

March 5, 2023

Honorable Nieves Riedel
Mayor
City of San Luis
1090 East Union Street
San Luis, Arizona 85349

RE: Activity Report, July 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023.

Honorable Mayor Riedel,

On behalf of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National and at the direction of City Attorney, Kay Macuil, we are pleased to submit this overview of our activities on behalf of the City of San Luis. While this overview starts from July 1, 2022, in most instances, our activities are a continuation of the work that has been undergoing for quite some time.

While our engagement with the City is focused on the ports of entry and issues that directly affect the ports, our dialogue with City leadership has touched on several initiatives that, we hope, have contributed to the positioning, advancement, and growth of the community. Among those related efforts are the dialogue with hotel developers, industrial park developers, the US Postal Service, and supporting the efforts of regional economic development and planning stakeholders in their own individual initiatives that benefit San Luis.

We stand ready to address any questions or comments that the city may have regarding our efforts. Allow me to reaffirm that this is an overview and not an accounting of all activities on behalf of the city. We provide this information with the hopes of verifying that our efforts are aligned with the vision of the City's leadership. We are always open to guidance and direction to ensure that we are in alignment with your directives.

We are excited to continue our work with you, the members of Council and the administrative leadership of the city on implementing your vision for the future of the community.

Respectfully,



Luis Ramirez Thomas, MSFS
President

Update on Activities on behalf of the City of San Luis

July 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023

July 2022

- July 6: Work with Yuma County on Border Water Infrastructure Funding Coalition Letter
 - In a letter signed by multiple border regional stakeholders to Arizona’s Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly, the letter requested \$100 million to pay for infrastructure to support access to water and wastewater and the management of water resources in the region.
 - *“We are writing in support of increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) to \$100 million in the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023... Arizona’s border communities face the unique challenge of managing transboundary flows from rivers, washes, and streams that span both sides of the border. Additionally, the management of cross-border water, sewer, and stormwater flows requires state-of-the-art infrastructure to adequately protect public health, enhance safety of residents of the region and preserve the environmental integrity of the region.”*
- July 12: Assisted in planning and participated in a binational stakeholder meeting to discuss the Mobility Study in support of the needed improvements at San Luis Rio Colorado 1.

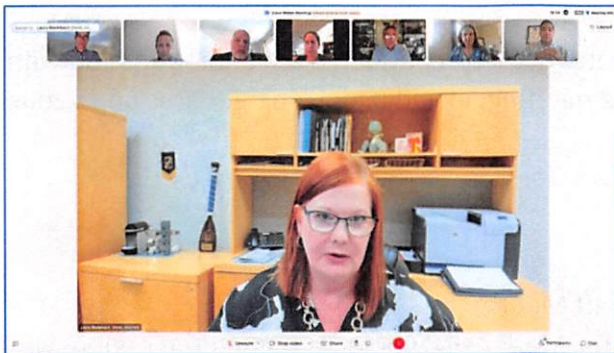


- While the General Services Administration is moving forward with the modernization of San Luis 1, efforts continue for Mexico to make the necessary improvements on the Mexican side.
- In partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation and in

coordination with city management, we contacted and coordinated with the North American Development Bank, to help secure a Technical Assistance Grant for \$100,000 to help San Luis Rio Colorado and the State of Sonora undertake the mobility study.

- In addition to the City of San Luis, participants included:
 - Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT),

- Instituto de Movilidad de Sonora
 - Department of Infrastructure and Urban Development of Sonora
 - Kimley Horn
 - Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization
 - UG21 Consultores
- The outcomes of this meeting were reported to the North American Development Bank, as they are the principal funders of the Mobility Study in San Luis Rio Colorado.
- July 19: Meeting to reaffirm Arizona’s priority border infrastructure projects and request that the next US-Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting – West, be held in Arizona.



