

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
Tuesday, August 26, 2014**

A Work Session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.in the Board of Supervisors Executive Conference Room, at 1415 Melody Lane, Building G., Bisbee, AZ 85603.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Supervisor  
Staff Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator; Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County  
Present: Attorney; Karen Riggs, Highway and Floodplain Director; Karen Lamberton,  
Transportation Planner; Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Dennis Donovan, Civil  
Engineer II  
Attendees: Shar Porier

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING**

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***INTRODUCTIONS***

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding wide and heavy loads on county roads.

Ms. Karen Riggs presented a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of Cochise County oversize load issues. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) performed an Oversize Load Study on SR 80 and US-191 to identify road conditions that restrict travel by oversize vehicles. ADOT realizes that there are some issues on their highways that are causing the County issues on their roads. She presented a map depicting key oversize load issues.

There are issues on I-10 that force traffic onto Route 80 but traffic does not stay on Route 80 and often ends up on Davis Road which is not designed to the standards necessary to accommodate oversize loads.

There are also two areas on US-191, 1) railroad bridge redesign that they are ignoring and 2) the interchange at 191 and I-10, where traffic ends up on Davis Road, Double Adobe Road and Central Highway.

Ms. Riggs said by state statute, and as the local entity, we cannot charge a fee for the permit. The real issue is there is not effective road enforcement for the use of County roads. Carriers are required to finish an application for a permit from the County 48 hours in advance but typically they want the permit the day of. The County has load limiting on county highways under our control but without enforcement. In order to enforce we need to utilize the Sheriff's Office, and have checkpoints with scales in order to stop the traffic.

Vice-Chairman English stated that Cochise County has more wide and heavy load traffic than any other county in the state.

Supervisor Searle said unless we do something, the State has no incentive to do anything.

Ms. Riggs stated that transferring Davis Road to the state for maintenance is one possibility.

Ms. Karen Lamberton, County Transportation Planner, said in conducting research for ADOT the oversize load study showed there is twice the maintenance required on Davis Road than other similar roads, an additional \$24,000 per year.

Supervisor Searle stated that this issue needs to be addressed because Central Highway, Burch Road, and Kansas Settlement, cannot handle wide load traffic.

The Board, administration and staff discussed several possibilities/direction for moving forward:

- Putting restrictions on Davis Road as a test case. How would ADOT respond? Possibility of transferring the responsibility to ADOT.
- Posting high enforcement area signs regarding heavy and wide loads.
- Approach ADOT in a partnership to help us. The County does not have scales but ADOT has them on both sides.
- Research the statutes/legality of stopping carriers the County suspects are carrying a heavy load; Mr. Hanson will discuss with the Criminal Division about vehicle suspicion.
- Discussion with the Sheriff's Office about enforcement and with ADOT on how they can help.
- Public forums to educate citizens on issues the County is having with these roads and the ultimate cost to taxpayers.
- Possible legislative to change statutes governing fees the County can charge.

Ms. Riggs said the County is in the process of getting permits from ADOT to put signs on the ADOT highways before they turn on the County Roads warning the public about prohibited (weight limited) roads.

Ms. Riggs will also schedule a follow up work session in the near future, with additional representatives from the Sheriff's Office and possibility ADOT.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board

**"PUBLIC PROGRAMS, PERSONAL SERVICE"**