

April 22, 2023

**TO: Mr. Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman**

FROM: Luis E. Ramirez Thomas, President, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Activities – February 2023

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On behalf of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC (“RAI-N”) we are pleased to present our monthly activity report to you and the Board of Directors of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority (“GNSCCPA”). As always, we request and welcome your continued comments and suggestions as to how we can improve on our services, our communications, and our activities on your behalf. With your feedback, we will make every effort to improve our response to your directives and ensure an effective implementation of the initiatives at hand.

Our recent activities on behalf of the GNSCCPA have focused on the following key areas:

1. Mariposa Cold Rooms Project Update;
2. Submission of Congressionally Directed Spending Requests;
3. Letters of Support for Santa Cruz County Spending Requests;
4. Electric Truck Cross-Border Drayage Pilot Program;
5. Visit by Governor’s Office to Nogales;
6. Public Comment Period for New Transmission Line Project;
7. ADEQ Presentation on binational and border projects;
8. Santa Cruz County participates in meeting with Governor Hobbs;
9. PCFR International State of the State;
10. HB2543 Passes Arizona House of Representatives; and
11. Comments on ADOT Long-Range Transportation Plan.

This report is not intended to be a full description of all activities but rather, provides highlights and information on the direction of our activities to keep the Board of Directors informed and to ensure adherence to the vision and guidance imparted to RAI-N by the GNSCCPA and its leadership. Throughout this period, RAI-N has maintained active and frequent communications with Ms. Allison Moore, Mr. Bruce Bracker and various other members of the Board of Directors in order to ensure that we have a fully coordinated approach to our efforts. RAI-N stands ready to address any issue, concern or suggestion that may arise from this report and from our ongoing dialogue with the leadership and the Board of Directors.

## **1. MARIPOSA COLD ROOMS PROJECT UPDATE**

- Project is coming to a close!
- Finishing touches are being identified and addressed with General Services Administration (GSA).
- Planning is underway for the ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

## **2. SUBMISSION OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS**

- In accordance with the priorities identified by the Board of Directors, the Port Authority submitted two projects for consideration under the program of Directed Funding Requests by the US Congress.
- The projects were submitted to the offices of Senator Mark Kelly and Congressman Juan Ciscomani.
- The two projects that were submitted were:
  - \$52 million funding request to pay for the modernization of the I-19 interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Drive
  - \$11.2 million funding request to pay for the modernization of the bridges over the Nogales Wash and the Railroad track at Calle Sonora, Produce Row and Gold Hill Road. Other bridges were considered at the request of the city of Nogales, but the Port Authority could not find any supporting documentation or cost estimates as are available for the three bridges in the request.
- As an example of the submissions, Attachment #1 provides a copy of the submission to Congressman Ciscomani's office.

## **3. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS**

- At the request of Santa Cruz County, the Port Authority issues letters of support for County projects that were submitted for consideration under the directed spending program.
- The letters indicated support for:
  - The intersection at Calle Ramanote and the I-19 west Frontage Road;
  - Ruby Road Bridge over Potrero Creek; and
  - Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter
- Copies of the letters can be found in Attachment #2.

## **4. ELECTRIC TRUCK CROSS-BORDER DRAYAGE PROGRAM**

- Planning continues for the Electric Truck Cross-border Drayage Pilot Program.

- Technical team has been in contact with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the University of Arizona to see if they would be interested in partnering with the Port Authority to track, analyze and report on the various data sectors to determine the gains and challenges of the project.
- Notes from the February Meeting were distributed to the stakeholder group.
  - A copy of the notes is provided in Attachment #3.

**5. VISIT BY GOVERNOR’S OFFICE TO NOGALES**



- On March 14, 2023, Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Director of the Southern Arizona Office for Governor Hobbs, and Kent Burbank, Director of Constituent Engagement, visited Nogales for several meetings on both sides of the border.
- The Port Authority hosted a meeting with the Board of Directors, Chairman Chamberlain provided a tour of his produce warehouse and distribution center, the County hosted a meeting at the County complex, Nogales Community Development provided a tour of their facilities and Supervisor Manny Ruiz hosted a meeting with the Nogales School District.
- Directors Flores-Aguirre and Burbank also visited the Kino Border Initiative. Special thanks to the US Consulate General in Nogales, Sonora for assisting in securing the meeting with Kino Border Initiative.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NEW TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

- On March 17, an email was sent to the Board with the information on the proposed new transmission line by TEP. This is an opportunity for any interested stakeholder to provide any relevant comments regarding the project.
- A copy of the email and its content is provided below.

