

# **Economic Development and Policy Committee**

*Marco Grajeda*  
*Executive Director*  
*New Mexico Border Authority*  
*October 13, 2022*



**NEW MEXICO**  
BORDER AUTHORITY

## NMBA major accomplishments since FY 2019

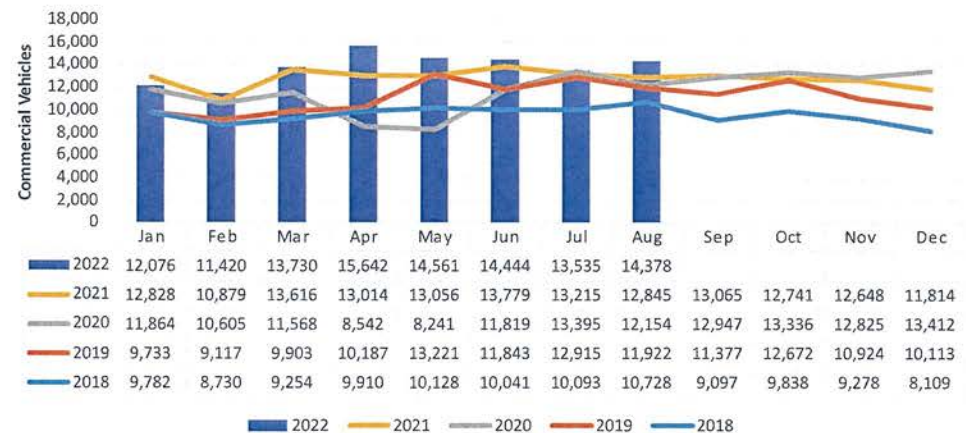
- The NMBA team advanced and secured full funding for new projects, and key infrastructure priorities previously stalled, with an investment in the region totaling around \$67 million.
- Secured capital for two projects that will boost agency enterprise funding, while improving the image of the Santa Teresa border region.
- Increased agency revenue by 72% in three years by taking full advantage of agency properties and regularly renegotiating lease agreements.
- Expanded agency partnerships and support at the local, regional, state and federal level, as well as expanded collaboration with Mexican officials.

# Border Statistics

# Santa Teresa Commercial Vehicle Update

- STPOE has already surpassed last year's commercial crossings
- Currently processing 650 trucks/day vs 350 in 2019.
- STPOE served a critical function in April when Texas Gov. Greg Abbott implemented enhanced port screenings.
- Current average wait times:
  - 0 to 40 minutes.

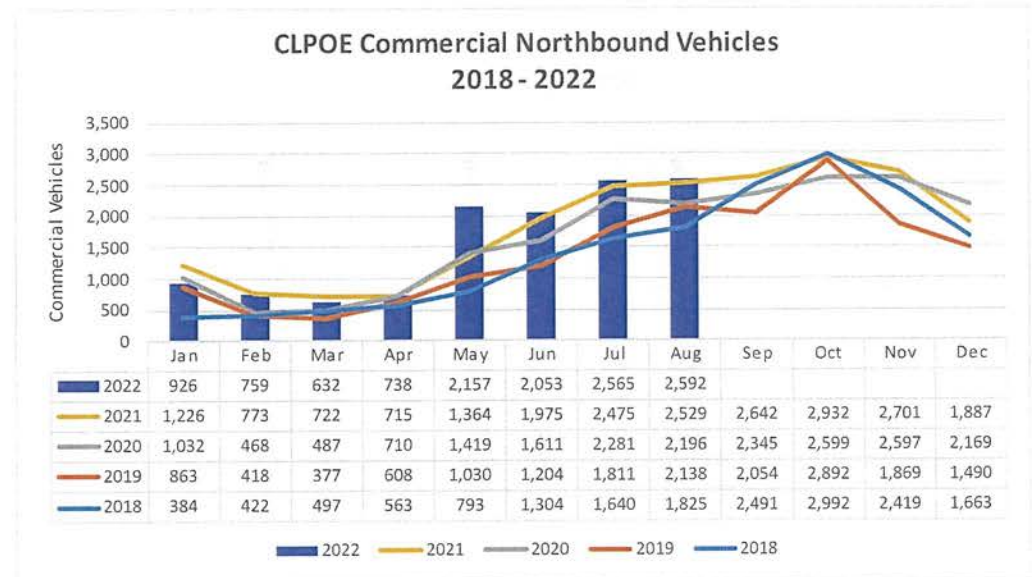
STPOE Commercial Northbound Vehicles  
2018 - 2022





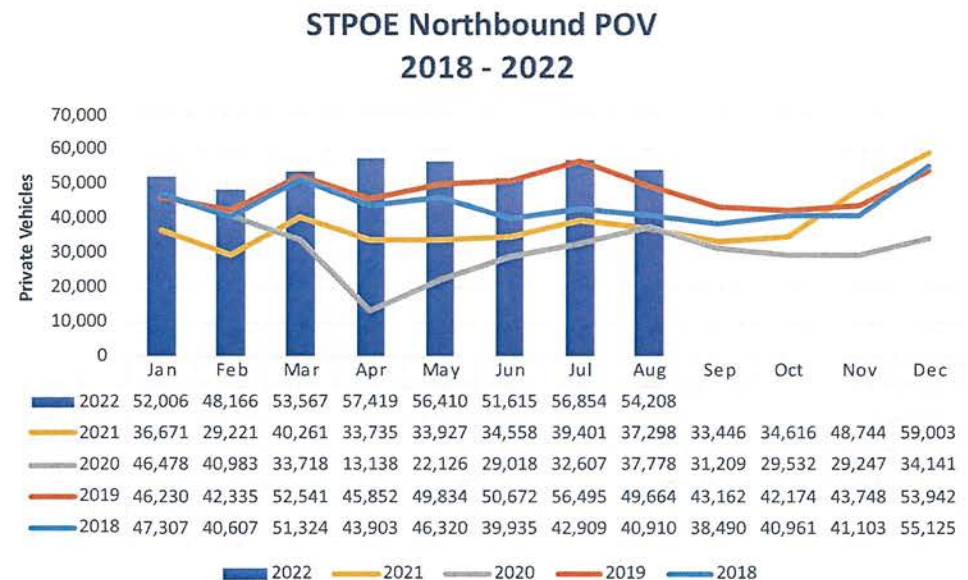
# Columbus POE Commercial Vehicle Update

- Alfalfa has topped chile as the number one commodity in Columbus.
- The POE has already topped last fiscal year's total commercial importations.
- Chile season is underway and peaks this time of year. CBP brought additional ag specialists to process the increase during peak season.
- Currently, the port is averaging 140 trucks per day.



