

MINUTES

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall Council Chamber, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Maria Dillman called the meeting to order.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** 5:30 p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL.**

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
MAYOR, JOSE GRIJALVA		X (Excused)
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, MARIA DILLMAN	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, IDA PEDREGO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE MONTANO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, GUSTAVO DURAZO JR.	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RICHARD C. ACOSTA	X	
CITY MANAGER, ANA URQUIJO	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, DENIS FITZGIBBONS	X	
CITY TREASURER, ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ	X	
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

- 3. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN WRITING OR VERBALLY ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

Susan Kramer of 1250 9th Street, commented on future planning ideas to be considered for inclusion in the budget planning. Image below.

May 27, 2026

Mayor Grijalva & Members of the Douglas City Council,

With the 2026-2027 fiscal year about to start and planning for the future being discussed soon, I would like to share some ideas to be considered for inclusion in the budget planning:

- Building on the Success of the Boxing & Wrestling Matches
 - We could continue to expand into jazz festivals, country music festivals, rap festivals, or even an art festival.
 - Bring one or two pro/semi pro groups and include "local" groups as "fillers" inviting other groups throughout the county and state to participate. This would also encourage them to bring their family and friends into town to discover what Douglas has to offer.
- Organize a Douglas Museum Tour
 - Once a month or a few times a month there could be museum tours. It could include the Airport Museum, Williams House, Wall of Daces, Art Car World, Last Supper Museum, and possibly Saluter Ranch.
 - Tours could/should be coordinated and could be self driven or could be organized by groups on buses.
- Organize Ranch Tours
 - Coordinate with local ranchers and farmers where they would be able to explain to participants why and how animals can be cared for and what it takes to raise an animal, grow crops, etc.
 - This would encourage people from cities who aren't personality involved with ranching could come into town and learn more.
- Publicize Events
 - Douglas needs to publicise events past the old K-mart. We could put posters, signs, or even a lighted billboard on the sides of our buses that go to Sierra Vista. All of our events could be posted as they come up.
 - Special events need to be planned for and advertised early enough to include communication and outreach to other cities.
 - Places like Bisbee, Tombstone, Wilcox, Sierra Vista, Tucson, Arizona Daily Star. If things are sent out early enough it can be included in other cities' announcements and people would be able to see what Douglas has to offer.
- Clean Up Area
 - The location behind the south of Walmart is a bit messy and aligns the road to Mexico. It could be beneficial to get that area cleaned up and thinned out while adding an informational park area set up so that people walking from Mexico or into Mexico would have an area to sit and take a break from the heat and sun but also get information on upcoming events in Douglas.

Kendra Allen of Douglas commented on the TNR program and commended Ms. Hopkins for her support and everything she does for the Douglas community.

May 27, 2026

Dear Mayor and Council,

I live in an area of Douglas where abandoned and stray cats are unfortunately very common. I care for a small colony of community cats, and I want to express my appreciation for the work Renee and the Cochise County Humane Society have done to help our community address this issue humanely and effectively.

When one of my community cats had kittens, Renee responded immediately. She provided traps and equipment, taught me how to safely trap the cats, and arranged foster placement for the kittens. Since then, she has continued to answer questions and provide guidance whenever I've needed help.

Through her efforts, all five adult cats from my colony have been spayed/neutered and returned, and five others were placed into foster care instead of remaining on the streets.

This work makes a real difference. It reduces suffering, helps control the stray cat population responsibly, and supports residents who are trying to do the right thing for animals in our community.

I hope the City will continue supporting and working with the Cochise County Humane Society to address community cat issues through humane programs such as TNR, foster placement, and public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kendra Allen

4. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. REQUEST for PROPOSALS for EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES BID AWARD.

Motion by Council Member Pedrego, second by Council Member Shelton to approve consent agenda items as presented.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 6-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Pro Tempore, Maria Dillman, Council Members: Ida Pedrego, Jose Montañó, Gustavo Durazo, Ray Shelton, and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

5. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

- A. **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-1233**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the **AGREEMENT** for the **PURCHASE** of **INTERESTS** in sections of **REAL PROPERTY** with assessor parcel numbers 408-31-002E and 408-31-002H **GRANTING** of an **EXCLUSIVE** and **PERMANENT EASEMENT** and approving the agreement for the purchase of interests in real property with the United States of America, authorizing the city manager to execute all necessary documents; establishing severability of components of Ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Motion by Council Member Montaño, second by Council Member Pedrego to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 26-1233.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 6-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Pro Tempore, Maria Dillman, Council Members: Ida Pedrego, Jose Montaño, Gustavo Durazo, Ray Shelton, and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

6. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION.

- A. **PRESENTATION** by the **COCHISE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY** pertaining to **CATS** in the Douglas area.

