

PARC Open Letter to *Arizona Republic* Editorial Board

For years, PARC and allies have noted your continuing and uninformed endorsement of the South Mountain Freeway. We also note now that your reporters have declined to show up at our press conference where we detailed our experts' reports and offered a copy of the 318 page document that we sent to ADOT.

Our experts concurred on No Build because the freeway would not relieve traffic congestion or any of the other myriad transportation problems. The conclusions of the DEIS are based on outdated (2005) and unscientific data, a systemic problem for the DEIS. Moreover, our health expert, George D. Thurston, Sc.D., concluded that the freeway pollution would likely cause more children attending schools near the freeway to develop asthma and worsen it for those that do have it, and all children living near the proposed Freeway would likely have their lung growth and development inhibited. There would also be increased health risks to adults.

Our environmental experts concluded, "The use of data, the methodology employed, and the conclusions presented in the DEIS are absolutely without technical merit and do not comply with the fundamental concepts and purpose of an environmental impact statement." Even the modeling was done incorrectly. There would be severe air pollution problems along the freeway route.

There are many, many more reasons detailed in our comments.

We believe the federal courts will agree with us and order No Build. The lawsuit, however, will be tried on its own merits, so if the DEIS for the freeway were not faulty, the proponents of the freeway would have nothing to worry about.

In the next step of the NEPA process ADOT will have to respond to all comments they have received. How well they respond remains to be seen.

We suggest the *Republic* investigate how something so poorly done as the DEIS could have cost \$22 million and taken over a decade. According to our attorney, Howard Shanker, "based on a review of the data, it appears that the DEIS is no more than a thinly veiled, very expensive attempt to manipulate the public into believing that construction of the preferred alternative(s) for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway is a good thing."

It is a shame that the *Republic* is currently an uninformed part of this expensive attempt to manipulate the public. You would benefit from knowing the whole story. Doesn't a good newspaper present accurate information and facts?

Sincerely,

Patricia Lawlis  
President  
Protecting Arizona's Resources and Children (PARC)