ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report of Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2026
House Hearing Room 4 -- 9:00 A.M.

RECEIVED
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

MAR 23 2026

Convened 9:02 A.M.
Recessed 9:33
Reconvened 9:35
Adjourned 9:54 A.M.

Members Present
Representative Blackman
Representative Pena
Representative Peshlakai
Representative Volk
Representative Lopez, Vice-Chairman
Representative Martinez, Chairman

Members Not Present
Representative Biasiucci
Representative Hernandez

Agenda
Original Agenda – Attachment 1

Request to Speak
Report – Attachment 2

Committee Attendance
Report – Attachment 3

Presentations

Name	Organization	Attachments (Handouts)
East Woolford Road Extension, Show Low	Mayor John Leech	4
Lost Dutchman Mine, Goldfield	Representative Martinez	

Committee Action

Bill	Action	Vote	Attachments
SB1272	DP	6-0-0-1	5,6

Veronica Graham, Committee Secretary
March 20, 2026

(Original attachments on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk; video archives available at http://www.azleg.gov)

REVISED - 3/18/26 **REVISED - 3/18/26** **REVISED - 3/18/26**

Convened 9:02
Adjourned 9:54

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE Thursday, March 19, 2026 ROOM HHR 4 TIME 9:00 A.M.

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2026031094

Members:

~~Representative Biasiucci~~	Representative Peña	Representative Lopez, Vice-Chairman
Representative Blackman	Representative Peshlakai	Representative Martinez, Chairman
Representative Hernandez C	Representative Volk	

- Presentations:
  - *East Woolford Road Extension, Show Low, LD 7*, Mayor John Leech
  - *Lost Dutchman Mine, Goldfield, LD 7*, Rep. Martinez

Bills	Short Title	Strike Everything Title
SB1272	appropriation; Douglas port of entry	
DP	(Gowan: Diaz, Griffin)	
6-0-0-1	RED, APPROP, RULES	

ORDER OF BILLS TO BE SET BY THE CHAIRMAN

VC
~~03/13/2026~~
03/18/2026

People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact the Chief Clerk's Office at (602) 926-3032 or through Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1.

Attachment 1

Information Registered on the Request to Speak System

House Rural Economic Development (3/19/2026)

SB1272, appropriation; Douglas port of entry

Support:

Brian Murray, CITY OF DOUGLAS

Attachment 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Please PRINT Clearly

Committee on RAP Bill Number 1272

Date 3-19-24 ☑ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Neutral

Name Jose Grijalva Need to Speak? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Representing City of Douglas Are you a registered lobbyist? No

Complete Address 1200 D Ave St Douglas, AZ

E-mail Address jose.grijalva@douglas.az Phone Number 520 3555195

Comments:

FIVE-MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD

COMMITTEE ON **RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

CHAIRMAN: Teresa Martinez VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chris Lopez

DATE	03/19/26	
CONVENED	9:02	
RECESSED	9:33	
RECONVENED	9:35	
ADJOURNED	9:54	
MEMBERS	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Blackman	✓	
Hernandez C		✓
Peña	✓	
Peshlakai	✓	
Volk	✓	
Lopez, Vice-Chairman	✓	
Martinez, Chairman	✓	
TOTAL	6	1

Attachment 3

East Woolford Road Extension

Project Overview

Woolford Road currently serves as a bypass from US-60 and SR-260 through Show Low, AZ. This corridor has the highest Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for a roadway section in the White Mountains region of Arizona that is not a state highway, seeing 17,165 vehicles per day in 2022.

The East Woolford Road Extension project will fund the construction of approximately 1 mile of new roadway, extending the existing road from its current terminus at SR-260 to South Penrod Road, as well as turn lanes on Penrod Rd safely connecting the new and existing road-ways. The new roadway segment will provide an additional regional option for traffic to access the major State highways in the area through construction of a roadway extension and bridge across Show Low Creek, thereby decreasing congestion on nearby roadways and allow the City of Show Low to accommodate for growth both within the city and across the region.

This connection will also provide the only Show Low Creek crossing in the City of Show Low's city limits that will be able to handle a 100-year base flood event, constituting a major increase to the community's resilience, mobility, and safety in an emergency. This project also improves access to the Show Low Bluff Subdivision, a community with 400+ platted residential lots and plans to support another 2,000 residential units at buildout, and provides a major connection to the communities of Pinetop, Snowflake, and Springerville. Extension of East Woolford Road allows the City of Show Low to better connect itself to the White Mountains region, and at the same time be proactive and build stronger infrastructural supports for an increasing number of residents.

This project is already fully designed and shovel-ready, and requests $6,500,000 to pair with a local match fund of $7,560,000 to complete the project. This project was voted as a regional priority by elected officials of over 20 northern Arizona cities and towns who comprise NACOG's Regional Council on August 28, 2025.

