

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

~REVISED~

DATE:

August 1, 2014

SUBJECT:

Revisions to the National Highway System and Principal Arterial Network in the MAG Region

SUMMARY:

Since the MAG Management Committee agenda was mailed out on July 29, 2014, new information was received, and the City of Phoenix requested two additional roadway changes. Based on this request, staff prepared map option 2F, Revised Principal Arterial Proposal, which was distributed and reviewed at the July 31, 2014, Transportation Review Committee (TRC). At the TRC meeting, the committee recommended approval of option 2F.

Additional changes that are included in Option 2F, as recommended by the TRC include:

1. Tatum Road, from Cave Creek Road to Loop 101, to be downgraded to Minor Arterial and requested for removal from the NHS.
2. Adams Street, from I-17 to 19th Avenue, to be downgraded to Major Collector and requested for removal from the NHS.

The National Highway System (NHS) consists of roadways important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. The NHS includes the Interstate Highway System, other principal arterials, the Strategic Highway Network, Major Strategic Highway Network Connectors, and intermodal connectors. The NHS was developed by the U. S. Department of Transportation in cooperation with the states, local officials, and metropolitan planning organizations. Modifications to the classification of roadways in the arterial network and modification to roadways included in the NHS are required.

Congress automatically added 60,000 miles of roadways that were classified as principal arterials to the National Highway System (NHS) with the enactment of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) in 2012. In Maricopa County, this added approximately 817 centerline miles of member agency owned roadways to the NHS. The NHS is shown on the map, "Current Principal Arterial Network as of October 1, 2012," and these roadways are subject to additional federal restrictions and requirements.

The last major regional update of the functional classification of the principal arterial roadway system occurred in 1992 and it neither reflects the expansion of the regional freeway system and regional growth, nor adheres fully to federal functional classification guidelines as updated in 2013. Working with member agencies, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Street Committee has completed an extensive technical analysis and review of the functional classification of principal arterial facilities and their NHS designation and is recommending a number of changes as shown on map Option 2E. Modifications include:

- The classification of some roadways to principal arterial to address population growth. Addition to the NHS is not requested as they do not meet federal requirements for addition to the NHS.

- The reclassification of a number of roadways to minor arterial, and based on this classification change, their removal from the NHS. The FHWA Office of Planning, Environment and Realty has suggested that the states review the functional classification of roadways to remove facilities that are improperly classified as principal arterial and thereby removal from the National Highway System.
- The removal of NHS designation from a small number of principal arterial roadways to improve the coherence of the NHS in the MAG region. Federal guidance allows for the removal of NHS designation on a case-by-case basis, but does not allow en masse removal of NHS designations. It has been determined by the FHWA that it was the mandate of Congress to add all roadways that were classified as principal arterial as of October 1, 2012, to the National Highway System.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None has been received.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Approval of this action will update the functional classification of the Principal and Minor Arterial network, and will update the National Highway System in the MAG planning area.

It will provide an up-to-date, rational Principal and Minor Arterial network. It will reduce the regulatory burden on member agencies from facilities removed from the NHS resulting from the inclusion of the agency-owned facilities by enactment of MAP-21, and will reduce the scope of anticipated federally required performance and asset management programs for NHS facilities.

CONS: Approval of this proposal will reduce the number of agency-owned roadways eligible to receive National Highway Performance Program funding and may in the future affect federal funding available to member agencies should Congress decide to focus federal funding on the National Highway System.

NHS facilities are assured higher design, construction and aesthetic standards as they are subject to greatly expanded federal oversight and a variety of federal regulations concerning geometrical design, design approvals, sign and junkyard control and quality assurance programs.

In addition, NHS facilities will have to meet statewide performance targets per the Moving Ahead for Progress in the Twenty-first Century (MAP-21) Act. Targets will be based on national goals to be determined within the next 15 months. States will have to establish targets for these measures within one year of the final rule at the national level. Inability to meet performance and asset management targets ultimately may result in reduced National Highway Performance Program shares, federal guidance on allocations at the state level, and potentially, increased state match requirements.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: A principal arterial network review and recommendation have been developed by the MAG Street Committee proposing changes to the Principal Arterial Network and changes to the NHS facilities within the MAG region.

MAP-21 added more than 800 miles of locally owned NHS facilities in Maricopa County that are eligible to receive National Highway Performance Program funding. However, the amount of National Highway Performance Program funding did not significantly increase above the funding sources it replaced and these funding sources were already committed to improvements on the State Highway System. Under federal regulation, the selection of projects for National Highway Performance Program funding resides with the state highway agency.