Lt. Lomeli introduced Ms. Renee Hopkins.

Ms. Hopkins presented the following Trapping, Neutering or Spaying, Vaccinating, and Returning Outdoor Cats to their Caregivers and Cat Colonies (TNR) program.

Present a Litter, Fix your Outdoors
Cochise County Humane Society
ALL ABOUT T-N-R
with CochiseCountyHumaneSocietyInc.

WHAT IS T-N-R?
T-N-R or T-N-V-R is the short term for trapping, neutering or spaying, vaccinating, and returning outdoor cats to their caregivers and cat colonies. T-N-R is the most successful method for controlling outdoor cat populations.

WHY DO WE T-N-R?
Unfortunately, cats can begin puberty as early as 4 months old. Yes, when they are still considered kittens, they can begin to mate and have kittens themselves. This leads to a few cats quickly multiplying into dozens if left unaltered. Inbreeding and disease become more likely as the colony grows out of control.

T-N-R VS. EUTHANASIA
Over the last three decades, studies have shown trap-neuter-return to be the most humane and cost effective method of controlling outdoor cat populations. Better morale and less shelter fatigue among humane officers who do not have to euthanize as often should be considered as well.

WHAT WE DO FOR OUTDOOR CATS

Cochise County Humane Society works with outdoor cat caretakers and feeders throughout Cochise county to control populations through trap-neuter-vaccinate-return and intake of kittens and friendly cats through our foster program. We educate caretakers about nutrition, disease control, continued colony management and humane living conditions for outdoor cats. We strongly believe and advocate "if you feed them, it's your responsibility to fix them". We're proud to be able to offer those necessary spay/neuter services to caregivers and their beloved cats.



WHO WE ARE

C.C.H.S. is an all volunteer animal welfare organization created in 1981 and incorporated in 1986. We are a non-profit organization and hold a 501(c)3 designation with the Arizona Corporate Commission. Our Companion Pet Spay/Neuter Program provides low cost spay and neuter opportunities to the public for their pet cat and dogs. We also provide the public with a Foster & Adoption Program for dogs and cats and Outdoor Cat Trap-Neuter-Return Program.



ABOUT DOUGLAS CATS

Since beginning an informal partnership with the Douglas Animal Shelter in March of 2024, Douglas has become our most requested trap-neuter-return location in the county. Most cat related services are transferred or referred to us by Douglas Animal Shelter to include injured outdoor cats, outdoor cat colonies in need of t-n-r, indoor cat surrenders and kittens in need of rescue.



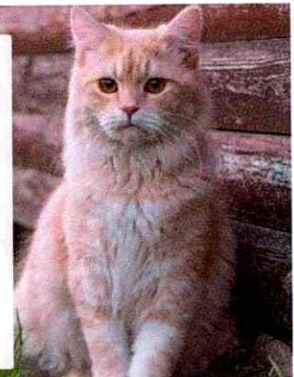
SUCCESSFUL TNR STRATEGY

For our T-N-R program to be continually responsive and successful, we need:

*Coordinators, Trappers & Transporters: These are the Volunteers that respond to public requests, map out t-n-r events, schedule clinic appointments, trap the cats, care for them and transport them to and from vet clinics for spay/neuter and vaccinations.

*Access to Low Cost Spay/Neuter Programs: Our closest high volume (10 or more cats), low cost clinics are located in Tucson. Every cat averages \$100 per spay/neuter, rabies vaccination and fvrpc vaccination.

*Funding: C.C.H.S. averages \$5,000 per year in grant awards for our Outdoor Cat T-N-R Program. This program is additionally funded by public donations and consistent fundraising by Board Members and Volunteers.



THE NUMBERS

Since April of 2025, C.C.H.S. has trapped-neutered-returned 97 cats within the city of Douglas! A total of 81 kittens were rescued and brought into foster care to live indoor forever during that same time period.

A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE CATS OF DOUGLAS

Our Organization has the following suggestions and ideas to continue making Douglas a progressive, animal friendly place to live, visit and do business in.

*Animal Shelter Coordinator position should be re-opened immediately, with city staff focusing on recruitment for this key position. Great candidates have been referred for this position but could not wait through the weeks or months long process to become gainfully employed.

*Consider hiring a part time T-N-R Coordinator, that is passionate about cats. All cats, Douglas has a large population of outdoor cats and the need for T-N-R never stops. The shelter offers no cat services at this time but still has three humane officers to manage dogs. C.C.H.S. would continue to T-N-R in Douglas and would gladly assist in training and working with a T-N-R Coordinator.

*We think your city, your citizens and your cats would potentially enjoy a cat cafe in your downtown area. Limited menu items mixed with the opportunity to visit with multiple cats have made this a trendy and viable income stream for many throughout America. Perhaps a partnership?