- Participated in a dialogue with the US Department of State, the US Consulate General in Nogales, Sonora, and ADOT to advance the efforts to host the first in-person Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting on the Arizona border.
 - These meetings are the formal diplomatic process for the countries to discuss port of entry projects.
- This meeting would focus on the California/Arizona, US and Baja California/Sonora, Mexico portion of the US-Mexico border.
- July 22: Assisted in drafting and distributing letters regarding the challenges associated with the current postal service in San Luis
 - Worked with city administration to draft and send a letter to the US Postmaster, our Congressional delegation and the office of the Governor requesting adjustments to the postal service at San Luis, recognizing that the single post office structure no longer meets the needs of the community.
 - This included responding to requests for additional information from various Congressional offices.
- July 26: Assisted in the planning of a stakeholder meeting with the new leadership of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Task Force.
 - In coordination with the Arizona Legislature, the Office of the Governor and the relevant enforcement agencies, a task force was created that brought together ADOT and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Task Force (CVETF).

- With the change in the leadership of the Task Force, it was imperative that the city and key stakeholders impacted by the commercial safety inspections at the San Luis 2 port of entry.
- In addition to the leadership of the city, the meeting included:
 - Yuma County
 - Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA)
 - Southwest Port Users Association (SWAPU)
 - US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
 - City of Yuma
 - Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC)
- July 27: Planning Call with State Department for the US-Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting.
 - In coordination with ADOT and the city, conducted a planning session with the US Department of State for the meeting, including looking at dates and venues for the two-day meeting.

August 2022

- Aug 11: Senator Kelly Legislative Staff Meets with City of San Luis.
 - With notification that Senator Mark Kelly would be visiting the region, worked with the Senator’s staff to coordinate a meeting with city leadership.
- Aug 23: Arizona-Mexico Commission High-Level Delegation Trip to Hermosillo.
 - The leadership of the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) lead a high-level delegation for meetings with Sonoran government counterparts and the US Consulate General in Hermosillo.
 - One of the principal topics of discussion as the modernization of the San Luis 1 port of entry and the need for Mexico to advance the related investments on the Mexican side, particularly the relocation of southbound vehicular traffic to the Archibald-Morelos location.



- August 31: League of Cities and Towns Panel on Border Infrastructure



- Presented during the event on border projects, including the modernization of the San Luis 1 port of entry, highlighting the significance of these investments for Arizona and the entire binational region.
- That investments of this magnitude create several related investment opportunities including the need for hotels and restaurants.

September 2022

- Sept 1: Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) hosts *Ari-Son Megaregion Council Meeting* at the League of Cities & Towns Conference



- Assisted ADOT with the presentation on the port of entry projects, including Presented on the port of entry projects, with special emphasis on the investments being made to improve the current situation.

- Sept 7: Arizona-Sonora Border Infrastructure Master Plan (BIMP) Public Stakeholder Meeting in San Luis



- As part of the process to update the Arizona-Sonora Border Infrastructure Master Plan, worked with city leadership and ADOT to plan, and conduct a stakeholder meeting on the projects in the San Luis/Yuma region.
- As part of the visit, coordinated private meetings for the ADOT and the consulting team with city leadership, toured the community and conducted site visits to the San Luis 1 and 2 ports of entry, including the ADOT facilities at San Luis 2.

- For more information please visit: <https://azdot.gov/arizona-sonoran-border-infrastructure-master-plan>
- Sept 14: Update on Northbound Border Crossing Data (Jan-July 2022)
 - The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) is the official provider of the border crossing data for the nation.
 - The data is monitored to see current volumes at San Luis but also to identify any trends – with analysis as to the understanding of the situation.
- Sept 22: Facilitate dialogue between Arizona DOT and City on RAISE Grant Application.
 - At the request of city leadership, facilitated a dialogue with ADOT on a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application to help pay for the costs increases for the modernization of Cesar Chaves Boulevard.

- Sep 27: AMC hosts luncheon focused on the State of International Trade luncheon



- With over 250 participants, the AMC hosted a luncheon to provide an update on trade with Mexico and the many investments to be made at the ports of entry.
- A panel discussion of experts, including regional leaders like Julie Engel of the GYEDC, discussed the importance of regional supply chains, the importance of the border and border infrastructure.

- Sept 30: Meeting with Mexican Consular Offices in Arizona and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Conference.



