

# Arizona Border Planning

Facilitating Transportation Across The Southern Border



## Arizona Border Transportation Planning

Border transportation planning involves the development of goals, objectives, and strategies for moving people and goods across the U.S.–Mexico border. FHWA leads multiple binational stakeholders to collaboratively create safe and effective cross-border transportation.

FHWA also facilitates the development and maintenance of the surface transportation system along the U.S.–Mexico border to address existing and anticipated demand for cross border travel and trade while working with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, and private sector interests. In 2016, **400,000 trucks**, **8.8 million personal vehicles**, and **16.9 million vehicle passengers** crossed through the **eight Land Ports of Entry (LPOEs)** along Arizona's **389 miles of shared border** with the state of Sonora, Mexico.<sup>1</sup>



Artwork located near the San Luis Port of Entry in San Luis, Arizona. Source: Arizona DOT.

### Focus on the Arizona Border

Along the Arizona border, planning efforts include:

#### Coordination



In 1994, FHWA and its counterparts in Mexico created the U.S.–Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning (JWC). The FHWA Arizona Division, Arizona Department of Transportation (AZDOT), and the Arizona Commerce Authority coordinate and participate in many of JWC's border-related events, studies, and workshops. In 2017, JWC held its **fall plenary session in Phoenix, Arizona**.

#### Policy, Plans, and Programs



The **Arizona-Sonora Border Master Plan** was completed in 2013. Stakeholders utilized a comprehensive binational approach to coordinate the planning and delivery of projects to improve traffic operations at each of the LPOEs along the Arizona–Sonora border and to enhance the efficiency of the region's multi-modal transportation infrastructure at the LPOEs.

#### Research



In 2016, AZDOT and the Mexico Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding** to create a joint planning committee on the binational trade corridor that consists of Highway 15, the interstate that connects Arizona and Sonora. A binational planning study is being conducted to develop a supply chain performance measurement framework for the corridor, address the effects of transportation changes on supply chain relationships, and identify strategic improvements to ensure economic competitiveness.<sup>3</sup>

### FHWA Project Spotlight:

#### US-95 San Luis Infrastructure Improvements

The San Luis Land Port of Entry is the second-busiest border crossing in Arizona. Due to traffic congestion, FHWA, AZDOT, Yuma County, and the City of San Luis made several improvements to better traffic circulation, enhance pedestrian safety, and improve access to downtown businesses. The eight-month, \$11 million upgrade included rerouting traffic away from the business district to avoid bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and onto secondary local roads to help relieve congestion.<sup>4</sup>

### FHWA Coordination Spotlight:

#### AZ State Route 189 Pedestrian Crossing

In 2015, over 3 million pedestrians and 300,000 commercial vehicles crossed at the Mariposa Land Port of Entry. To separate commercial truck and pedestrian traffic, AZDOT constructed a 356-foot-long pedestrian underpass equipped with ventilation structures and lighting beneath Arizona State Route 189 to enhance pedestrian safety and mobility. The \$3.3 million project also included new sidewalks, traffic signals, and storm drain improvements that enhance the pedestrian experience and make the project more resilient to extreme weather.<sup>4</sup>

### For more information, contact:

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To learn more, visit: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border\\_planning](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning)

# Arizona Border Transportation: Facts and Figures

## 2040 Projection: Major Flows by Truck, AZ



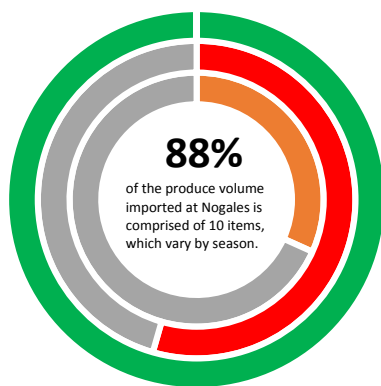
Credit: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Freight Analysis Framework, version 3.4, Office of Freight Management and Operations.

## Modernizing Arizona's Busiest Crossing

The three ports located within Nogales—Mariposa, DeConcini, and Morley Gate—comprise Arizona's busiest border crossing and the **ninth-busiest crossing** in the nation, processing **over \$26 billion** in trade value in 2016.

More produce passes through the Mariposa LPOE than any other in the United States. Of the **\$19.1 billion** in produce imported by the U.S. worldwide in 2016, **\$10.4 billion** (54 percent) came from Mexico and **\$3.3 billion** (17 percent) crossed through the Nogales ports, accounting for **6.1 billion pounds** of product.<sup>6</sup>

### United States Imports of Fresh Produce, 2015-2016 according to the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas



The United States imported **\$19.1 billion** in fresh produce from September 2015 through August 2016.

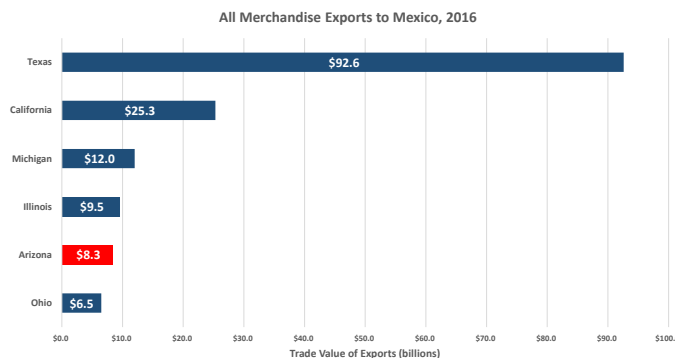
Of the fresh produce imported by the United States, **\$10.4 billion** (54 percent) came from Mexico.

Of the fresh produce that came from Mexico, **\$3.3 billion** – 32 percent of imported Mexican produce, or 17 percent of all imported U.S. produce – was processed at the Nogales Port of Entry.

In 2014, a **\$220 million renovation and expansion** was completed at the Mariposa port, allowing it to process up to **4,000 trucks per day** during peak produce season, which stretches from December through April.

## Importance of Arizona – Mexico Border Transportation to the U.S. Economy

Arizona conducted the **fifth-most trade** of any state with Mexico in 2016,<sup>5</sup> **exporting \$8.3 billion** and **importing \$7.5 billion** in surface goods overall.



From 2006 to 2016, the **trade value between Arizona and Mexico jumped 53 percent**, with major growth in these markets:

### Product

### Value of Arizona Exports to Mexico<sup>5</sup>



Oil and Gas

**2006: \$163,667**  
**2016: \$402 million**



Minerals and Ores

**2006: \$135 million**  
**2016: \$1.7 billion**



Animal Production

**2006: \$421,212**  
**2016: \$4 million**

## Did You Know?

- Nogales saw **3.4 million pedestrians** cross into the U.S. in 2016, the sixth-highest total of any port in the nation.<sup>1</sup>
- Mariposa handles **more than 83 percent** of the **400,000 annual truck crossings** between Arizona and Mexico.<sup>6</sup>
- Mariposa received **LEED® Gold Certification** in 2016, and was one of 11 projects **honored by the American Institute of Architecture** as the year's best American architecture.<sup>7</sup>

## Citations

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- U.S.–Mexico JWC
- Arizona Transportation and Trade Corridor Alliance
- Arizona DOT
- International Trade Assoc.
- Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
- American Institute of Architecture



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