*UniSource is seeking public comments for the Rio Rico-Harshaw Transmission Line Project. The Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee will review UniSource’s project at a public hearing in Nogales, AZ on April 17-18, 2023, at the Quality Hotel Americana. Public comment will be accepted during a special session on April 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., via telephone, Zoom, or in person.*

*We would encourage folks to submit public comments should they wish to do so. Additional information, including a link to the project website, is provided in the email below.*

*Respectfully,  
Martin Rodriguez Nuñez*

**From:** Ortiz Y Pino, Christopher <Christopher.OrtizYPino@tep.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 04:10 PM  
**To:** Rio Rico to Harshaw Line Project <RR2Harshaw@uesaz.com>  
**Subject:** Rio Rico to Harshaw 138kV Transmission Line Project CEC Filing Update

Hello,

We currently have a post card that is in the process of being printed and mailed to all residents within the project study area. However, we did not want to delay this information any longer for the active stakeholders in the project.

UniSource Energy Services, in cooperation with community members and project stakeholders, has completed a siting analysis to potential routes for a planned 138 Kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will serve a mine exploration project in Santa Cruz County while improving service reliability for residential and other electric customers in the vicinity.

Under state law, UniSource must secure a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) from the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) before building the Rio Rico to Harshaw 138 kilovolt Transmission Line Project. The Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee will review UniSource's CEC application at a public hearing beginning Monday April 17, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Quality Hotel Americana Nogales, located at 639 N. Grand Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621. The hearing will continue on Tuesday April 18, 2023, through Friday April 21, 2023, beginning at 9 a.m. each day as necessary through the completion of the hearing.

Public comment will be taken in a special evening session on April 17, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m., via telephone, Zoom, or in person. Public comments can be submitted throughout the hearing at the committee chairman's discretion. Please visit the project website at [uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw](https://uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw) to participate in the hearing virtually, information on how to participate in the proceedings, and a copy of the CEC application.

Thank you,  
~Chris  
Chris Ortiz y Pino  
Environmental & Land Use Planner  
Tucson Electric Power  
520-633-8693

## Rio Rico to Harshaw 138kV Transmission Line Project

UniSource Energy Services, in cooperation with community members and project stakeholders, has completed a siting analysis to potential routes for a planned 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will serve a mine exploration project in Santa Cruz County while improving service reliability for residential and other electric customers in the vicinity.

Public comments can be submitted throughout the hearing at the committee chairman's discretion. Please visit the project website at [uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw](http://uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw) to learn how you can participate in the hearing virtually, provide comments and view a copy of the CEC application.

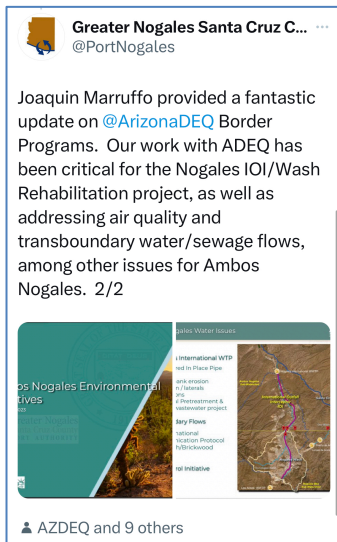
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*El Comité de Emplazamiento de Plantas de Energía y Líneas de Transmisión de Arizona examinará la solicitud del CEC de UniSource para el Proyecto de Línea de Transmisión de 138 kilovatios de Rio Rico a Harshaw en una audiencia pública a partir del Lunes 17 de abril de 2023, a la 1 p.m. en el Quality Hotel Americana Nogales, ubicado en 639 N. Grand Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621. El 17 de abril de 2023, a partir de las 5:30 p.m., se llevará a cabo una sesión especial para recibir comentarios del público, de manera telefónica, por Zoom o en persona. El público podrá expresar sus comentarios durante la audiencia a discreción del presidente del comité. Visite [uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw](http://uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw) para saber cómo puede participar en la audiencia de forma remota, proporcionar comentarios y ver una copia de la solicitud del CEC.*

Public comment will be taken in a special evening session on April 17, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m., via telephone, Zoom, or in person.



