J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 6 Issue 08

SEPTEMBER 2010

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CDO BIDS LONG TIME BOARD MEMBER FAREWELL

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NEWS STAFF

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OVER 50 RESIDENTS REVIEWED DRAFT TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Thursday's Aug. 5th's special presentation at the CDO Quarterly meeting was arranged by Supervisor Searle when CDO voiced concern that the original commitment to our community was not fulfilled as the proposed routes were not available during the last Open House conducted by ADOT and the County.

At the packed community meeting, Karen Lamberton, County Transportation Planner, provided in-depth justification for the proposed future transit and roadways.

This issue will highlight various elements of the final report of the Northwest Cochise County Long-Range Transportation Plan and other related transportation news.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

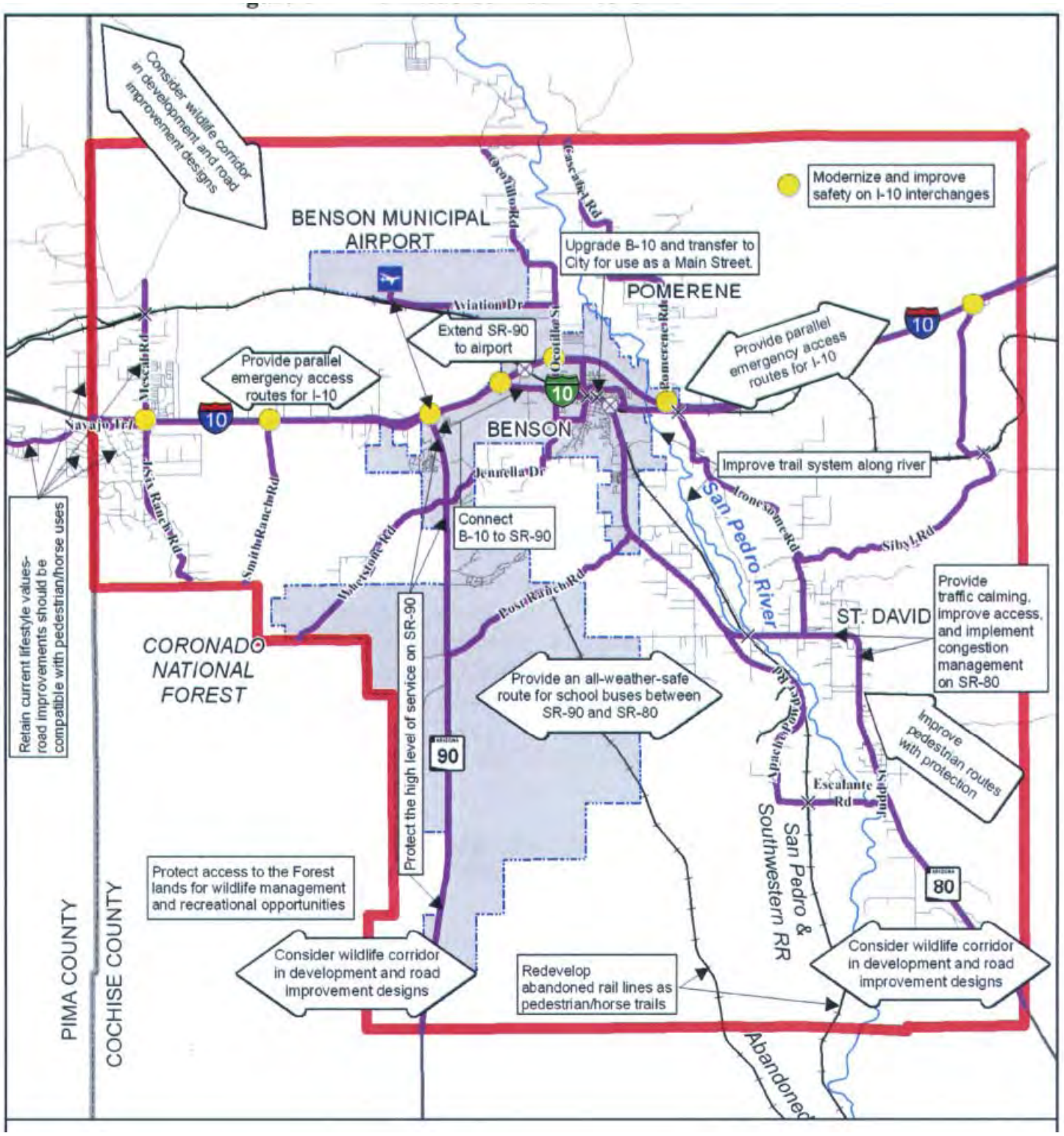
- **Diagram showing General Themes Identified by Stakeholders**
- **Map showing future problems if nothing is done**
- **Map showing preferred alternative for future routes**
- **Diagram showing Marsh Station Interchange at completion**
- **Update on Highway 90 and I-10 Interchange**
- **Pima County - plans to connect Empirita with J-6 Ranch Rd.?**
- **J-6 / Mescal in Pima County Transportation Study**