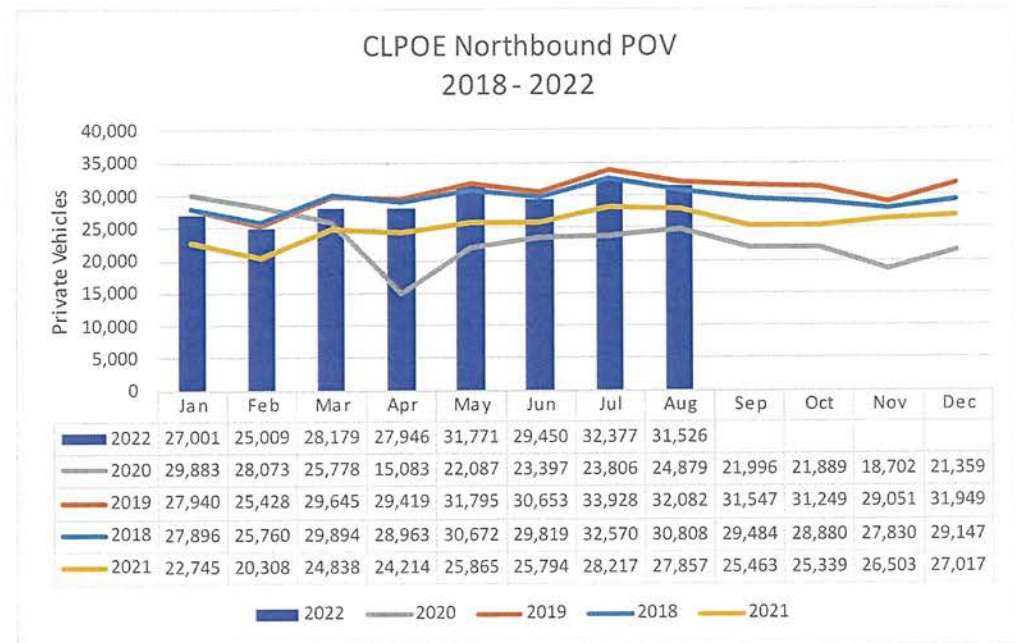
# Santa Teresa POE Private Vehicle Update

- POV traffic already topped last year's total.
- Last fiscal year, the port processed 411,438 private vehicles—this FY they expect to top 620,000.
- STPOE is currently averaging more than 1,900 vehicles a day.
- Average POV wait times:
  - 45 mins to an hour.



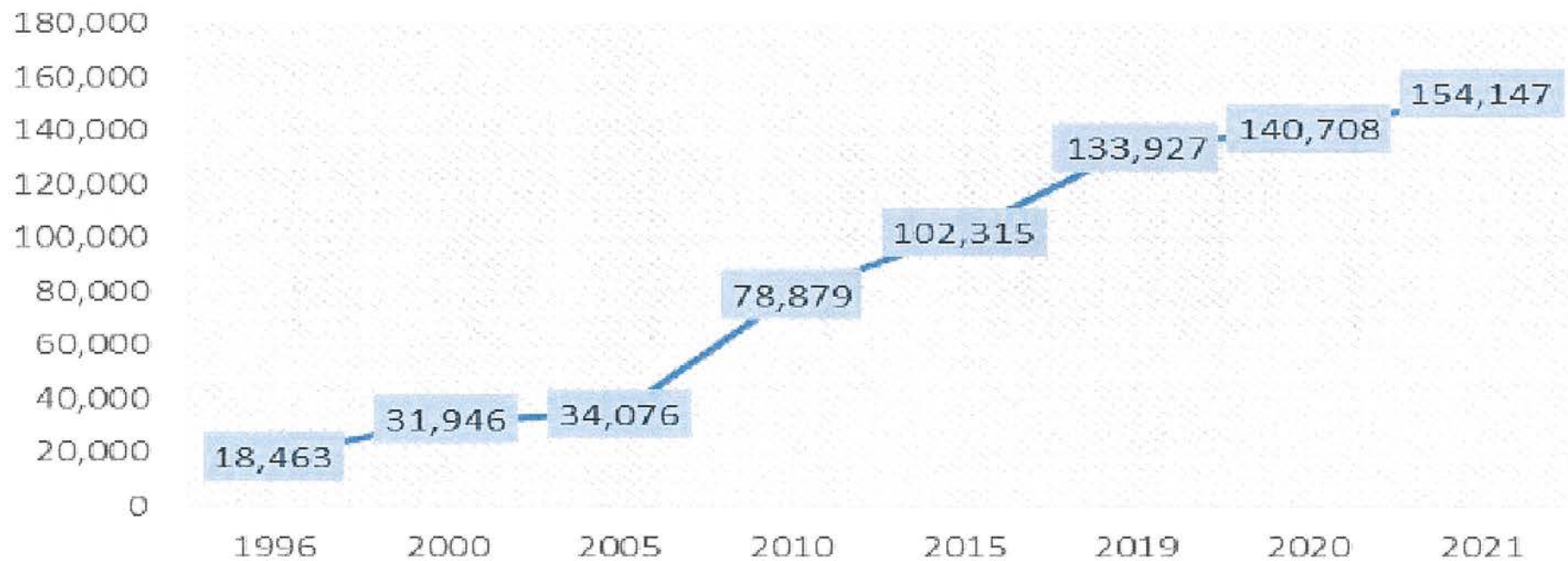
# Columbus POE Private Vehicle Update

- POV traffic and pedestrian traffic has already surpassed last year's numbers, the pandemic restrictions were eased.
- Average wait times for private vehicle travelers:
  - Under 30 minutes.





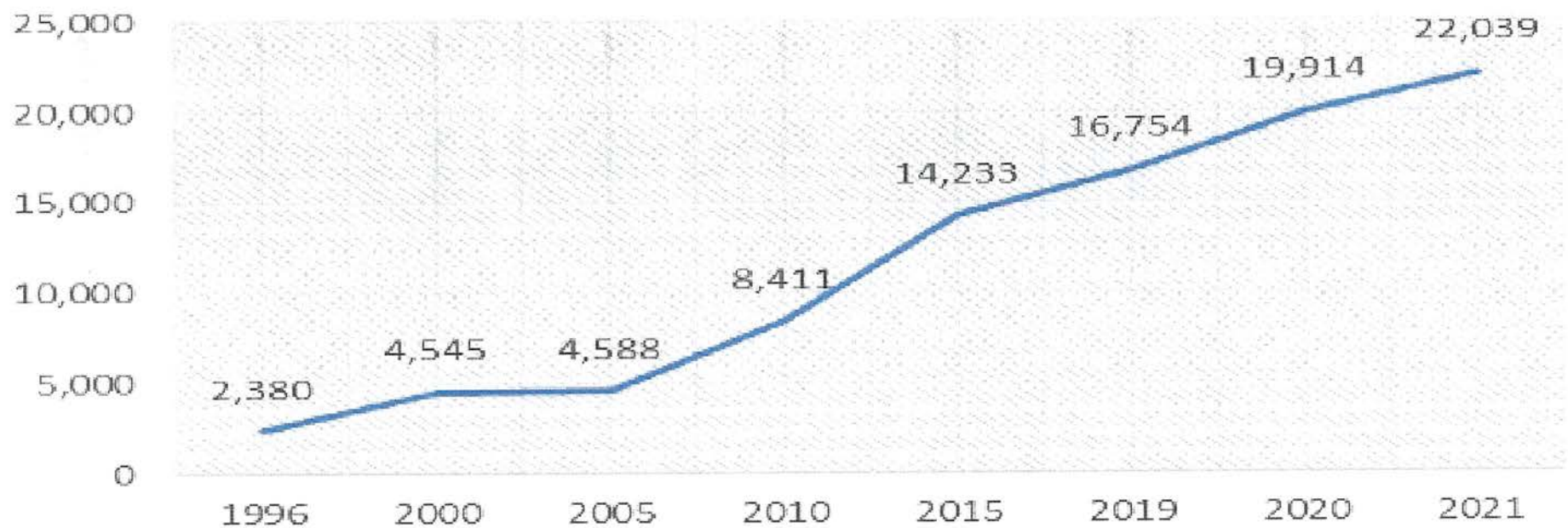
## Santa Teresa POE Annual Truck Border Crossing (1996 - 2021)