### 7. ADEQ PRESENTATION ON BINATIONAL AND BORDER PROJECTS



- On February 16, the Port Authority, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Transportation, the North American Development Bank, and the State of Sonora, hosted the first technical meeting for the Cross-border Electric Truck Drayage Pilot Program.
- With over 30 participants in this hybrid and presentational meeting at the ASU Downtown campus in Phoenix, the process to identify the technical details and action items for the program, was discussed by all stakeholders.
- The Port Authority is working with stakeholders to prepare identify grant opportunities that can be sought and hopefully secured to help defray the cost of the program, estimated at approximately \$1.3 million.

## 8. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN MEETING WITH GOVERNOR HOBBS



- On March 22, Supervisor Bracker joined the Arizona Border Counties Coalition for a meeting with Governor Hobbs to address several border related issues related to trade, tourism, and quality of life on the border region.
- This was an opportunity for the border counties to establish a working dialogue with the Governor.
- Supervisor Bracker raised such key issues as the need to improve our ports of entry, deploy new non-intrusive inspection technologies, secure additional staffing for ports of entry, the need to improve transportation that connects our ports of entry to the federal highway system, and the essential nature of expanded broadband capacity for all border communities.

## 9. PCFR INTERNATIONAL STATE OF THE STATE



- On March 24, the Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations hosted the International State of the State featuring Governor Katie Hobbs.
- Governor Hobbs was joined on stage by the Consul Generals of Mexico, Germany, and Israel for a fireside chat regarding Arizona’s position in international markets.
- In particular, the Consul General of Mexico, Jorge Mendoza Yescas, highlighted *Plan Sonora* that will generate up to 3 GW of renewable energy and contribute to the Chips Manufacturing Supply chain.
- A strong delegation from Nogales attended the event, including:
  - The Honorable Jorge Maldonado, City of Nogales
  - The Honorable John Doyle City of Nogales
  - The Honorable Bruce Bracker, Santa Cruz County
  - The Honorable Manny Ruiz, Santa Cruz County
  - Terry Shannon, Nogales Economic Development Foundation,
  - Jesus Valdes, Santa Cruz County
  - Consul General of Mexico Marco Moreno Baez
  - Sheriff David Hathaway
  - Guillermo Valencia, Nogales Customs Brokers Association

## **10. HB2543 PASSES ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- As indicated in previous reports, the Arizona Legislature is considering HB2543, an appropriations bill that will provide \$330 million to fund transportation projects all over Arizona's 13 rural counties.
- As previously reported, this bill includes funding for four key projects in Santa Cruz County. The bill passed the House with a vote of 50 to 6.
- The bill now goes to the Senate where it will be part of hearings by the Transportation and Appropriations committees, and if passed, will then be voted by the entire Senate.
- A copy of the letter to Senator Rosana Gabaldon can be found in Attachment #4.

## **11. COMMENTS ON ADOT'S LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- On March 28, in response to requests for comments by ADOT, the Port Authority submitted comments on the state's Long Range Transportation Plan.
- The Port Authority's comments included:
  - The modernization of the I-19 Interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Drive;
  - The need to offer multimodal transportation alternatives by constructing a multimodal rail yard in the Rio Rico area; and
  - The need to address transportation impacts with the upcoming modernization of the DeConcini port of entry and the connectivity to I-19 and Grand Avenue.
- A copy of the comments submitted can be found in Attachment #5.

**Attachment #1**

**Copy Directed Spending Requests by Port Authority**

**Congressman Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06)  
Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations  
Community Project Funding Request Form**

**Instructions**

Thank you for sharing your FY 2024 appropriations requests with the office of Congressman Juan Ciscomani. Please follow the instructions and sure you complete the form in its entirety. If you have any questions, please contact [caroline.bender@mail.house.gov](mailto:caroline.bender@mail.house.gov) or call (202) 225-2542. Please see our CPF Summary of Accounts document for additional general information. This form is specific to the subcommittee.