"Local neighborhood meetings were also hosted by the J-Six/ Mescal CDO and the St. David School throughout the planning process to gather additional input into issues of concern in the Northwest Area.

These informal meetings not only included area residents and local business owners but also elected officials and agency staff and provided real-time public input into the Northwest Area Plan development." …..Final Report, Northwest Plan

GENERAL THEMES BY STAKEHOLDERS

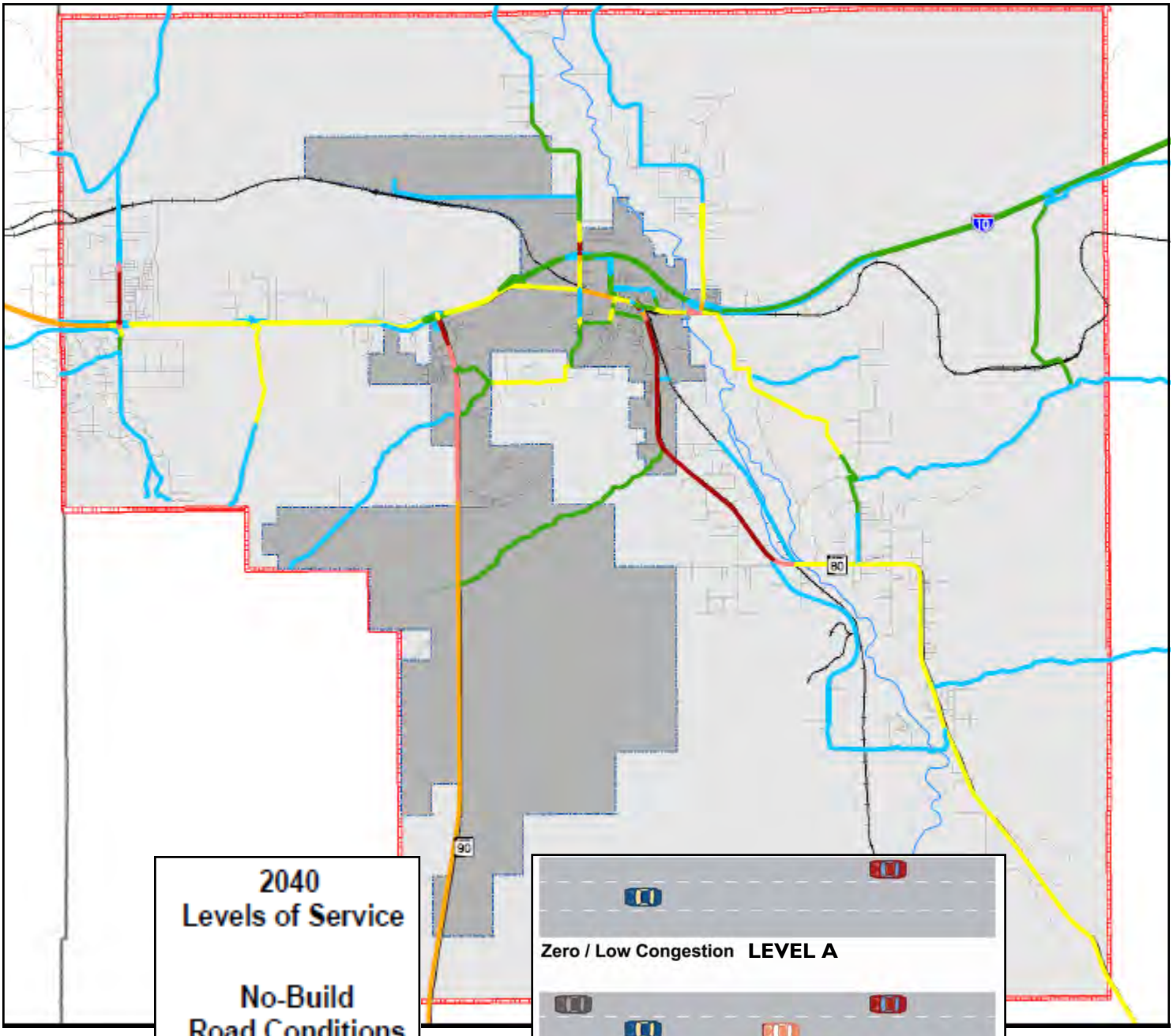
This diagram is a summary of transportation improvements from stakeholder interviews and public comments.



