

# \$308 million port modernization and expansion at San Luis

New port facilities to expand capacity, enhance security and boost local economy

The US General Services Administration (GSA) and US Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 27 with local, state, and federal officials to commemorate the launch of a \$308 million project to modernize and expand the San Luis I Land Port of Entry. Funded by the federally-funded project will replace the port's undersized 1980s infrastructure with new, expanded buildings and increased inspection capacity.

As the second busiest non-commercial port in Arizona, San Luis I currently serves three million drivers and two and a half million pedestrians annually. Once completed, the port will boast a 40 percent increase in pedestrian inspection capacity and will double vehicle inspection capacity, while also improving security, alleviating congestion and boosting the local economy while creating good-paying jobs for local communities.

The project will double the number of northbound vehicle inspection lanes from eight to 16, install a 16,000-square-foot canopy and support installation of the latest inspection technology to support CBP's security mission. The project also includes a new 21,000-square-foot pedestrian inspection building, increasing the number of inspection booths from 10 to 14 and improving the flow of pedestrian traffic.

About \$100 million in funding is for sustainability features. The port's new all-electric and net-zero design integrates numerous water-saving and energy-production features to meet current administration goals calling for net-zero federal buildings by 2045—buildings where the clean energy generated on-site offsets the total energy used, resulting in zero net energy consumption. Additional sustainability features include solar panels and other clean energy sources to reduce operational emissions and eliminate reliance on carbon-based energy. The project will also incorporate sustainability elements such as advanced insulation materials, energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and energy-saving LED light fixtures. Funding will be used to incorporate sustainable asphalt, concrete and steel construction materials, as identified in GSA's low-embodied carbon material requirements pilot, aimed at making the building more resilient to the location's desert environment.

The San Luis I port is a critical gateway connecting the binational communities of San Luis, Arizona, and San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, which enjoy a unique social and economic relationship. Together, they represent a dynamic region where a modernized and expanded port facility will further strengthen these bonds, fostering economic and cultural exchange.

Construction is scheduled to last through Fall 2028, with the port remaining fully operational for the duration. Once completed, the new San Luis I Land Port of Entry will provide the traveling public enhanced travel and commerce, while better connecting the San Luis border communities. ■

