

Sonoran Corridor

The Crossroad for Prosperity

A Catalyst for Regional and National Economic Growth





This integrated master plan is simple. Transportation is a key enabler of economic development.

The Sonoran Corridor is designed to:

- ▶ Serve as a gateway to the United States and Canada for billions of dollars in goods and produce coming from Northwest Mexico and the expanding Mexican Port at Guaymas.
- ▶ Combine the power of air, rail and surface transportation systems to create a major Southwestern United States logistics and employment center for national and international trade.
- ▶ Develop an economic linkage of employment centers and transportation networks with empowerment and Foreign Trade Zones, international trade corridors, research facilities and more to accelerate growth regionally, nationally and internationally.

Key Components of this Master Plan

International and Interstate Trade

The Sonoran Corridor already is a national and international crossroads. Billions of dollars in goods travelling by road or rail north from western Mexico redirect or transship in Tucson for markets through the United States. This 50-square-mile area is a logistical crossroads for hundreds of billions of dollars of shipped goods annually. Improving the infrastructure to speed the movement of these goods will spur economic development for the southern Arizona region, but also in the Southwestern United States and Mexico.

Improved air, rail and dedicated goods movement systems will enable collaboration, flexibility, and innovation.

▶ **Roadway Transportation** - The Sonoran Corridor will enhance transportation links across vast geographic areas and national boundaries. Since our present growth trends suggest the region's highways are reaching unacceptable levels of congestion, linking Interstates 10 and 19 through this Corridor will prepare us for growth, as well as improve the traffic flow and safety of our current infrastructure.

▶ **Air Transportation** - Tucson International Airport is a critical link to the rest of the world, with 3.7 million annual passengers and over 165,000 operations annually. Its planned addition of a second major runway capable of accommodating the world's commerce, combined with significantly enhanced improvements in ingress and egress, will improve the entire region's competitive abilities. This increased air capacity will increase safety and assist the Arizona Air National Guard in its pilot training mission.

▶ **Rail Services** - Improved rail services to markets to the east, west, north and south while allowing greater expansion of intermodal trade within the United States, to and from Mexico and the world beyond. The Port of Tucson, our active intermodal inland port, blends both surface and rail assets, allowing materials and goods movement with extraordinary efficiency and cost savings. For example, materials and goods can be transported from Tucson to Singapore for less cost than traditional shipping by truck from Tucson to Los Angeles.

Defense and Aerospace

Our region has been a center for the aerospace and defense industry for decades, and our concentration of these companies is more than 800 percent higher than the United States average, ranking in the top 5 nationally. This regional plan provides the infrastructure and the capacity for expansion in research and development, industrial high-tech fields, assembly, distribution, warehousing and a focal point for subassembly shipping for Mexico's exploding aerospace presence.

Workforce Development

The region encompasses a multifaceted education system with technical and advanced academic programs from machine tool specialists to airframe and powerplant mechanics, from optics and digital technology to rocket science.

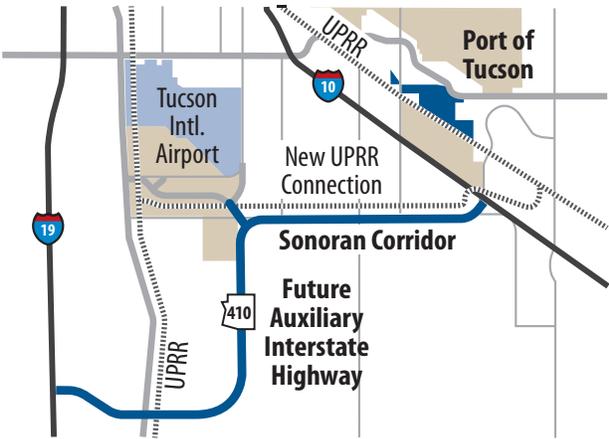
To the Sun Corridor and Beyond

The Joint Planning Advisory Council for the Arizona Sun Corridor Planning Partnership identified the area around Tucson International Airport as the ideal import distribution location in the Sun Corridor, an economic megaregion that stretches from Nogales north to Prescott.



The Sonoran Corridor – the ideal logistics location

The nexus of air, rail and highway transportation modalities of the Sonoran Corridor is not found elsewhere in Arizona. Billions of dollars in goods are coming into Arizona from Mexico and South America and being transhipped for distribution throughout the United States and Canada.



Gateway to North America

Mexico is spending \$600 million (USD) to improve and expand the Port of Guaymas on Mexico's West Coast.

When finished in 2018, the port is expected to become a major North American import center from burgeoning markets in South America.



The Sonoran Corridor is a logistical hub for American, Mexican and Canadian markets. Some data to consider:

- ▶ More than \$13 billion in goods is expected to be traded in the Tucson International Airport area in 2015.
- ▶ There were 763,000 truck crossings (north and south combined) in 2013 at the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales south of Tucson. The vast majority of those trucks had to use the I-19 and I-10 interchange in Tucson.
- ▶ 1,730 trains entered the United States in 2013 at the Nogales Port. Nearly all of those trains travelled through the Sonoran Corridor.
- ▶ Nearly all of Mexico's winter produce enters the United States at Nogales and travels to or through the Sonoran Corridor to the rest of the country.
- ▶ Maquiladoras in Mexico are booming and represent almost 80 percent of Mexico's exports to the United States, including automobiles, aerospace and electronics.
- ▶ U.S. Customs and Border Protection says there has been a steady, year-over-year increase of nearly 5 percent at the Nogales Ports of Entry. That annual increase is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