Notice the focus on safety and elements that maintain quality of life values in rural neighborhoods.

NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE

This alternative illustrates how our road system would operate in 2040 given the expected population and employment growth if no improvements were made to the transportation system.



2040
Levels of Service

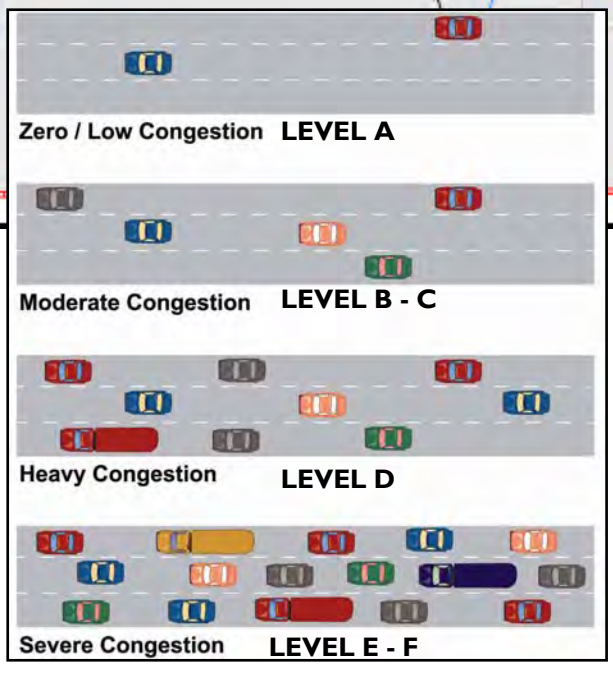
No-Build
Road Conditions

LEGEND

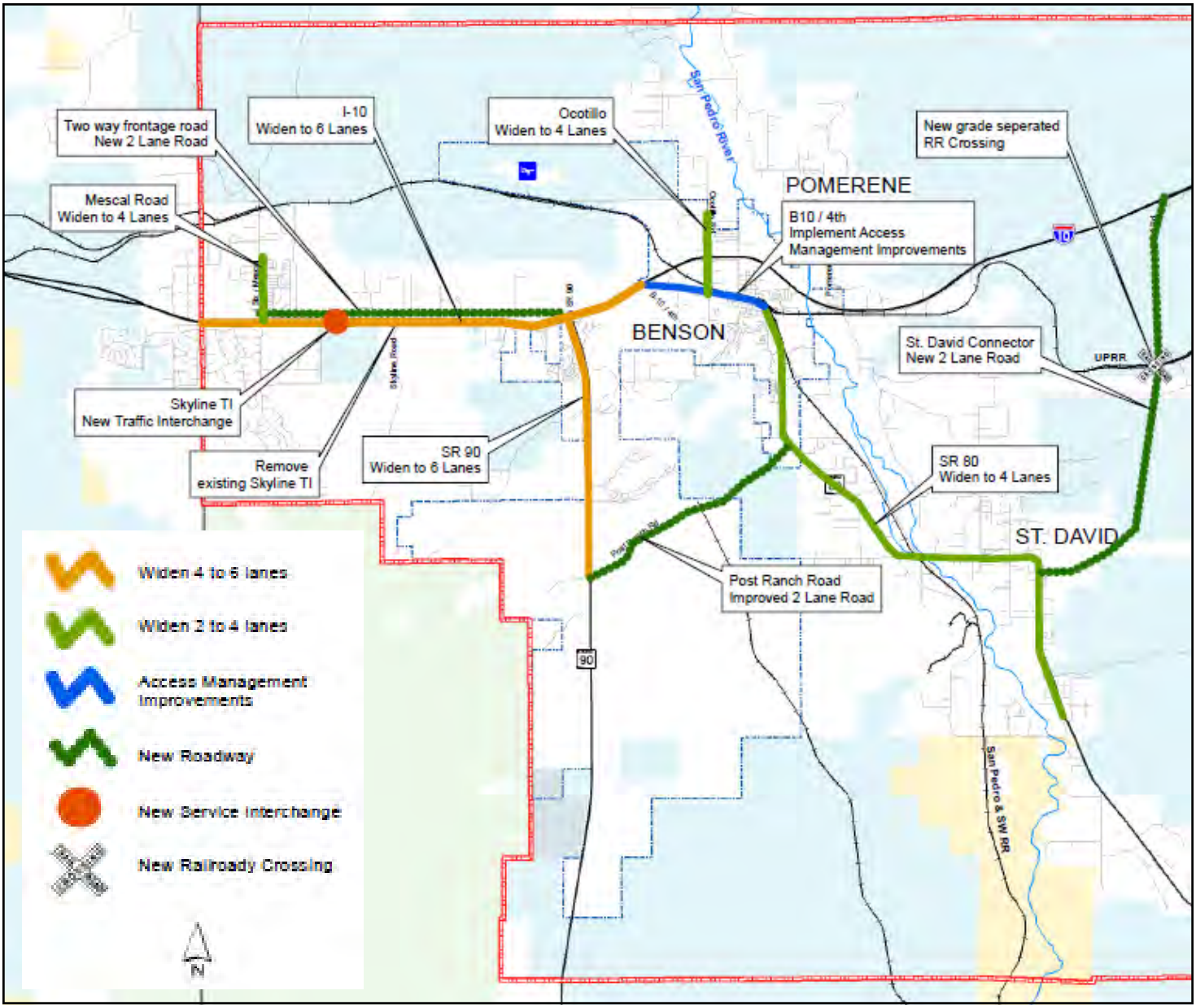
Level of Service

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

=



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



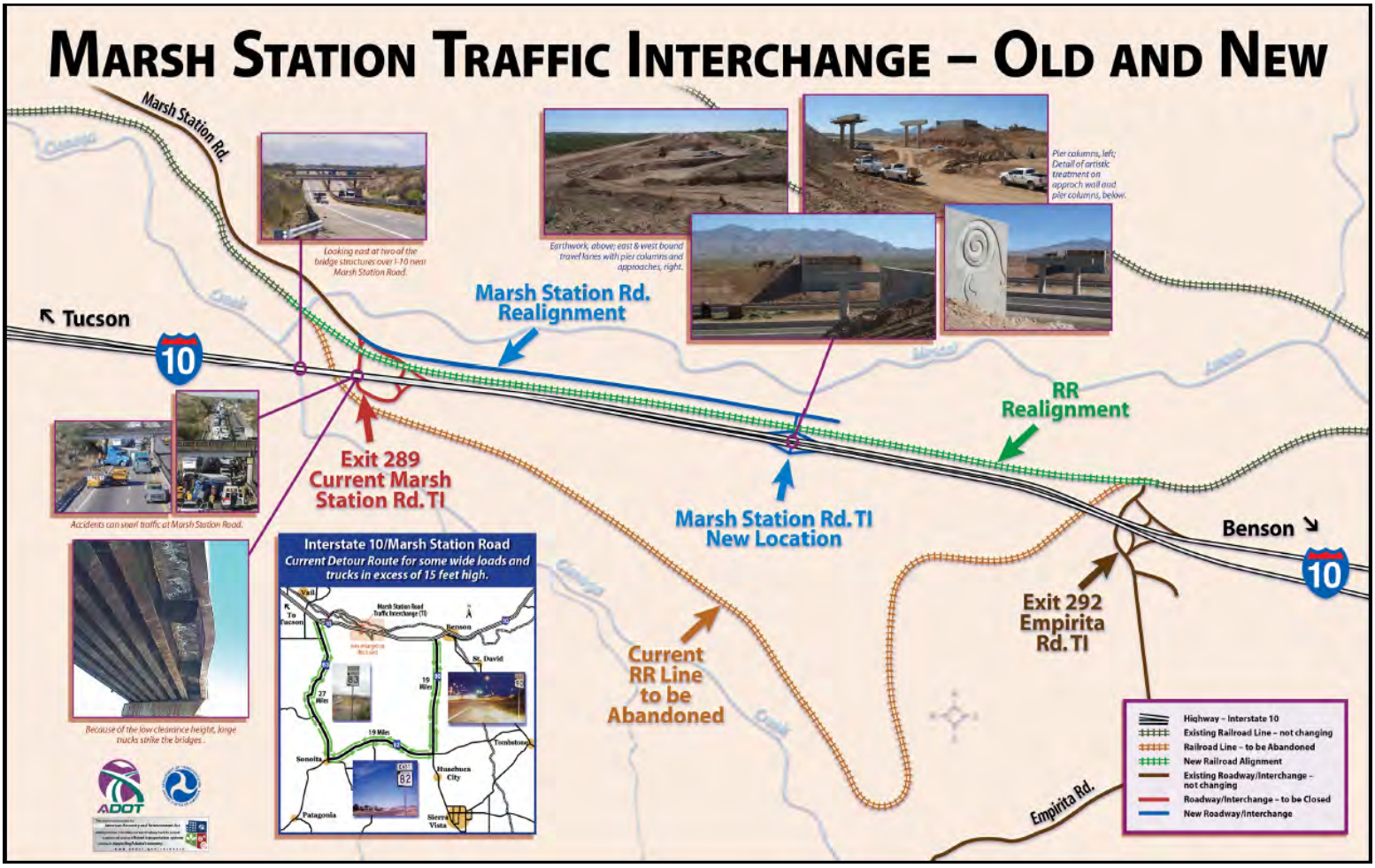
ROADWAYS

- **Widen I-10, SR 80, SR 90, Mescal Rd., and Ocotillo Rd.**
- **Improvements to Post Ranch Rd between SR 80 and SR 90**
- **Constructing a new road connecting I-10 and SR 80 near St. David**
- **Replacing the Skyline Rd Traffic Interchange along I-10**
- **Constructing a new east/west corridor 2 lane road along I-10 connecting to a new TI and SR 90**
- **Improve B-10/4ts St. through Benson**

NON-MOTORIZED

- **Wide paved shoulders on rural roadway projects**
- **Bike lanes and sidewalks within the City of Benson**
- **Implementation of a comprehensive trail plan and system**
