



**US-60/Grand Avenue Corridor Optimization, Access Management Plan, And System Study**

**Public  
Open House**  
June 23-24, 2014

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS COMPASS



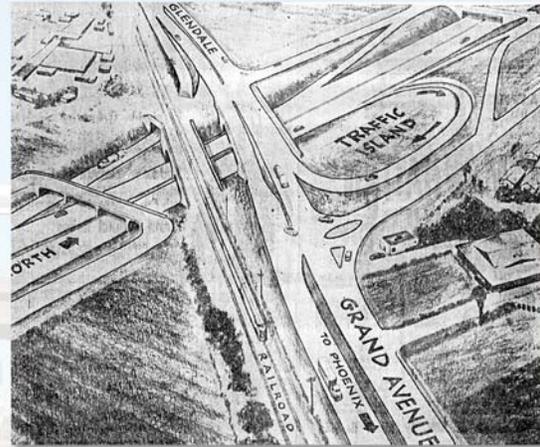
**Project Background**

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## Project Purpose

Unite the communities along the Grand Avenue Corridor to create and implement a long-term vision that embraces the important regional function of the Corridor.

## Project Background



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## Project Partners

The project is being conducted by the Maricopa Association of Governments in collaboration with the jurisdictions along the Corridor.

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## Project Charter

## Project Background

Political leadership signed a Charter in February 2012 pledging to the following study goals:

- Create an **Overall Vision**.
- Cooperatively define the **Operational Character**.
- Establish **Access Management System**.
- Develop **guidelines** for **signage**, **landscaping** and **aesthetic treatments**.



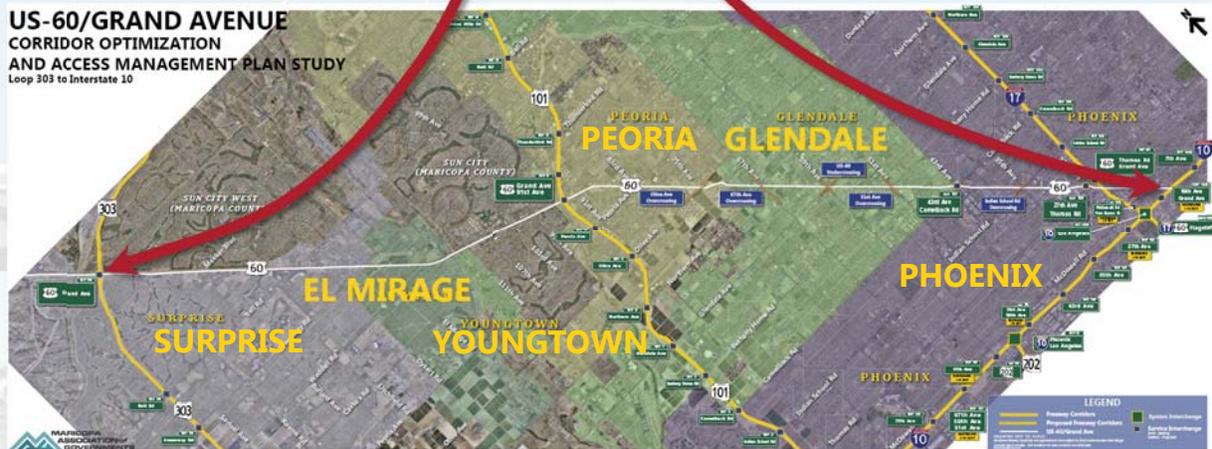
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## Corridor Limits

