

**ORIGINAL**

January 25, 2017

Arizona Corporation Commission  
 Office of Railroad Safety  
 Attn: Chris Watson  
 1200 W Washington Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007

RR-03639A-17-0020

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Dallas Hammit, State Engineer  
 Steve Boschen, Division Director

Arizona Corporation Commission

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*GB*

**RE: APPLICATION TO INSTALL A NEW GRADE SEPARATED CROSSING AND REMOVE AN EXISTING PUBLIC AT-GRADE CROSSING**

Project: CONSTRUCT RAILROAD OVERPASS  
 Location: Interstate SR347, (City of Maricopa & Pinal County, Arizona)  
 Federal Project # FA -347-A (204) A  
 ADOT Tracs # 347 PN 173 H700701D  
 Remove crossing AAR/DOT # 741343C  
 RRMP: 897.80  
 Install new overpass crossing #441143P

Mr. Watson,

This application is being submitted to allow the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to construct and maintain a new grade separated structure and to allow the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to remove an existing at-grade public crossing in the City of Maricopa, Arizona.

**1. Project Location and Description**

The new SR 347 traffic overpass will be located approximately 412 feet east of the existing at-grade SR 347 crossing, DOT #741343C this overpass is part of the SR 347 at Union Pacific Railroad project for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The entire project is located in Maricopa, Arizona.

The project consists of relocating and widening SR 347 between Alterra Parkway and Edison Road. As part of this project, SR 347 will be elevated over the UPRR right-of-way and Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, a local City of Maricopa street. SR 347 will be reconstructed to a six-lane facility with medians, shoulders, and sidewalks. Several local streets will be reconfigured to accommodate the elevated SR 347. These include Honeycutt Road, Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, and Honeycutt Avenue. Other minor improvements will be required on existing SR 347 to complete the closure of the existing at-grade crossing including the installation of cul-de-sacs. This configuration will allow for the removal of the existing at-grade crossing on SR 347 while maintaining access to/from local streets.

Additional improvements that will be completed as part of this project within Union Pacific Railroad include pier construction for the overpass bridge construction, drainage (storm drain) improvements, and utility relocations.

The existing at-grade crossing is under the jurisdiction of the ADOT, and will be closed as part of this project. Remaining portions of existing SR 347 north and south of the existing at-grade crossing will be transferred to the City of Maricopa after the overpass construction is complete.

The grade separation segment of the project is anticipated to begin construction in the fall/winter of 2017; but we are doing some pre-bridge activities in the area before building the bridge. Construction is anticipated to take 20-24 months. The existing SR 347 at-grade crossing will remain open throughout the majority of the construction timeframe to facilitate traffic movement as the next closest crossing is 2.5 miles away. To facilitate construction activities to either side of the at-grade crossing, ADOT is requesting that the UPRR be allowed a minimum of 36 months to remove the at-grade crossing after issuing the order.

The project website is: <https://www.azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/sr-347-at-union-pacific-railroad/overview>

#### **Why the crossing is needed**

The Design Concept Report entitled *Final Design Concept Report – SR 347 at Union Pacific Railroad* was completed by the Arizona Department of Transportation in March 2015. The report identified a new grade-separated crossing for SR 347 and Union Pacific Railroad for the need to “alleviate current and future congestion on SR 347 and to address operational concerns created by the roadway’s at-grade intersection with the UPRR tracks.”

The Design Concept Report can be accessed via the internet at:

<https://www.azdot.gov/projects/south-central/sr-347-at-union-pacific-railroad/documents>

#### **2. Construction Phasing**

Construction is expected to start by the fall/winter of 2017. Existing SR 347 at-grade crossing will remain open to general traffic for the majority of the construction. Once the overpass is completed and in service, the at-grade crossing can be removed. Our contractor will coordinate and receive approval from the Union Pacific Railroad to use the crossing during construction.

#### **3. Maintenance of the grade separated overpass**

ADOT will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the SR 347 overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Union Pacific Railroad will be responsible for removing the at-grade crossing and maintaining their infrastructure.

