



# TOWN OF WICKENBURG

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May 27, 2014

Mr. Michael Kies, P.E.  
Director of Planning & Programming  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
206 South 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Town of Wickenburg Position Statement on Interstate 11 Alignments**

Dear Mr. Kies:

Thank you for providing stakeholders the opportunity to comment on potential alignments during the final stages of the I-11 & Intermountain West Corridor Study. On May 19, the Wickenburg Town Council voted to formally endorse Alternative G/H/LL/MM and oppose Alternative I.

Alternative G/H/LL/MM provides Wickenburg with the most opportunities to enhance its economic base and maintain its unparalleled quality of life. Although the studies necessary to design the I-11 corridor have not yet been conducted, it is likely this alternative will also be the most sensible from technical and cost standpoints.

While we appreciate ADOT's consideration of Alternative I, it is not practical and would cause irreparable harm to Wickenburg's historic downtown. The amount of right-of-way necessary to implement Alternative I would require extensive condemnation of homes and businesses along US 60 and US 93, forever altering the landscape that has made Wickenburg a destination.

The Town's support of Alternative G/H/LL/MM hinges on several factors critical to Wickenburg's future:

- **Minimal Impact on Vulture Mountains Regional Park:** Outdoor recreation and preservation of the pristine desert environment are cornerstones of Wickenburg's economy and quality of life. In particular, ADOT should select an alignment that minimizes I-11's impact on the Vulture Mountains Regional Park and Recreation Area.
- **Continued Investment in US 60:** I-11's intersection with US 60 should be aligned as close as possible to Wickenburg's western boundary, facilitating future annexations and economic development. Further investment must also be made in US 60, including widening the highway from the future I-11 interchange to present-day Wickenburg and posting appropriate signage at both ends of the community. These improvements should emphasize I-11's role as a freight corridor while maintaining the US 60/US 93 "Interim Bypass" as the preferred route for leisure travelers and passenger vehicles.
- **Continued Investment in US 93:** ADOT should acknowledge that construction of I-11 is years away and continue to champion improvements to US 93 between Wickenburg and I-40. Investment in this corridor is critical for both safety and commerce; completion of a Design Concept Report (DCR) for the section known as "The Gap" remains among Wickenburg's highest priorities.
- **Elimination of SR 74 Extension:** The SR 74 connector between US 60 and I-11, as proposed in the Hassayampa Framework Study for the Wickenburg Area report, should not be considered. Its construction would have a negative impact on the Vulture Mountains Regional Park and Recreation Area and function as a true bypass of Wickenburg's existing business community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important study. The Town looks forward to being included as a key partner as additional analyses occur and the corridor continues to take shape.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions at any time.

**Mr. Michael Kies, P.E., Arizona Department of Transportation**  
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Sincerely,



John H. Cook  
Mayor

cc: Honorable Members of the Wickenburg Town Council  
Mr. Joshua H. Wright, Town Manager, Town of Wickenburg  
Ms. Julie Brooks, Executive Director, Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Dennis Smith, Executive Director, Maricopa Association of Governments  
Mr. Rem Hawes, Hassayampa Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management  
Mr. R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation  
Mr. Alan Abare, Chairman, Wickenburg Economic Development Partnership