- 1) Deadlines: **The deadline for ALL requests is March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5PM.**
- 2) All questions on the form must be completed. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
- 3) All requests must be submitted via e-mail.
  - a. Completed forms must be submitted to Caroline Bender via email: [Caroline.Bender@mail.house.gov](mailto:Caroline.Bender@mail.house.gov)
  - b. Please format the subject line of your e-mail as follows:  
FY2024 CPF Request – Subcommittee Name**  
EXAMPLE: FY2024 CPF Request – Interior
  - c. Each request must be submitted via a separate email.
- 4) All submitted forms are subject to public disclosure.

**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development**

For fiscal year 2024, the Subcommittee will consider CPF requests in the following accounts

1. Department of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program
2. Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects
3. Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Projects
4. Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
5. Department of Transportation – Port Infrastructure Development Program
6. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiatives



**Request Details**

A short title to describe the project:

Modernization of the I-19 Interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico in Nogales.

Entity Requesting Funds (aka non-federal project sponsor):

Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority

The website address of the proposed recipient.

Nogalesport.org

Primary Point of Contact (name, email, phone number, organization address):

Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman, [info@nogalesport.org](mailto:info@nogalesport.org), (520) 313-9236, P.O. Box 4518, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648

Project Priority (if non-federal sponsor is submitting more than 1 project):

#1

Short description of the project to appear in the report:

The I-19 interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Boulevard, along with the frontage roads on both sides of the freeway, in Nogales are in dire need of modernizing to accommodate for the growth in both commercial and residential traffic.

Total Project Cost (including breakdown of federal/non-federal shares):

\$52,000,000

Requested Amount:

\$52,000,000

Sources of funding for the full share of the cost of the project if amount received is less than amount requested:

Arizona Department of Transportation

Whether the project has received Federal funding previously, and if so, the source and amount:

Not applicable

Complete Description of Project (limit 1000 characters, including spaces):

The I-19 interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Boulevard in Nogales are in dire need of modernizing to accommodate for the growth in both commercial and residential traffic. This is the perhaps the fastest growing area of Santa Cruz County and the congestion is leading to several safety concerns for the traveling public. Ruby Road is a nexus of both heavy commercial traffic that goes in and out of the dozens of produce warehouses and distribution centers in the area. It is also the key access intersection for residential and school traffic, leading to several safety concerns with the mixing of heavy traffic and cars.

If there are additional costs necessary to complete the project, have those been secured?

Not Applicable

Explain why the project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds.

These interchanges are essential for the movement of billions of pounds of fresh produce from Mexico that are essential to the nation's food safety and supply chain. It is also essential that, as residential growth continues, a safe environment be provided for the public that relies on these interchanges.

Explain why this project is a priority for Arizona's 6th Congressional District.

It is the gateway to billions of pounds of fresh produce and tens of thousands of trucks that transport these commodities all over the nation.

***Air Improvement Program***

**NOT APPLICABLE**

Has the airport sponsor provided assurances that the project is eligible under AIP statutes? Airport sponsors should engage with their Federal Aviation Administration Airport District Offices to ensure eligibility under statutory requirements.

What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?

Amount requested for the Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2024, and the total project cost.

Estimated start and completion dates.

Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds for the required cost-share and committed for the forecasted operations and maintenance costs? What is the source and amount of those funds?

Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?

***Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects***

Type of project eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program); 23 USC 201 (Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs); 23 USC 202 (Tribal Transportation Program); or 23 USC 165 (Territorial and Puerto Rico Highway Program). 6.

Estimated start and completion dates. NOTE: Appropriated funds for these projects cannot be used for costs incurred prior to project authorization, which occurs when a project sponsor signs a grant agreement with or receives an allotment by a federal agency.

Estimated start would be in 2025 or later.

Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?

Not Applicable

Please provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include both formula funds and any discretionary grants. EXAMPLE: FY20 TIGER/BUILD Grant: \$10 million; FHWA Formula Funds: \$5 million.

Not Applicable

Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?

