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Interstate 10 Widening Project Wins Common Ground Award of Distinction

Metropolitan Pima Alliance Recognizes I-10 Widening Project for Collaborative Efforts

TUCSON – The Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) is honoring the nearly complete I-10 Widening project with its 2009 Common Ground Award of Distinction. The award recognizes the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for its collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors. The Common Ground Award of Distinction, the organization’s highest honor, will be presented at an evening celebration at the Reid Park Zoo on Friday, Oct. 16, 2009. The MPA is an alliance of business, government and non-profit organizations that strongly believes that creating and fostering positive dialogue between members of the business community and the public sector improves our region’s quality of life. Previous Common Ground Award of Distinction winners include the Town of Marana FEMA Coalition and the Phoenix Mars Lander Mission.

Widening I-10 from Prince Road to 29th Street, almost five miles through the heart of downtown Tucson, is the largest highway transportation contract awarded in southern Arizona history to date. The project cost is approximately \$210 million and includes expansion of I-10 to eight lanes (four in each direction plus an auxiliary lane) and construction of 16 new bridges/underpasses related to seven cross streets.

The project is unprecedented in southern Arizona in the magnitude of its scope and cost, but equally significant is the number of people impacted, their diversity and the methods used to find common ground. ADOT worked in collaboration with the City of Tucson, the contractor – a Kiewit/Sundt Joint Venture (KSJV) and the business community to mitigate the level of impact to frontage road businesses along the project area, as well as the entire community. An unprecedented and comprehensive business outreach plan was developed for the project area. The plan extended a helping hand to more than 3,000 businesses within one-half mile of I-10. From April 2006 to January 2009, 4,761 contacts were made with area firms, which included 71 frontage road businesses and 400 additional establishments. The types of contact included 62 initial construction readiness reviews, 19 in-house employee and customer communication business workshops and 3,410 individual frontage road business contacts.

The project was originally expected to be complete in the spring of 2010, but due to the successful collaboration between all parties involved, ADOT is in the final stages of construction and anticipates that the project will be completed by the end of October, approximately six months ahead of schedule. In accepting the award, ADOT gratefully acknowledges the patience, cooperation and support of the City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Pima County, KSJV, the community at large, the traveling public, the business community and its many other partners for this extremely successful highway improvement project.

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