Federal regulations require that NHS facilities comply with a number of geometric design, sign and junkyard controls and quality assurance program requirements. When these facilities are improved, these facilities must be upgraded to comply with these requirements. Design exceptions for these facilities must receive approval from the FHWA and work performed on these facilities funded from federal sources is subject to increased federal oversight.

Failure to comply with these requirements may expose the owning agency to increased legal liability from crashes and may require the owning agency to NHS standards when federal funds are used to improve the facility.

All NHS facilities need to be included in the performance measures and performance targets to be established for maintaining the system. ADOT would have to commit to implementing improvements that demonstrate progress toward the performance targets, and the ability to meet the minimum standards for NHS facility conditions. The National Highway Performance Program also requires states to develop and adhere to a risk-based, performance-based asset management plan for preserving and improving the NHS.

The requirements noted here are general to provide perspective, and additional requirements may be required. If the Regional Council approves this item, the package will be submitted for approval by the FHWA and ADOT.

POLICY: On May 22, 2014, FHWA issued a letter to ADOT stating that FHWA will implement the requirements on the NHS starting July 1, 2014.

Pursuant to MAP-21 requirements, the U. S. Department of Transportation will publish rulemaking establishing the process for states to develop performance and asset management plans. The facilities identified to be kept in the NHS for the MAG region will be subject to these requirements and have been considered to be critical to the nation's economy and defense. The request to remove a number of principal arterials from the NHS has been the result of a consultation and collaboration between MAG member agencies, ADOT and the FHWA.

ACTION NEEDED:

Recommend approval of the included map Option 2F that updates the functional classification for the Principal and Minor Arterial network and of the modifications in the National Highway System for the MAG region and, as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

At the July 31, 2014 meeting, the MAG Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the modifications to the roadways included in map Option 2F, updating the roadway functional classification for the Principal Arterial Network, and to the modifications in the National Highway System for the MAG region, for approval by the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Avondale: David Fitzhugh, Chair | Gila River Indian Community: Tim Oliver |
| Phoenix: Rick Naimark, Vice Chair | Gilbert: Kristin Myers for Leah Hubbard |
| ADOT: Brent Cain for Floyd Roehrich | Glendale: Bob Darr for Debbie Albert |
| Buckeye: Scott Lowe | Goodyear: Cato Esquivel |
| * Cave Creek: Ian Cordwell | Litchfield Park: Woody Scoutten |
| Chandler: Mike Mah for Dan Cook | * Maricopa (City): Paul Jepson |
| El Mirage: Jorge Gastelum | Maricopa County: John Hauskins |
| * Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel | Mesa: Scott Butler |
| Gila Bend: Ernie Rubi | * Paradise Valley: Jim Shano |

Peoria: Dan Nissen for Andrew Granger
Queen Creek: Mohamed Youssef
Scottsdale: Paul Basha
Surprise: Mike Gent for Dick McKinley

Tempe: Shelly Seyler
Valley Metro: John Farry
* Wickenburg: Vince Lorefice
Youngtown: Grant Anderson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

* Street Committee: Dana Owsiany, Phoenix
* ITS Committee: Catherine Hollow, Tempe
FHWA: Tomas Deitering for Ed Stillings

Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee: Denise Lacey, Maricopa County
* Transportation Safety Committee: Renate Ehm, Mesa

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy
+ Attended by Videoconference

Attended by Audioconference

At the July 22, 2014 meeting, MAG Street Committee recommended approval of the modifications to the roadways included in map Option 2E, updating the roadway functional classification for the Principal Arterial Network, and to the modifications in the National Highway System for the MAG region, for approval by the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Dana Owsiany, Phoenix, Chair Woman
* Steve Beasley, ADOT
Emil Schmid, Apache Junction
Charles Andrews, Avondale
Jose Heredia, Buckeye
Dan Cook, Chandler
Chris Hauser, El Mirage
Tom Deitering for Aryan Lirange, FHWA
Morris Taylor for Wayne Costa, Florence
Tim Oliver, Gila River Indian Community
Tom Condit, Gilbert
Purab Adabala for Bob Darr, Glendale
Cato Esquivel for Hugh Bigalk, Goodyear
Thomas Chlebanowski for Darryl Crossman, Litchfield Park

