



# *I-19 East Frontage Road* *Canoa Rd to Continental Rd*



## **I-19 EAST FRONTAGE ROAD** **Canoa Road to Continental Road**

The proposed project involves the design of a two-lane Frontage Road between Continental Road and Canoa Road, as well as safety and operational improvements at Continental Road. This will consist of evaluating the connection layout and configuration of the I-19 on and off ramps, the Frontage Road, the entrance and exit for the post office and the future access for a proposed development on the north side of Continental Road. The project will also evaluate the configuration of the northbound ramps and Frontage Road at the Canoa Traffic Interchange, including the appropriateness of a roundabout. The project will also require evaluation and the possible design of one or more bridge structures. Lastly, the project will evaluate the existing operations of the existing sections of Frontage Road to identify any operational deficiencies and make recommendations for improvements to be considered.

# Proposed I-19 East Frontage Road Construction Project Canoa Road to Continental Road

Presentation to The Springs HOA Board  
By HOA member Richard Olsen on March 8, 2007

Funding for this Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) project was provided via the sales tax referendum approved in last November's General Election.

Planning and design work for this major Pima County road project is now underway, and a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) composed of selected Green Valley residents has been set up to review the project and provide input to the County and ADOT concerning any and all engineering and environmental issues related to this project. In addition to the CAC, a number of residents were also selected to serve as "observers" at CAC meetings concerning this project. Springs HOA member Phil Gray was selected to serve on the CAC and a few other Springs HOA members were selected as observers to the CAC proceedings.

The project will consist of four sequential phases:

- 1.) Relocation and reconstruction of the intersection of the East Side Frontage Road and Continental Road, including installation of one or more traffic signals and probable relocation or redesign of the Continental Road turning bay median for outbound Post Office traffic.
- 2.) Widening and upgrading of the East Side Frontage Road from the entrance to The Springs north to Continental Road, including addition of minimum four-foot shoulders on each side of the road and installation of guard rails at points where steep slopes are adjacent to the roadway.
- 3.) Construction of a round-a-bout or other appropriate traffic control structure at the Canoa Exit off I-19 where it intersects the East Side Frontage Road extension (see 4 below).
- 4.) Extension of the East Side Frontage Road south for approximately one mile from the current south terminus (just south of entrance to The Springs) to the Canoa Road Exit of I-19, including construction of multiple bridges spanning existing washes.

It appears at this time that Pima County and ADOT prefer redesign of the East and West Side Frontage Roads to convert them to one-way traffic; northbound on the East Side Frontage Road and southbound on the West Side Frontage Road.

The general ADOT time schedule for this proposed road project calls for all four phases above to be completed within five years. Design and engineering work has already been initiated.

## **Preliminary Issues and Recommendations for the HOA to Consider**

(Issues and recommendations presented below were independently developed by HOA member Richard Olsen and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of The Springs HOA Board of Directors or other HOA members.)

**Issue-(1):** Make sure The Springs HOA has a conduit to appropriately voice concerns concerning this project to Pima County and ADOT.

**Recommendation:** Establish an HOA *ad hoc* committee to interface directly with Phil Gray and also the GVCCC to assure HOA concerns and project recommendations are aired before the CAC and are considered by ADOT at the earliest possible time.

**Issue-(2):** Proposed one-way traffic on the East and West Side Frontage Roads.

**Recommendation:** This proposal would create a very inconvenient and possibly dangerous traffic situation for our HOA members as well as those using the GVR facility at The Springs. This proposal is opposed by the GV Fire Department for safety reasons. My personal recommendation would be for the HOA to oppose the proposed one-way traffic plan.

**Issue-(3):** Sequencing of the four road construction phases. Because of the major disruption and inconvenience to Springs residents and users of the GVR facility at The Springs, it would seem to make more sense to schedule widening and other construction work on the East Side Frontage road between The Springs and Continental Road **after** completion of the extension of the East Side Frontage Road to Canoa Road rather than **before** that work.

**Recommendation:** My personal recommendation would that the HOA suggest to ADOT that construction work on the East Side Frontage Road from The Springs north to Continental Road be initiated after work on the extension of the Frontage Road to Canoa Road is completed. This would greatly minimize delays and inconvenience to the several hundred residents of The Springs as well the thousands of users of the GVR facilities at The Springs. It would also provide quicker unblocked route for Fire Department and Ambulance responses in case of medical emergencies, fires or other disasters such as a hazardous chemical spill on I-19 or the RR line to the east of The Springs during work on the Frontage Road north of The Springs entrance.

**Issue-(4):** Proximity of East Side Frontage Road to I-19. With proposed widening of the East Side Frontage Road, that busy roadway will be less than 50 feet from the northbound lanes of I-19. Because no barrier is proposed between I-19 and the Frontage Road to prevent out of control cars and trucks from coming onto the Frontage Road, it appears likely that accidents will likely occur as traffic becomes heavier over time.

**Recommendation:** Because of the close proximity of the Frontage Road to I-19 it would seem to me appropriate to place a reinforced concrete traffic barrier between the Interstate and the Frontage Road.

**Issue-(5):** Long-term plans for I-19 north of Continental Road call for adding one additional lane on both sides of the Interstate, with installation of sound barriers on both sides of I-19. However, no sound barriers are proposed to protect the residential neighborhoods adjacent to I-19 south of Continental Road.

**Recommendation:** Since this is currently a significant problem, perhaps this issue should be raised during the East Side Frontage Road construction review.