

ARIZONA BORDER COMMUNITIES ROADMAP

Arizona-Mexico Commission

Arizona Commerce Authority

Arizona Department of Transportation

Arizona Office of Tourism

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Fact Sheet | azmc.org

Background

During the June 2011 Plenary Session of the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC), a series of meetings were held with Governor Brewer to discuss the needs of border communities. The AMC has been working collaboratively with other state agencies to advance the topics addressed as priority needs in the border region. On January 25, 2012, the Arizona border community leaders discussed the following fundamental questions:

1. What makes border communities different from other rural communities?
2. What are the unique needs to make border communities sustainable?
3. What needs to be done to address these different needs of border communities?
4. What are the priorities to move border communities toward sustainability?

From that dialogue, it was agreed that a border region economic roadmap be developed to outline the strategic investments that will lead to sustained economic success in Arizona's border communities.

Scope



Border Region development will naturally require collaboration with local communities to ensure that growth maximizes trade and minimizes negative impacts on affected communities. Border Region Roadmapping is an essential tool for these border communities in their long-term planning and economic strategy. The Roadmap will identify the advantages of Arizona's border communities in order to position the region competitively with communities in Texas and California, thus capturing and growing our share of cross-border trade and investment. Expanding the capacity of our commercial ports of entry, the connectively through our enhanced corridor system, and a focused trade and transportation strategy for Arizona will foster job creation and attract new business and investment.

- Governor Janice K. Brewer
The Four Cornerstones of Reform
January 14, 2013

Arizona's economy benefits tremendously from a strong relationship with Mexico. However, much of the economic activity and traffic occurs in Arizona's border communities – Douglas, Nogales, San Luis, Somerton and Yuma. Ensuring their economic viability and sustainability is critical to Arizona.

Mexico is Arizona's top trading partner, creating jobs in the U.S. and Arizona.

Mexican visitors spend approximately \$7.3 million each day in Arizona, providing an annual impact of \$2.3 billion.

Nearly 42 million people crossed the border between Arizona and Sonora in 2011.

Nearly half (43%) of all of the winter produce consumed in the U.S. comes through the Nogales port of entry.

Contacts

Margie Emmermann
Arizona-Mexico Commission
memmermann@az.gov
(602) 542-1325

Peggy Fiandaca
Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.
peggy@PSAplanning.com
(480) 816-1811



The Arizona Border Communities Roadmap is a collaborative agency effort. Representatives from each agency serve on the Executive Committee and have invested time and funding to ensure its successful completion.