

PART 1. INTRODUCTION

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Northern Parkway between Sarival Avenue and US 60 (Grand Avenue) was approved by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on August 27, 2009, and by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on September 4, 2009. The document evaluated the potential impacts to the human and natural environments that may result from implementation of proposed improvements for Northern Parkway between Sarival Avenue and US 60 (Grand Avenue).

Agencies and the public were invited to review and comment on the Draft EA for a period of 30 days, beginning on October 1, 2009. During this review and comment period, a public hearing for the project was held on October 14, 2009, at Raymond S. Kellis High School at 8990 West Orangewood Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.

Copies of the Draft EA were made available for review at the Glendale Public Library – Velma Teague Branch, Peoria Public Library – Main Branch, Youngtown Library, and Maricopa County Library – El Mirage Branch. The document was also posted on the project web site at www.northernparkway-info.com.

Comments received at the public hearing and during the public comment period are addressed in this Final EA. Comments were received through letters, e-mails, comment sheets, and on the project web site. Public hearing attendees also made comments that were transcribed by a court reporter. All the comments received, and responses to those comments, are included in Attachment 2.

This Final EA responds to all comments received during the comment period and provides additions and changes to the Draft EA, where necessary. This document should be used in conjunction with the Draft EA. It includes the complete list of mitigation measures, changes to the Draft EA (known as errata), public hearing information and transcripts (Attachment 1), the public comment log with responses (Attachment 2), the final Programmatic Agreement for cultural resources (Attachment 3), and copies of agency letters received during the public comment period (Attachment 4). With the completion of this Final EA and the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact by FHWA, the National Environmental Policy Act requirements have been met for this project.