

For Immediate Release:  
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## **New Initiatives to Bring New Life to the 202 Freeway Extension? News Conference: Thursday February 23rd 1:30pm at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Willis (South of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Pecos near Ahwatukee)**

**(Gila River Indian Community, Arizona)** Two new plans are on the table to bring new life to extend the San Tan Freeway into the west Valley from Ahwatukee.



On February 7<sup>th</sup> a majority of tribal members voted in favor of building a freeway but due to three options on the ballot, the inaccurate “No Build” option received the most votes.

The two new proposals would give tribal members two different, and perhaps more acceptable, freeway plans.

One proposal would create a new parkway on land allotted to tribal members. That request has already been sent to the Arizona Department of Transportation by PANGEA

Development, which has been working with tribal land owners over several years.

The second option is a tribal member initiative to rescind the “no build” decision and would allow the Freeway to run on “community land” in an effort to save South Mountain. Organizers of this tribal initiative would need to collect more than 700 signatures. They are planning to do so by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to have an election as early as June. Details of the initiative will be unveiled Thursday.

Tribal Members Devin Redbird, Joe Perez, and Nathaniel Perchero are leading the efforts.

On Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm this group and others will be holding a news conference. The news conference will take place at 40<sup>th</sup> street and Willis, which is directly south of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Pecos near Ahwatukee.

**Who: Gila River Indian Community members Devin Redbird, Nathaniel Pechero and Joe Perez**

**What: Seeking initiative to create economic opportunities and to save South Mountain**

**When: Thursday February 23, 2012 1:30pm**

**Where: 40<sup>th</sup> street and Willis (directly south of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Pecos near Ahwatukee**

**Why: Two timely efforts to save South Mountain, create economic opportunities for tribal members, boost the economy for Arizona and finally realize progress in diverse unification for a more environmentally friendly freeway.**