Source: United State Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

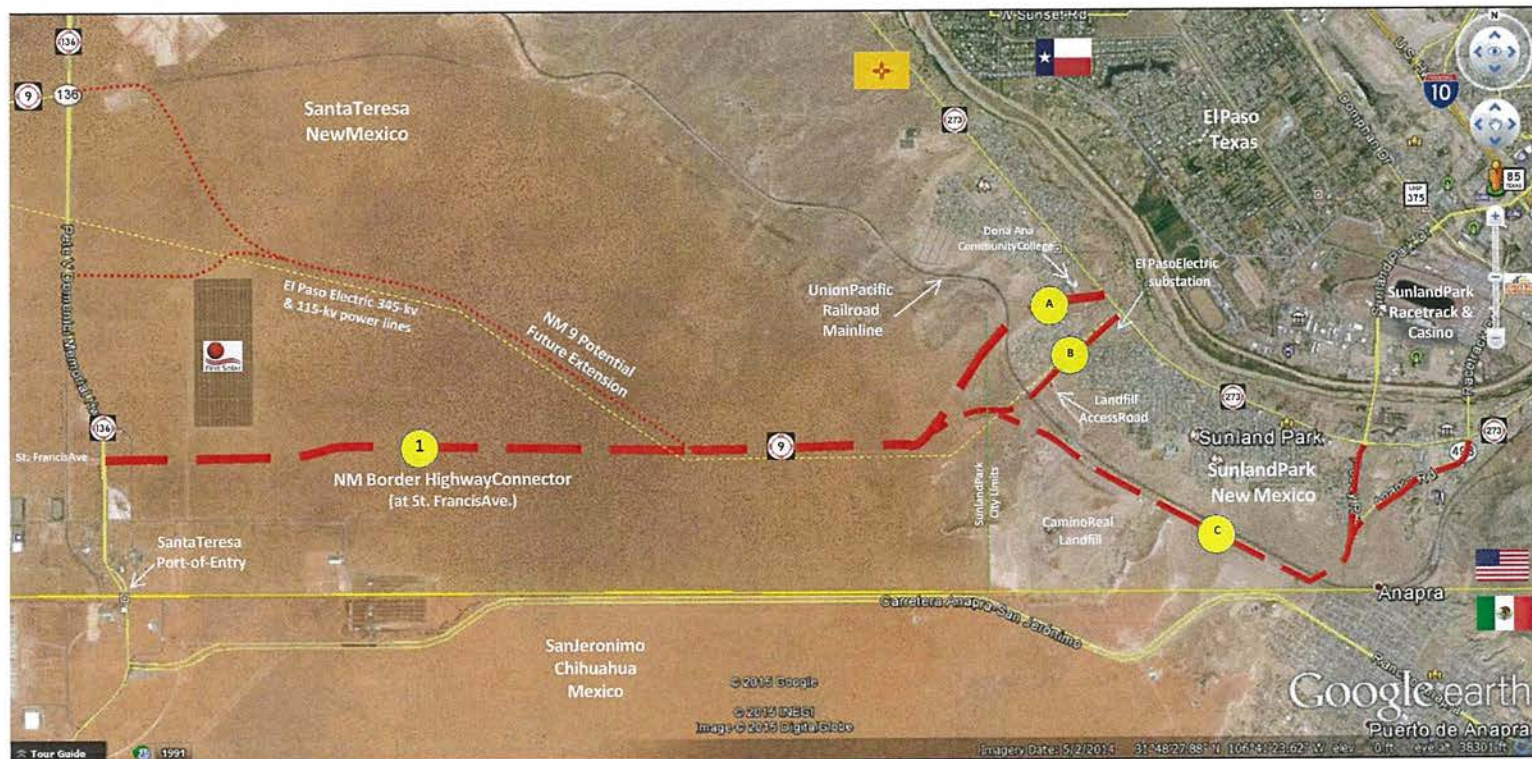


## Columbus POE Annual Truck Border Crossing (1996 - 2021)



Source: United State Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

# **Border Transportation Investments**



Border Highway Connector (St. Francis Dr. Extension): fully funded in 2022.



# Project Benefits

The new roadway:

- will significantly reduce drive times to and from the City of El Paso and major highways - Interstate 10 and Loop 375.
- will address congestion at EP/ CDJ ports by attracting increased POV and commercial traffic to the Santa Teresa – San Jerónimo POE.
- creates a comprehensive and efficient transportation network in the region that will support expected economic growth.
- improves connectivity between major ports in southern New Mexico and far west Texas.

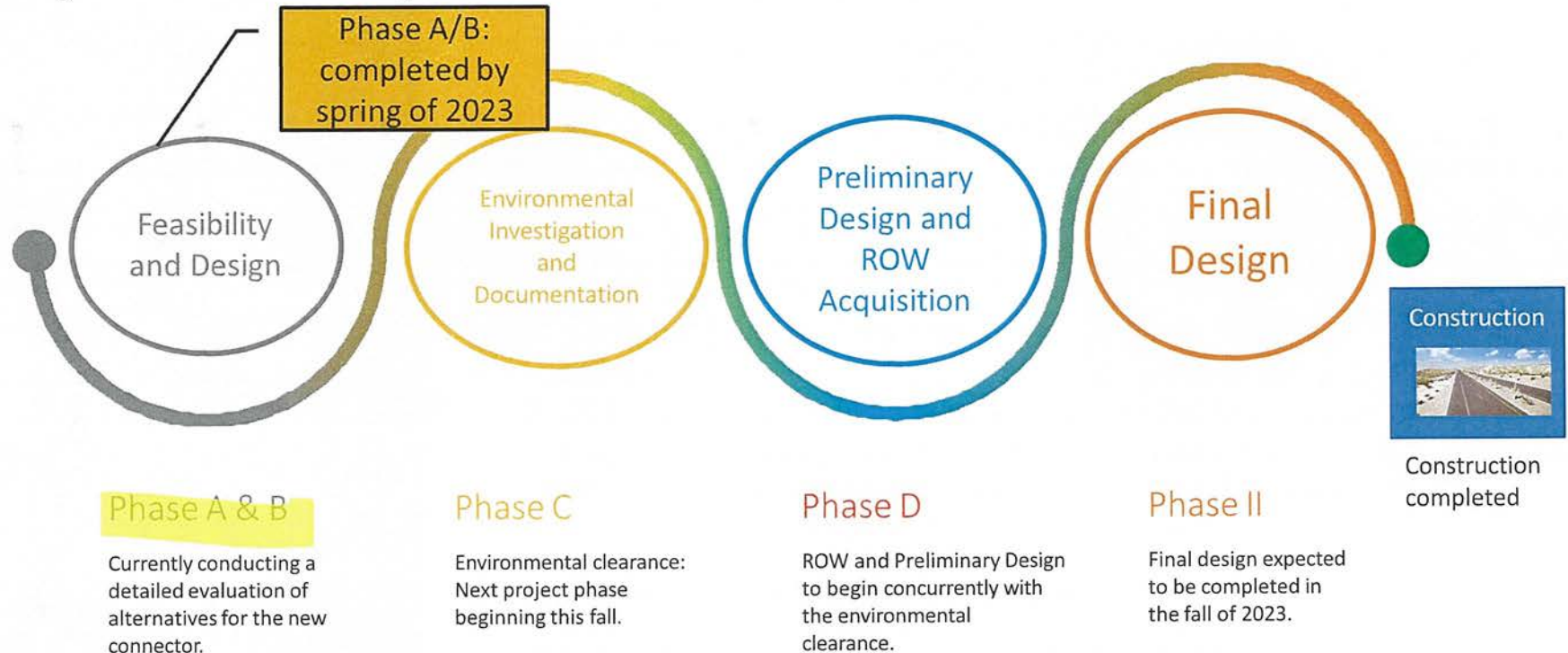
The connector will be owned and maintained by the NM Department of Transportation.





