

# Controlled Rock Blasting is Completed

The I-17 Improvement Project has reached another milestone, as controlled rock blasting work has been completed on the 23-mile stretch between Anthem Way and Sunset Point. Entire sections of the mountainsides along the corridor have been removed through blasting, and this major earthwork operation was necessary to make way for the additional lanes coming to I-17.

## Blasting by the Numbers

- A total of **62** controlled rock blasts were completed, less than the original estimate of **120** blasts. In many circumstances, crews were able to rip or excavate rock in certain areas using heavy equipment rather than through blasting.
- Controlled rock blasting took place at **seven** different locations throughout the **23-mile** project corridor.
- Approximately **177,000** cubic yards of rock and material were removed during the blasting process. A large portion of the blasted material is crushed and then used as aggregate base, embankment and rock mulch throughout the **23** miles of new lanes.
- Blasting activities took place at **10 p.m.** on weeknights and crews had just **one hour** to close the highway, carry out the blasting operation, clear the debris, and then reopen the highway.
- The team was able to complete most blasts in less time than the scheduled hour-long operation. In many cases, traffic was only stopped for about **20 minutes**.