



# Maricopa County

## Department of Transportation

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 30, 2014

## MCDOT Roadway Median Landscape Project Underway

**Sun City, AZ---** The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) contractor is making major progress on a community-wide roadway median landscape project converting all grass roadway medians to a water-conserving landscape design.

Over the past several weeks, new concrete curbing and decorative rock have been installed in roadway medians on Peoria Avenue and Alabama Avenue between 99<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Avenues and new water-conserving drip irrigation systems and water valves on Peoria Avenue are going in this week.

The roadway median conversion project involves multiple applications of grass and weed killer in the new rock areas to permanently eliminate the old grass and prevent new grass and weeds from emerging. According to MCDOT's contract with Somerset Landscape and Maintenance, all grass and weeds will be eliminated from new rock landscape areas.

"With common Bermuda roots as deep as they are, this multi-application process is the best method to fully eliminate the unwanted grass," said Brian Lemmermann, President of Somerset Landscape and Maintenance. "We should see very good results shortly as application three goes down which is designed to burn the leaf away."

The \$895,000 construction effort will transform all 39 acres of grass roadway medians throughout Sun City to a combination grass and decorative rock landscape design to improve community aesthetics and reduce water usage.

"We can never lose sight of the fact that we live in a desert and water is a precious commodity. This grass median conversion project underscores our shared commitment to water conservation with the added benefit of beautifying our community," said Clint Hickman, District 4 County Supervisor. "MCDOT anticipates up to a 70 percent reduction in annual water use with the new sprinkler system and combination grass and rock landscape design."

"We eagerly await the completion of this project. It has been in the conceptual planning and discussion phase for several years," said Jim Powell, Sun City Home Owners Association Vice President and former Transportation Committee Chairman. "Replacing the outside grass areas with desert landscape and retaining a grass walking path down the middle will make such a big difference both aesthetically and economically. The current flood-type irrigation doesn't reach all areas of the medians and there just weren't funds available for over-seeding during winter months."

The median conversion project will be complete by December 2014.  
MCDOT Construction Hotline: 480-350-9288



MCDOT Roadway Median Landscape Conversion Project Underway on Alabama Avenue east of 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue

---MCDOT---

*The Maricopa County Department of Transportation plans, designs, constructs, and maintains roadways within the County's unincorporated areas. MCDOT currently operates and maintains approximately 2500 miles of roadway, 16 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) SMART Corridors, more than 80 bridges (16 of them more than 400 feet long) and more than 325 culverts, more than 175 signalized intersections and nearly 35,000 traffic signs. MCDOT's funding is primarily derived from Highway User Revenue Funds, and other federal and state sources. Maricopa County has a population of approximately four million, and is the fourth most populous county in the US. With more than nine-thousand square miles it is larger than seven different states.*

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