Project Lead

City of Show Low, Arizona

Project Schedule

Construction in 2026

Project Cost

State Funding Request: $6,500,000
Local Contribution: $7,560,000
Total Project Cost: $14,060,000

Contact Info

Christopher "Chris" Reid
City Engineer, Show Low
928-532-4090
creed@showlowaz.gov

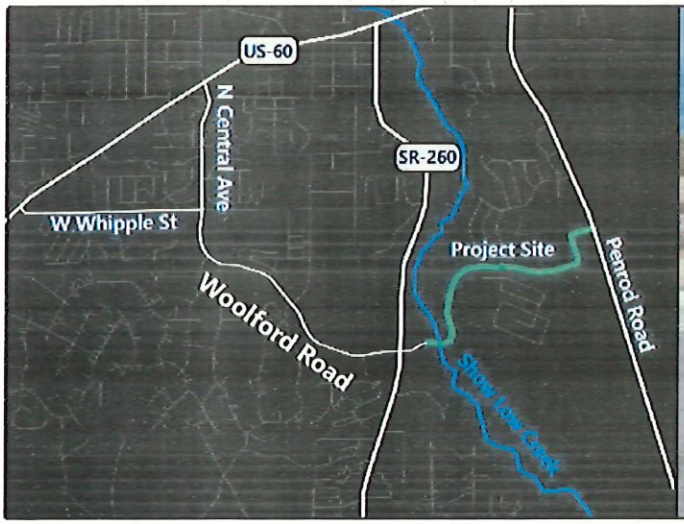
Location

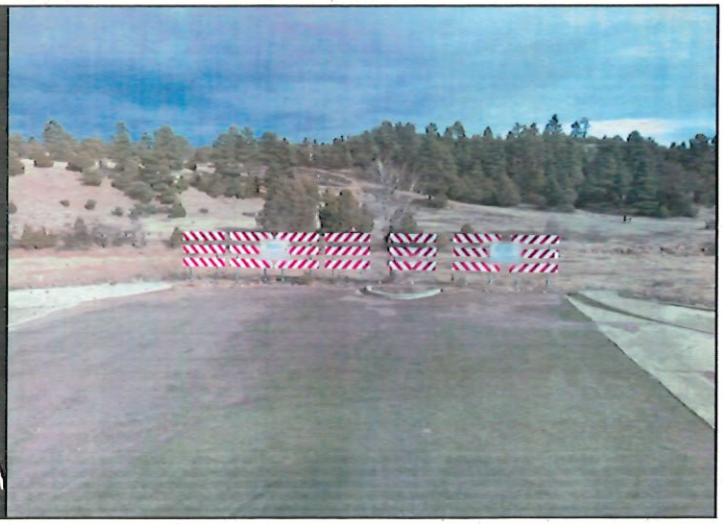


City of Show Low
Navajo County
AZ Legislative District 7
NACOG Region

NACOG
Northern Arizona Council of Governments
Apache • Coconino • Navajo • Yavapai

Vicinity Map & Site Photo





Attachment 4

Summit Healthcare Association

February 26, 2026

City of Show Low
Attn: Christopher "Chris" Reid, City Engineer
180 N. 9th Street
Show Low, AZ 85901

RE: Letter of Support – East Woolford Road Extension Project

Dear Mr. Reid and Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of Summit Healthcare Association (SHA), I am pleased to provide our strong support for the City of Show Low's East Woolford Road Extension Project. As the organization operating Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center (SHRMC), the primary hospital and emergency care provider for Show Low and the surrounding Navajo County region, we recognize this project as a critical investment in public safety, emergency response, and healthcare access for our rural and rapidly growing community.

From a healthcare perspective, reliable roadway infrastructure is directly linked to patient outcomes, particularly in rural areas where travel distances and response times significantly impact survival, recovery, and continuity of care. Timely access routes are essential for EMS transport, emergency response, and patient access to life-saving services.

The 2023 Navajo County Community Health Assessment (CHA), developed with participation from SHA and regional partners, identifies injury and mortality—including accidental injuries and motor vehicle accidents—as key health concerns affecting our community. We regularly treat patients impacted by motor vehicle collisions, delayed emergency response, and transportation barriers that increase the severity of injuries and strain emergency and trauma services.

The Project will strengthen regional emergency infrastructure by improving EMS transport efficiency, enhancing access for fire and law enforcement personnel, and providing a critical alternative route during roadway closures, disasters, and wildfire evacuations. Given the heavy utilization of SR-260 and ongoing regional growth, additional route redundancy is essential to maintaining safe and reliable access to emergency medical care.

