

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor  
Absent: Ann English, Chairman  
Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board  
Attendees: Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director  
Joaquin Solis, Highway and Floodplain Assistant Director

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION**

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Engineering & Natural Resources Department Informational Update, including the following topics: Engineering Division update.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins stated the project focuses on widening a section of road from Hereford Road to Highway 92. She stated the design consultant is Kimley-Horn, and the project is in stage one, with environmental clearance expected by October next year. Final plans are anticipated by June 2026, and the construction could cost between \$25-30 million, with potential for phased development and additional grants to cover the costs.

Ms. Watkins stated the Davis Road project addresses drainage issues at mileposts 5 and 13, funded by \$2.8 million from Senator Kelly's discretionary funds and \$3.6 million in county funds. She stated the design, originally started in 2003, is being updated by BHC consultants, who are securing environmental clearance with construction oversight by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). She stated the anticipated construction will begin around May or June, transforming Davis Road into an all-weather road by reinforcing sections prone to flooding; this will provide safer passage, especially near curve-prone areas where flooding has historically been an issue. Ms. Watkins stated the project from Highway 80 to North Central Highway is a federally funded study supported by a \$2 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. She stated the project is in its initial stages, with plans to hire a consultant to finalize the design and secure

environmental clearance. She stated in the first phase, eight-foot shoulders will be added to enhance safety, providing space for breakdowns and smoother traffic flow.

Ms. Watkins stated the Douglas Port of Entry project involves collaboration between ADOT, the county, and the City of Douglas, with plans for a new port and roadway connection. She stated ADOT is finalizing the design concept and environmental clearance, with a public meeting scheduled on November 19th to present alignment options. She stated funding includes \$4.4 million from the Arizona Smart Fund, \$8.1 million from state appropriations, and additional contributions from the county and city. Ms. Watkins stated the goal is to acquire the right-of-way by 2025, begin utility work by 2027, and secure a \$43 million federal grant for the \$78 million project.

Ms. Watkins stated the Ramsey Canyon multi-use path project will extend from Stafford Lane and Richard Road to Highway 92, situated on the north side of Ramsey Road, due to utility conflicts on the south side. She stated the project is currently in the scoping phase, which involves determining the best alignment for the path while minimizing environmental impact and avoiding tree removal. She stated right-of-way has already been secured and after scoping is completed, grant applications will be pursued for design and construction, ultimately creating a bike-friendly path connecting neighborhoods and natural areas.

Ms. Watkins stated progress continues on several infrastructure projects in the area. She stated a 20-year repair and replacement plan for 61 bridges is being developed, with scoping underway for the Rucker Canyon Road Bridge using a \$135,000 grant. She stated public-private partnerships aim to improve roads like Bell Ranch and Shelton, focusing on heavier construction standards to support large trucks. She stated Kansas Settlement Road is undergoing geotechnical studies for precision repairs, while GPS survey technology upgrades are in progress, collaborating with the state for enhanced accuracy in property and flood control mapping.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board