



May 9, 2026

Ms. Jennifer Toth, PE, ADOT Director
Mr. Ted Maxwell, Chair, ADOT Board
Arizona Department of Transportation
1655 W. Jackson Street, MD 111F
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Submitted electronically to fiveyearconstructionprogram@azdot.gov

Re: I-17/SR-179 Traffic Interchange Reconstruction

Dear Jennifer Toth: ADOT Director
Ted Maxwell: Chair, ADOT Board

The above interchange, as the primary access to Sedona, needs to be reconstructed and modernized to meet current needs and standards. This project needs to be included in the current Five Year Construction program.

The right-of-way for SR-179 was officially established in 1960 by the Arizona Highway Commission. The roadway provided a direct connection between Camp Verde and Sedona. The I-17/SR-179 traffic interchange was constructed around 1961 and included the northbound and southbound overpasses.

In 2024 the AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) for I-17 was 23,000 vehicles per day and for SR-179 was 7,600 vehicles per day. Traffic capacity is becoming an issue especially with anecdotal observations of northbound traffic exiting to northbound SR-179 backing up onto northbound mainline lanes of I-17.

The community is concerned that the traffic interchange is deficient in the length of the northbound and southbound exit and entrance ramps along with the sight distance limited both by vertical alignment of SR-179 and the placement of the bridge piers.

Safety is a major concern. Local residents have observed crashes "waiting to happen" especially at the I-17 southbound off ramp with SR-179 and involving limited sight distance. There have been at least two catastrophic crashes involving commercial vehicles with fatalities in recent years.

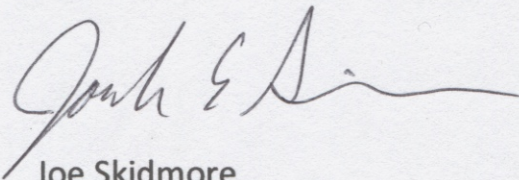
ADOT has responded to our original concerns with a Rural Safety Assessment study and the placement of stop signs and other signage to help address the sight distance deficiencies. The community is grateful for these improvements, but this is a temporary solution.

Second only to the Grand Canyon, Sedona has the highest tourist and visitor population of any city in Arizona. The excitement of visiting Sedona, and the lack of familiarity with the safety issues make visitors extremely vulnerable to these types of crashes.

Yavapai County and the City of Sedona have supported previous requests to reconstruct this traffic interchange. There was a study in 2010-2011 that recommended further study and inclusion of this traffic interchange in the Five Year program.

We urge ADOT to consider this request with all appropriate urgency and request a meeting in the future to further discuss possible measures.

Sincerely,



Joe Skidmore
President

cc: Nikki Check, Yavapai County Supervisor, District 3