Improved transportation access supports not only emergency care, but also preventive services, specialty care, and follow-up treatment—key priorities identified in the CHA related to healthcare access and social determinants of health in Navajo County.

As a rural healthcare system serving a geographically dispersed and medically underserved population, SHA strongly supports infrastructure investments that enhance safety, resilience, and timely access to medical care. This Project represents a strategic and high-impact investment that will improve community health, emergency preparedness, and overall quality of life,

For these reasons, Summit Healthcare Association fully supports the City of Show Low's grant application and respectfully encourages favorable funding consideration for this important public safety and infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

William C. Gardner, MSN, MBA, HCM, RN
Chief Executive Officer

SHOW LOW CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & TOURISM
INFORMATION CENTER
81 E Deuce of Clubs
Show Low, AZ 85901
928.537.2326
showlowchamber.com

February 26, 2026

Letter of Support – Woolford Road Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

The Show Low Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer its strong support for the East Woolford Road Extension Project proposed by the City of Show Low. This project represents a critical enhancement to the region's transportation network and will deliver meaningful benefits for public safety, emergency response, and community access.

One of the most significant benefits of the East Woolford Road extension is its role in wildfire evacuation. Our region regularly faces the threat of fast-moving wildfires, and additional evacuation routes are essential to protecting lives. By creating another east-west corridor, this project will reduce congestion, ease bottlenecks, and provide residents with multiple safe evacuation options during emergency situations.

The extension will also improve everyday emergency response. Fire, medical, and law-enforcement personnel depend on reliable and efficient road networks to reach residents quickly. This project will shorten travel distances and reduce response times, particularly for the Show Low Bluff subdivision and surrounding neighborhoods. In emergencies where every minute matters, this improvement is both necessary and impactful.

NAVAJO COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

Fern Benally • Alberto L. Peshlakai • Jason E. Whiting • Daryl Seymore • Dawnafe Whitesinger

"We are Navajo County"

March 2, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors expresses its strong support for the East Woolford Road Extension Project proposed by the City of Show Low. Identified by the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) as the #1 regional transportation priority and backed by a significant local funding match, this project represents a high-value, locally driven investment in critical infrastructure.

The extension of East Woolford Road will play a critical role in relieving congestion on State Route 260, one of the region's most heavily traveled corridors. SR 260 frequently experiences delays, closures, and bottlenecks due to high traffic volumes, collisions, and weather-related incidents. Providing an additional east–west connection will improve traffic flow, reduce travel times, and create a more resilient transportation network for daily commuters, visitors, and emergency services.

The project delivers major public safety benefits by creating an additional emergency access route that improves response times for fire, medical, and law enforcement personnel and enhances access to the local hospital. It also provides a crucial evacuation corridor during wildfire or flooding events, expanding regional evacuation capacity and reducing reliance on a single highway.

By improving connectivity between Show Low and the surrounding communities of Pinetop-Lakeside, Snowflake-Taylor, and Springerville-Eagar, the extension supports long-term economic growth and regional development. As the area continues to grow, strategic transportation investments like this are essential to maintaining safety, mobility, and quality of life.

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors fully endorses the East Woolford Road Extension Project and affirms its importance to the long-term safety, resilience, and economic vitality of Navajo County and the greater White Mountains region.

Sincerely,

Daryl Seymore, Chairman
Navajo County Board of Supervisors

TIMBER MESA FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT
WWW.TIMBERMESAFIRE.ORG

February 23, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the East Woolford Road Extension Project proposed by the City of Show Low. This project represents a critical improvement to the region's transportation network and will provide significant public-safety, emergency-response, and community-access benefits.

One of the most important advantages of the East Woolford Road extension is its value during wildfire evacuations. Our region is no stranger to fast-moving fires, and having additional evacuation routes is essential for protecting lives. By creating another east-west corridor, the extension would help reduce bottlenecks, improve traffic flow, and ensure residents have more than one viable path out of harm's way during emergency events.

The project also strengthens everyday emergency response capabilities. Fire, medical, and law-enforcement personnel rely on efficient road networks to reach residents quickly. The East Woolford Road extension would shorten travel distances and reduce response times, particularly for the Show Low Bluff subdivision and surrounding neighborhoods. In situations where minutes can make the difference, this improvement is both meaningful and necessary.

Additionally, the extension provides a valuable alternative route when SR-260 becomes congested or blocked due to motor-vehicle collisions or other incidents. SR-260 is a heavily traveled corridor, and closures can leave residents and emergency services with limited options. An additional route would help maintain mobility, reduce delays, and improve overall transportation resilience for the community.

