

Gila County



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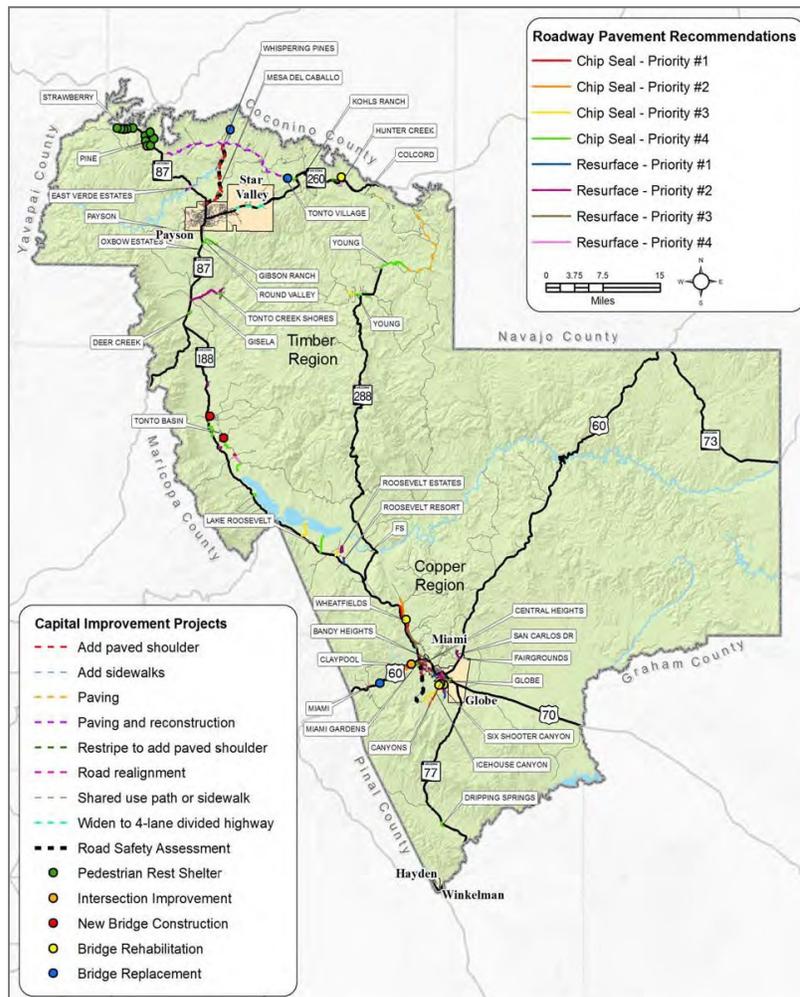
SUMMER, 2014

GILA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY RELEASED

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) awarded funding for a Gila County Transportation Study through the Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) program. The purpose of the PARA program is to assist rural counties, cities, towns, and tribal communities in addressing a broad range of multi-modal transportation planning issues.

The principal purpose of the Gila County Transportation Study, which was prepared by the engineering firm of *Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.*, was to identify the most critical transportation infrastructure needs within Gila County and recommend a program of improvement projects to address these needs. Transportation needs were grouped into the following elements: roadway, safety, pavement management, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transportation finance. Projects were also analyzed and prioritized as Near-Term (*FY 2015-FY 2019*), Mid-Term (*FY 2020-FY 2024*), and Long-Term (*FY 2025-FY 2034*), including maintenance of current facilities.

The study area for the Gila County Transportation Study was all transportation facilities within Gila County that are owned or maintained by Gila County. This excluded transportation facilities owned and maintained by Gila County's incorporated communities and Indian reservations, as well as the state highways owned and maintained by ADOT, although it did include the connecting points between these facilities and those facilities owned or maintained by Gila County.



The entire 220-page study can be viewed on the Gila County website at:

http://www.gilacountyaz.gov/documents/public_works.php

A more user friendly 4-page summary pamphlet prepared by *Kimley-Horn* is available by calling the Globe Courthouse at (928) 425-3231.

NEWSLETTER

COUNTY
HOLIDAY
CLOSURES:

Monday,
September 1
LABOR DAY

**Gila County Housing Services
Minor Home Repair Program**

Gila County Housing Services operates a minor home repair & adaptations program for low income citizens. With funding from Arizona Community Action Association, Freeport-McMoRan Copper Mine, and the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, we are able to assist approximately 75 low income residents per year. Some common examples of the services provided include: installing grab bars, medical adaptations, repairs to heating and cooling systems, replacing old refrigerators, electrical repairs, plumbing, and water heater and sewage system repairs/replacements.

