

October 2014

What Gila County has accomplished since first obtaining federal representation in June 2006:

Since Gila County has teamed with federal representation legal experts in Washington DC, the County has secured nearly \$25 million in federal funding and cost shared savings for Tonto Forest wildfire prevention and forest restoration projects and road projects. During that time, the County paid \$624,000 in professional fees. The County has realized a return on investment of \$40 in infrastructure improvements for every \$1 paid in professional fees.

Savings in cost share payments for the Tonto Creek Bridge project:

The SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections provision adjusted the cost share for Arizona by reinstating the sliding scale to reflect the high percentage of federal land in Arizona.\* The adjusted local cost share is now 5.7%. Without the Technical Corrections bill the cost share was 20%.

The impacts to Gila County are significant. Just looking at the Tonto Creek Bridge project, projected savings to the County are substantial. On the first phase of the project, the \$3.1 million authorized by SAFETEA-LU, the savings totaled \$443,300. This savings has and will allow us to purchase the right of way necessary to complete the project. The next phase for which the County seeks authorization in the upcoming surface transportation bill, the savings, again based on the \$15 million design and construction cost estimate, is \$2,145,000 (20% equals a \$3 million local share, where 5.7% equals an \$855,000 share, and the difference is \$2,145,000).

They were also instrumental in helping craft the design phase of the Tonto Creek Bridge project, making it “shovel ready” and therefore eligible for the recent \$1.4 million CAG award to do the Oak Canyon Bridge phase of the overall project.

This cost savings will apply to any future transportation projects, including the Houston Mesa Road, for example. And speaking of Houston Mesa Road, the bridges across second and third crossings, and last year’s bridge work on the Control Road are also, directly and indirectly, the result of their help in building and maintaining the D.C. relationships that bolster our local and regional relationships. Those projects added an additional \$5 million to our infrastructure.

\$16,260,000 in Direct Federal Funding through Appropriations and grants:

\$735,000 for Young Road paving for 3 miles in FY 2008;

\$15,400,000 for forest thinning in the Payson Ranger District since FY 2007; and

\$125,000 grant award from the Forest Service for the County’s cross boundary proposal in FY 2008.

In excess of \$15 million of Forest Service funds have been programmed and/or reprogrammed from other forests across the country to the Tonto Forest to address thinning needs in Gila County. By assisting me deliver our message to the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture leadership in Washington since 2006, we have been able keep the County's thinning

*\*While the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections provision adjusting the sliding scale improves Gila County's position greatly, it does not impact what the State of Arizona receives in its highway allocation, it only affects how the dollars Arizona gets are spread around.*

needs a top national funding priority. The County's and the Forest's leadership has resulted in land prepared for thinning as soon as the dollars became available. This successful teaming continues to deliver results.

In appropriated funds, grants, reprogrammed funds and cost share savings, Jefferson/Bose has helped deliver **\$16,260,000** to the County since they began working in June of 2006.

In addition, while tracking the funds that flowed to the County through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or the stimulus package, their helping the County prepare for the opportunities by developing a list of potentially eligible “shovel ready” projects and then identifying funding sources for each opportunity as the law and its implementation developed made a significant contribution to the County's initial success in attracting the \$1.8 million dollars that paid for the new Ice House Canyon bridge project.

In indirect programming and projects, Jefferson/Bose has also helped deliver **an additional \$8.2 million in infrastructure** to the County. (Ice House Canyon Bridge, Oak Canyon Bridge, Houston Mesa Road Bridges, Control Road Bridges)