## Project Background

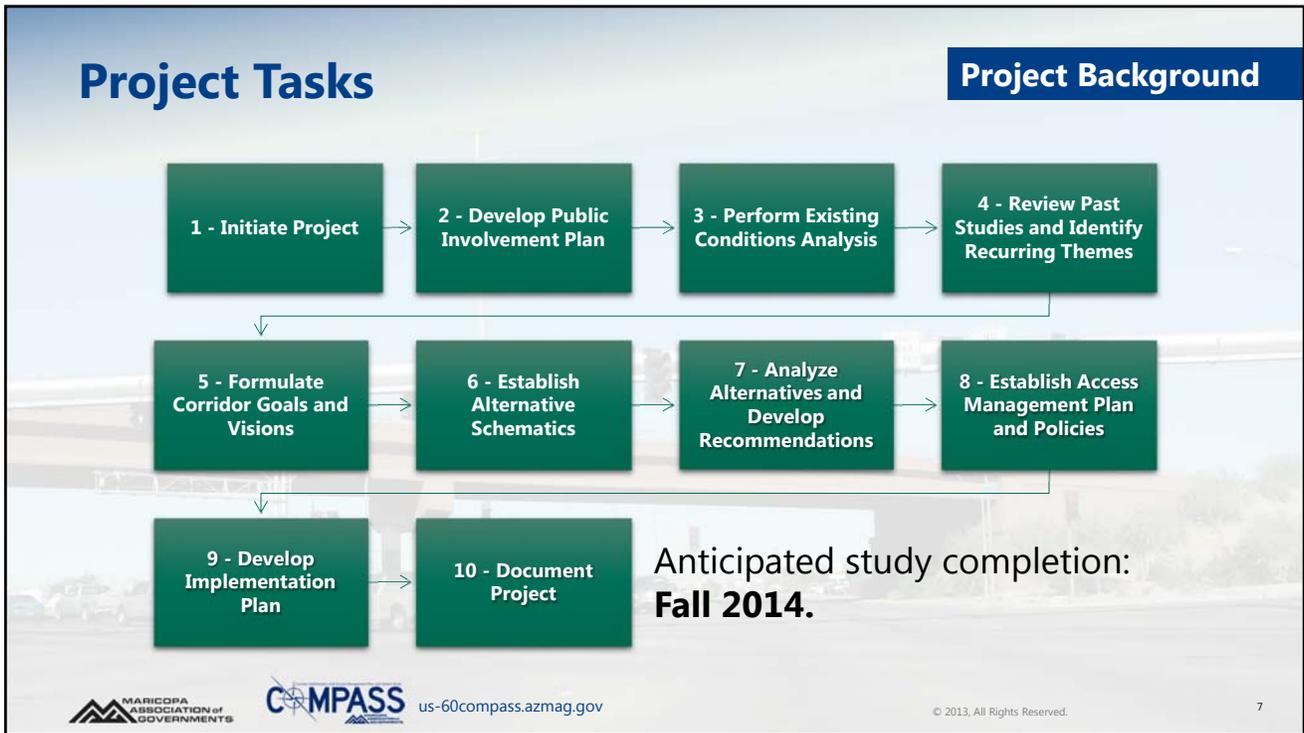
The study extends from Loop 303 to Willetta Street (about 24 miles).



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## Input Received

### Concepts

Over the course of the project, the study team met with:

- Elected leadership and staff from local agencies;
- Planning partners in facilitated focus groups;
- Stakeholders and landowners along the Corridor; and the
- Public at two previous workshops (July 22 and 24, 2013).



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## Based on Input Received

### Concepts

Four Concepts Were Considered, Two Move Forward



Continue with planned improvements from **Regional Transportation Plan**.



Reconstruct the US-60/Grand Avenue **Expressway** Option.



Plan for **Commuter Rail** with **operational improvements**.



Identify **High Capacity Transit Options** with US-60 enhancements.



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**Concepts**



Continue with planned improvements from **Regional Transportation Plan.**

- Maintains current corridor character.
- Leaves economic development opportunities unchanged.
- Requires general plan updates.
- Limits transit options.
- Addresses some operational issues.
- Provides minimalist approach for improvements.
- Requires limited additional funds.

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**Concepts**



Plan for **Commuter Rail with operational improvements.**

- Operates during peak-hour, peak-direction only.
- Limits potential transit ridership.
- Requires BNSF Railway coordination for operation.
- Constrains transit routing within the corridor.
- Calls for additional funds/investment.
- Provides fewer opportunities for station locations.

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# Corridor Optimization



## What is Corridor Optimization?

### Corridor Optimization

Corridor Optimization refers to the ease of traffic flow and safety. This includes:

- Left-turns minimized;
- Improve existing intersections; and
- Introduce up to nine new interchanges.



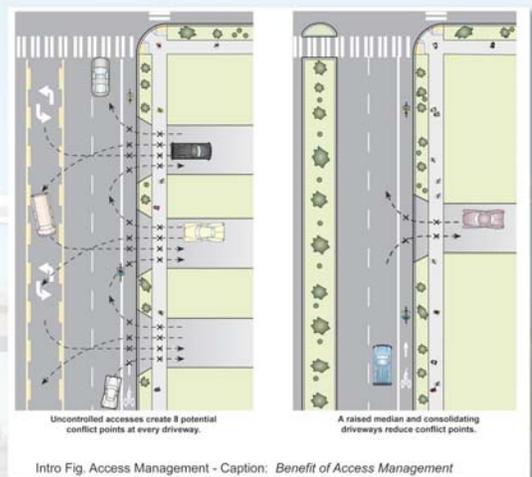
# Access Management



## What is Access Management?

### Access Management

Access management is the systematic control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, interchanges, and street connections to a roadway.



## Why is Access Management Important?

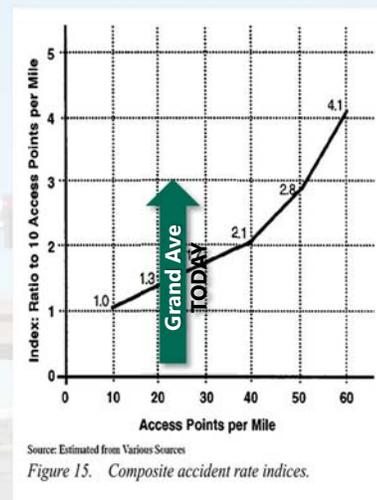
### Access Management

- **Safety benefits:** reduces vehicular crashes and collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Economic benefits:** preserves long-term property values, increases market reach, and supports on-site amenities (such as increased parking availability).
- **Environmental benefits:** improves traffic flow resulting in greater fuel efficiency and reduced emissions.