# NM Border Highway Connector

## Project Roadmap





# Santa Teresa Port of Entry

## Expansion and modernization

The New Mexico Border Authority secured \$500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending this year, with support from NM's U.S. Senators, to complete the feasibility of an expansion and modernization of the Santa Teresa POE. This is the first phase of the critical project. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) will lead the project.

### Port highlights:

- ✓ Santa Teresa is the designated oversized/ overweight port in the region.
- ✓ Commercial wait times range around thirty minutes or less.
- ✓ Designated as a hazardous materials crossing.
- ✓ Ranked 6th in overall trade on the southern border.
- ✓ Home to the largest livestock crossing of its kind in the nation.
- ✓ Processes approximately 50% of NM's worldwide exports.

**Current phase:** The feasibility is scheduled to begin this fall and conclude early next summer. **Project Manager:** Jeff Chiavetta, U.S. GSA.







Oversize vehicle maneuvering  
the inspection area





Oversized vehicles exiting the ST  
POE  
traveling north and south.

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# Doña Ana County Jetport Runway Enhancements

The state of New Mexico is investing \$20 million dollars at the DAC international Jetport in Santa Teresa to upgrade the existing runway and allow heavy cargo airplane landings.

The runway Enhancements will allow a regular flow of 737- 800 aircraft, weighing up to 175,000lbs. Currently the weight capacity is 138,000lbs.

*Project timeframe: fully designed by the fall/ winter of 2022 and constructed in approximately two years.*

- ❖ **New runway:** the state and county are also planning the construction of a new runway at the Jetport that will allow heavier aircraft up to 747 and 777.



# DAC International Jetport enhancements

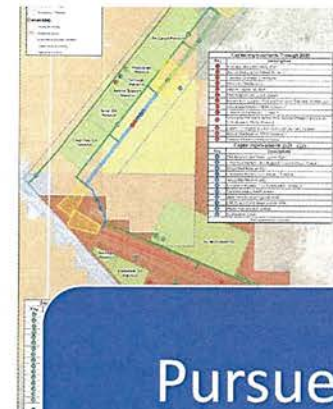
*Early project map*



Planning and  
Design  
Timeframe:  
One year



Construction  
Timeframe:  
Two years



Pursue  
Federal  
Funding for  
new runway



## DAC Jetport: Secures first major tenant

Burrell Aviation Doña Ana, LLC. signed a lease agreement with DAC. Burrell plans to construct a new air cargo handling facility, cold storage, distribution center and aircraft maintenance hangars at the International Jetport.

The planned upgrades funded by the state helped to secure the investment. The contract requires the accommodation of larger, heavier cargo up to 737-700 series.

Lease agreement payment to the county:  
**\$372,860 per year**



# Columbus Berm Project:

The NMBA in collaboration with Luna County Manager Chris Brice secured full funding to complete all phases of a critically needed flood protection project near the Columbus POE.

Total funding secured:

- \$18,075,000 (Capital Outlay, Legislative HB2 and Water Trust Board funding)
- \$1,000,000 (Congressionally Directed Spending, CDS, funds)

The current funding amount will allow the region to fully protect 1,355 acres of private, village and county land, along with several existing businesses, from regular flooding. Once completed, the project will allow the region to take full advantage of their international port of entry to promote economic development projects and create needed jobs.

**Current Phase:** the NMBA has secured a maintenance commitment from Luna County, and an initial agreement has been reached with a major landowner to purchase property needed to begin construction. Staff and county officials expect to make a major land acquisition for the project in the coming weeks.



**COLUMBUS LPOE - FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS FULL PHASE**

**LEGEND**

- DIVERSION BERM
- DETENTION BASIN
- MISC. FEATURE
- PROPOSED CHANNEL
- FLOW ARROW
- PONDING AREA
- WASTE FILE
- EMBANKMENT PAD

**PROPOSED PHASE I PONDING AREA 70.6 ACRES**

**PROPOSED EMBANKMENT PAD 1 84.96 ACRES**

**PROPOSED EMBANKMENT PAD 2 94.63 ACRES**

**PROPOSED CONCRETE SPILLWAY OPENING 300' WITH 3 - 36" CMP**

**WEST DIVERSION CHANNEL: 3,590 LF EASEMENT WIDTH: 200 LF**

**WEST DIVERSION POND CHANNEL: 2,990 LF EASEMENT WIDTH: 200 LF**

**PROPOSED RIPRAP WEIR OPENING WITH 3 - 36" CMP**

**STATE POND #1 1,750' X 350' AREA: 13.5 AC. 100,000 C.Y. POND DIVISION BERM: 615 LF LOW FLOW CULVERT: 24" - 60 LF**

**STATE POND #2 750' X 350' AREA: 5.8 AC. 50,000 C.Y.**

**STATE LAND WEST DIVERSION BERM REDESIGN 5,295 LF**

**STOCKPILE OF STATELAND MATERIAL 1,200' X 500' 109,000 C.Y.**

**STATE LAND**

**BLACKHILL RD**

**PERSHING AVE**

**NM-11**

**PROPOSED OUTFALL CHANNEL**

**PROPOSED OUTFALL CHANNEL 250' BOTTOM**

**NM-11 BRIDGE (4) 6' RISE X 8' SPAN CONCRETE BOX CULVERTS**

**PROPOSED EAST DIVERSION BERM**

**EAST DIVERSION BERM: WASTEWATER PLANT PROTECTION**

**EXISTING COLUMBUS LAND PORT OF ENTRY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

**US / MEXICO BORDER**

**PROPOSED MEXICAN DIVERSION BERM CONNECTION**

**PROPOSED MEXICAN BERM CONNECTION**

**TOTAL UNITED STATES FLOOD PROTECTED AREA: 1,355 ACRES**

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CONSULTANT

LPOE  
FULL PHASE  
4/6/2022

5. BEST NAME

VILLAGE OF COLUMBUS, N.M.  
LPOE DIVERSION BERM  
PHASE 1 DESIGN

PROJECT NO:	1880009402
DESIGNED BY:	ESH
DRAWN BY:	GAV, AMC
CHECKED BY:	BCH
DATE:	APRIL 2022

SITE PLAN

SHEET NO:





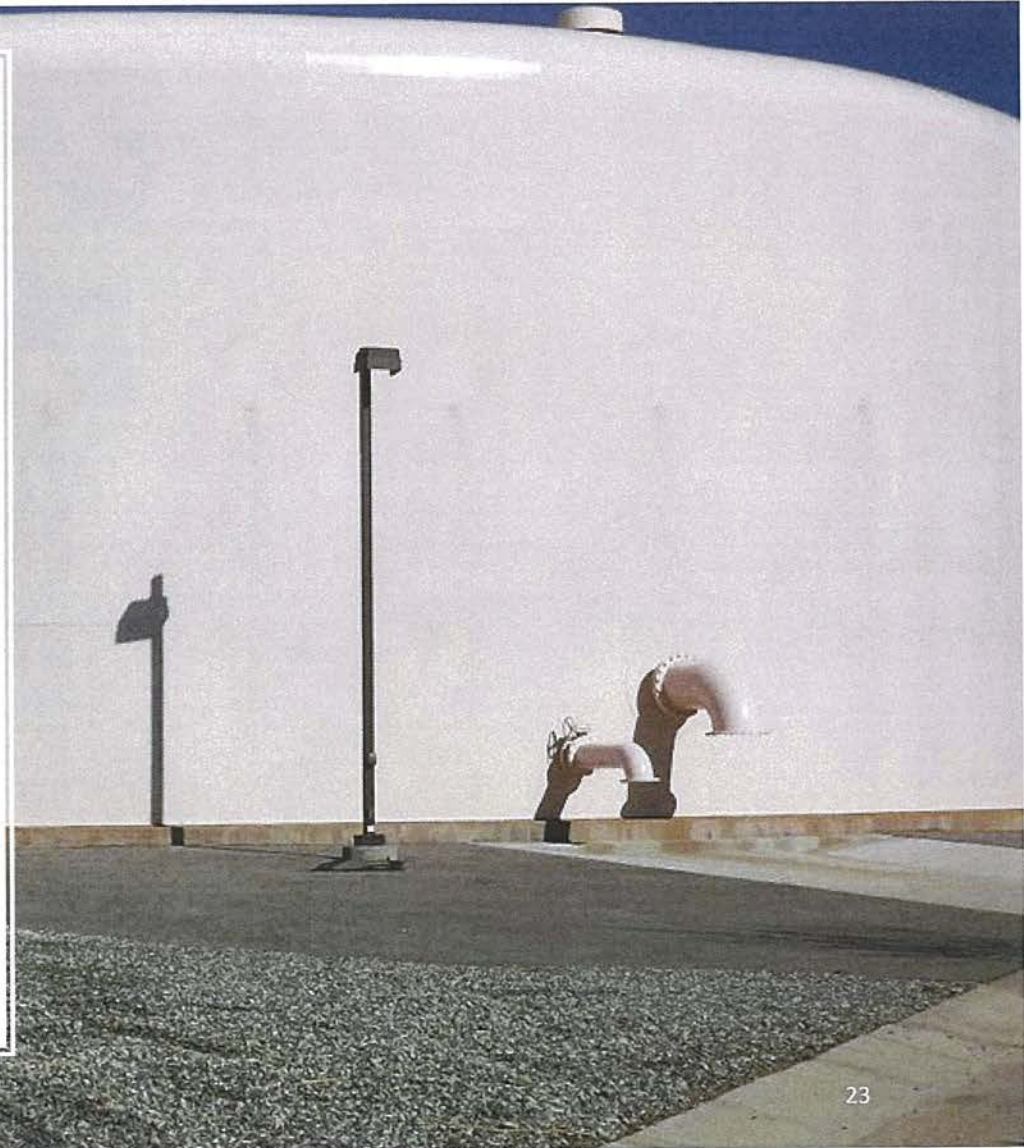


# Santa Teresa 1M Gallon Water Tank

The NMBA secured \$4.45 million in Capital Outlay funding to construct a one-million-gallon water tank in the Santa Teresa Industrial Park. The NMBA is partnering with the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) to complete the project.

- Need:
  - The Santa Teresa industrial park regularly experiences dips in water pressure.
  - The recurring issue affects the recruitment of companies.
  - Emergency sprinkler systems affected: reports of businesses failing inspection due to water pressure dips.

**Current phase:** The NMBA expects to receive the secured state funding in the fall of 2022. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the agency and CRRUA will be proposed to complete the project.



# NMBA Revenue Generating projects:

## NMBA Private Vehicle Parking lot facility and walkway to the Santa Teresa POE:

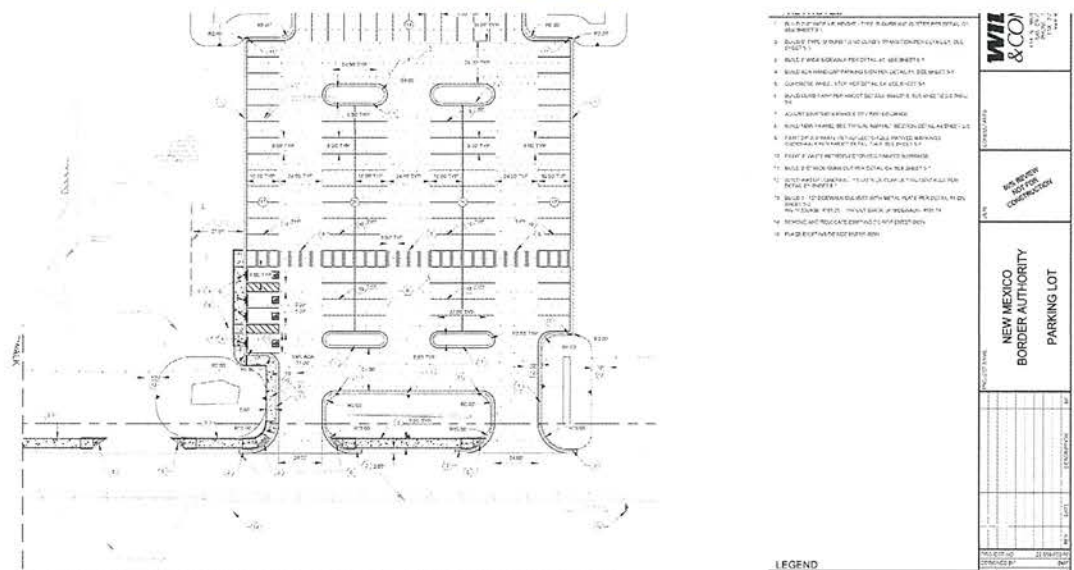
The NMBA secured \$618,000 in capital outlay funds to construct a new private vehicle parking lot and sidewalk to the port. The project is part of a long-term vision to develop state land near the port.