- Under the auspices of the National Hispanic Chamber of Commerce meeting that was held in Phoenix, participated in a meeting with the entire Mexican Consular corps in Arizona to discuss border projects, including the need to get Mexico to make the necessary commitments for the modernization of the San Luis Rio Colorado 1 port of entry to match up with the investments on the US-side.
- Participated in a Panel Discussion on the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), impacts

of the border to regional and national supply chains and the need to invest in border infrastructure, highlighting projects like the San Luis 1 modernization.

October 2022

- Oct 1: Outreach to State of Sonora on status of the San Luis 1 Modernization Project
 - Contact with Sonora State Representative and the Sonoran Department of Infrastructure and Urban Development (SIDUR) requesting an update on the master plan for San Luis Rio Colorado 1.

- Oct 4: Press Release on awarding of design-build contract for San Luis 1 project.

GSA Awards Design-Build Contract for San Luis I Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion Project

October 4, 2022

With funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, project to better support port operations and reduced pedestrian and vehicle crossing times

SAN LUIS, Ariz. -- The U.S. General Services Administration announces its selection of [Hensel Phelps Construction Co.](#) to provide design-build services for the modernization and expansion project at the San Luis I Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Arizona. GSA awarded the initial contract for \$228.1 million. The Phoenix-based firm will manage construction for the project, which received partial funding from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). This additional funding allows the project to be completed in a single construction phase, allowing for a quicker, less costly, and more efficient delivery.

The San Luis I LPOE is a major regional economic engine for the city of San Luis and Yuma County, supporting its agricultural and retail industries. The project expands and modernizes the entire port, providing state-of-the-art facilities for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) operations in San Luis. Once complete, northbound privately owned vehicle (POV) processing lanes will increase from 8 to 16 and pedestrian processing lanes from 10 to 14, reducing screening times while increasing visitor and employee safety. Southbound POV improvements include expanded southbound facilities with fixed inspection infrastructure.

- Monitor progress of the General Services Administration process for the modernization of the San Luis 1 port of entry.
- GSA on this day, announced that Hensel Phelps had been selected as the contractor for the design/build of the project.
- This marks the start of the design/build process for the project and a major milestone in solving the congestion issues at San Luis 1.

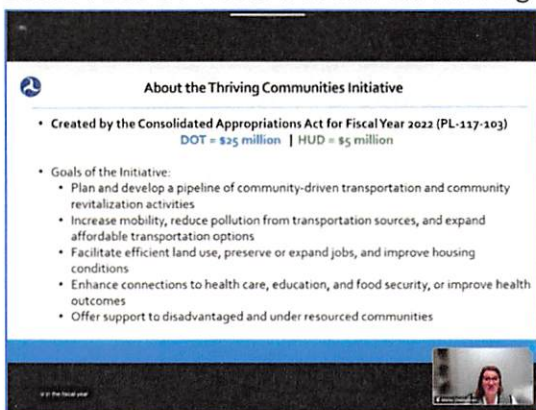
- Oct 7, 17, 20, 24: BBBXG Planning Calls
 - Multiple planning calls and conferences in preparation of the first in-person BBBXG – West
 - Additionally, the binational team planning the event exchanged dozens of emails in preparation of this high-level meeting.
- Oct 11: Meeting about RAISE Grant Debrief and strategies to fund Cesar Chavez Blvd.
 - Coordinated a debrief between city administration and ADOT on the RAISE Grant application.

- Oct 11: Recognition for Sen. Otondo and Rep. Fernandez for their leadership in securing Cesar Chavez Boulevard funding.



- Attended ceremony recognizing the contribution and efforts of State Senator Lisa Otondo and State Representative Brian Fernandez to help secure the funding for the modernization of Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

- Oct 13: USDOT Hosts webinar on Thriving Communities



- Thriving Communities is a \$35 million program to help communities prepare for the many grant opportunities that USDOT is managing.
- The City of San Luis, along with several Arizona communities participated in this briefing session on the new program.

- Oct 17: USDOT and City of San Luis Call on Mobility Study.
 - Facilitated discussion and presentation of the San Luis Mobility Study for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
 - FHWA is the lead agency on the US-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation and studies like this one, are of great interest in their binational transportation planning efforts.
 - More information on the JWC can be found at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning/us_mexico/

- Oct 20: PAC/TWG Kick Off Meeting at ADOT



- ADOT hosted the kickoff meeting for the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Arizona-Sonora BIMP.
- This was an essential step to help define the criteria for selecting and prioritizing projects.

- Oct 21: Congressman Ruben Gallego visit to San Luis.

- Worked with the GYPA and city administration to coordinate a face-to-face meeting at City Hall with Congressman Ruben Gallego during his visit to the region.

- Oct 25-26: BBBX – West at San Luis.



- The meeting kicked off with a tour of the San Luis 1 port of entry for the delegations of both countries.
- City of San Luis, in partnership with the GYPA, Yuma County and the AMC, hosted the first in-person BBBX – West in a post-pandemic environment.



- During this two-day event, the US and Mexico federal delegations met separately and jointly to discuss every port of entry project on the western portions of the US-Mexico border.
- The meeting, officially hosted by the US Department of State and its Mexican counterpart, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired the entire session, including the public session during which city leadership presented on the urgent need to modernize San Luis 1 and stressed the need to receive confirmation that Mexico would be making the necessary investments on the Mexican side at San Luis Rio Colorado 1.

- Special thanks to Jenny Torres for all her assistance in the planning and execution of the meeting and to Amanda Aguirre and the Border Regional health Center for the use of their state-of-the-art facilities for the meeting.

- Two relevant outcomes from this meeting affecting the San Luis 1 project:
 - ADOT offered to have Planning and Mobility Teams assist in the review of the San Luis 1 Mobility Study and its possible impacts to traffic in and out of the port of entry
 - US and Mexico agreed to conduct technical site visits to San Luis and Douglas to advance the binational planning for both projects.

November 2022

- November 9: ADOT call with US Department of State on Binational Technical Site Visits
 - Assisted in the planning of a follow up call with US Department of State for the planning of the site visits agreed to during the BBBX – West.

- Nov 15: US Ambassador visits San Luis and San Luis Rio Colorado



- The US Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar visited San Luis and toured the port of entry. He also received a briefing from city leadership, CBP, GSA and ADOT on the challenges and need to modernize the port of entry.
- Particular attention was given to the state of the existing facilities and the option to reroute southbound vehicular traffic at Archibald-Morelos.

- Nov 17: BIMP Project Prioritization Workshop in Phoenix.



- ADOT hosted a daylong session to start the project prioritization process for the BIMP.
- City of San Luis administration and YMPO participated in this technical session to ensure San Luis projects were considered.

- Nov 29: Provide information on the Thriving Communities Program.
 - At the request of the USDOT, ADOT agrees to serve as a liaison for the Thriving Communities Initiative (TCI).

- TCI is based on the recognition that small rural communities may be at a disadvantage in a national grant program as they may not have the internal resources to put grant applications together, putting them at a competitive disadvantage vis-a-vis larger metropolitan communities.
- City leadership agrees to submit a Letter of Intent to USDOT in partnership with key regional partners, including YMPO and Yuma County.

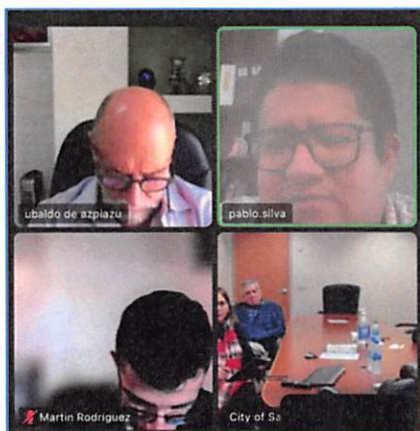
December 2022

- Dec 8: First meeting with GSA technical team on San Luis 1 Modernization



- At the request of GSA, coordinated and lead a meeting with GSA project management team and the contractor that was selected for the project.
- This is the team that will be working with the city as the project progresses over the next 4 to 5 years.
- The technical team also visited the port of entry for additional follow up discussion with CBP on traffic flow management for entry and egress to and from the port of entry, ensuring that traffic does not interfere with standard or emergency situations at the port.
- Special thanks to Mayor Riedel for chairing the meeting.

