

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman, Telephonic; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator
Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator
Dylan Hendel, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Denise Riden, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 11:44 a.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Engineering Division update.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins stated Davis Road improvements began in the mid-2000s and are now a top priority with the port of entry opening in 2028. She stated there are updated plans and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance should be complete by early 2026, with construction funded by a 2.8 million grant.

The Board and staff discussed adding 8-foot shoulders and realigning a sharp curve at milepost 5 on Davis Road. The Board raised concerns about increased truck traffic moving through Tombstone and surrounding routes, with questions on infrastructure impacts. Ms. Watkins stated that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) indicated improvements to Highway 191 remain a long-term, unfunded project, creating uncertainty about traffic flow and support facilities.

Ms. Watkins stated Moson Road is a 7.8-mile project with 60% of the design expected to be complete this quarter. She stated a \$6.1 million grant funds the project, leaving about \$2 million for final design and right-of-way acquisition. She stated plans include adding 8-foot shoulders and a sight-distance improvement at Garden Canyon Road. She stated an open house drew around 150 attendees, showing strong community interest. Ms. Watkins stated the project on Moson Road will include culverts, box culverts, and two bridges to keep the road open, but it will

not mitigate upstream flooding. She stated the design aims to maintain road access while managing existing flood patterns.

The Board and staff discussed James Ranch Road leading to the commercial port of entry, noting ADOT has \$27.5 million and the project needs an additional \$20 million for final design. Ms. Watkins stated the original plan included two roundabouts costing \$87 million, but the current design removes them to stay within budget, providing four lanes of traffic instead.

The Board and staff discussed the reconstruction of Kansas Settlement Road and assistance is being sought from the State.

Ms. Watkins stated that the Whitewater Draw Bridge on Rucker Road is structurally insufficient with a 5-ton limit, affecting access during rain events. She noted that scoping will determine whether to replace it with a new bridge or heavy box culverts. She stated the project will pursue off-system bridge grants, which are available every two years for county roads. Ms. Watkins stated that the Leslie Creek Bridge, a one-lane structure on Leslie Canyon Road, was limited by insurance after damage from an overweight truck. Ms. Watkins stated that the Middle March Bridge on Pearce Road is over 124 years old, wooden, and may be replaced with a box culvert. She stated Leslie Canyon also has a milepost 8.6 box cover culvert to support water delivery for residents. Ms. Watkins stated that the Turkey Creek Bridge project involves Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) grant funds for flood control and grade stabilization to protect the structure.

In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins explained that scour occurs when water washes away material around a bridge, potentially undermining its footings. Photos illustrated natural ground versus scoured areas caused by a failed diversion channel. Solutions include scour walls, concrete cut-off walls, or stepped gabions to allow natural backfilling and protect the bridge.

The Board and staff discussed a public hearing on adding or dropping roads from maintenance scheduled for November 6. Ms. Watkins noted postcards will be sent to over 4,000 affected property owners by October 15, 2025, to notify them of the potential changes. She stated the hearing would allow residents to speak on individual roads.

Ms. Watkins provided an update on the county's engineered 5-year plan, based on the 2015 long-range transportation plan. She stated the plan includes roads, bridges, and structures, with a 20-year replacement strategy for 61 county bridges inspected by ADOT. She stated the drainage improvements are also planned, including over 300 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) crossings on county roads, prioritized by traffic volume.

The Board and staff discussed challenges of oversized loads on Highway 80 and I-10, noting the westbound trumpet interchange at 191 prevents large vehicles from ramping on and off, and the overpass is too low.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board