

State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad Design Concept Report and Environmental Study

Public Scoping Meeting

July 10, 2012

Maricopa Unified School District Administrative Offices

ADOT Project No. 347 PN 172 H7007 01L | Federal Project No. 347-A(204)A



Welcome and Agenda

- ▶ Meeting Purpose and Format
- ▶ Study Area
- ▶ Project Purpose & Need
- ▶ Project Considerations
- ▶ Previous Studies
- ▶ Roadway Concepts
- ▶ Study Process
- ▶ Q & A

Purpose of Scoping

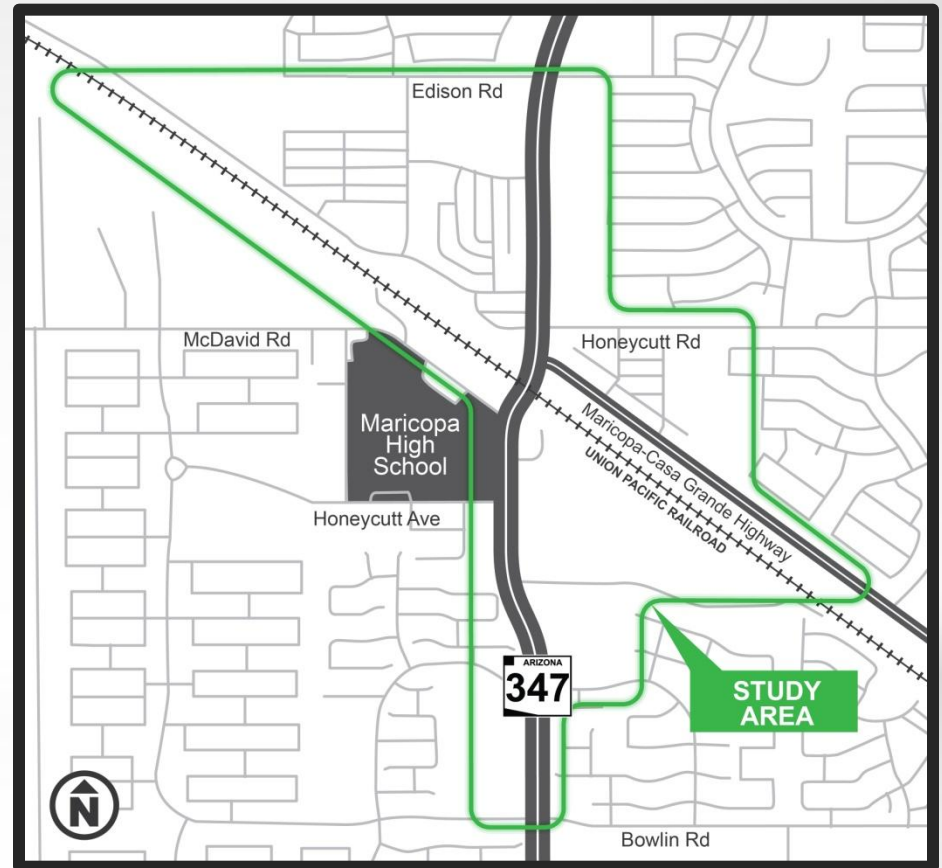
- ▶ Scoping is the first step in the process
- ▶ Provides the public an opportunity to learn about the study and identify issues that need to be addressed

Purpose of the Meeting

- ▶ Provide an overview of the study, the environmental and engineering processes and the project schedule
- ▶ Have a forum for the public to ask questions and provide feedback

Study Area

- ▶ UPRR and SR 347 intersection
- ▶ The study area is within the City of Maricopa
- ▶ The Heritage District surrounds the intersection
- ▶ The Ak-Chin Indian Community is one-half mile south of the study area



Project Purpose

The purpose of the study is to evaluate potential grade separated crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and recommend a solution that would improve safety, access, and mobility, and addresses congestion on State Route 347.

Project Need

The need for this project results from the following issues:

- ▶ Increased transportation demand
- ▶ Limited transportation capacity
- ▶ Safety concerns
- ▶ Transportation infrastructure challenges
- ▶ Operational difficulties due to the adjacent AMTRAK station

Project Need

- ▶ The City of Maricopa is one of the fastest growing communities in the nation
 - Population has grown from 4,000 residents to 45,000 residents in the last decade
- ▶ SR 347 is the main transportation corridor through the community, serving as a regional connector to major employment and recreation areas
 - Daily traffic averages approximately 34,000 vehicles per day
 - Future traffic projections (2030) show as many as 69,000 vehicles per day

Project Need

- ▶ SR347 crosses the existing Union Pacific Railroad, which is currently double tracked
 - Currently 40-60 trains per day
 - Plans for up to 100 trains per day in the future
- ▶ Amtrak's Maricopa Station is located adjacent to the SR 347/UPRR intersection
 - Passenger operations routinely stop traffic for 20 to 30 minutes resulting in substantial traffic delays
 - May 7 schedule change potentially increases the traffic impact

