

Executive Summary & Regional Significance Report for

Grand Ave Pedestrian Bridge

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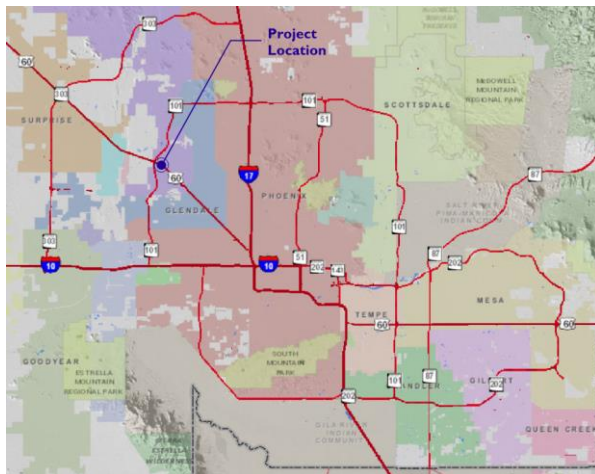
Introduction of Study

The intent of this project was to explore the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge over Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad and Grand Avenue to improve the safety for students traveling to and from schools in the immediate project area. The project aims to connect the residential homes south and west of Grand Avenue with a pedestrian bridge that students and parents can use in their travel to Cheyenne Elementary School (CES) and Peoria High School (PHS) and adds a safe public crossing of BNSF and Grand Avenue.

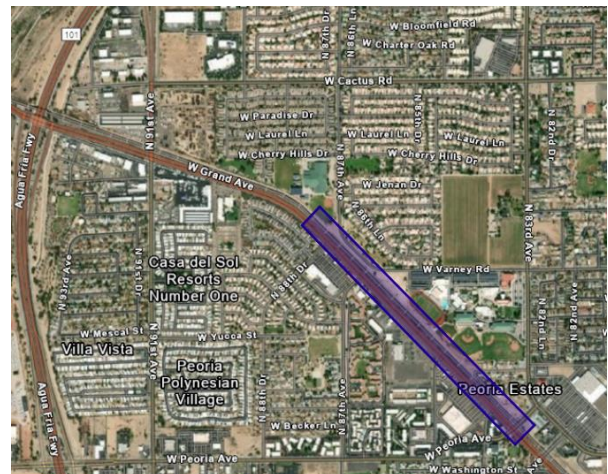


Proposed Rendering Looking South at BNSF/Grand Avenue Crossing

A regional map and project area map are provided below.



Regional Map



Project Area

Existing Conditions

Grand Avenue and the BNSF railroad present a barrier for residents south and west of Grand Avenue for pedestrian and/or bicycle travel to CES and PHS on the north side of Grand Avenue/BNSF.



Grand Avenue at 87th Avenue Looking South



Damaged Fence

School staff, local residents, pedestrian crossing video detection, and Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) staff have witnessed pedestrians crossing Grand Avenue at unmarked crosswalks within the project limits and trespassing the BNSF right-of-way via numerous crossing locations along the BNSF fence line.



Lessons Learned and MAG Design Principles

Key lessons learned during the study to be transferred to final design include:

- Maintenance considerations need to be incorporated into all elements of the project (bridge, lighting, landscaping, aesthetics);
- Columns on south side of Grand Avenue need to be coordinated with existing property owner to mitigate any potential impacts and/or concerns of the existing business (currently AutoZone);
- South ramp access point is anticipated to serve as a pick-up/drop-off point and needs to include parking on 87th Avenue to facilitate these activities;



Proposed Rendering Looking south at 87th Avenue



Proposed Rendering Looking South at North Ramp on 87th Avenue/Varney Road Curve

- Access to PHS via north ramp landing need to be coordinated with PHS staff and students to provide an improved access route to school from Varney Road; and
- BNSF will require the following elements to be coordinated during final design: fencing on the north side of BNSF property, adherence to Union Pacific Railroad-BNSF Railway Guidelines for Railroad Grade Separation Project, flagging/inspection during construction, and utility relocation permitting (as required).

MAG design principles from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway/Railroad Crossing Recommendations, Complete Streets Guide, and Pedestrian Policies and Guidelines were incorporated into the project.

Regional Significance

The proposed project will promote safety by reducing vehicle-pedestrian and train-pedestrian conflicts and will shorten the travel time between residential communities south and west of Grand Avenue to CES and PHS. The project is supported by several regional stakeholders including Arizona Corporation Commission, Arizona Department of Transportation, BNSF, and Peoria Unified School District. The collaboration of these regional stakeholders demonstrates the regional significance of this project.