## There is No Such Thing as "Safe Access"

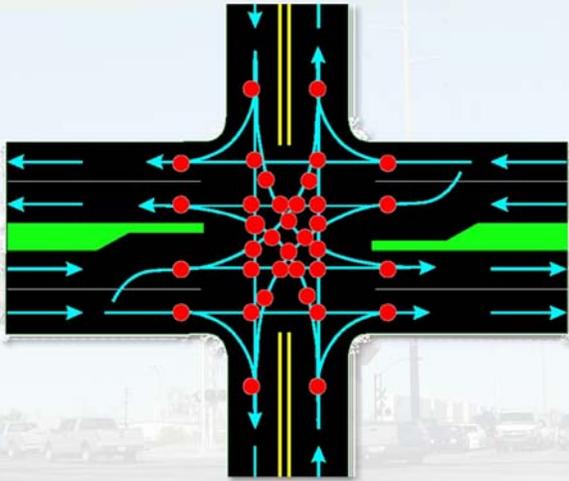
### Access Management

- Each intersection and driveway is an access point.
- As the number of access points per mile **increases**, the **frequency and rate of crashes increases**.
- **Each access point = 4% increase in crash rate.**



## Intersection Conflict Points

### Access Management



Intersections create **conflict points**, or spots where a vehicle can hit another vehicle.

- Four-leg intersections can have **32 conflict points** or more.
- More than **two-thirds** of all access related crashes involve **left-turning vehicles**.



Sources: Teachamerica and Florida Department of Transportation.  
"Traffic Engineering", Vol. 37, No. 3

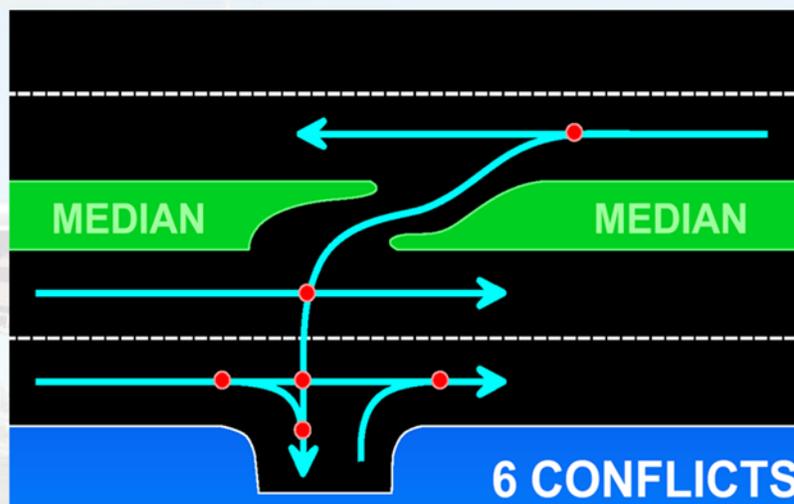
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## Intersection Option: "3/4 Intersection"

### Access Management

Reduces conflict points by preventing "left exits"



Source: Florida Department of Transportation.

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## Access Management Plan

Access Management

### Access Management Plan

A primary objective is to create a long-term plan that:

- Provides guidance for existing and future access points, and
- Establishes an appeal process that safeguards redevelopment opportunities.

Plots of the recommended Access Management Plan are displayed in the room this evening for review and input.



Source: NCHRP 420, Access Management Manual.

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## Workshop Format



## Provide Your Input!

### Workshop Format

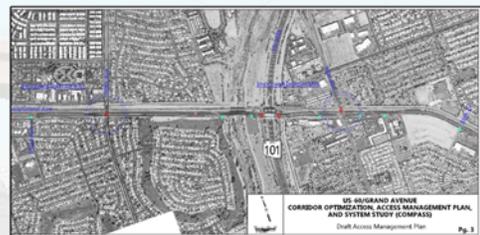
- **Review plots** of the recommended access management plan.
- **Talk with a member of our study team.**
- Provide input on a **comment form.**



## Roll Plot Format

### Workshop Format

-  Proposed access closure
-  Proposed right-in, right-out access
-  Proposed 3/4-movement access
-  Proposed full movement access
-  Proposed intersection improvement
-  Existing traffic signal to be removed
-  Existing traffic signal to remain





The image is a composite graphic. At the top, a horizontal banner contains the project title: "US-60/Grand Avenue Corridor Optimization, Access Management Plan, And System Study". Above this banner, a row of logos includes Surprise, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County, City of Gilbert, City of Scottsdale, City of Tempe, City of Mesa, City of Chandler, City of Peoria, and ADOT. The main background is an aerial photograph of the road corridor, showing "GLENDALE" at the top, "TRAFFIC ISLAND" in a circular interchange, "NORTH" with an arrow pointing left, "RAILROAD" along a track, and "GRAND AVENUE TO PHOENIX" with an arrow pointing right. On the left side, there is a semi-transparent image of a highway interchange with the text "Thank you!" overlaid in blue. At the bottom left, the logos for "MARICOPA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS" and "COMPASS" are displayed.