Santa Cruz County has indicated that it is possible that some of the overweight funds they receive each year could be used to help defray some of the cost of the project, but that is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project. EXAMPLE: State funds will compose 10 percent of the remaining cost and previously identified federal formula funds (STBG) will make up the rest.

Efforts would be focused on working with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the State Legislature to identify other sources of funding.

Is the project on a STIP or a TIP? If yes, please provide a link to the plan. 12. Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.

It has been included in the extended infrastructure plan for the state, but it is not part of the 5-Year Plan.

***Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Projects***

Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

Yes, the process is being conducted by the Arizona Department of Transportation

Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If yes, list sources and amounts of funds.

No

The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. In general, transit capital projects typically require 20 percent non-federal share. EXAMPLE: Local sales taxes are committed for 25 percent of the project.

Undetermined

If the project receives less than requested for the transit infrastructure projects, will the project proceed without waiting for additional funding sources? EXAMPLE: Yes, however, the project will not be able to proceed immediately without the total amount. The West Elm Public Transportation Authority anticipates using FY24 formula funds to make up the shortfall if there are no other federal grant opportunities available.

Other sources of funding would have to be identified.

Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected? EXAMPLE: Yes, the transit agency anticipates submitting an application for the FY23 Low or No Emission Grant Program before the April NOFO deadline. If they are not selected as a grant awardee for the Low or No Emission Grant Program, the West Elm Public Transportation Authority will still proceed using their formula funds.

Looking into various grant programs through the US Department of Transportation

Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants. EXAMPLE: FY22 FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant: \$100,000; FY23 FTA Formula Funds: \$25,000.

Not Applicable

Where is the project in the construction process? Drop down options in the database will include: Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, RFP/IFB Issued, Contract Awarded, Capital Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify).

The Design Concept Report has been completed by the Arizona Department of Transportation.

A copy of the DCR can be found at:

[https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2019/08/I-19\\_EFR-Final-Project-Assessment-Mar-2018.pdf](https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2019/08/I-19_EFR-Final-Project-Assessment-Mar-2018.pdf)

Estimated start and completion dates.

To be determined

Is the project on a state, tribal or territorial transportation improvement plan (STIP) or a transportation improvement plan (TIP) as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan.

14. Provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.

No

***Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements***

.Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction? if so, what is the source and amount of those funds? The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. Rail capital projects under the CRISI program require a minimum 20 percent non-federal share. EXAMPLE: Local sales taxes are committed for 20 percent of the project.

If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?

Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants. EXAMPLE: FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant of \$7.5 million.

Where is the project in the construction process? Drop down options in the database will include: Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, Right of Way, Contract Awarded, Capital

Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify). Estimated start and completion dates.

Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.

Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.

***Department of Transportation – Port Infrastructure Development Program***

Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?

Is the project in a rural area, as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12) – an area that is outside of a Census-designated urbanized area?

Estimated start and completion dates.

Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?

Please provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any.

Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?

If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project.

***Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiatives***

What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?

Who are the community partners participating in this project? Have local community development organizations with prior experience with HUD programs been consulted?

Has the request been submitted to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?

Is this project consistent with the primary objective of the community development program? Please describe who the project is intended to benefit.

**Attachment #2**

Copy of letters of support for Santa Cruz County Funding Requests



March 7, 2023

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
US House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 205151

Letter of Support for Camino Ramanote Modernization Project

Dear Congressman Grijalva,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I am writing to express our support for the funding request by Santa Cruz County for the project that will modernize the intersection of Camino Ramanote and the West Frontage Road.

The Rio Rico area of Santa Cruz County is the county's fastest growing region and as such is facing several issues associated with growth. Congestion and safety on roads are probably the first and most noticeable repercussion and this project is designed to address one of those issues.

Authorities are reporting a high number of accidents at this intersection, and it is essential that the necessary and recommended improvements are made for the safety of the traveling public. At a cost of \$841,000, it is hard to imagine a similar project that will have a higher impact.

I thank you for the consideration you give to this request and know that we stand ready to answer any questions you or your team may have.

