

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRIORITY ISSUES FOR NOGALES 2023

PREPARED BY:
GREATER NOGALES
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY

WWW.NOGALESPORT.ORG

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Directors of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority adhere to their steadfast commitment to advancing the mission of the organization.

To ensure a cohesive and coordinated message to stakeholders and decisionmakers throughout North America, the Port Authority has listed its top initiatives, with the understanding that many of them will overlap, while remaining ready to take advantage of timely opportunities to advance the goals of the organization. This document does not provide a ranking but rather provides a list of all the projects and initiatives that the Port Authority advocates for on a day-to-day basis and as appropriate opportunities arise.

This list of priorities is subject to change at any time with the approval of the Board of Directors.

For more information and updates please visit www.nogalesport.org or follow us on social media platforms.

MISSION STATEMENT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, THE STRATEGIC MISSION OF THE PORT AUTHORITY IS TO STRENGTHEN THE REGIONAL ECONOMY, IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SPUR TOURISM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BY MAKING THE INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY AND SURROUNDING AREAS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

As a consensus builder, the entities that comprise the Board of Directors represent the key sectors of industry and local government in the Greater Nogales area.

OFFICERS

- Chairman: Jaime Chamberlain, Nogales Economic Development Foundation
- Vice Chair: Joshua Rubin, Index – Nogales
- Treasurer: The Honorable Bruce Bracker, Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

BOARD MEMBERS

- City of Nogales: The Honorable Jorge Maldonado, Mayor
- Fresh Produce Association of the Americas: Matt Mandel
- Nogales U.S. Customs House Brokers Association: Guillermo Valencia
- Nogales Community Development: Nilo Larriva
- Santa Cruz County Mining Cluster: Pat Risner

EX-OFFICIO

- Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
- Tucson Electric Power



PRIORITY ITEMS

NOT LISTED IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

EXPEDITING COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC AT THE QUEROBABI MILITARY INSPECTION STATION

The military checkpoint that is located between Hermosillo and Nogales, Sonora is a continuous bottleneck for trade, with recorded wait times exceeding 15 hours. While investments have been made to improve the infrastructure at the inspection station, there remain opportunities to deploy programs, systems and technologies to provide Mexican military authorities the information and tools needed to facilitate the inspection process while offering importers and exporters a more efficient and predictable transit time along this critical US-Mexico trade corridor. ***Advocating for the expediting of traffic at Querobabi Military Inspection station.***



MODERNIZATION OF THE NOGALES CORRIDOR CONNECTING THE MARIPOSA PORT OF ENTRY WITH MX-15

The corridor that connects MX-15 with the border at the Mariposa Port of Entry, approximately 13 kilometers in length, needs upgrades and modernization that include lane designation, signage, security, and overall maintenance to offer trucks and cars a safe and secure environment. ***Advocating for Mexican authorities to work with concessionaire to make the necessary improvements.***



IMPLEMENTING INITIATIVES THAT OFFER SOLUTIONS FOR STORMWATER ISSUES IN AMBOS NOGALES



A comprehensive approach is needed for the issues surrounding the Ambos Nogales watershed and basin, which includes a number of individual projects that will provide a positive impact on the situation by minimizing flooding events, decreasing the speed at which stormwaters flow at grade on streets and sidewalks, minimizing the damage to local infrastructure and eliminating pollution of the Nogales Wash which negatively affects underground water reservoirs. Among the various projects under consideration are the maintenance, operation, design and construction of retention ponds in Nogales, Sonora; creation of a binational/bilingual notification and information system for storm and flooding events and the modernization of the stormwater tunnels that cross the border in the downtown area of Ambos Nogales. ***Advocating for a comprehensive plan to address stormwater issues.***



SUPPORT NOGALES WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT ACT"

Support for the Nogales Wastewater Act, that transfers ownership of the International Outfall Interceptor to the federal government and allocates the funding necessary for the maintenance and operation of the IOI on the US side of the border. ***Advocating for the approval of the Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act***

MODERNIZATION OF THE DECONCINI PORT OF ENTRY

The DeConcini port of entry no longer meets the mission requirements of Customs and Border Protection. A complete modernization of the facility is desperately needed. Working with the General Services Administration as they undertake the Feasibility Study that will provide a conceptual design, possible expansion of the port's footprint and a cost-estimate.

Improvements are desperately needed to ensure the safety of the traveling public and offer CBP officers a modern and adequate facility to perform their duties. ***Advocating for the modernization of the DeConcini port of entry.***

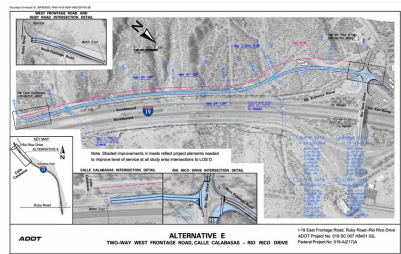
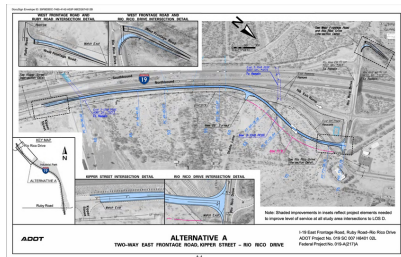
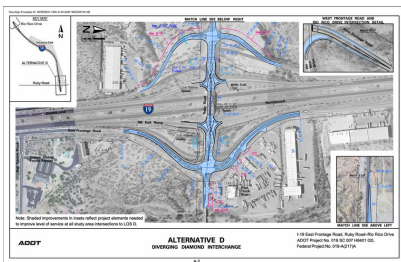


DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MULTIMODAL FACILITY AT RIO RICO

In order to meet the needs of the international trade sector, and to support efforts to recruit new investments in the Arizona-Mexico corridor, companies require the option of shipping their products or commodities by truck or via rail. Nogales lacks the facilities for companies to load or offload from trucks to rail or vice-versa. This project could offer shipping alternatives to the fresh produce, maquila and mining sectors in the binational region.