Recently, Nick, an elderly veteran, was in desperate need of repairs to his porch and wheelchair ramp. He was unable to use his electric scooter to go in and out of his home due to the dilapidated state of his porch. He frequently had accidents and tipped over in his chair, having to wait until someone came to check on him to help him back up. Nick was forced to leave his scooter outside and had to make his way inside past the sunken section of the porch. Nick contacted Estelle Belarde, Housing Services Administrator, to ask for help. While Nick met the eligibility for the minor home repair program, only \$1,500 was available to repair the ramp and provide a safe entrance. Estelle was not deterred by the lack of funding. She contacted John Odonetto of Mountain Retreat Builders to get an estimate on the repairs. Mr. Odonetto went out to meet Nick and inspect the project, knowing that the cost to make the needed repairs would likely far exceed the program dollars available. After his meeting with Nick, Mr. Odonetto was touched by Nick's circumstances and decided to follow his heart. Mountain Retreat Builders made all the necessary repairs to Nick's ramp and settled for the program dollars available. Nick's porch, rails, and wheelchair ramp were recently completed. He is happy as can be and he can get his scooter in and out of his home now. He is now safer and more mobile thanks to Gila County Housing Services and Mountain Retreat Builders.



BEFORE:
sunken, dilapidated and dangerous

AFTER:
U.S. Veteran Nick is safer in his home and
can live more independently



**Gila Employment and Special Training Program
Day Treatment Adult Centers are thriving in Globe and Payson**

The Gila Employment and Special Training (GEST) Program opened a new Day Treatment Adult Center (DTA) in Globe on October 10, 2013. The DTA center is located in the former “*Tuffy Tiger*” building on Cedar Street. The Payson GEST Program has operated a DTA facility for the past six years.

With this new Globe facility, consumers of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) program have space to complete activities and work on meeting their individual service plan objectives. Formerly, they were occupying the conference room at Gila County’s Central Heights complex, and were quite frequently displaced due to meetings and workshops.

The DTA centers offer DDD consumers services to enhance and improve their quality of life while being conscious of their abilities and limitations. The DTA programs operate from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Consumers are assisted with their social, physical, living, and employment skills while increasing their ability to be independent.

The Payson DTA hosts 10 consumers and the Globe DTA serves 9 consumers.



*Globe DTA Consumers (l-r):
Kenton, Jerry, Manuel, Ricky,
David, David, Eric, and Malin.*



*Payson DTA Consumers
enjoying a snack are (l-r):
Kim, Karina, Jenna , and
Elizabeth*

Board of Supervisors Seeks Continuation of Current 1/2-cent Transportation Excise Tax

A measure will be submitted to the voters by the Gila County Board of Supervisors at the November 4, 2014 General Election requesting the continuation of the County's 1/2-cent Transportation Excise Tax. The current tax, which has been in effect for 20 years and will expire on December 31, 2014, has provided funding for over \$30M in transportation improvements.

Written arguments supporting or opposing the measure, which cannot exceed 200 words, will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2014. These comments should be directed to the Gila County Clerk of the Board, 1400 E. Ash Street, Globe, AZ 85501. These arguments will be printed in the election publicity pamphlet to be mailed to each household containing a registered voter prior to the start of early voting. More information is available by contacting the office of the County Manager at (928) 402-4344.

Interested persons may view the January 2014 Transportation Study prepared by *Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.* and commissioned by the Arizona Department of Transportation on the home page of the County website at www.gilacountyaz.gov, along with the Board's June 24, 2014 Resolution #14-06-09 providing the funding for street and highway purposes.

Previously Funded Improvements

Major Projects Implemented Using Transportation Excise Tax Funds

Road Projects (New and Reconstructed)

	Cost
Arcadia Drive	\$220,221
Bixby Road	\$146,523
Cline Boulevard	\$272,912
Colcord Road	\$188,081
Control Road	\$340,575
Copper Hills Road	\$114,690
Fairgrounds Road	\$343,536
Fossil Creek Road Phase 1 & 2	\$3,354,071
Hospital Road (Besich)-Rose Mofford Way	\$924,654
Icehouse Canyon Bridge	\$1,440,174
Kellner Canyon	\$87,841
Pine Creek Canyon	\$1,586,694
Russell Road Turn Lanes	\$903,433
Six Shooter Canyon Road	\$2,217,869
Star Valley Left Turn Bay	\$413,411
Tonto Creek Bridge Engineering	\$369,402
Wheatfield Road (Old 188)	\$431,086
Young Road (FS 512)	\$543,571
TOTAL COST	\$13,898,744

Other Expenditures Funded Through the Transportation Excise Tax Funds

Project	Cost
Star Valley Maintenance Yard built in 1996	\$1,414,000
Approximate Maintenance costs for Chip Seal/Paving and supplies since 2002 (average cost \$600,000 per year)	\$5,400,000
Capital Equipment purchases since July 2007	\$1,975,171
Indirect costs from 9/2009 to 2/2013	\$2,063,596
Public Works Buildings contribution	\$1,400,000
TOTAL COST	\$12,252,767

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED THROUGH CURRENT EXCISE TAX

As shown in the tables, transportation excise tax expenditures have included major roadway construction or safety improvements, paving projects, maintenance projects, and other County needs, such as equipment, a maintenance yard in Star Valley, and related expenses.

Excise taxes funded over \$38 million in transportation improvements throughout Gila County between 1999 and 2012