Respectfully,

Jaime Chamberlain  
Chairman



March 7, 2023

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Santa Cruz County Fiscal Year 2024 Community Funding Project Requests

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I am writing to express our support for the funding request presented by Santa Cruz County for the Community Funding Project requests to be included in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations. These projects are critical to meeting our County's growing needs.

Our priorities are:

- Ruby Road Bridge over the Potrero Creek and Union Pacific Railroad – \$3,600,000, THUD Appropriations Bill, Department of Transportation-Highway Infrastructure Projects Account – This project will replace the Ruby Road Bridge over Potrero Creek and create a grade separated crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to improve safety and connectivity for this underserved community.
- West Frontage Road at Camino Ramanote Roundabout – \$1,200,000, THUD Appropriations Bill, Department of Transportation-Highway Infrastructure Projects Account – In a proactive effort to reduce traffic accidents and observed congestion at this intersection, the County is planning on constructing a full roundabout.
- Santa Cruz County Animal Control Shelter – \$1,500,000, Agriculture Appropriations Bill, HCFA Account – The project consists of retrofitting an existing County Building (3,000 Sq. Ft.), for the purpose of converting it into a modern Animal Control Shelter with the capacity to effectively provide the highest level of animal services within the jurisdiction. The current shelter has surpassed its useful life to accommodate the shelter needs of the County.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, or County Public Works Director, Jesus Valdez, at (520) 375-7830.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank you for your continued support for southern Arizona and Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaime Chamberlain".

Jaime Chamberlain  
Chairman

### **Attachment #3**

#### **Minutes from Electric Truck Pilot Program meeting**

##### **NOTES**

Cross-Border Electric Truck Drayage Pilot Program  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
ASU Mercado  
Phoenix, Arizona

Recording: [https://youtu.be/\\_bAHksShQQ](https://youtu.be/_bAHksShQQ)

- Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority will be the principal promoter and fiduciary agency for the pilot program.
- Initial estimates are that the pilot program will cost \$1.3 million (\$1 million for up to 4 (four) Semis, \$200,000 for two (2) high-speed charging stations, and \$100,000 for data monitoring and analysis.)
- The North American Development Bank (NADBank) has confirmed that they have set aside up to \$350,000 for a grant to be applied towards the cost of the pilot program.
  - Requires a 20% match (\$70,000).
- ADOT EV Charging station funding may offer some possible funding towards this program.
- TEP, the local utility, has a program that includes the deployment of EV charging stations, but they had not considered trucks using this infrastructure.
  - TEP looking into possible funding opportunities for the pilot program.
- Fresh Produce representatives indicate concerns over the ability for e-trucks to operate efficiently if they have a refrigerated unit with temperature-sensitive commodities.
  - Suggestion was made to consider focusing on dry-goods or manufactured products (non-temperature sensitive) for the pilot program.
  - Consensus was that pilot should look at all types of commodities in order to identify challenges and solutions.
- Nikola indicated that they offer training for operators of their trucks.
  - Consider if ADOT safety inspection personnel will be required to participate in the training sessions to help them identify ways to modify safety inspection process for electric units.
  - Nikola indicated that their current models have a range of up to 350 miles, without a refrigerated unit.
  - Nikola is also looking at idle time for the truck as this will be one of the key challenges for cross-border operations in case trucks are forced to stay in a queue to cross the border.
- AZ Tech Council indicate that they have two additional e-truck manufacturers as members, and they offered to make an introduction to see if they are interested in participating in this program.
- Gerardo Arroyo of USAID indicated that there are a number of initiatives that will support net-zero emissions programs.
  - Follow up with USAID is required to define how they can support this pilot program.



- Fresh Produce industry indicated that there are other types of truck usages that could also benefit from e-trucks, including local deliveries, that don't necessarily cross the border. Usually rely on smaller configuration trucks that travel 2 to 15 miles.
  - AZ-Tech council members may fit this configuration.
- NADBank requires a proposal to be submitted for the grant that needs to include a scope of work for the pilot program.

**Action Items:**

1. Need cost information from:
  - a. ChargePoint on high-speed charging units
  - b. Nikola on truck costs
  - c. University of Arizona on data monitoring/analysis and reporting
2. Schedule next meeting in Ambos Nogales to start looking at possible sites for the installation of the charging units.
3. Technical team to prepare a draft scope of work that includes the information required by NADBank to be eligible for the technical grant.