A back-to-back multimodal yard is required for Arizona to retain its competitiveness vis-a-vis California, New Mexico and Texas. ***Advocating for a new state-of-the-art multimodal facility at Rio Rico to support the growth of the fresh produce, manufacturing and mining sectors.***

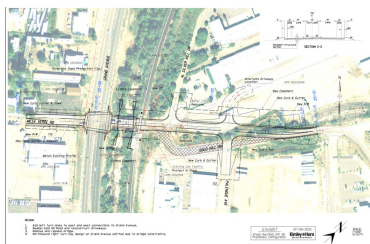
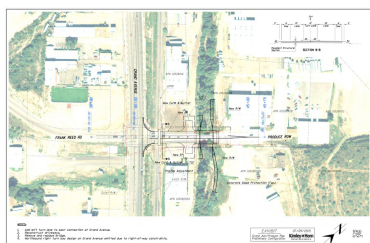
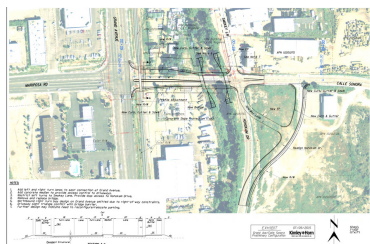




MODERNIZATION OF I-19 INTERCHANGES AT RUBY ROAD AND RIO RICO DRIVE

With the modernization of SR-189, the remaining obstacle to a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure system at Nogales is the need to improve the interchanges on I-19 at Ruby Road and Rio Rico Drive, along with the related improvements to the frontage roads between these two interchanges. The Arizona Department of Transportation has already completed the Design Concept Report (DCR) for these improvements and is in the process of completing the environmental compliance required for the project. The 2018 DCR estimates the cost at approximately \$26.2 million. Advocating for the inclusion of these projects in ADOT's 5-Year Transportation Plan.

Advocating for the modernization of I-19 Interchanges.



MODERNIZE EAST-WEST RAILROAD CROSSINGS

The east-west connectors in Nogales that traverse the railroad tracks and the Nogales Wash have not been updated in decades and are in desperate need of repairs. In particular, the bridges at Calle Sonora, Produce Row and Gold Hill Road are in poor condition and are subject to substantial backups on a regular basis. Original estimates indicate that \$11.2 million are needed to modernize these three bridges.

Advocating for the necessary funding to pay for the modernization of three critical east-west connector bridges at Nogales.

PROMOTE THE RETAIL SECTOR

Downtown Nogales has been a retail mecca for many decades yet in the past 5 or 10 years. The retail sector has suffered tremendous losses with many stores forced to close. Furthermore, the forced shutdowns and border crossing restrictions have further aggravated the situation. ***Advocating for programs and initiatives that promote the retail sector in Nogales and promote the region as a destination for both domestic and foreign visitors.***



IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic growth and new investments are promoting the creation of new jobs, many of which require more advanced skills. Manufacturing, fresh produce, logistics and mining are among the sectors with the most pressing needs. The port Authority is committed to working with industry and educational institutions to create programs that promote the development of a local workforce. ***Advocating the development and implementation of programs that develop local workforce to meet the needs of employers.***

SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THE FRESH PRODUCE IMPORT INDUSTRY FOR ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE USMCA TO ENSURE SAFE, AFFORDABLE FOOD SUPPLY IN NORTH AMERICA

Nogales remains the single largest port of entry for the importation of fresh produce from Mexico destined for markets in the US, Canada and beyond. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement outlines a set of principles by which companies from the three signatory countries can operate. Yet, based on political motivations, various groups promote the application of provisions that punish importers of fresh produce from Mexico. ***Advocating for the US to adhere to the principles outlined in the USMCA when it comes to the importation of fresh produce from Mexico.***





UPDATE THE STAFFING MODEL FOR PORTS OF ENTRY

While the ports of entry at Nogales have received additional staffing, the demands associated with trade facilitation, security, immigration, food safety and more are in constant flux. This forces CBP to make staffing and resource allocation decisions that seek to minimize the impacts to trade or tourism rather than fostering both. Additionally, the continued diversion of staffing to support non-port activities and programs further stretches the limited staffing at the ports. *Advocating that CBP update its staffing model to ensure that ports are staffed to ensure continuity of operations at all times.*

DEPLOY SENTRI AT MARIPOSA PORT OF ENTRY



SENTRI has proven to be an extremely successful voluntary program that helps travelers cross the border in an expedited format while offering CBP more information on every traveler to enhance the security of our nation. While all non-commercial primary lanes at the Mariposa port of entry are equipped with the necessary technology for SENTRI, there remains the need to provide a dedicated vehicular access lane from the Mexican side. This project has remained a top priority since the modernization of the port was completed almost a decade ago. *Advocating for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of SENTRI lanes at the Mariposa port of entry.*

THE NEW NOGALES

not defined by a border, driven by a community

modern safe connected



USMCA & NORTH AMERICAN TRADE AT WORK IN NOGALES

Building state-of-the-art ports of entry

Investing in highways

Utilizing innovative inspection procedures

Supporting the growth of a MegaRegion

Attracting international business

discover the opportunity

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