

Name: *Questions of Port Development: Characterization of the Douglas, Arizona Port of Entry and Possibilities/Problems for Economic Development*

Conducted by:

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Douglas, Arizona is a small community of approximately 18,000 people that lies on the – Arizona-Sonora border adjacent to the much larger city of Agua Prieta (pop. 110,000). The three biggest economic drivers in the area are the federal government, the port of entry, and local animal husbandry activities. Economically, little has changed in the area over the last 20 years. According to the General Services Administration's (GSA) *Feasibility Study – Douglas US Port of Entry – Douglas AZ*, the Douglas, Arizona Port of Entry is set to be redesigned for greater capacity and better facilities in light of increasing strict security.

In light of continuing port improvements, the City of Douglas Department of Economic Development finds it expedient to collect information on how to best develop the City of Douglas. Douglas therefore has partnered with Arizona State University to identify both information and infrastructure gaps to guide further study and port development objectives. This report addresses several aspects of economic development in Douglas, Arizona, including: the status of the economy of Douglas, Arizona using an economic base study and a note on the economy of Douglas's sister city in Mexico, Agua Prieta; some trade flows through the Douglas region, as well as the nature of Douglas's transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, both identified by Erie (1999) as important to any development strategy; and a comparison of the structure, goals, and services of port authorities and economic development organizations to develop some practices that the newly formed Douglas International Port Authority could pursue. A questionnaire is currently being distributed among local port users to identify value added services the Port Authority could provide as well as the possibly for intermodal use (in this case air freight) with Bisbee-Douglas International Airport.

Questions to be addressed include:

1. What is the economic base for Douglas, and what part does the Douglas Port of Entry play in the economy?
 - Because development is binational, how does Douglas's sister city, Agua Prieta, compare?
2. What is the character of the Douglas port of entry?
 - Who does it serve?
 - What moves through the port and where does it go?
 - What transportation and telecommunications infrastructure is available for port users?
 - What does a SWOT analysis identify as problems or opportunities for the port?

3. What kinds of practices are being pursued by other Port Authorities, including both the Greater Yuma Port Authority and the Greater Nogales-Santa Cruz County Port Authority?
-Based on past practices, what are some suggestions for the Department of Economic Development and the Port Authority to improve the port on a local level?

Methodology:

1. Literature review of current reports on the Douglas area and comparison with reports on other ports in Arizona, especially Nogales
2. Collection of import/export data including point of origin from Douglas Customs & Border Protection and Seidman Research Institute
3. Interview and Survey data from local maquiladora owners and major port users (based on import/export data and input of local stakeholders)
4. Visiting websites and gathering information from library databases.