

SCREENING THE SOLUTIONS – JANUARY 2010 UPDATE

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The Pyramid/US 395 Connection Environmental Impact Study is progressing in the evaluation and screening of alternatives in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Study Team implemented a structured Screening Process to equitably assess the effectiveness of the improvement concepts as to how they meet the objectives of the Purpose and Need that was developed at the beginning of the study. Several levels of screening have taken place to reduce approximately 25 concepts down to just a few that will undergo further study. Over the past year, the Study Team, along with input from the public and the RTC Technical Advisory Committee, has studied and evaluated these concepts, resulting in the determination of a handful of concepts that meet the objectives and could, if approved, be designed and constructed.

Following is a summary of the main alignment concepts that will be carried forward into a more rigorous environmental and engineering analysis:

The New Connection from US 395 to Vista Concepts

- ▶ A new freeway between US 395 and Pyramid and an expressway extending east to Vista Boulevard.
- ▶ Service Interchanges located along the new Pyramid Freeway, and either to the west of Sun Valley between Raggio Parkway and Sun Valley Boulevard or at Sun Valley Boulevard.
- ▶ The connector / US 395 System Interchange and associated alignments either at the Parr/Dandini interchange, or to the south between the Clear Acre interchange and the Parr/Dandini interchange.

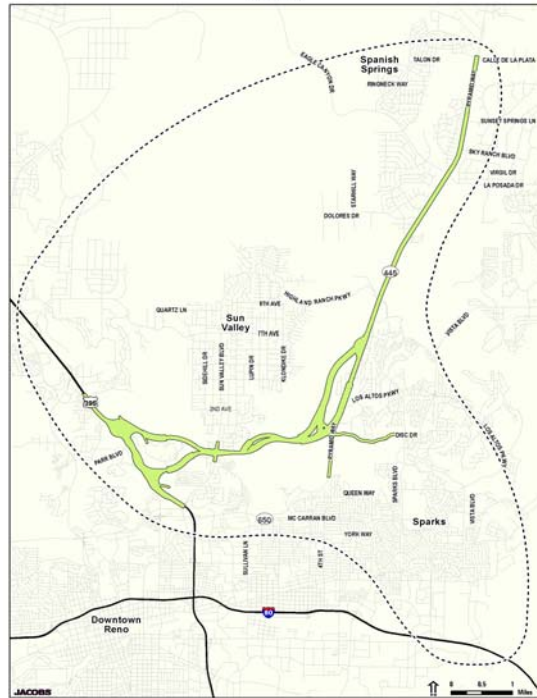
Pyramid Highway Concepts

- ▶ Change Pyramid to a freeway between the new US 395 Connector and Lazy 5 Parkway. Widen Pyramid south of the Connector to Queen Way. Freeway or expressway improvements on Pyramid north of Lazy 5 Parkway.
- ▶ Potential service interchange locations could be at the US 395 Connector freeway, Los Altos Parkway, Sparks Boulevard, and Lazy 5 Parkway.
- ▶ Alternatively, a freeway could be constructed west of existing Pyramid beginning south of Sparks Boulevard.

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 Level 2B Screening - Optional Alignments
 2B - H17



The concept screening to this point has focused primarily on engineering feasibility, qualitative traffic operations, conceptual traffic demand and environmental impacts. Potential relocations and Section 4(f) park and recreation resources factored heavily in the screening process because of their high potential for impacts in this area of the corridor, their ability to be quantified, and because they represent important resources within the NEPA process as well as to the community.

Additional graphical display of the above concepts can be seen by visiting the project website at www.pyramidus395connection.com and click on Study Detail – Alternatives Analysis

NEXT STEPS

The Study Team will be evaluating in more detail the traffic operations for each of these concepts. Further outreach with local agencies, property owners, Community and Neighborhood Advisory Boards, and elected officials will include discussing the details of the benefits and challenges of the remaining concepts being studied.



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