- **Accommodate equestrian activity**

MARSH STATION SCHEMATIC



New Traffic Interchange is approximately 1.6 miles east of existing TI. Project also includes re-aligning approximately 3 miles of the Union Pacific Railroad line to the north side of I-10. Later phases of construction will include a weekend closure of I-10 so that the existing bridge structure can be demolished safely - tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2010. Larger image - click

UPDATE HIGHWAY 90 AND I-10

Bid announcement for contractor is posted on ADOT website but has not been awarded. The project is to reconstruct the I-10/SR 90 TI overpass structures, SR 90 below the overpass, entrance and exit ramps in both directions, realign and reconstruct I-10 mainline west of the TI, construct three access roads (W. Dark Star Road, N. Vidal Trail and W Calvary Lane, drainage improvements, lighting, utility relocations, signing and marking, and other related work.

The time allowed for the completion of the project is 500 working days.

EMPIRITA CONNECTION TO J-6 RANCH

Karen Lamberton's follow-up response to question posed at CDO transportation meeting:
On the question about a "future" connection between the new Marsh Station interchange and the J-Six Rd: my research backed up my preliminary response to that question: there is NO plans or even hints of such a discussion within the 2040 timeframe by either Pima County, the PAG region or by ADOT. Pima County has purchased conservation easements along the Pima County/Cochise County boundary making it even less likely that such a connection would ever be contemplated.

J-6/Mescal in Pima County Transportation Study

The PAG 2040 long-range plan was just adopted (July1, 2010) and is posted at this link: http://www.pagnet.org/Programs/TransportationPlanning/2040RTP/tabid/809/Default.aspx .

The Study identified as #Freeway 27.02 was initially identified as the I-10 corridor from I-19 to Empirita, but it will not extend to SR 90 in Cochise County.

This more specific corridor study would supply additional information to refine the initial recommendations of the Northwest Plan which identified a need for improvement to the I-10 corridor and the two existing Traffic Interchanges (J-6 and Skyline). The corridor study would compare the initial idea that removing both interchanges and replacing them with a new one as being the best solution with a lot of other considerations including land-owners reliance on existing interchanges for existing or future uses.