Council Member Ida Pedrego expressed appreciation for Ms. Hopkins' enthusiasm and commitment to addressing cat-related issues.

Ms. Urquijo thanked Ms. Hopkins for her suggestions, particularly regarding fundraising opportunities and other potential resources.

Council Member Acosta thanked Ms. Hopkins for her presentation and emphasized the importance of the city obtaining a part-time coordinator position. He encouraged the city to begin the hiring process.

Council Member Dillman discussed the companion neuter program for cats and suggested expanding similar efforts for dogs.

Ms. Hopkins explained that the program currently allows one appointment per day, with participants paying half the cost of the neuter procedure.

Ms. Hopkins responded that, under state guidelines, cats are allowed to roam freely, unlike dogs. She added that residents are permitted to feed cats.

Council Member Montaño noted that the budget cycle is approaching and suggested exploring nonprofit funding opportunities. He encouraged reaching out to the city manager for information on available resources.

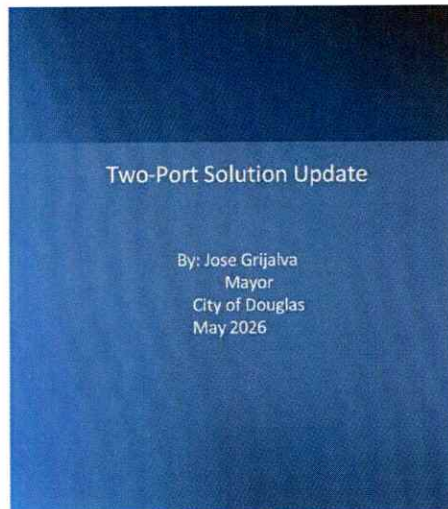
Council Member Shelton thanked Ms. Hopkins for attending and providing the presentation.

Council Member Montaño stated that many citizens in Douglas do not want the cats and would prefer they be removed.

Ms. Hopkins acknowledged that she regularly receives calls regarding community cat concerns. She explained that she takes time to discuss the program with callers and provide information about how it works. According to Ms. Hopkins, once residents better understand the situation and the goals of the program, they are generally more accepting and supportive of its approach.

ADDENDUM AGENDA: Sent on 5/26/2026

A. TWO PORT SOLUTION - PROJECT UPDATE.



Raul H Castro Today

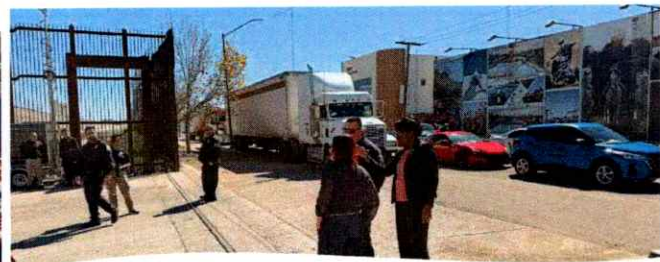


Current Situation

- Facility is outdated and congested
- Landlocked on the Mexican side
- Crossing for hazardous materials
- Trucks intermingle with cars and pedestrians

2025 NB Traffic

- Trucks: 26,280
- Cars: 1.51 million
- Pedestrians: 1.03 million
- Total People: 3.73 million



Cross-border Commercial Traffic

- Trucks must make 90° turn into compound, limits all commercial traffic to one lane
- Oversize/Overweight shipments block traffic for hours at a time
- Major mining, industrial and infrastructure investments in Agua Prieta and the region indicate major growth in truck traffic in years to come

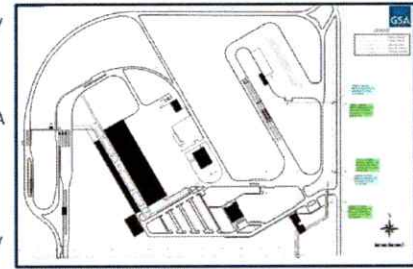
Douglas West - Project Markers



- Budget: \$328,787,265
- Port Size: 80.5 acres
 - Land donated by City of Douglas
- Completion: Sept. 2028

Douglas West

- Phase 1- Commercial Only
- Master plan: Future phases for cars and pedestrians
 - ADOT working with GSA and FMCSA for collocation of truck safety inspection facilities
 - Construction Underway



Source: General Services Administration

Groundbreaking
September 5, 2025



- CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY!