**List of Participants:**

1. Alana Langdon, Nikola Motor
2. Alejandro Navarro
3. Allison Moore, Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
4. Carol Colombo, Arizona District Export Council
5. Claire Mark, U.S. Consulate General in Nogales, Sonora
6. Diego Ledgard, Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano de Sonora
7. David Figueroa, Gobierno del Estado de Sonora
8. Gerardo Arroyo, USAID Mexico
9. Gerardo Monroy, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
10. Jaime Chamberlain, Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority
11. Jaime Olaiz R., Safe Border Trucking Association,
12. Jenny Fiore-Magaña, South32
13. Jesse Hereford, North American Development Bank
14. John Kissinger, City of Nogales
15. Juan Sanchez, Arizona-Mexico Commission
16. Justin Dutram, The University of Arizona
17. Karla B. Morales, Arizona Technology Council
18. Laura Biedebach, U.S. Consulate General in Nogales, Sonora
19. Luis Ramirez, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National
20. Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Office of the Governor of Arizona
21. Mark Sanders, Arizona Department of Transportation
22. Martin Rodriguez, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National
23. Matt Mandel, SunFed
24. Mike Farrell, Zevx
25. Monica Pinto

26. Nahui Olin, Nikola Motor
27. Omar Gonzales, Nikola Motor
28. Paloma Sánchez, U.S. Embassy in Mexico City
29. Roberto Molina, North American Development Bank
30. Stephanie Masetto, Kenworth-PACCAR
31. Steven Zylstra, Arizona Technology Council
32. Teresa Bravo, Tucson Electric Power
33. William Ayala, U.S. Embassy in Mexico City

**AGENDA**

ASU Mercado  
Building C, Room C146  
502 E Monroe St  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86773156809?pwd=YzBxS2V0dmFBRIQxVVdtb2FWdWR6dz09>  
Meeting ID: 867 7315 6809  
Passcode: 939393

- I. **Opening Remarks & Introductions**  
**Moderator: Luis Ramirez, Arizona-Mexico Commission**
  - a. Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman, Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority
  - b. Mark Sanders, Director of International and Local Affairs, Arizona DOT
  - c. Francisco Acuña, President of the Council for Sustainable Development of Sonora
  - d. Lirio del Castillo, Executive Director, Institute of Mobility and Transport, State of Sonora
  - e. David Figueroa, State of Sonora Representative in Arizona
  - f. Jesse Hereford, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, North American Development Bank
  
- II. **Stakeholder Introductions**
  
- III. **Review of Draft White Paper**  
*Mark Sanders, Arizona Department of Transportation*
  
- IV. **Review of Action Items**
  
- V. **Closing Remarks**

**Attachment #4**  
Copy of Letter in support of HB2543



March 24, 2023

The Honorable Rosana Gabaldon  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Support for HB2543

Dear Senator Gabaldon,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I am writing to express our support for HB2543, an Appropriations bill for Greater Arizona Transportation Projects (As Amended). This bill sets aside \$330 million to pay for projects that are of critical significance to Nogales, Santa Cruz County and many other rural areas of our state.

As you know, this bill passed the House of Representatives with a very large bipartisan majority, and it is our hope that the Senate will also embrace this bill with the same level of support to ensure that it is included into the final budgeting process.

For Nogales, this bill includes 4 critical projects that will greatly benefit residents, address key road condition challenges in major industrial areas, and promote the safety of the traveling public. It is important to highlight that without the support from you and your fellow legislators, these projects are likely to languish for a long time.

We understand that several key votes will be happening on this bill in the next two weeks, and we would ask that you work with your Senate colleagues to garner the support needed to pass this bill.

As always, we greatly appreciate your continued support and advocacy for our community. Should you have any questions please do let me know.

Respectfully,



Jaime Chamberlain  
Chairman

CC: Arizona State Senate Transportation and Technology, and Appropriations Committees

**Attachment #5**  
Comments on ADOT Long Range Transportation Plan



March 28, 2023

ADOT LRTP  
1655 West Jackson Street, MD 126F  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Via Electronic Mail: LRTP@azdot.gov

RE: Comments on 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

Dear ADOT Team,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, here are comments from our community for you to consider as you develop the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Nogales is a community of approximately 25,000 residents, the entire county reaching 50,000 residents. Yet, for our community of our small stature, we have an outsized impact to the binational region, to Arizona and our nation.