To select the best of the following scenarios is at least a 20 year process. Possible scenarios are to 1) reconstruct both interchanges or 2) remove both interchanges and replace with one new one connected with frontage roads or 3) a combination of those ideas. Should the J-6 interchange be completely removed it would only be done if travel times for residents was not substantively impacted, safety hugely improved and there are obvious time and cost savings to doing so.

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CDO BOARD, COMMUNITY, AND FIRE DISTRICT LOOSES LONG-TERM ADVOCATE AND FRIEND

NANCY UPP

Nancy Josephine Upp was born in 1932 in Shenandoah, Iowa and settled in our area in 1968. Nancy departed on her journey amongst friends in Tucson on Thursday Sept. 16, 2010.

During the years between, Nancy was a quiet but powerful supporter of all things important to preserving the rural quality of life in our community. She fought fires when neighbors stood side by side to protect a home, she spent hours researching our resources, reviewing P & Z plans, and took a stand when issues threatened our safety and welfare.

Nancy and her mechanical pencil were seldom parted as she recorded years of Minutes for community meetings, helped establish non-profit organizations, served on governance boards or as an advisor, tutoring many in the ways of Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, and keeping financial and tax records precisely correct. And lets not forget, folding thousands of newsletters!

The CDO Board wishes to recognize all the years Nancy took pride in her community by serving as a true advocate in the trenches. CDO Board members are making a donation of $500 of collected monies in her memory to a cause that would be dear to her heart - a community fund raiser to Spiff-up our Fire Station.

Emails of remembrances can be sent to kenmccool@aol.com for her Memorial Book created by friends for her surviving sister.

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SEE DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE

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or dropped off at the National Bank of America after Oct. lst.

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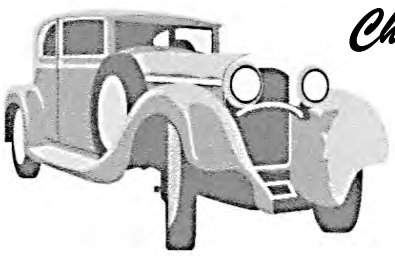

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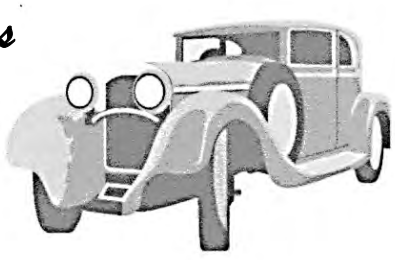

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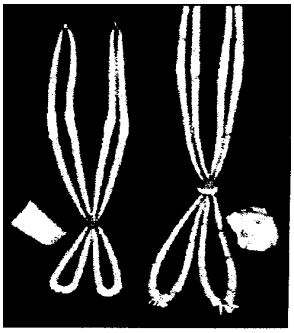

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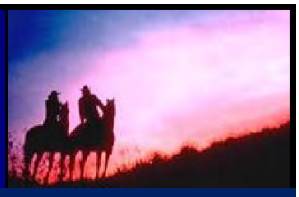

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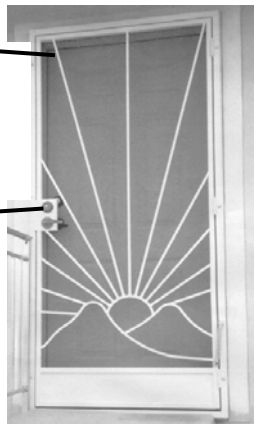

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TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

J6/Mescal CDO
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Volume 6 Issue 8
SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Mail to a Friend:

IN THIS ISSUE: PACKED WITH NEWS!

MAIL TODAY!

J-6 / Mescal Community Development Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

Name of members for given address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Physical Address:

_____

_____ZIP_____

Email Address:

_____

Phone: _____

All residents and property owners within the J-6, Mescal, Skyline and surrounding areas are eligible to join.

Households may have more than one member. Each member must be at least 18 years old.

Each membership is $ 10.00

Each member is entitled to cast one vote for meeting action items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAY FOR:

- Operating expenses such as copies, postage, printing, phone bills, and office supplies
- Production costs for the Tri-Community Newsletter and web-site.

Bring to next meeting or mail to : Mary McCool at 3111 W. Clark Road 85602