Project Considerations

- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Historic Properties
- ▶ Land Use/Local Planning
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Pedestrians and Bicycles
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Property Impacts
- ▶ Utility Impacts
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Visual Conditions
- ▶ Floodplains/Drainage
- ▶ Geology
- ▶ Soils
- ▶ Threatened or Endangered Species
- ▶ Vegetation
- ▶ Water Quality/ Resources

Previous Studies

▶ 2007

- SR 347 Feasibility Report/Environmental Overview
- Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway Project Assessment

▶ 2008

- City of Maricopa Regional Transportation Plan Update
- Regionally Significant Routes Plan for Safety and Mobility

▶ 2009

- City of Maricopa Heritage District Area Plan

▶ 2010


- City of Maricopa Master Drainage Plan




Feasible Concepts

- ▶ Three concepts were identified for further study/analysis upon the completion of the 2007 Feasibility Study
- ▶ This study will analyze and refine the recommended alignments from the 2007 Feasibility Study and develop additional alignments to address the purpose and need
- ▶ Consider a “No-Build” option

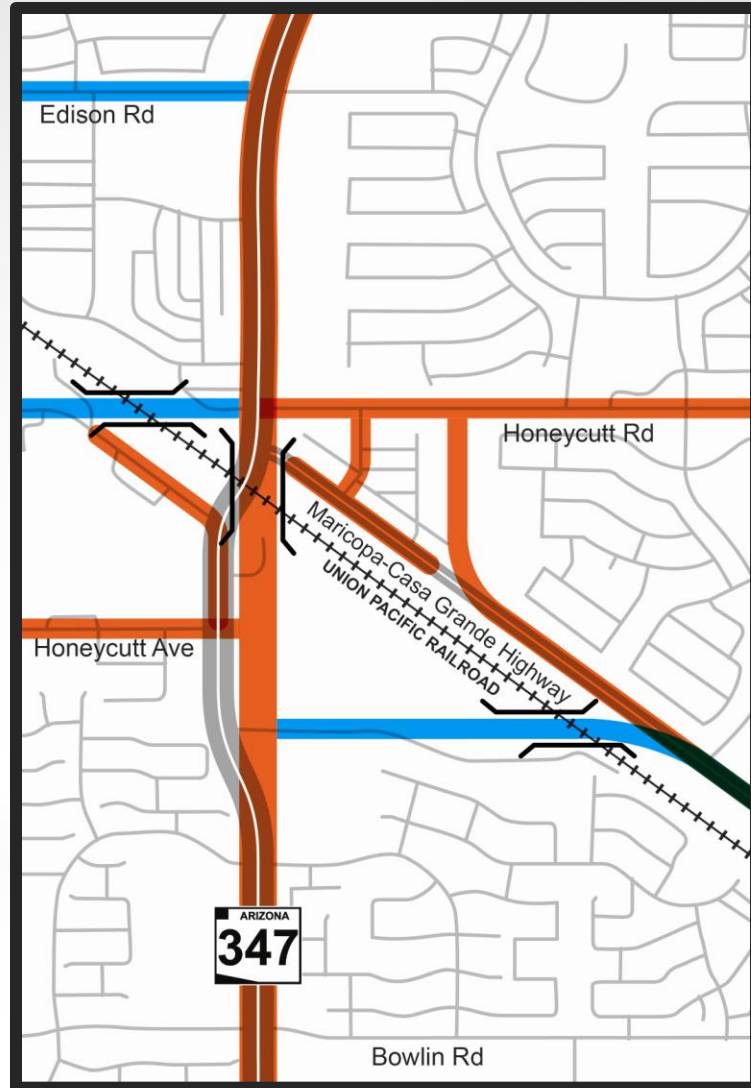
Concept 1*

LEGEND




-  Initial Roadway Network
-  Phasing Opportunities
-  Bridge




Map not to scale.



