



Stimulus money diverting trucks around Sonoita

There's nothing worse than being stuck behind someone who's going really slow. Heading down highway 83 to Sonoita, it happens a lot.

Oversized loads are always going down the winding two lane road, but not for much longer.

In scenic Sonoita, these truckers aren't appreciated.

"They don't really stop and buy anything and support local business. It doesn't really add to the quiet beauty of our town," says Seth Grossman in Sonoita.

Big trucks and oversized loads pass through town several each day.

"If you're going down 83 there are big problems when you have to squeeze through or pull over," says Sonoita resident Aristeo Montes de Oca

They have to go through here because on I-10 at Marsh Station road, two bridges are too low and have been for a long time.

Oversized loads criss-crossing the country have to take a big detour to get around it.

"They go along state routes 83, 82 and 90 and it is 75 miles," says ADOT spokeswoman Linda Ritter.

But thanks to federal stimulus money, ADOT will build new exits before the bridges and onramps after them, so trucks won't have to roll through Sonoita.

"Truckers as well as residents along 83 and 82 will be very pleased," Ritter says.

As you can imagine people in Sonoita are tired of the trucks, and thrilled help is on the way.

"Get to where they're going with a more direct path, less pollution, both noise and gas," Grossman says.

The project will cost \$30 million. It is expected to be finished in 2011.

