



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker Pro Tempore T. J. Shope (R-8)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funding to Construct New Gila River Bridge Approved by House

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker Pro Tempore T.J. Shope (R-8) applauded today's House passage of [HB2243](#), which funds the construction of a new six-lane bridge of the Gila River on Interstate 10 south of Phoenix. It was approved 58-0.

The bill, introduced by Representative Shope, would appropriate \$28 million from the state general fund in fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to replace and expand the Gila River Bridge on Interstate 10. During his 2020 State of the State Address, Governor Ducey expressed his support for the bridge expansion project, noting it would pave the way for ADOT to widen nearby lanes on I-10. The new bridge would also include capacity for future expansion.

"The current 56-year old Gila River Bridge is simply inadequate to meet the needs of this major economic and transportation corridor connecting the state's two largest metropolitan areas," said Representative Shope. **"The new bridge is a critical step to accelerate the I-10 widening project between Phoenix and Tucson and will boost public safety and economic development in Pinal County and elsewhere along the corridor. The expansion of the roadway is important for the people who drive it daily, but it's also of critical importance for interstate commerce since in winter time it is often the only east-west thoroughfare that is not impeded by snow."**

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