* Bill Fay, City of Maricopa
Jack M. Lorbeer, Maricopa County
Maria Angelica Deeb, Mesa
* James Shano, Paradise Valley
Scott Bender, Pinal County
Ben Wilson, Peoria
* Janet Martin, Queen Creek
Jennifer Jack for Elaine Cabrera, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Phil Kercher, Scottsdale
Suneel Garg, Surprise
* Isaac Chivera, Tempe
* Jason Earp, Tolleson
* Grant Anderson, Youngtown

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

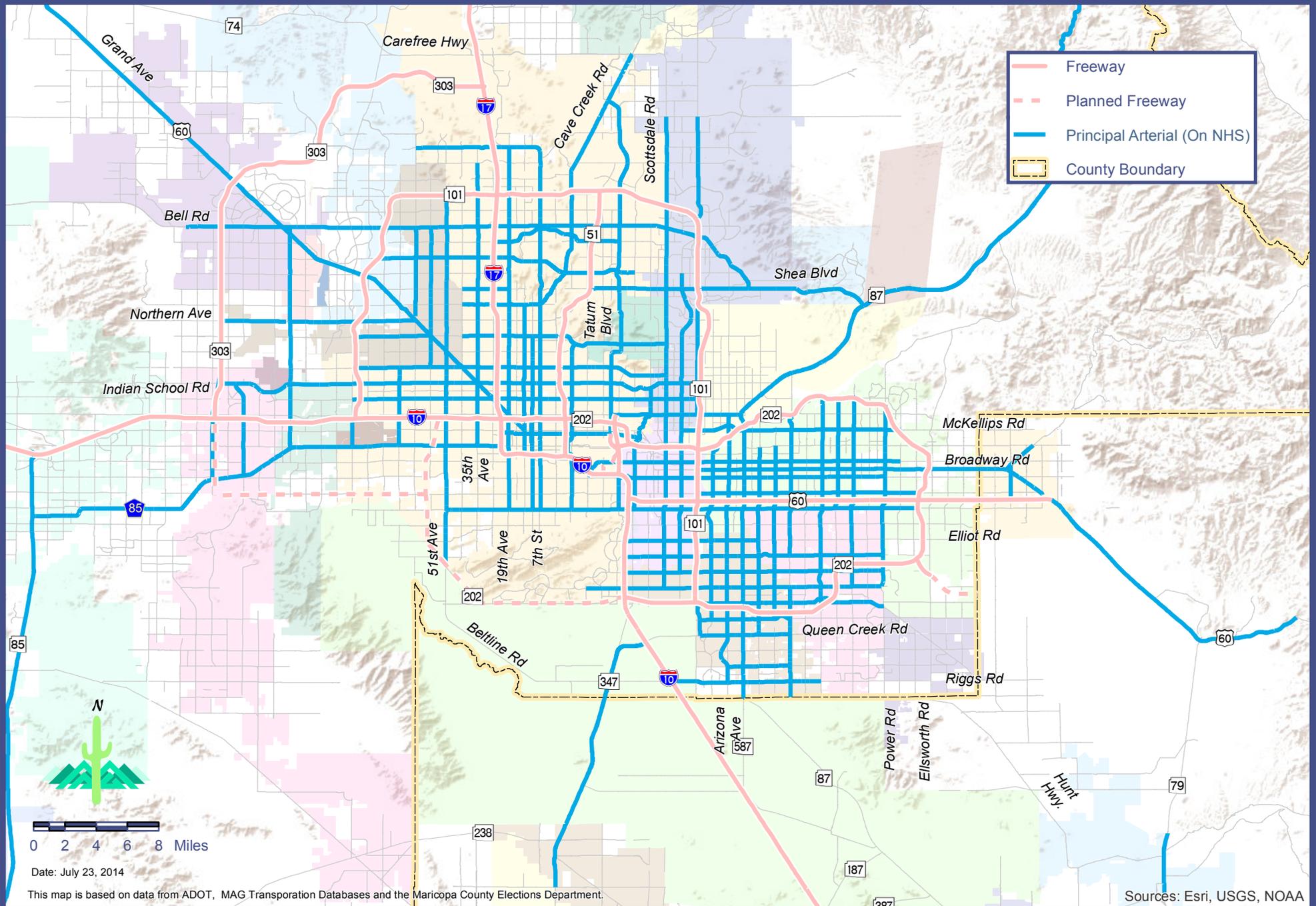
Participated by telephone conference call.

