

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
Apache Trail Project Environmental Assessment/Draft Individual 4(f) Evaluation  
in Maricopa County, Arizona**

*Maricopa County, AZ – May 21, 2021* — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFL) announces the availability for public review and comment of the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft Individual 4(f) Evaluation for the Apache Trail Project. The Environmental Assessment will be open for review for 30 days, from May 21 to June 19, 2021.

FHWA CFL, in cooperation with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Tonto National Forest (TNF), has prepared the Apache Trail Project EA, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for a 11.16-mile section of the Apache Trail located within the TNF, Maricopa County, Arizona. The project would extend from MP 229.2 near the Apache Lake Marina turnoff to MP 240.6 near the Theodore Roosevelt Dam. Funding for the project is through the Federal Lands Access Program, in conjunction with a local funding match as well as supplemental funding from the Emergency Relief Program. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and applicable implementing regulations, the FHWA has prepared an EA evaluating the Project. Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. The draft Section 4(f) evaluation analyzes alternatives that avoid the Section 4(f) property and outlines measures to minimize harm to the Section 4(f) property.

The Project would include standardizing roadway width where possible; cutting back slopes to improve line of sight distance; applying decomposed granite aggregates to establish roadway crown and drainage paths; roadway paving; and striping. The project also includes replacing, repairing, upsizing, extending and/or cleaning roadway culverts and applying scour treatments at culvert inlet and outlets. In addition, the project includes removing decomposed aggregate berms along roadway margins; general maintenance activities; and installation of erosion control elements, consisting of constructing gabion baskets in existing roadway ditches and placing rip-rap within existing drainage channels.

The Environmental Assessment can be obtained from the following website:  
<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/az/apache-trail>

To request a compact disc (CD) or hardcopy of the document, please contact Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, FHWA by email at [dustin.robbins@dot.gov](mailto:dustin.robbins@dot.gov) or by phone at 720-963-3586.

To be considered in the decision-making process, written comments on the EA's analysis and results of the environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action must be received by June 19, 2021. Please provide any written comments to: Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, FHWA, 12300 W. Dakota Ave. Lakewood, Colorado 80228 or via email to [dustin.robbins@dot.gov](mailto:dustin.robbins@dot.gov).

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, using the contact information above.