- Dec 14: Video conference with Cucapah to discuss San Luis II.



- At the request of the operators of the concession at San Luis Rio Colorado 2, the city participated in a preliminary meeting with Cucapah, the concessionaire for San Luis Rio Colorado 2.
- Cucapah included their financial partner RCO, a toll-road operator in Mexico.
- The request was to hold a meeting to start the planning process for cars to cross at San Luis 2.

- Dec 15: USDOT issues NOFO for 2023 RAISE Grant.
 - USDOT issues Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program.
 - NOFO confirms that the RAISE discretionary Grant program is comprised of \$1.5 billion for freight and passenger transportation projects.
 - This is a highly competitive national program.

- Dec 19: GSA Administrator visits San Luis, announces Inflation Reduction Act funding for sustainable infrastructure for San Luis 1 project.



- At the request of GSA, coordinated a meeting at City Hall for a select group of guests, at the direction of GSA, for a meeting with GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan.
- During the meeting, Administrator Carnahan announced that at least \$100 of the project cost would be coming from a different funding source focused on renewable and green construction materials.
- This makes the San Luis 1 modernization project a Demonstration Project that will

include not only the latest in design and technology but also on the use of sustainable materials and reliance on green technologies from construction to operation of the facility.

- Dec 21: Review of San Luis projects with ADOT consultant for BIMP.
 - A teleconference was held with ADOT and the consultant in charge of the BIMP to review the San Luis projects and to verify that all relevant projects were included and considered.

January 2023

- Jan 5: Swearing in of new governor
 - The Honorable Katie Hobbs was sworn in as the new governor for Arizona.
 - Joining her during the ceremony was the Honorable Alfonso Durazo of Sonora.
 - Since her swearing in, she has been busy making appointments to state agencies and her advisory team, including:
 - Jennifer Toth, Director, ADOT
 - Sandra Watson, President, Arizona Commerce Authority (hold over from previous administration)
 - Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Director, Southern Arizona Office, and AMC
 - Billy Kovacs, Federal Liaison

- Jan 19: Cucapah convenes meeting to discuss cars at San Luis 2



- Cucapah convenes a meeting with several stakeholders to discuss the binational process for cars to cross at San Luis 2.

- Participating in the meeting were:

- City of San Luis
- Municipality of San Luis Rio Colorado
- Cucapah
- RCO
- ADOT
- CVE Task Force

- During this meeting, all participants agreed

that the efforts to promote cars at San Luis 2 would not initiate in earnest until the groundbreaking ceremony for San Luis 1 and Mexico commits the necessary resources for the related improvements to San Luis Rio Colorado 1.

February 2023

- Feb 3: Update to Northbound Border Crossing data (2021 vs 2022).
 - USDOT released the data for the complete calendar year.
 - In 2022:
 - 3,378,455 cars, up 20.2% over 2021
 - 2,058,032 pedestrians, up 9.7% over 2021
 - 7,562,492 total people, up 18.9% over 2021
 - 48,883 trucks, down 0.6% over 2021
- Feb 9: Coordination with the State of Sonora on draft designs for SLRC 1 and project updates.
 - Coordinating with SIDUR and ADOT over the Master Plans for San Luis Rio Colorado

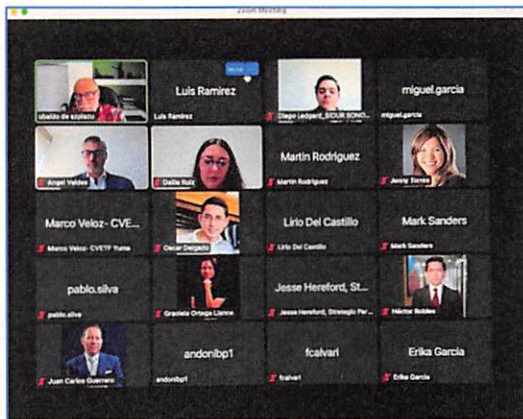
- Feb 9: ADOT and AMC lead Delegation to Hermosillo.



