



State road projects delayed

A different sort of budget problem's delaying Arizona road projects.

Because we're burning less gas, the Arizona Department of Transportation has less money for roads...

Tight money's hitting our highway projects. ADOT's pushing projects back because it's low on money to fuel them.

The money really does come from fuel. Every gallon you buy sends almost 19 cents into a Federal highway fund.

State and local governments get a cut of the cash but when high gas prices made people conserve, road project money started drying up.

ADOT says it will push back a long list of projects at least a year.

In the Marana area, ADOT's 17 million dollar project to expand the I-10/Ina interchange will push back from 2010 to 2011.

And the wider frontage road at I-10 and Marana Road will start in 2013 instead of 2012.

Marana Town Engineer Keith Brann says: "Some of the projects that really affect the Town of Marana were 4 years out so take another 5 years out is not as significant as some other projects ADOT has had to reschedule. The town understands ADOT's dilemma. We face some of the same dilemmas with our own capital improvement projects. "

With the slow economy a lot of open space that would have developed is on hold; that slowdown reduces the urgency for road projects intended to cope with that sort of growth.

Marana resident Peggy Page says she's a little skeptical of how governments uses tax money. Besides, when it comes to burning loads of gas, and pumping up gas taxes, her driving habits have changed.

"I'm being very careful...with everything...still. I'm just nervous about what's happening."

The City of Tucson says gas tax shortfalls aren't holding up any city transportation projects but Tucson's DOT is keeping a close eye on what state lawmakers may provide in the state budget.

Pima County's transportation director says the county's in much the same situation.