#### **4. Project Funding**

The project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration, City of Maricopa, Maricopa Association of Governments and Arizona Department of Transportation.

This project will be advertised in the summer/early fall of 2017 and is estimated to cost approximately \$36M with the SR 347 overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad estimated to cost **\$22,308,423.00**

The Union Pacific Railroad contribution to the project has been estimated at **\$1,115.421** the costs for the relocation of railroad signal lines and the removal of the **SR 347** at-grade railroad crossing will be the responsibility of Union Pacific Railroad.

5. Other information (based on typical Staff Data Requests):

- CW1-1 2013 ADT for SR 347 – North of UPRR: 32,400vpd; South of UPRR: 29,900vpd
- CW1-2 2012 Intersection LOS (EB/WB): SR 347/ Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway – B/B; SR 347/Honeycutt Avenue – B/B
- CW1-3 Past Traffic Studies: A Feasibility Study examining a grade separated crossing at SR 347 was completed in 2007. Design Concept Report for SR 347 at Union Pacific Railroad was completed in March 2015. Copy of the Design Concept Report is available on ADOT website.
- CW1-4 Population: 2012 estimated population of Maricopa is 42,000 persons
- CW1-5 Existing Railroad Safety Devices: SR 347 at-grade crossing is currently protected by cantilevered flashing lights and gates for both directions of travel on SR 347. Signal preemption is present for the SR 347/Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway signalized intersection.
- CW1-6 Adjacent Public Crossings: The nearest public crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad are as follows: (1) Porter Road 2.5 miles to the southeast; (2) Ralston Road 4.4 miles to the northwest.
- CW1-7 Grade Separation Study: Design Concept Report entitled *Final Design Concept Report – SR 347 at Union Pacific Railroad* (dated March 2015) identified grade-separation of SR 347 and Union Pacific Railroad.
- CW1-8 Grade Separation Cost: Cost of Entire project provided above.
- CW1-9 Surrounding Zoning: Surrounding area is zoned for Single Family Residential, Commercial, Employment/Industrial, Public/Institutional/Educational, Recreational (source: Pinal County)
- CW1-10 Existing Train Movements: Per Zoe Richmond at UPRR (2010), 40-60 freight per day plus Amtrak trains at 4 per week. UPRR expects 100 trains-per day by in future. All train movements are thru movements.
- CW1-11 Nearest Schools: (1) Maricopa Unified School District - Maricopa High School: 0.1 miles south of crossing; (2) Maricopa Unified School District – Maricopa Wells Middle School: 0.7 miles southwest of crossing (45725 W Honeycutt Avenue); (3) Maricopa Unified School District – Butterfield Elementary School: 0.6 miles northeast of crossing (43800 W Honeycutt Road; (4) Maricopa Unified School District – Maricopa Elementary School: 1.2 miles southwest of crossing (18150 N Alterra Parkway) (5) Maricopa Unified School District – Santa Rosa Elementary School: 2.1 miles northwest of crossing (21400 N Santa Rosa Drive)
- CW1-12 Nearest Hospitals: There are no hospitals in Maricopa – only medical clinics. (1) Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center (1955 W Frye Road, Chandler Arizona)

CW1-13 Hazardous Materials traffic: It is not known how much hazardous materials traffic uses the existing crossing each day.

- CW1-14 Speed Limit: SR 347 has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.
- CW1-15 Other bus use: School buses use the crossing numerous times each school day. The Maricopa Unified School District bus facility is located 0.4 miles northeast of crossing.
- CW1-16 Abandoned Railroad Spurs: Unknown if railroad spurs have been removed within a 10 mile radius.
- CW1-17 Summary of FHWA grade separation guidelines: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.
- CW1-18 Expected traffic delay due to train traffic: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.

Sincerely,

*Sayed M. Hani*

**Sayed M. Hani**

*Sate Railroad Liaison*

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