

# **PARC Press Release**

## **PARC Visits Phoenix City Council**

### **For Immediate Release**

Monday September 29, 2014

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Phoenix, AZ\_\_\_\_Members of the non-profit group PARC (Protecting Arizona Resources and Children) will make a series of three-minute presentations to the Phoenix City Council at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting during the time for Citizen Comments, starting at 2:45pm.

In an attempt to educate the Council about an issue of great potential danger to South Mountain and the citizens of Phoenix that the Council has failed to address, each presentation will discuss a specific problem area related to the proposed Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.

ADOT released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the freeway this past Friday, and it contains little improvement over the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ADOT released last year. In response to the DEIS, PARC issued a scathing document that detailed the many flaws of the freeway proposal including:

- failure to improve on traffic congestion anywhere in the Phoenix area,
- dramatic increase in Phoenix truck traffic both on the new truck bypass and on the I-10 in the West Valley,
- deterioration of air quality beyond allowable limits,
- proven health dangers for students attending schools near the proposed freeway, specifically 15 schools with over 13,000 students,
- unnecessary destruction of both plant and animal habitats within South Mountain and destruction of wilderness areas revered by Phoenix citizens, along with the desecration of land sacred to Native American populations,
- creation of significant, new dangers of hazardous material transport within highly populated and highly vulnerable areas,
- failure to provide any significant benefits for the outrageous cost,
- and a complete disregard for the laws that are meant to protect our environment and our citizens.

EPA chimed in about ADOT's blatant disregard for the Clean Air Act and instructed ADOT in the correct method for modeling air pollution.

As PARC develops its formal response to the FEIS, further detailed analysis will be forthcoming.