

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Monday, March 9, 2015**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Karen Riggs, Highway & Floodplain Director
Karen Lamberton, Transportation

Attendees: Kent Dibble
Kevin Perko
Dan Coxworth
Rick Mueller
Drew Spear

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

Presentation, discussion and direction on the proposed Buffalo Soldier Trail Extension Corridor.

Mr. Dan Coxworth, Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO) Director, said that the project was the focus for fiscal year 2015-2016 and noted that Dibble Engineering Corporation was hired to begin the analysis of the project.

Mr. Drew Spear, Dibble Engineering Corporation, discussed the background of the project and outlined the purpose and need. He listed the goals and objectives: inform and seek public input;

maximize benefit of traveling; determine the preferred roadway; enhance safety; minimize adverse impacts to environment; identify new right-of-way requirements; enhance traffic operations; develop consensus for alternatives; minimize adverse impacts to residents; create multi-modal corridor; develop realistic implementation; and develop access to management plan. He noted that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will have an opportunity to give input and explained why certain options were not used.

Supervisor Searle asked why none of the routes went south.

Mr. Spear stated that using a south route was not cost effective and it would disrupt the environmental area and man-made buildings. He listed the 12 evaluation criteria: public support; Moson road impact scores; access impacts; future development compatibility; traffic network continuity; floodplain impacts; building/property impacts; environmental impacts; utility/well impacts; costs; noise; and ranching. He stated that Durango, Alternative D, scored the highest because it has the least impacts to the natural, built, and socio-economic environment and is what Dibble recommends.

The Board asked detailed questions about the alternatives not chosen.

Mr. Spear stated that all criteria was considered when making the final recommendation.

Chairman Call asked if cost would be the main factor in the recommended alternative.

Mr. Spear said that cost would be a major consideration as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal criteria. He also noted that they were working with owners and utility companies to ensure the least disturbance during construction.

Ms. Karen Riggs, County Engineer and Highways & Floodplain Director, asked about the preliminary floodplain investigation.

Mr. Spear said that the investigation had been done and included in the criteria for the recommendation.

Ms. Riggs said that it is important to keep options open as initial studies are done, especially when a right-of-way has to be acquired to complete the project.

Mr. Ortega stated that the County would continue to work with the SVMPO as the project moved along, but that a cost savings was being considered for a low water crossing instead of a bridge.

The Board thanked everyone for their efforts and asked to be updated as the project moved forward.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
