



RAMPING UP
for the Future

ADOT

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STATE ROUTE 189: INTERNATIONAL BORDER TO GRAND AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A bimonthly newsletter from the Arizona Department of Transportation to share important information about the State Route 189 project

About eight months in now, the project to improve State Route 189 between the international border and Grand Avenue has made significant progress. There is less than a year of scheduled construction time remaining until the community can fully realize the benefits of the work.

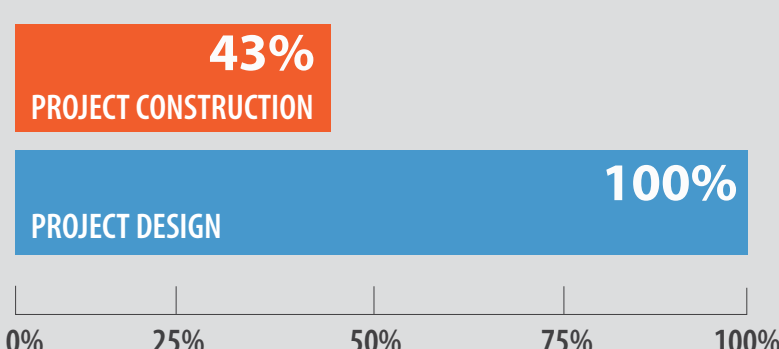
Speeding up international commerce, boosting the economy and making Nogales traffic safer are just some of the benefits. "When everything is finished, these improvements are going to make it even better to live and do business in Nogales, Santa Cruz County and southern Arizona," said ADOT Director John Halikowski.



PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

The U-Channel at SR 189 and Grand Avenue, as well as all three driveways, are more than 50 percent complete. All of the drilled shafts and columns, and nearly all of the pier caps for the individual flyover bridges (northeast and southwest ramps) are complete. The contractor is scheduled to start setting the girders for these flyover bridges in mid-November. Both sides of the Mariposa Wash bridge widening are also nearly complete. In October, the contractor shifted traffic to the south side of SR 189 near Frank Reed Road to allow crews to start construction on the combination bridge (where the two flyover ramps will meet on SR 189 heading south).

PERCENTAGE COMPLETION



COMMUNITY MEMBER PROFILE

SR 189 improvements are the next step in a fruitful partnership between Fresh Produce Association, ADOT

For Allison Moore, the improvements underway on State Route 189 in Nogales are the latest accomplishment in her nearly 20 years of working with all levels of government to build the regional economy and ensure produce grown in Mexico arrives fresh at its destinations.

As vice president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Moore works with officials at the local, state and federal levels to ensure the nearly five billion pounds of Mexican produce that enters the United States through the Mariposa Port of Entry arrives fresh.

"My areas of responsibility include working on transportation issues and identifying community needs for infrastructure upgrade projects," Moore said. "I worked closely with a coalition of area entities to push for improvements to the Mariposa Port of Entry that were completed in 2014. After that project was complete, we turned our attention to the much-needed improvements on the SR 189 corridor."

ADOT's project to improve SR 189 between the international border and Grand Avenue will help advance her organization's mission to transport fresh produce from Mexico to stores, restaurants and family dining tables throughout North America.

"All commercial truckloads of fresh fruits and vegetables entering the U.S. in Nogales must travel along SR 189 to reach area warehouses, U.S. trucks then drive south to these warehouses to pick up and deliver fresh produce across North America. Improvements to SR 189 are crucial in alleviating traffic bottlenecks from the Mariposa Port to these warehouse distribution hubs, reducing transit times to maintain the shelf life and freshness of perishable items."

ALLISON MOORE

The improvements also will help ensure efficient use of trucks needed to support the industry that provides 39 percent of all imported fruits and vegetables consumed in the U.S. and generates \$3 billion worth of revenue annually.

The safety of all motorists and the community is also an important factor in the project to improve SR 189, particularly in the vicinity of Nogales High School. There, new ramps connecting Mariposa Road with Interstate 19 will take commercial truck traffic away from traffic going to and from the school.

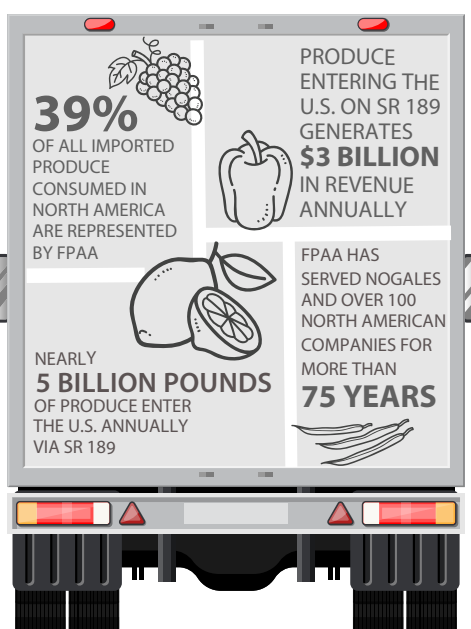
"This project will help maintain the orderly, safe flow of traffic as it travels from the port and reaches the SR 189-I-19 intersection," she noted.

Long-term, the work now taking place on SR 189 will benefit the state and local economy, Moore said.

"The SR 189 improvements allow for trade growth without negatively impacting the community with increased traffic, and they eliminate unnecessary supply chain delays," she said. "Those kinds of investments attract companies looking to establish a presence near the border."



ALLISON MOORE
The Vice President of Fresh Produce Association of the Americas works closely with government agencies to support import efforts.



MEET THE TEAM

Major project experience brings learned hand to SR 189 project

Paul Arnold's 22 years with Ames Construction have included supporting ADOT with the largest highway improvement project in the state's history: the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway in Phoenix.

Over the course of four years, the firm's vice president for the Southwest Region served as a project executive on the \$1.1 billion effort to design and construct the new 22-mile freeway.

Now Arnold brings that valuable experience to the project to improve State Route 189 between the international border and the intersection with Grand Avenue in Nogales.

"SR 189 is a very exciting project," Arnold said. "Design-build is always challenging, in that the design, utility and stakeholder coordination and construction all occur simultaneously – while the clock (for contract time) is ticking. The structures portion of the project is a challenge technically, which Ames loves, and will provide very unique aesthetics for the region upon completion."

Having successfully juggled all those elements of a design-build project the scale of the South Mountain Freeway, Arnold brings tremendous experience and perspective to a project that might pale in size and cost but rivals the South Mountain Freeway in importance for the city, state and nation.

The improvements, while limited to just less than 4 miles of SR 189 and linking it to I-19, are designed to improve the travel for current and future levels of commercial traffic that includes delivering the bulk of winter produce consumed in the western United States.

Arnold joined Ames straight out of Arizona State University, starting as a junior cost estimator before advancing to project manager, chief estimator, operations manager, and ultimately a vice president of the firm.

With a demanding job, "a beautiful wife" and four children ranging from 13 to 24 years old, Arnold finds his relaxation angling on Lake Powell. "I'm a really good fisherman and an even better liar about the fish I catch – or don't," he said.

On the job, Arnold supports Ames' project manager Chris Kane in managing the challenges identified by ADOT and the SR 189 project team.

"It is yet another opportunity to work with ADOT on a design-build project. As a team, we have overcome quite a few hurdles, all while dealing with a pandemic," he said, noting the challenge presented by COVID-19. "The team has really worked together."



PAUL ARNOLD
The Vice President for Ames Construction Southwest Region brings ADOT major project experience to SR 189 improvements in Nogales.

HOW TO CONTACT THE ADOT PROJECT TEAM

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