

PRESS RELEASE – City of Douglas Adopts Non-binding Resolution with General Services Administration for a Two-port Solution

DOUGLAS, AZ (April 10, 2019) — The Douglas City Council passed a Non-binding resolution that sets up the path for donation of up to 80 acres of land along James Ranch Road to the US Federal Government for a new commercial port entry west of the City. This action further shapes the two-port solution which will create a separate commercial trucking port approximately 6 miles west of the constricted existing port which vehicles, pedestrian and commercial trucking all funnel through.

As part of the resolution, the City of Douglas has committed to continuing the planning and development of the infrastructure improvements that will be needed for operation. Annexation of lands connecting the city-owned site to deliver City water, wastewater and public safety are key to servicing this cross-border doorway for trade and commerce.

“The request from the GSA (General Services Administration) in late March for this public commitment by the City and its partners is one more step in the long journey to realizing this significant regional project,” stated Mayor Robert Uribe. “With the GSA Feasibility Study due out this summer, excitement is growing that this cross-border enterprise will improve commerce for our binational community and the state. In 2018, trade between Arizona and Mexico yielded around \$4 billion coming through the Raul H. Castro Port of Entry here in Douglas.”

The City is pleased to have such broad support and high level of collaboration as it continues to communicate and move forward with its technical partners. Our Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, D-2, has stated this is within her top three priorities. Cochise County has committed to master planning the area while the City will annex contiguous lands to lay out the path for infrastructure development of water and wastewater services. ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) has recognized the need for a connector road and improvement for state highways leading from the site that will carry trucks to I-10 to the north. The city of Sierra Vista has also expressed interest in funding some of the planning services necessary to serve this regional economic engine. APS and Cox Communication are working to ensure delivery of electricity, bandwidth and data-transfer needs. Local economic development partners of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and the Douglas Regional Economic Development Corporation (DREDC) have stepped up to facilitate some of the land ownership around the site to assist in bringing this project to fruition.

Additionally, the City enjoys regional support from Freeport McMoRan, the cities of Benson, Bisbee, Huachuca City, Tombstone and Willcox, who recognize the importance of the port expansion. It is also grateful for interest at the highest levels of government in our additional partnerships with Homeland Security Administration, Customs and Border Patrol and the Governor’s Office.

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