**Current phase:** the project design is currently 90% complete. The NMBA is working with U.S. CBP and GSA to transfer the sidewalk to the port through the Donations Acceptance Process.

## NMBA Commercial Parking Lot enhancements:

The agency secured \$1.2 million in state funding to upgrade the commercial parking lot property. The enhancements will allow the agency to make better use of the entire four-acre property to secure additional Enterprise Funding.

**Current phase:** the NMBA expects to receive the capital outlay funding in the fall of 2022.





# NMBA Future Projects

# Infrastructure Border Development Strategic Plan

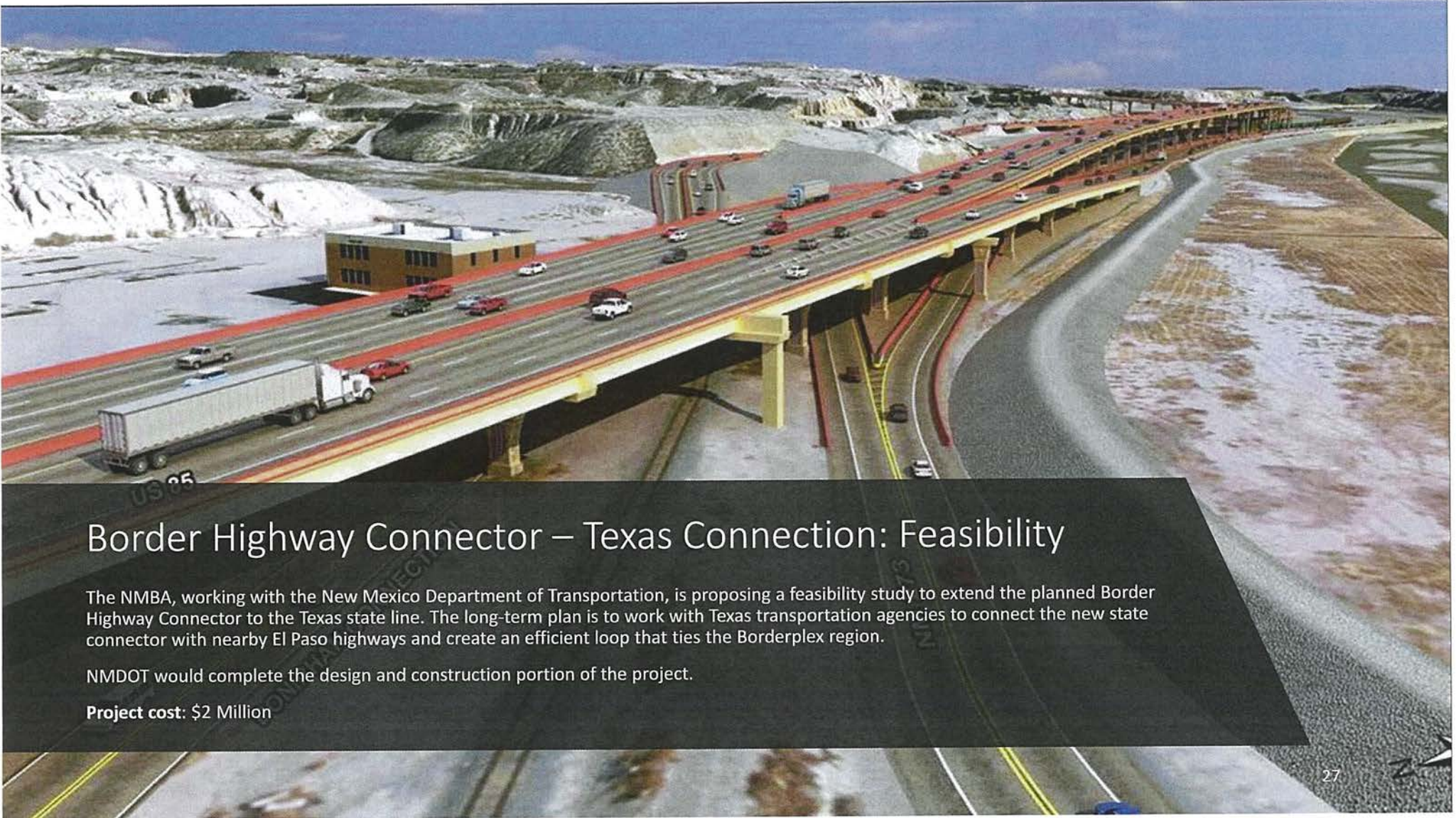


The New Mexico Border Authority is proposing an **Infrastructure Border Development Strategic Plan**, which will take a comprehensive look at the Border region of New Mexico, Texas, and Chihuahua, Mexico. A successful Border Development Strategic Plan would guide state, federal and regional investment by:

- Compiling infrastructure improvements required on the border and developing near-, mid- and long-term prioritized recommendations.
- Include consideration of transportation, water, wastewater, broadband, emergency services, quality of life and other public services/utilities.
- Identify potential policy and legislative changes that may be required and consider regional and global economic trends.

**Project Cost:** \$1.3 Million





## Border Highway Connector – Texas Connection: Feasibility

The NMBA, working with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, is proposing a feasibility study to extend the planned Border Highway Connector to the Texas state line. The long-term plan is to work with Texas transportation agencies to connect the new state connector with nearby El Paso highways and create an efficient loop that ties the Borderplex region.

NMDOT would complete the design and construction portion of the project.

**Project cost:** \$2 Million



# Future International Rail Crossing in NM

New Mexico is exploring the possibility of a future international rail crossing in Santa Teresa. The requested funds would allow the completion of a presidential permit, which is needed to construct a new border crossing.

Requests for federal and state capital outlay funding were submitted this year to complete a presidential permit application.

The state completed a *Santa Teresa International Rail Study Feasibility Corridor Study* in 2016.

