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- **Administration**
- **Community and Economic Development**
- **Transportation**

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RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF the CITY OF DOUGLAS AND COCHISE COUNTY TO MODERNIZE AND EXPAND THE CURRENT RAUL H. CASTRO PORT OF ENTRY, AND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW PORT OF ENTRY FACILITY TO ACCOMMODATE COMMERCIAL CARGO

WHEREAS, The existing Douglas- Raul H. Castro Land Port of Entry (Douglas LPOE), which was built in 1933 and last renovated over twenty-four years ago, has experienced a steady climb in activity and now accounts for nearly \$4 billion in bilateral trade with Mexico annually; and

WHEREAS, the size, historic significance, and location of the existing Douglas LPOE render it unsuitable for significant expansion, causing frequent delays in cross border commerce and hindering the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to safely and effectively fulfill their operational mandate, thereby rendering the LPOE and surrounding communities vulnerable to unacceptable safety and security risks; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that more than 34,000 commercial vehicles, nearly 1.7 million cars, and approximately 3.9 million individuals will cross into the United States from Mexico at the Douglas LPOE in Federal Fiscal Year 2017; and

WHEREAS, based upon General Services Administration (GSA) studies, traffic volumes are anticipated to continue increasing at the Douglas LPOE as a result of business growth and expansion in northeastern Sonora, Mexico, and the existing Douglas LPOE will not allow CBP to adequately meet its mission to provide requisite border security within the next five years; and

WHEREAS, a recent ADOT analysis suggests commercial vehicle volumes could continue to increase by more than 6% per year over the next 10 years, which will further exacerbate the operational constraints and security risks at the existing site; and

WHEREAS, facilitating oversized cargo crossings at the Douglas LPOE requires a complete port shut down of several hours, and the current Douglas LPOE configuration requires such shipments queue and travel through heavily urbanized areas on both sides of the border, thereby suppressing legitimate trade and travel; and

WHEREAS, the current Douglas LPOE location requires the frequent shipment of hazardous chemicals flow through the urbanized areas of Douglas and Agua Prieta, and the current LPOE does not have the necessary facilities for spill containment or mitigation, thereby creating considerable risks to public health and safety for residents of these communities; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Inspections Pilot Program in Nogales has been a resounding success by providing for joint inspections of north and southbound commercial traffic by both CBP and their Mexican counterparts, resulting in average wait times of twenty minutes – a figure that is unmatched at any other U.S. port of entry. While the Unified Inspections Program is also being applied at the current Douglas LPOE on a limited basis, this expedited inspection process and resulting economic benefit cannot be fully utilized by the Douglas LPOE until a new commercial port of entry is constructed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglas and Cochise County is desirous of a solution that will promote and enhance legitimate trade and travel between southeastern Arizona and northeastern Sonora, fully enable unified inspections for north and southbound commercial traffic, stimulate the economies on both sides of the U.S. / Mexico border, and provide essential border safety and security to the residents of the City of Douglas and Cochise County; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance border security, allow CBP officers to safely and effectively fulfill their operational mandate, and expand economic opportunities for the City of Douglas and the region, the City continues to work with CBP and GSA in continued advocacy, positioning, and pursuit of alternatives for mutually viable methods of Douglas LPOE construction and financing, that will provide for the construction of a new commercial Douglas LPOE outside the urbanized area, and the repurposing of the existing Douglas LPOE; and

WHEREAS, in an April 2017 letter, U.S. Representative Martha McSally called on CBP to accelerate the Douglas LPOE modernization project, and to include the construction of the new commercial port of entry in their five-year plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: in order to foster more efficient cross-border flows, promote the development of retail, manufacturing and tourism opportunities, create an environment for regional and bi-national sustained job creation and increased tax-base, and provide for essential safety and security at the Douglas LPOE, the Executive Board of SouthEastern Arizona Government Organization 1) recognizes the enormous value that legitimate cross-border travel and trade brings to the SEAGO region, the State of Arizona, and the entire U.S.; 2) supports the bi-national collaboration and efforts of Cochise County, the City of Douglas and the City of Agua Prieta, Sonora to reduce traffic congestion and increase safety and security in the urbanized international corridor connecting Douglas and Agua Prieta; and 3) strongly endorses and supports Representative McSally's efforts to accelerate the Douglas LPOE modernization project, and to include the construction of the new commercial port of entry in CBP's five-year plan.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 17th day of November, 2017.



Gerald "Sam" Lindsey, Chair
Executive Board



Randy Heiss, Executive Director
SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization