

MAG Regional Council  
September 25, 2013

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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# TIGER

## 2013 AWARDS



Urban Award  
Rural Award

## PORT OF TUCSON: CONTAINER EXPORT RAIL FACILITY

APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Pima County

Rural

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$13,054,575

GRANT FUNDING: \$5,000,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TIGER funds will extend the Wilmot siding and install high-powered switches to eliminate the need to slow and stop arriving trains at the inland Port of Tucson Container Export Rail Facility. Currently, the Port is the only location in Arizona that can accommodate large loads such as pipeline or wind tower components, but unit trains must pass through a manual switching before entering the Port, creating delays on adjacent roadways and the Union Pacific mainline. By automating the switches for trains entering the Port, this project will reduce congestion and delays experienced by motorists and other trains. The project will also construct a double loop track at the Port so unit trains can simultaneously load and unload.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduces traffic delays and improve safety at nearby railroad crossings.
- Increases capacity for more environmentally efficient freight movement.
- Facilitates the innovative use of intermodal service for shorter distances by improving the operational efficiency of the freight system.



WEST

### PROJECT BENEFITS

The project increases economic competitiveness by improving rail access to the inland Port of Tucson. As intermodal and container traffic grows at the inland Port, the project will help provide a seamless transition for Sun Corridor businesses and exports to international markets through West Coast and Gulf Coast ports. The project augments an agreement to fill empty containers on site at the Port rather than return them empty to Midwest points of origin, offering manufacturing and commodity exporters a direct rail connection to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. It will also improve safety by eliminating congestion and delay as trains stop to enter Port facilities.



# TIGER

# FEDERAL BUDGET



# MAP-21

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