**Project cost:** \$5.25 Million

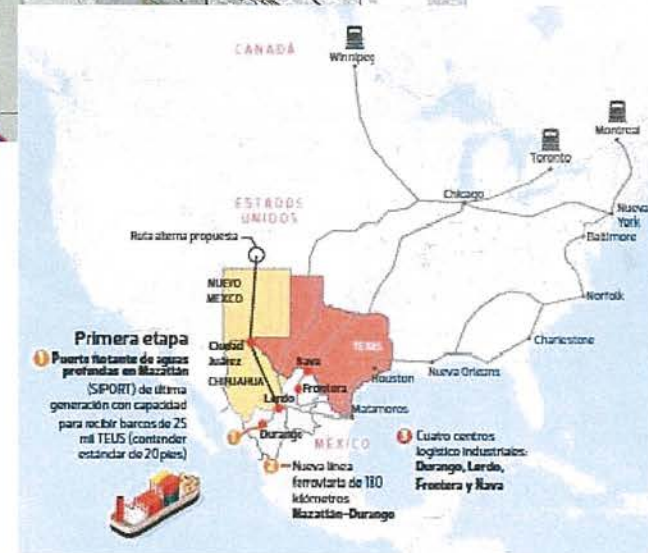
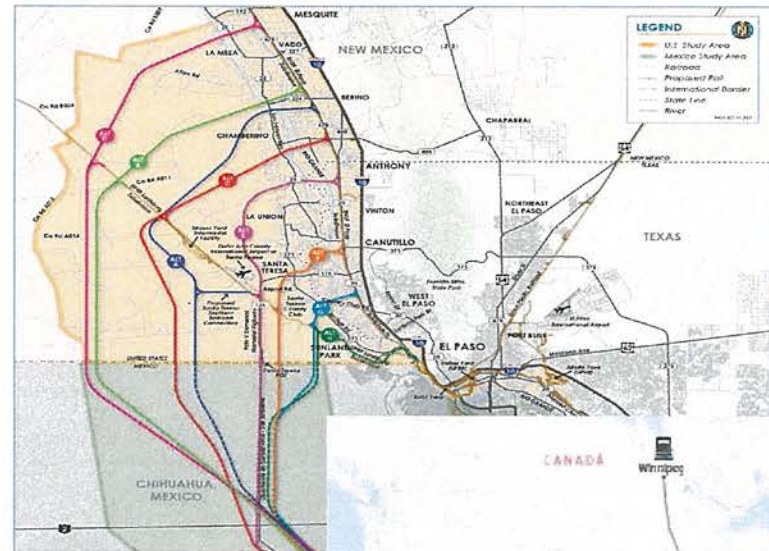
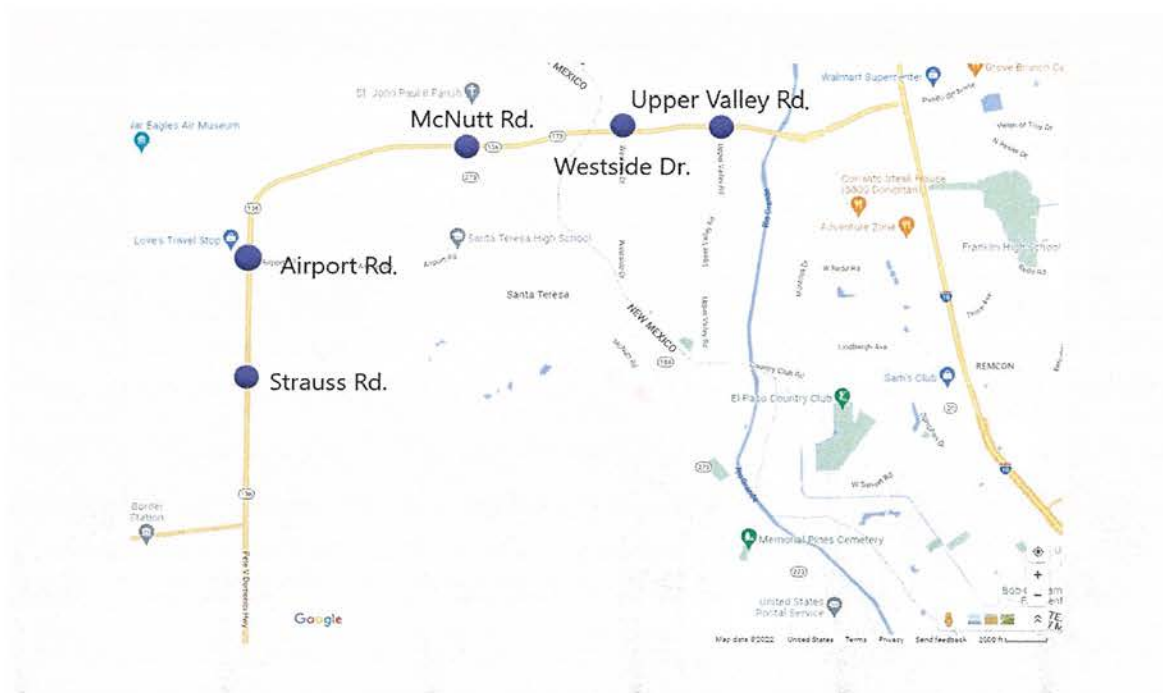


Photo credit: El Sol de San Juan del Rio, 16 May 2022



# Other Regional Priorities

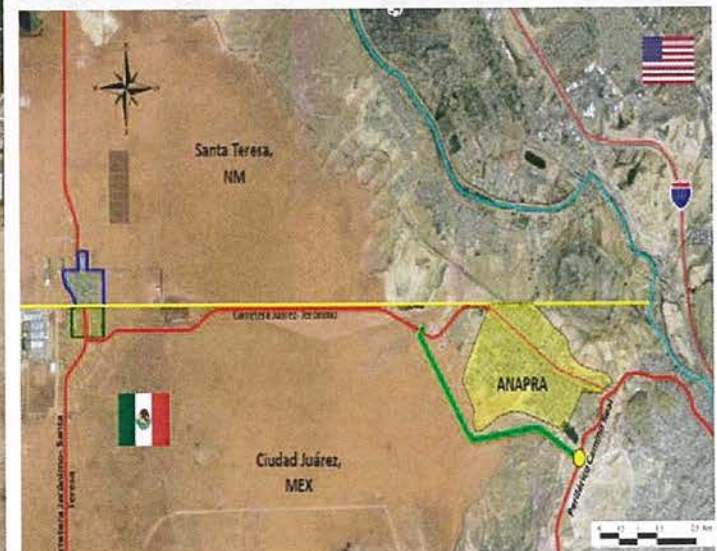
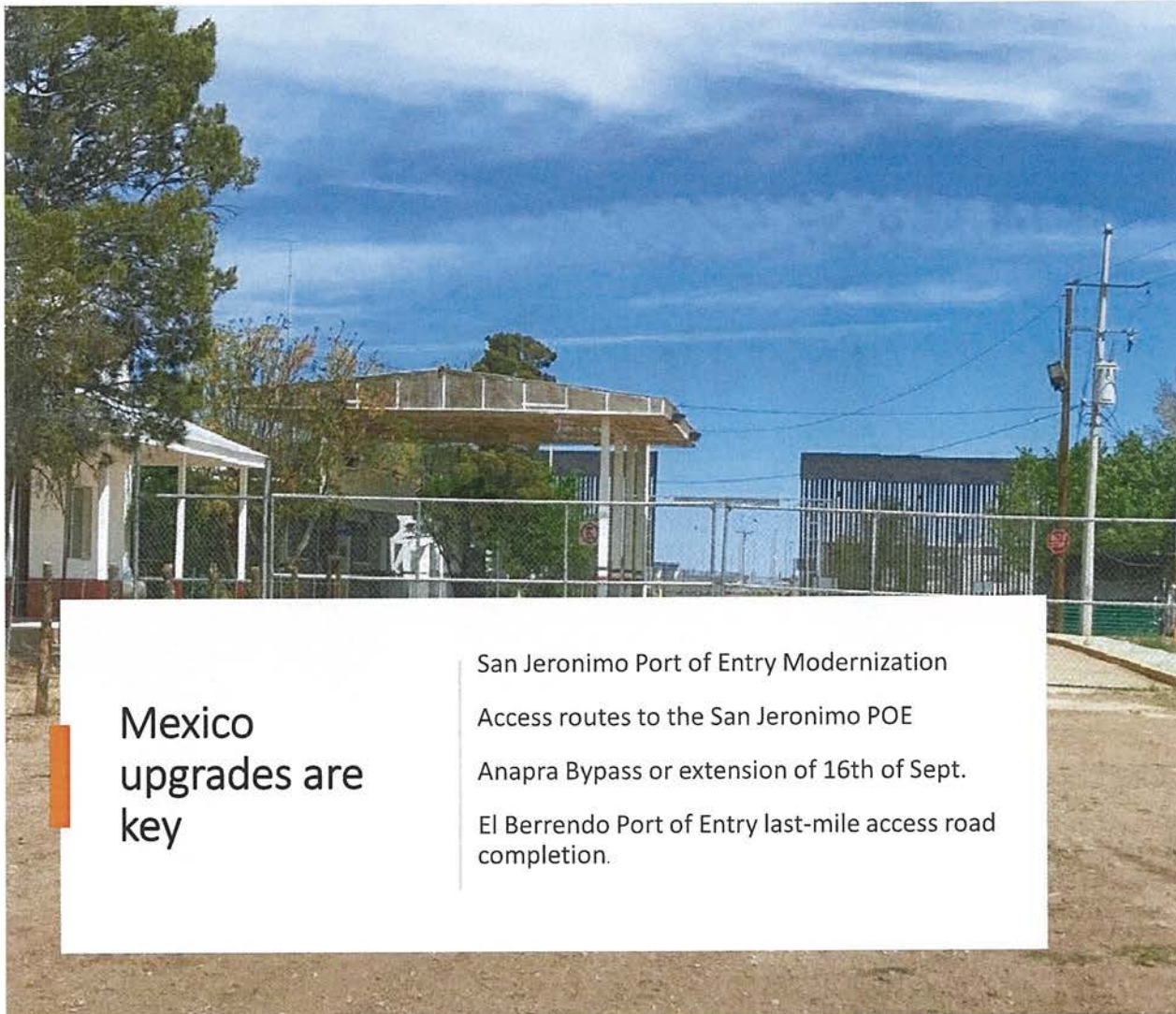


