YOU ARE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE VERDE CONNECT PROJECT

Yavapai County announced today that the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Verde Connect project will be available for review and comment from April 24, 2020 through May 25, 2020.

The Verde Connect project was competitively selected for a $25M grant made available through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. The Act requires that these grant funds be obligated no later than September 30, 2020 after satisfying applicable administrative requirements, including environmental review. A key element of this review is a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study, specifically an Environmental Assessment (EA). Per regulation, an EA must be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period.

In order to maintain the project schedule to meet the grant timeline while remaining cognizant of COVID-19 and following social distancing measures, the project team will use virtual options to inform the public and ask for comments, including (but not limited to) a live television/radio program, also streamed online, on May 11, 2020.

**Monday, May 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**TELEVISED/LIVESTREAM**
A project overview video will air every hour on the hour, followed by an opportunity to call in by phone and provide your comments to a listening panel of FHWA and Yavapai County representatives, or privately to a court reporter. This live program will air on Verde Valley Television on Sparklight Channel 1056 and SuddenLink Channel 2, and by radio on KYBC AM 1600 and 96.3 FM. The programs also will live stream on Facebook.com/VerdeValleyTV and YouTube.com/VerdeValleyTV.

**DRIVE-IN**
Members of the community are encouraged to stay home if possible, but if television, internet, or radio options are not available at home, an alternative is the drive-in option. Join us at the Yavapai County Public Works facility at 4000 W. Cherry Creek Road, Camp Verde, AZ 86322 for a drive-in public comment experience. Drive-in participants will be able to hear and see the live program from their cars, and will have the same opportunity to call in on their personal cell phones. Participants will be expected to stay in their cars to maintain social distancing guidelines.

*If there are circumstances that prevent you from participating via TV, Radio, Internet, or Drive-In, please call 928-515-0115 and explain your circumstance—the project team will assist to provide or view the materials in another way.*
Questions After May 11, 2020?

Call Yavapai County 928-771-3183, Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. between the dates of May 12 and May 21, and the project team will be available to help you.

Additional Ways to Comment April 24 to May 25, 2020

You do not have to participate in the live event on May 11 to review the document and provide comments. Comments on the Draft EA are welcome anytime between April 24 and May 25, 2020. All comments will be responded to in the Final EA.

TELEPHONE:
Call 928-515-0115 and leave your comment in the voice mailbox, and a court reporter will transcribe it for the record. If there are circumstances that prevent you from participating via TV, Radio, Internet, or Drive-In, please explain your circumstance and the project team will assist to provide or view the materials in another way.

WEBSITE:
Provide your comments at www.verdeconnect.com

MAIL:
Written comments can be mailed to the Verde Connect Project Team, care of Central Creative, LLC, 24 W. Camelback Road, #A-479, Phoenix, AZ, 85013.

Ways to Review the Draft EA

Website: the Draft EA will be available at www.verdeconnect.com

Repositories: hard copies of the EA will be available for on-site viewing at the following locations (please call first, by appointment only; online or digital viewing is preferred):

Camp Verde Town Clerk Office
473 S. Main Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
928-554-0021

Sedona Public Works Office
102 Roadrunner Drive (Building 108)
Sedona, AZ 86336
928-204-7111
Yavapai County Public Works Prescott Office
1100 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305
928-771-3183

Yavapai County Public Works Camp Verde, 4000 W. Cherry Creek Road
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
928-567-7728

Yavapai Admin Building
(Right of Way Permits) Cottonwood
10 S. 6th Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-567-7730

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since June 2018, Yavapai County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have been studying a potential roadway and bridge across the Verde River to provide a new north-south connection between State Route 260 and Cornville Road. Public input and technical analyses have resulted in the identification of a preferred alternative route for the new road. All comments will be responded to in the Final EA.