+ Participated by videoconference call.

CONTACT PERSON:

Teri Kennedy, or Stephen Tate, MAG, (602) 254-6300

Current Principal Arterial Network as of October 1, 2012

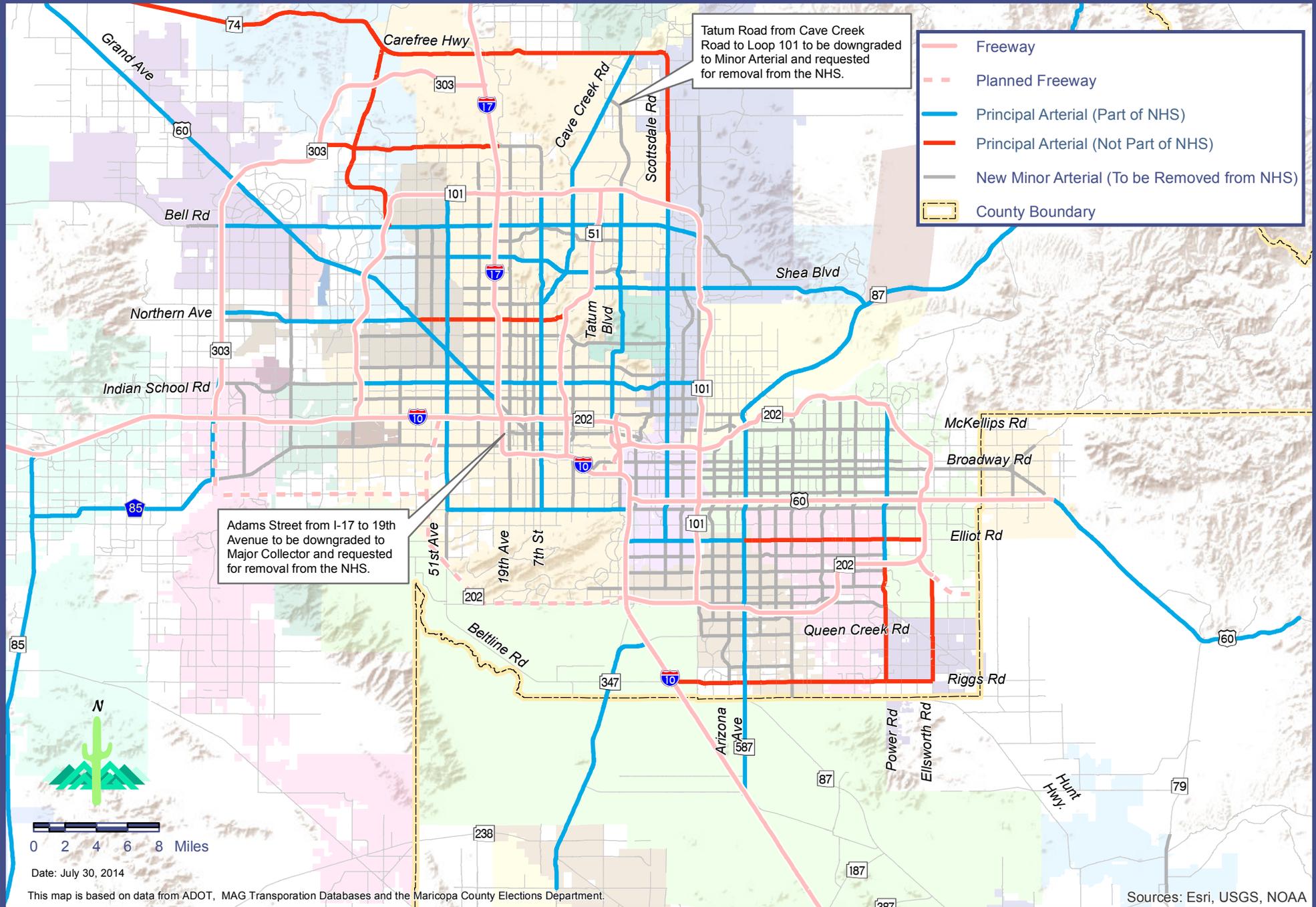


Date: July 23, 2014

This map is based on data from ADOT, MAG Transportation Databases and the Maricopa County Elections Department.

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Revised Principal Arterial Proposal: Option 2F



This map is based on data from ADOT, MAG Transportation Databases and the Maricopa County Elections Department.