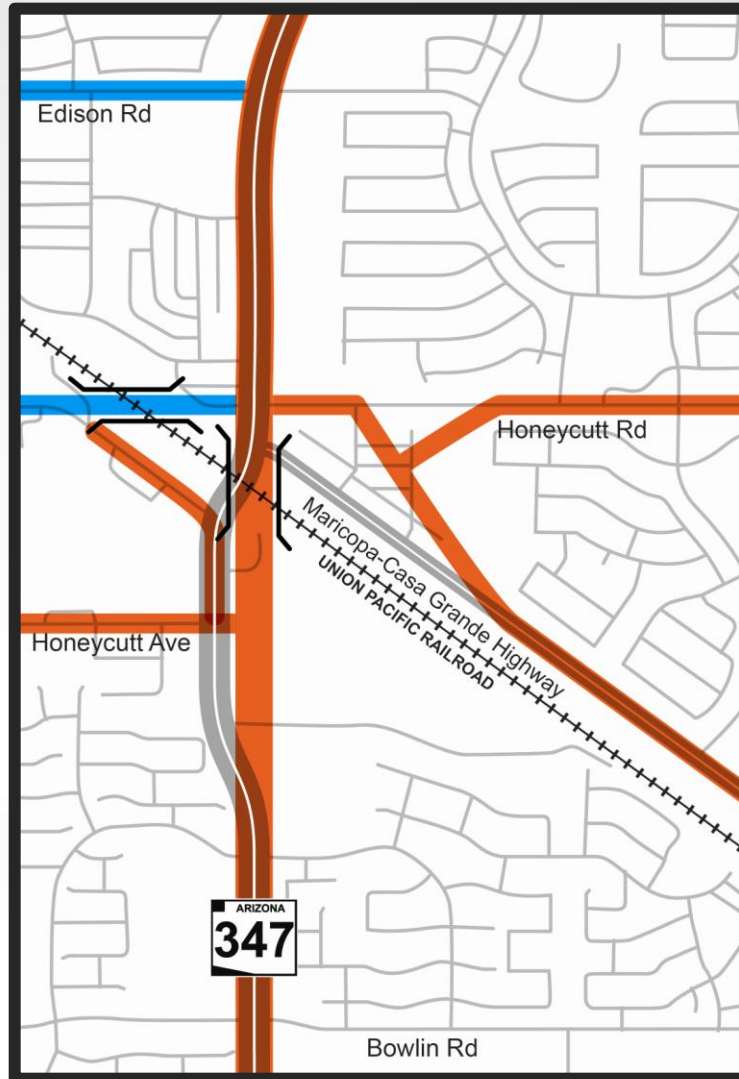
*Feasibility Study Option 2

Concept 2*

LEGEND 

-  Initial Roadway Network
-  Phasing Opportunities
-  Bridge


Map not to scale.






*Feasibility Study Option 3

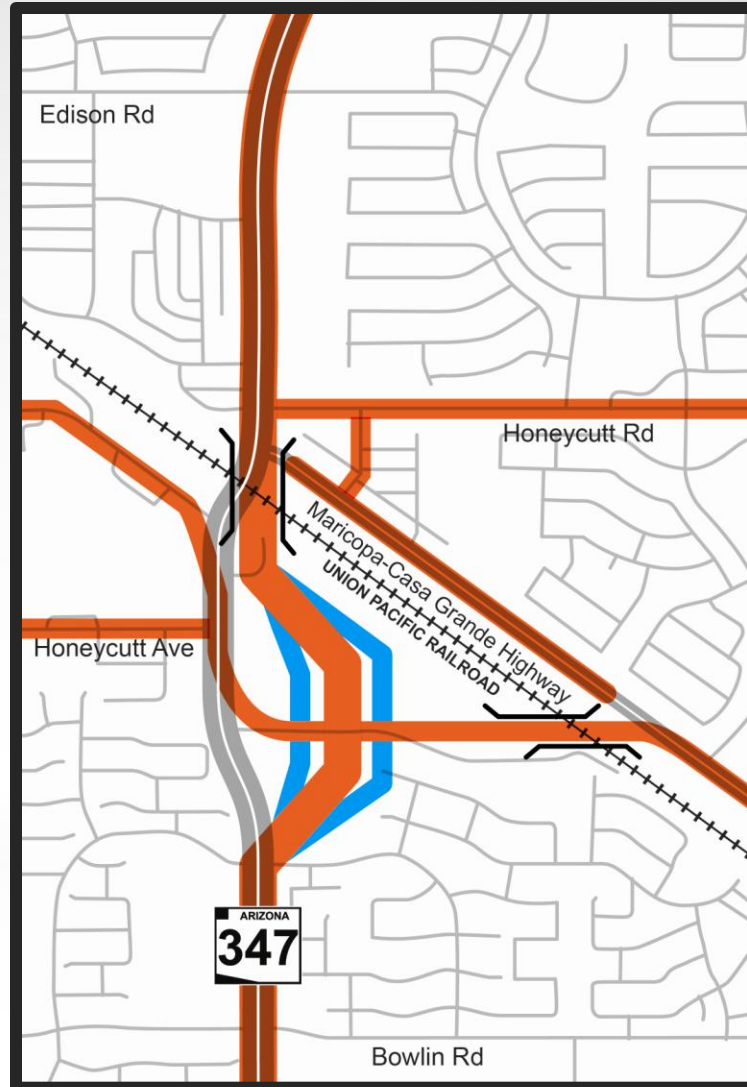
Concept 3*

LEGEND



-  Initial Roadway Network
-  Phasing Opportunities
-  Bridge

Map not to scale.



*Feasibility Study Option 5

Study Process



Your Input is Important

- ▶ Providing comments tonight
 - Use the comment card
 - Turn in written comments

- ▶ Comment Period Ends August 1, 2012
 - Mail in written comments
 - c/o SR347, 1655 W Jackson, #126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007
 - Fill out the online form
 - azdot.gov/347GS
 - Email comments
 - projects@azdot.gov
 - Phone
 - 855.712.8530

Thank you for attending

Please contact staff if you have any additional
concerns or questions

855.712.8530