



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Pima Agency

P.O. Box 8

Sacaton, Arizona 85147

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Branch of Real Estate Services

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Project Name: Interstate 10 Corridor Study: State Route 202L to State Route 387

Project Proponent: Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Numbers: ADOT Project Nos. F0252 01L and F0252 02L
Federal Aid No. 010-C(222)S

The Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) Proposed Action on Interstate 10 (I-10) primarily traverses Gila River Indian Community (Community) lands. I-10 in the Community was built on a transportation easement established in 1966 with ADOT, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Community. The Proposed Action would include approximately 26 miles of I-10 median widening, improvements to five traffic interchanges (TIs) and three crossroads, the construction of a new TI, and the decommissioning of an underutilized crossroad. The Proposed Action would require a change in the terms of the 1966 easement and acquisition of Tribal and allotted lands, requiring BIA approval.

ADOT and the cooperating agencies prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) dated August 2022 that describes the potential impacts on the natural and human environment resulting from construction and operation of the Proposed Action. For the purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, ADOT has assumed the Federal Highway Administration's responsibility for carrying out the NEPA environmental reviews and approvals, pursuant to 23 U.S. Code (USC) 327, through a memorandum of understanding dated April 16, 2019, that was executed between the Federal Highway Administration and ADOT. The EA was prepared pursuant to NEPA requirements (42 USC 4321 et seq.) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement NEPA (40 Code of Regulations [CFR] Sections 1500 to 1508). In accordance with 43 CFR 46.320, the BIA Pima Agency has chosen to adopt ADOT's Final EA for the improvements on I-10. The BIA Pima Agency has reviewed the Final EA and has determined that it satisfies all applicable regulations and program requirements specific to the BIA Pima Agency, including public involvement. No augmentation of the Final EA by the BIA Pima Agency is necessary.

BIA's federal action to be undertaken as part of the Proposed Action consist of the following:

- Issuance/approval of rights-of-way and temporary construction easements

Based on the Final EA dated January 2024, it has been determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required (40 CFR 1508.13). Consistent with direction found in the BIA

NEPA Guidebook (59 IAM 3H), the BIA Pima Agency has independently evaluated impacts analyzed in ADOT's Final EA.

ADOT's Final EA and finding of no significant impact are incorporated by reference and are located at i10wildhorsepasscorridor.com. ADOT's Final EA includes a list of documents related to this action, a description of public involvement procedures, and a commitment to implement mitigation measures identified in the EA.

Rachael Larson, Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency

Date