Utilities Corridor

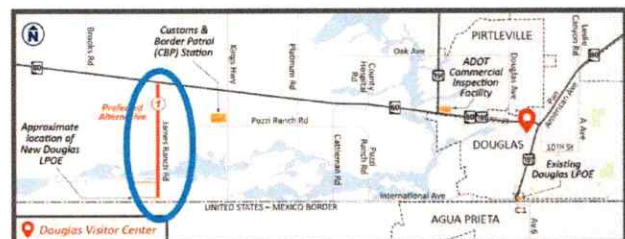
Projected
Completion:
Q2, 2027



- City to develop utility corridor (water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, broadband) to service the port and enable industrial/commercial/residential development.
- Water Infrastructure will connect new POE, Cochise Community College, Douglas Border Patrol Station, and various other existing businesses and homes.
- Total Cost \$50.3M, secured \$19.6M with funding gap \$30.7M
 - 2027 CDS Requests totaling \$6.5 million in the works

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

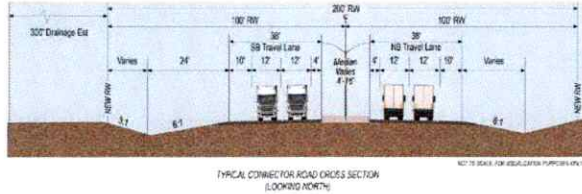
Location of the Preferred Connector Road





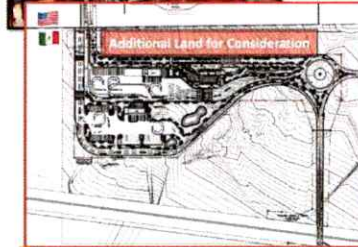
Connector Road Ultimate Cross-Section

JAMES RANCH ROAD (ULTIMATE)
50+100 to 50+400



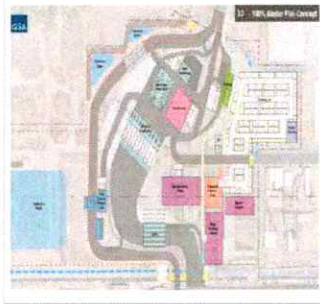
Fully funded: \$47.5 million
RFP to be issued in August 2026
Construction: Start in January 2027, completion April 2028

Agua Prieta Update



- Douglas delegation to Hermosillo in October 2025 to ensure coordination on both sides of the border
- Mexican landowner donated 59.97 acres to INDAAABIN.
 - Additional land is under consideration to accommodate crossing requirements
- State of Sonora (SIDUR) funding "Proyecto Ejecutivo" for the new commercial port Agua Prieta 2
 - Contract has been awarded!

Raul H. Castro POE



Funded: Approx. \$320 million

- Project will dedicate facility to non-commercial traffic (cars, peds, buses)
- City of Douglas working with GSA to address local concerns with current conceptual design
- Expansion towards west includes land acquisition
 - Stormwater issues will be first phase of the project
 - Environmental completed 5/6/24
 - **Slated to start construction in 2027**

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Douglas Commercial port under construction
- Connector road is fully funded, and construction will start in Q1, 2027 and complete in Q2, 2028
- Sonora is leading Master Planning process for new commercial port on Mexican side
- Utilities corridor for new port of entry to be completed Q2, 2027
 - 2027 CDS requested in the works
- Raul H. Castro modernization starts in 2027
- Working with federal and state partners to schedule technical meetings to ensure cross-border alignment and coordination

THANK YOU!

Jose Grijalva
Mayor
City of Douglas



Council Member Shelton thanked Ms. Urquijo for the presentation and stated that the city needs to do its best to support the project and fulfill its role.

Council Member Ida Pedrego asked about business opportunities related to the project and whether there is a possibility for the city to offer land.

Ms. Urquijo explained that such opportunities are generally private matters between the General Services Administration (GSA) and property owners. She noted that the city's role is primarily to serve as a central point of coordination for agreements entered into by the parties involved.

Council Member Montaña asked whether any potential funding or infrastructure shortfalls are anticipated and whether the city will be required to provide additional support for the Raul Castro Port of Entry project.

Ms. Urquijo responded that the city is partnering on the stormwater drainage component of the project and is working closely with project partners on stormwater redirection and engineering plans. She explained that a significant amount of stormwater will be diverted under the new design and that this component is being actively addressed by all entities involved. She added that the city's primary infrastructure obligation is the installation of the stormwater pipe and ensuring proper conveyance through the area. The city has also coordinated environmental review efforts, including modifications to elements that were originally proposed for removal.

Council Member Montaña asked whether there has been any indication from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding the number of additional officers that may be assigned to the port, expressing concern that increased capacity may not meet demand without additional staffing.

Ms. Urquijo stated that she has not received any recent updates regarding additional CBP staffing levels. However, she noted that discussions have been ongoing for several years regarding efforts to retain more agents within the community and to better understand the factors that influence whether personnel choose to remain in the area.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Durazo to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by:



Alma Andrade, City Clerk