

# State board okays ADOT five-year plan

## Major corridor improvements, upgraded pavement conditions coming

**A**rizona's State Transportation Board has approved the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) 2023-2027 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program, setting the stage for expansion and improvement of several highways that carry significant passenger and freight traffic. The approved five-year program allocates \$571 million for projects that widen highways or improve interchanges, including:

**I-17:** Adding lanes along Interstate 17 between Anthem Way and Sunset Point, with construction on the \$328 million project beginning in 2022 (see the cover story in our May-June 2022 issue).

**I-10:** Two major projects to begin widening Interstate 10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande, including \$400 million to widen the highway between Loop 202 and State Route 387 and \$110 million to replace the Gila River bridges. Construction on both projects is targeted for 2023.

**I-40 / US 93:** Constructing the first phase of the I-40/US 93 West Kingman interchange. The plan includes \$145 million for construction in 2024.

**SR 260:** Widening the last two-lane section of

State Route 260 in the Lion Springs area, east of Payson. The plan includes \$109 million for construction in 2026 and would accomplish ADOT's goal of completing a four-lane divided highway along the entire SR 260 corridor.

Additionally, the plan will invest more than \$2.5 billion in pavement preservation projects across Arizona over five years, upgrading 400 lane miles of pavement from fair and poor condition to good condition.

About \$463 million would be invested in projects that improve highway safety, efficiency and functionality, including smart technology or adding shoulders, including \$68.1 million to expand broadband connectivity along I-40 from Flagstaff west to the California state line.

The I-17 and I-10 widening projects are able to advance through ADOT's partnership with the Maricopa Association of Governments, the regional planning agency that has committed some of the funds for those improvements.

The 2023-2027 Five-Year Program also reaches ADOT's goal of allocating \$360 million per year for

preservation of bridges and roadways throughout the state highway system. Preservation projects include repaving and repairing highways, along with repairing or reconstructing bridges.

In general, major projects begin as part of the agency's long-range visioning process, move into a six- to 10-year development program and then become part of the Five-Year Program. The Program is developed by working closely with local and regional planning organizations and community leaders to identify projects that are ready to build or design.

Funding for the Five-Year Program is generated by the users of transportation services, primarily through gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and the vehicle license tax. Both the Maricopa and Pima County regions have independent revenue streams established through voter-approved sales taxes that allow for more expansion projects to take place in those areas.

The final 2023-2027 Five-Year Program can be found at [azdot.gov/fiveyearprogram](http://azdot.gov/fiveyearprogram). ■