In 2022, in northbound traffic, Nogales was the gateway for 370,773 trucks, 3,687,883 cars, 810 trains, and 9,883,250 people. This translates into just over 1,200 trucks, 10,100 cars and 27,000 people that cross into Nogales every day! When you include estimates for southbound traffic, that means that over 2,400 trucks, 20,000 cars and 54,000 additional people are relying on our roads, highways and overall infrastructure. These volumes are far more typical of a community that is many times our size. Therefore the wear and tear on our roads is far more than if you just look at our census. Can you imagine that each day, our ports of entry move twice the entire population of our city?

Some of the latest data indicates that the commercial traffic at Nogales, in all those trucks and trains exceeds more than \$29.5 billion in 2022. Considering that in 2010, that value was just over \$19.8 billion, that means that trade through Nogales has grown by 49% in just 12 years. Can you imagine what can happen between now and 2050? The importance of Nogales cannot be overstated.

That is why we are asking the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to look at Nogales and border communities through a different lens than the rest of the state. ADOT just completed the modernization of SR-189, a \$134 million project that is more akin to what people see in metropolitan areas like Tucson and Phoenix. But that is precisely the approach

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and investments that our community needs to ensure the safety of the traveling public, that trade does not get bogged down by constant and growing congestion and that our community does not become the bottleneck for the Arizona-Mexico corridor.

The SR-189 project is part of a broader transportation strategy for our community and for Arizona. When the Mariposa port of entry was modernized, a \$250 million project that was completed in 2013, we gained a state-of-the-art facility that increased the design throughout capacity of the port from 400 trucks per day to over 4,000. But the trucks don't stop at the border; they take their products to warehouses and distribution centers all over our community, that is why SR-189 was critical to get traffic to and from I-19 effectively, efficiently, and safely, but once on I-19, the vast majority of those trucks travel north to the Ruby Road interchange on I-19. This interchange is in desperate need of a major overhaul.

ADOT completed the Design Concept Report for the required improvements at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Drive interchanges in 2018. At that time, the estimated cost of the project was \$26.2 million. Given the recent impacts of inflation, aggravated by supply chain challenges, we estimate that these improvements have doubled in cost to some \$52.4 million – we would ask that ADOT update these numbers. Ruby Road and Rio Rico Boulevard, along with the frontage roads on both sides of the interstate, are critical to regional supply chains and the nation's food security.

Additionally, it is imperative that for our corridor to remain competitive, companies be offered multimodal transportation initiatives. That is why we are supporting the efforts of Santa Cruz County to design, build and operate a multimodal rail yard in the Rio Rico area to support the growing logistical needs of the manufacturing sector, the produce importers and distributors and the emergent mining sector in our region.

Mining alone stands to dramatically change the dynamics in our community. At full operation, the Hermosa Mine will add anywhere from 50 to 150 trucks to our roads, every day for the next 30 years or more. The ability to rely on rail for the movement of minerals offers a far more cost-effective means of transportation than trucks on roads. The impacts of the Hermosa Mine must be considered as you are undertaking this long-term planning effort.

Finally, the General Services Administration has recently begun the Feasibility Study process to modernize the DeConcini port of entry at downtown Nogales. The modernized facility promises to be a game changer for our entire downtown region, as well as for the retail, restaurant and tourism sectors in our community and appropriate planning must be considered to avoid the creation of new traffic bottlenecks in the connectivity to I-19 and Grand Avenue.

ADOT has been one of the most impactful partners in the growth of our binational community. There has been an understanding that our little community is heavyweight when it comes to trade, tourism, and the impacts to global supply chains. We hope that this approach remains a foundation for the long-term transportation planning process.

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As always, we greatly appreciate our continue partnership with ADOT. We look forward to participating in the planning process and know that we stand ready to address any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Jaime Chamberlain  
Chairman

CC: Jennifer Toth, Director, Arizona Department of Transportation