For these reasons, I fully support the East Woolford Road Extension Project and believe it will provide long-term safety, mobility, and quality-of-life benefits for the City of Show Low, the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District and its residents.

Sincerely,

Randy Chevalier
Fire Chief

February 26, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

Subject: Woolford Road Expansion Project

The White Mountain Business Owners Roundtable respectfully submits this letter in strong support of the East Woolford Road Extension Project proposed by the City of Show Low. This project represents a strategic investment in the region's transportation infrastructure and will deliver substantial, long-term benefits related to public safety, emergency response capability, community connectivity, and economic development.

A primary and immediate benefit of the East Woolford Road extension is its critical function as an additional evacuation route during wildfire events. The White Mountains region continues to face elevated risk from fast-moving wildfires, and the availability of multiple, reliable evacuation corridors is essential to safeguarding residents, visitors, and first responders. By establishing an additional east-west connection, the project will reduce congestion, mitigate evacuation bottlenecks, and materially enhance the community's ability to respond effectively during emergency situations.

The project will also significantly improve routine emergency response times. Fire, medical, and law-enforcement agencies rely on direct and dependable transportation networks to provide timely services. The East Woolford Road extension will shorten travel distances and improve route redundancy, particularly for the Show Low Bluff area and surrounding neighborhoods, enabling faster and more reliable access for emergency personnel. In time-sensitive incidents, these improvements will contribute directly to improved public safety outcomes.

In addition to its public safety benefits, the Woolford Road expansion will serve as a catalyst for sustained economic development by significantly improving access and mobility in the surrounding area. Enhanced connectivity will reduce travel times, improve traffic flow, and strengthen links to regional corridors and community amenities in Show Low. These improvements will increase the area's viability as a regional destination, supporting the growth of complementary commercial activity, including lodging, dining, retail, and service-oriented businesses. The resulting private investment is expected to generate new employment opportunities, expand the local tax base, and contribute to long-term economic vitality.

For these reasons, the White Mountain Business Owners Roundtable strongly endorses the East Woolford Road Extension Project and affirms that it will provide measurable, enduring benefits to public safety, transportation efficiency, economic development, and overall quality of life for the City of Show Low, the Show Low Police Department, the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District, and the residents and businesses throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Cathy Huling

White Mountain Business Owners Roundtable
Board President

928.242.0680

wmbortaz@gmail.com

Show Low, Arizona

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff
Senate: ATT DPA 6-3-1-0 | Third Read: 24-5-1-0-0

SB 1272: appropriation; Douglas port of entry
Sponsor: Senator Gowan, LD 19
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

Appropriates $5,000,000 from the state General Fund (GF) to the state Treasurer in FY 2027 for the state match of the Douglas Port of Entry and allows expenditures to be made upon the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) award of $678,000,000 for the Douglas Port of Entry.

History

The U.S. GSA was established in 1947 to act as the mandatory, government-wide source for the procurement of goods and services and the acquisition, management, and disposal of real property. GSA oversees approximately 12,600 employees and a budget of $16 billion (U.S. GSA, Library of Congress).

GSA's structure may be divided into four categories: 1) services; 2) independent offices; 3) regional offices; and 4) staff offices. A majority of the agency's staff and responsibilities are encompassed by its two services offices: the Federal Acquisition Services, which administers its purchasing programs, and the Public Building Service, which manages its real property programs. GSA also encompasses two independent offices, the Office of the Inspector General and the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals, along with 11 regional offices and 12 staff offices. Regional offices assist federal agencies located around the country with the procurement of goods and services and the acquisition of real property, whereas staff offices handle internal administrative duties (U.S. GSA, Library of Congress).

The primary duties of the State Treasurer are to receive and hold all monies belonging to Arizona that are not required to be kept by some other person, to keep an account of all monies received and disbursed and to keep separate accounts of the funds and appropriations of monies. Other key functions include paying warrants of the Arizona Department of Administration, supporting the financial literacy of Arizonans and administering the AZ529 plan, Arizona's education savings plan. Statute designates the Treasurer to invest state monies and administer local government investment pools (A.R.S. §§ 41-172, 35-313, 35-326).

Provisions

1. Appropriates $5,000,000 from the state GF to the state Treasurer in FY 2027 for distribution to the City of Douglas for the state match of the Douglas Port of Entry. (Sec. 1)
2. Stipulates the appropriation may be spent only if the GSA provides an award of $678,000,000 for the Douglas Port of Entry. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. SB 1272

DATE March 19, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Blackman	✓				
Hernandez C					✓
Peña	✓				
Peshlakai	✓				
Volk	✓				
Lopez, Vice-Chairman	✓				
Martinez, Chairman	✓				
		6	Ø	Ø	1

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

ATTACHMENT 6