

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
CITY MANAGER REPORT**

RCM #: 3b

Date Prepared: January 11, 2011

Council Meeting Date: January 18, 2011

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager
THROUGH: Susan J. Daluddung, Deputy City Manager
FROM: Andrew Granger, P.E., Engineering Director
SUBJECT: 91st Avenue and Olive Avenue Construction Update

SUMMARY

The Engineering Department is pleased to provide this update for the construction of the 91st Avenue and Olive Avenue intersection improvements, and the Olive Avenue interchange improvements at Loop 101.

Olive Avenue is one of the City's major east-west corridors and is a vital arterial to the surrounding communities. According to traffic counts, Olive Avenue has more traffic per lane than Bell Road. Because of the high traffic volumes, these two projects are vitally important to relieve congestion in this area.

Intersection Improvements

This City project was designed to widen the intersection at 91st Avenue and Olive Avenue, and to include three through lanes in the eastbound and westbound directions, two through lanes in the northbound and southbound directions and dual left-turn lanes and dedicated right-turn lanes in all directions. The intersection improvements were completed in December 2010, including all landscaping associated with this project, and the construction for this project was fully funded with Federal funds from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

Interchange Improvements

This Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) project was designed to widen the interchange at Loop 101, to include three through lanes, dual left-turn lanes and dedicated right-turn lanes onto Loop 101 in both directions.

ADOT awarded the construction contract for widening the traffic interchange to Bison Construction (contractor) in January 2010. The contractor began construction in March 2010, with the completion of the project scheduled for October 2010. Due primarily to contractor performance, the project is already three months past the original completion date. The contractor is claiming they will have construction completed by July 2011.

The contractor is currently in the process of completing the construction of the vertical abutment on the north side of the interchange, and preparing to pave the additional westbound travel lanes. As the contractor continues to complete the north half improvements, they close one westbound lane during working hours on a daily basis. In addition, the dual northbound to westbound left-turn lanes at 91st Avenue and Olive Avenue must be closed.

The City has been asked why the dual left-turn lanes have to be closed. Allowing the dual northbound to westbound left turning movements requires two westbound through lanes to be open. As mentioned above, the contractor closes one westbound through lane during working hours each day. Trying to merge traffic from the dual left-turn lanes into one westbound lane would result in a major traffic backup at the 91st Avenue and Olive Avenue intersection. The intersection would be gridlocked, creating an increased possibility of delays, accidents and road rage. Since the left-turn lanes have been closed, there has been a dramatic decrease in the amount of traffic accidents at this intersection.

We appreciate your patience as the City continues to pursue options with ADOT to complete this project in a timely manner, while maintaining safety and minimizing the inconvenience to our travelling public.

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