Kingman (mileposts 1 to 68) is now a four-lane divided highway, following completion of a \$71 million project in 2010.

ADOT’s 2019-2023 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program includes more than \$155 million dedicated to projects to improve US 93 from Wickenburg to the Nevada state line north of Kingman, the designated route of I-11. This includes three projects that will widen an additional 11 miles of US 93 to four-lane divided highway and the start of right-of-way acquisition for a



new US 93 interchange with I-40 in Kingman.

ADOT is currently funding and conducting an environmental study to identify a potential 2,000-foot wide corridor for I-11 between Nogales and Wickenburg. The Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement, required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is expected to be complete in late 2019 or early 2020. Tier 2 environmental studies would be required to narrow a corridor into a specific freeway alignment if the build option is selected as part of the Tier 1 study.

In addition to completed and planned improvements on US 93, a \$134 million ADOT project beginning next year will upgrade AZ 189, a 3.75-mile highway connecting Interstate 19 with the Mariposa Port of Entry at Nogales, a route essential to trade with Mexico, Arizona’s largest international trading partner. ■

