

**SUPERIOR AREA RECREATION USER GROUP (RUG) MEETING SUMMARY**  
**May 11, 2022**  
**Meeting #37**

**Meeting Attendees**

<b>Representative</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jim Schenck	Rebuild Superior, LOST & CWG
Mila Besich	Mayor, Town of Superior
Todd Pryor?	Manager, Town of Superior
Erik Filsinger	Queen Creek Coalition/LOST (Zoom)
Charlie Goff	Superstition Area Land Trust
John Godec	Facilitator, Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)
Jody LoMenzo	Co-facilitator, GRA
Kurtis J. Harris	PE, Asst. District Engineer, ADOT (Southeast Dist.)
Courtney King	Community Relations Spvr. (Southern Region) ADOT
Trisha Brown	ADOT, Community Relations Supervisor
Jeremiah Moerke	ADOT, Community Relations Project Manager
Anthony Casselman	ADOT Government Relations (Zoom)
Todd Emery, PE	ADOT, Southeast District Administrator
John Bricher	TRAL
Elizabeth Butler	Friends of the Tonto, equestrians (Zoom)

**Welcome and Introductions**

John Godec welcomed everyone and asked that they introduce themselves. Some of the group attended the meeting in-person, while the rest joined via Zoom.

*ADOT Update on Queen Creek and Waterfall Canyon Bridges Projects*

Jeremiah Moerke, ADOT Community Relations, presented an overview and project timeline, and discussed tentative traffic restrictions and potential recreational impacts to the region.

Some of the presentation information notably did not change from an October 2021 presentation, given by Courtney King. However, ADOT shared that the plans now call for concurrent construction on both bridges, starting in early summer 2023. To date, no contractor has been selected.

The complete ADOT presentations follows this summary.

*Queen Creek Bridge Overview*

- Construct a new bridge just east of the existing bridge
- Project generally similar to the recently- completed Pinto Creek Bridge

- Existing bridge remains in place and with plans to install fencing to restrict access

#### *Waterfall Canyon Bridge Overview*

- Replace existing bridge in the same location
- Work is anticipated to be shorter in duration than Queen Creek Bridge
- Still early in the design process

#### *Estimated Timeline*

- Bid advertising in spring 2023
- Construction to begin in early summer 2023
- Approximately two-year duration overall
  - Queen Creek will drive the total duration
  - Waterfall Canyon will fall within the Queen Creek project (avoiding bird seasons, monsoons, other constraints)
  - Sequencing to be determined by contractor

#### *Anticipated transportation impacts due to both construction projects:*

- Full closures of US 60 for rock blasting on specific weekdays during the midday period
- Up to a week full closure of US 60 possible for tie- ins
- Intermittent lane restrictions throughout
- construction (flaggers/delays)
- Restrictions to be scheduled concurrently between projects to the greatest extent possible

#### Recreational Access Impact

Consistent with the 2021 RUG meeting, the group again reinforced its concerns that, “It is critically important to make recreational access better when the project is completed, and RUG will hold ADOT accountable for returning trails to equal or better condition prior to construction.”

The group expressed serious concern over the lack of consideration regarding major water line routing, the impact of having two major construction projects running concurrently and the coordination of work with contractors, who as yet, have not been identified.

The group shared that the Superior region is becoming an even more desirable climbing and outdoor recreation site and the disruption and lack of access to trails, climbing sites and recreational areas will severely impact Superior's economic growth.

#### *Economic Impact*

The group made it clear that since this project is not happening in town limits, Superior will not get any of the prime contractor money that comes from this. "So this is an economic hit to us, not a gain."

The group noted they would anticipate lower traffic volume, as drivers bypass Superior, due to ongoing construction and road closures.

The meeting concluded with many unanswered questions and the expectation that ADOT would report back with more detailed information once a contractor has been selected.

# Queen Creek and Waterfall Canyon Bridges Project Update

## Superior Recreational User Group meeting

May 11, 2022

# Agenda

- Overview (Queen Creek/Waterfall Canyon)
- Timeline
- Tentative Traffic Restrictions
- Anticipated Recreational Access
- Other Items
- Questions/Discussion





# Queen Creek Bridge



# Queen Creek Bridge Overview

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# Waterfall Canyon Bridge



# Waterfall Canyon Bridge Overview

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# Estimated Timeline

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  - Queen Creek will drive the total duration
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# Tentative Traffic Restrictions

- Full closures of US 60 for rock blasting on specific weekdays during the midday period
- Up to a week full closure of US 60 possible for tie-ins
- Intermittent lane restrictions throughout construction (flaggers/delays)
- Restrictions to be scheduled concurrently between projects to the greatest extent possible

# Anticipated\* Recreational Access

## Waterfall Canyon Area (east of Queen Creek Tunnel)

- Closed during blasting activities at Queen Creek
- **No access** during the Waterfall Canyon project
  - Nearby pull-outs will be needed for staging due to very limited space at the construction site
  - Road width narrowed
  - Bridge will be under construction with no safe access for pedestrians underneath

\*Contractor could propose different sequencing, access, etc.

# Anticipated\* Recreational Access

## Concrete Historic Bridge to Claypool Tunnel

- Closed to recreational use
- Inaccessible, unsafe for pedestrians
- Access road and primary work zone conflicts
- Heavy equipment (safety and security concerns)
- Loose material and temporary modifications

\*Contractor could propose different sequencing, access, etc.





# Anticipated\* Recreational Access

## Superior to Queen Creek Bridge

- Route may be used for light vehicles (pickups)
- Closed beyond the historic concrete bridge for the duration of the project
- Closed during all blasting activities
- Open intermittently from Superior to the concrete bridge based on public safety / contractor's use

\*Contractor could propose different sequencing, access, etc.





# Other Items

## Use of the Steel Bridge upon completion

- To be fenced off as part of the project.
- Discussion about other uses must begin with a responsible party (Town, mine, etc.) for liability reasons.

## Condition of trails post-project

- Provisions to require restoration of the trail to a similar condition as before construction (removal of hauled in material for access road, seeding, etc.)
- No “improvements” planned
- Plan outlined would minimize impact on the historic trail long-term.

# Other Items

## Pull-outs near Waterfall Canyon Bridge

- Not a part of either project
- Contractor must restore any use/damage of parking areas
- No directional/trail signs planned

# Other Items

## Communications/Outreach

- Developing preliminary contact list
- Pinto Creek list as a starting point
- RUG contacts
- Other groups?

## Next step

- Outreach prior to construction

# Questions/Discussion

# Thank you!

For more information, or to ask additional questions, please contact:

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