Grade separations at major intersections on Pete V. Domenici Hwy.

Project lead: NMDOT

Estimated cost: \$40 Million/ Intersection





# Other Updates





# NMBA Key Meetings and other Updates

NMBA Director Marco Grajeda and EDD Cabinet Secretary Alicia Keyes led a delegation from New Mexico and the state of Chihuahua to Mexico City for meetings with key Mexican federal officials.

- Key Outcome: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador listed the expansion and modernization of the San Jeronimo Port of Entry (Santa Teresa's sister port) as a presidential priority.

NMBA staff and Santa Teresa Port of Entry personnel were recognized by Juarez Industry for the regional support during the controversial increased inspections at Texas' international crossings in April.

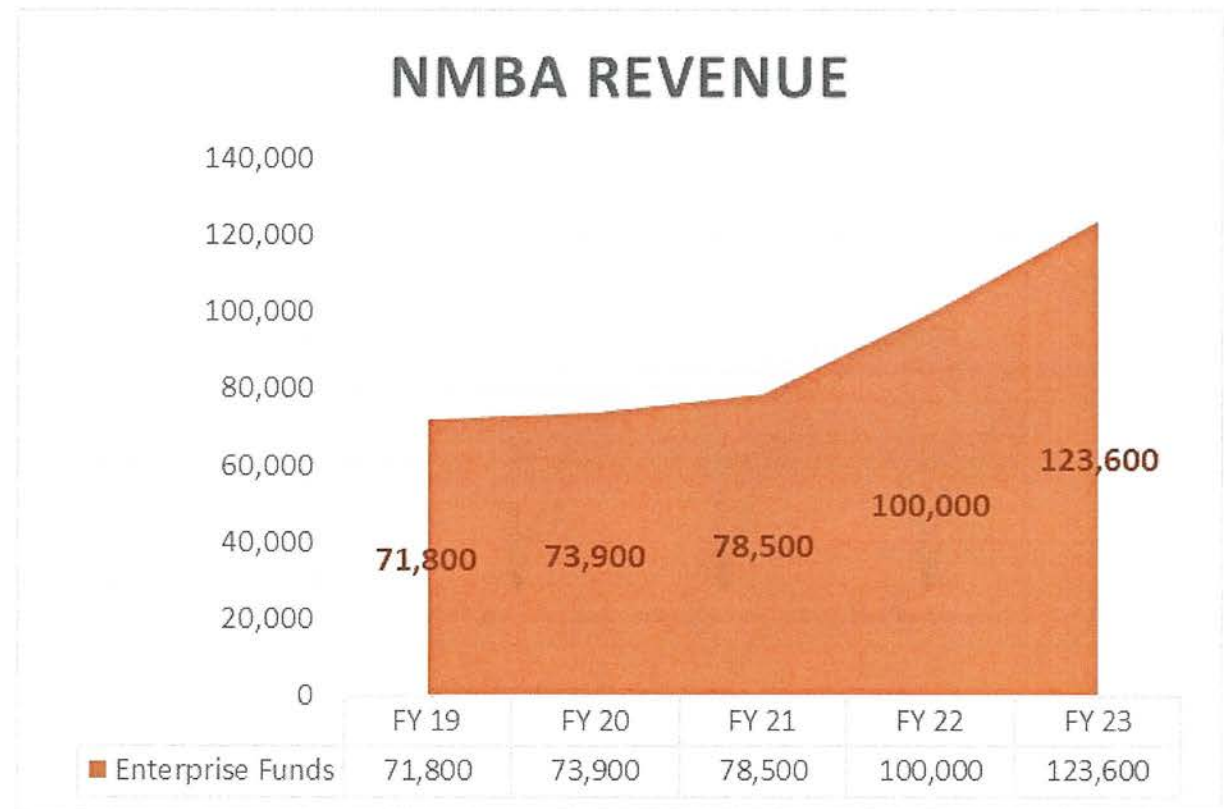
The NMBA submitted two new Congressionally Directed Spending requests which were referred to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee by Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan:

- \$2.25 Million to complete a Presidential Permit for an international Rail Crossing in Santa Teresa. (Lujan)
- \$10 Million for the Phase II Design of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry Expansion and Modernization. (Heinrich)

The NMBA coordinated COVID vaccination drives with the New Mexico Office of Border Health for commercial truck drivers, industrial park employees and others. The agency also served as the distribution site for Rapid COVID tests for border businesses.

**Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Technology at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry:** construction work to install the new NII system began September 1, 2022—and is expected to last four months. Once up and running, the NII technology will expedite commercial crossings while increasing safety by inspecting 99% of all trucks coming across the border. *The pilot project was an important outcome from an NMBA hosted congressional field hearing in 2019.*

# NMBA Enterprise Funding Outlook





# **The NMBA team is committed to:**

- ✓ **Addressing key infrastructure priorities on the border and creating a roadmap for future investment.**
- ✓ **Increasing partnerships with all stakeholders at the local, regional, state and federal level.**
- ✓ **Making the executive branch state agency stronger with increased revenue to have a growing impact in the border region well into the future...**

*“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” – Nelson Mandela*

# Thank you!

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