- Assisted in the preparation of briefing documents and pre-trip briefings for the delegation
- Director Jenn Toth of ADOT lead a delegation to Hermosillo to discuss:
 - Plan Sonora
 - Completion of BIMP
 - Delays at Querobabi Military Inspection Station
 - Need to advance port of entry projects, particularly San Luis 1

- The issue of San Luis 1 was raised during the work session.
- Meetings included the new Chief of Staff, and the Secretaries of SIDUR and Economy, along with the Director for the Sonoran Institute for Mobility

- Feb 13: Cucapah Coordinates video conference call on Mobility Study for San Luis Rio Colorado



- At the request of Cucapah, a select stakeholder meeting took place to discuss the results of the Mobility Study that was funded by NADBank.
- Results, as presented, and according to Cucapah, indicate that the solution to the congestion is to allow cars to cross at San Luis 2.
- Stakeholders indicated that the commercial bypass around San Luis Rio Colorado that would take truck traffic away from MX-2

(Avenida Obregon) would have a greater impact on congestion at San Luis Rio Colorado 1.

- Cucapah indicated that the planning for cars at San Luis 2 should start immediately – voiding the agreement from the previous meeting.
- Participants included:
 - ADOT
 - City of San Luis
 - GSA
 - SIDUR
 - Mexican Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transport (SICT)
 - Sonoran Institute for Mobility

- NADBank

- Feb 16: Planning Call with Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization and Rural Transportation Advisory Council for the 2023 Rural Transportation Summit that will take place in October 2023 in Yuma.
 - At the request of the Rural Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC), participated in a planning session with the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) and ADOT.
 - Helping the planning committee craft the event agenda, identify prospective speakers, and help get the invitations to the speakers.

- Feb 17: Governor Hobbs participates in Meeting with President of Mexico, Governor of Sonora, and US Ambassador to Mexico



- At the invitation of US Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar, Governor Hobbs traveled to Nogales, Sonora to participate in a meeting with Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico and Alfonso Durazo, Governor of Sonora.
- Of the many topics covered during the meeting, Governor Hobbs and her team raised the need to get confirmation from Mexico that the necessary investments are made on the Mexican side, particularly at San Luis and Douglas, to match with the federal investments that are underway on the US side.
- One of the principal outcomes is the commitment by Ambassador Salazar to work with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get the necessary Diplomatic Notes sent to the US government confirming the projects at San Luis and Douglas.
- During the meeting, the US delegation made a presentation on all US-Mexico port of entry projects, which confirmed that San Luis 1 is considered the second highest priority project on the entire US-Mexico border.

Lista de Proyectos Prioritaria Acordada Conjuntamente



- Fase IIB de Calexico Oeste, CA (Mexicali I)
- San Luis I, AZ (Rio Colorado)
- Douglas Commercial, AZ (Agua Prieta)
- Raul Hector Castro, AZ (Agua Prieta)
- Puente de las Américas, TX (Cordova – De las Americas)
- Brownsville-Gateway, TX (Matamoros II)
- Otay Mesa, CA (Mesa de Otay I)
- Otay Mesa Este, CA (Mesa de Otay II)
- Deconcini, AZ (Heroica Nogales)
- Santa Teresa, NM (San Jeronimo)
- Pharr, TX (Reynosa) – GSA-Proyecto Donación Led
- Donna, TX (Puente Internacional Anzalduas) – Proyecto de Donación de Aceptación
- Anzalduas, TX (Rio Bravo) – Proyecto de Donación de Aceptación
- Brownsville, TX - Ferrocarril NIIE - Sistemas de Rayos X de Alta Energia
- Eagle Pass, TX - Ferrocarril NIIE - Sistemas de Rayos X de Alta Energia
- El Paso, TX - Ferrocarril NIIE - Sistemas de Rayos X de Alta Energia
- Nogales, AZ - Ferrocarril NIIE - Sistemas de Rayos X de Alta Energia
- Calexico, CA - Ferrocarril NIIE - Sistemas de Rayos X de Alta Energia

- Feb 27: Governor Katie Hobbs Visit to San Luis-Yuma region.



- Mayor Riedel joins Governor Hobbs during visits to the ports of entry San Luis, joins the Governor and regional and local elected officials during a luncheon hosted by the City of Yuma at Yuma City Hall.