

Sun Corridor Value Impact Analysis

Economic Development

The Sun Corridor megaregion consists of Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties in Arizona. The Sun Corridor Value Impact Analysis (VIA) project is developing a methodology and toolkit to quantify the economic value-added by large, high capacity transportation investments. The toolkit helps regional partners understand the impacts of existing and proposed transportation investments, including economic development impacts (e.g., changes in income, gross regional product, employment), land value effects (e.g., changes in property values and housing costs), and societal benefits (including reduction in personal travel delay, safety, and emissions benefits). The resulting product will analyze effects at the megaregion and sub-region levels.

Economic Development: By providing a more thorough understanding of the broad and varied impacts of transportation investments, the toolkit helps the Sun Corridor megaregion communicate the benefits of transportation investments to key stakeholders and the general public. It also helps to coordinate transportation decision making and better leverage transportation investments for shared economic benefit.

OUTCOMES

- **A toolkit allowing assessment of the value of future major transportation investments** in the Sun Corridor, used to communicate how transportation funds will be successfully leveraged for economic benefit with basic considerations of equity and job quality.
- **Development of a methodology and tool** that can be meaningfully integrated into transportation planning and investment decision making to help coordinate and better leverage transportation funding and data within the megaregion.
- **Capacity building activities** to support national replication and use of the tool in other megaregions through trainings, presentations, and other outreach.

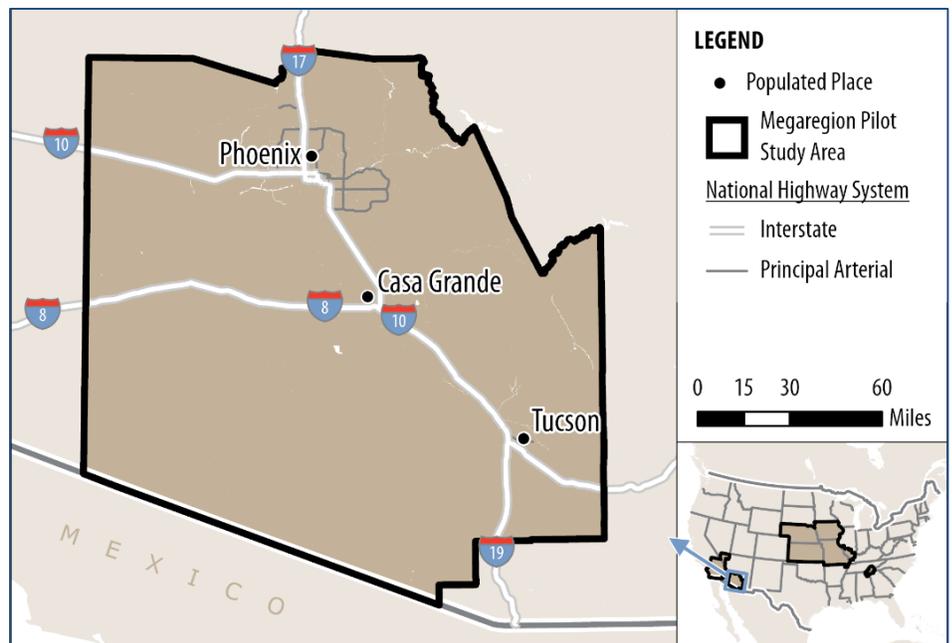
ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- **A better understanding of how transportation connects** to the economy of the megaregion and affects different household, employment, and industry groups.
- **Better alignment among diverse partners** in the megaregion to make transportation planning more inclusive and responsive to local needs and regional opportunities, and to help the megaregion make more strategic decisions that improve the economy and quality of life.
- **More support for future transportation investments** by being able to clearly communicate the value of these investments across a wide swath of economic indicators.
- **Replicability** of a value impact analysis methodology and toolkit that can be used or adapted by other megaregions to assess the benefits of transportation investments.

National Economic Partnerships Program

The Federal Highway Administration's National Economic Partnerships Program (NEP) provides funding to support the implementation of innovative approaches to multi-jurisdictional coordination and regional planning. The four pilots take place across the nation in "megaregions" that each encompass a collection of urban centers and their surrounding rural areas, connected by existing economic, social, and infrastructure relationships. The projects showcase innovative coordination among stakeholders across these broad, but related geographic areas, and target complex transportation issues. Further, these projects highlight transformational transportation planning approaches that can be shared and replicated nationally.

Megaregion Pilot Study Area Map



For more information on the FHWA National Economic Partnerships Program, visit <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/megaregions/>

U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration

James Garland, Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program
James.Garland@dot.gov

Maricopa Association of Governments (Lead Organization)

Eric Anderson
eanderson@azmag.gov

Lead Organization and Consortium Members

