Governor Doug Ducey has appointed Jenn Daniels, the mayor of Gilbert, and Richard Searle, a longtime Cochise County leader from the community of Pearce, to serve on the State Transportation Board.

Upon confirmation by the state Senate, Daniels will represent the Maricopa County region, while Searle will represent Cochise, Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties.

The State Transportation Board’s seven members serve six-year terms, prioritizing transportation needs, projects and funding on behalf of communities throughout Arizona.

Daniels has served as the mayor of Gilbert since 2016 and has been on the Town Council since 2009. She has served on regional boards including the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council and was chair of MAG’s Transportation Policy Committee. Daniels has also served on the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and League of Cities and Towns Executive Committee.

“Solutions to today’s transportation challenges will require creative and forward-thinking ideas and plans, advocates, collaboration and a commitment to future generations,” Daniels said. “I am committed to keeping fiscal responsibility and integrity at the forefront of everything we do.”

Searle has been engaged in transportation issues through his service on the Cochise County Board of Supervisors from 2005-2016. He represented the county in transportation planning roles at the city, county and state level. He also developed transportation policies for Cochise County to improve road maintenance. He has been a member of various organizations including the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, American Pistachio Growers Association, Western Bank and the Cochise County Farm Bureau.

“I appreciate the opportunity to represent Southeastern Arizona on the Transportation Board and am honored by the appointment,” Searle said. “Priorities would include not only making sure transportation issues in Cochise, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties are addressed but also helping ADOT deal timely and efficiently with the challenges statewide. I look forward to learning how I can be a part of making long-lasting changes that improve how we handle transportation in Arizona.”

About the State Transportation Board

The seven-member State Transportation Board has policy powers and duties, in addition to advising the director of the Arizona Department of Transportation. Members of the board are appointed by the governor and serve six-year terms. The board has broad authority to plan and develop Arizona’s highways, airports and other state transportation facilities. In addition to these general policy duties, the board is responsible for development and oversight of the state’s Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program. More information on the State Transportation Board is available at aztransportationboard.gov.
Scottsdale Moves on Project Bond Allocations

By Melissa Rosequist for Independent Newsmedia

Scottsdale is quickly moving ahead to start on several capital improvement projects created from the 2019 bond, as more than $11M in work has already been approved.

Scottsdale City Council approved on consent a total of eight projects to be funded by general obligation bond 2019 proceeds. The projects range from replacing and installing needed infrastructure to starting on event space upgrades — such as Civic Center Plaza, where the city hopes Super Bowl 2023 events are staged — and replacing tennis court surfaces to continue hosting national tournaments.

The approved projects include:

- Replace aging infrastructure and improve public and event spaces on Civic Center Plaza: $4M;
- Replace tennis court surfaces at Indian School Park and Scottsdale Tennis Center: $3.5M
- Install high efficiency lighting at four facilities: $1.2M;
- Renovate arena at WestWorld to provide flexible event space: $960K;
- Expand restrooms in WestWorld North Hall: $701.5K;
- Replace the city’s obsolete training software: $342K;
- Replace emergency power source for public safety radio network: $305K; and
- Install fiber optic infrastructure to reduce operating costs: $291K.

The eight projects were approved in two separate consent agenda items.

The total bond, which included three separate voter-approved questions, was for $319M. The fiscal year 2019-20 adopted budget included $20M of General Fund capital improvement project contingency budget authority to utilize as required in the event the 2019 bond program was successful.

In addition, a declaration of intent to reimburse with bond proceeds will be prepared by the city treasurer so the city may be reimbursed for bond project expenditures.

Read more at Independent Newsmedia.
Mega Park Envisioned for Yuma Riverfront
By Mara Knaub for Yuma Sun

Lowell Perry Jr. envisions a riverfront mega park with a zipline and steamboat replica that will entertain visitors for a day or two.

Perry, executive director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, recently shared his vision with the Yuma City Council. He also provided an update on critical historic preservation projects at some of the landmarks the organization oversees, including the Yuma Territorial Prison, Colorado River State Historic Park and the old City Hall facility.

The YCNHA encompasses seven square miles along the Lower Colorado River, with over three miles of contiguous riverfront parks, trails and 400 acres of restored wetlands. It also includes the Yuma Crossing National Historic Landmark, the iconic Territorial Prison and Colorado River State Historic Park, and the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, home of the Quechan Tribe.

Why Invest in Historic Yuma
Perry explained why it’s important to invest in Yuma’s historic landmarks. The area is still very relevant, with a new Home2 Suites 114-room extended stay hotel under construction, an extension of Pivot Point Conference Center and Hilton Garden Inn. Two more hotels are planned near the Territorial Prison.

Bars and restaurants, a “cool” movie theater, a cadre of museums, an arts and live performing theater, as well as the previously mentioned spots, are in reasonable walking distance, Perry noted.

Critical Preservation Projects
Perry updated the council on the campaign dubbed “Be Yuma’s Future By Investing in Its Past,” which has the purpose of raising funds for repairs and restoration of some landmarks.

He noted that the Old City Hall carries a lot of history and importance of this city. The organization has made a Capital Improvement Program request “for long overdue and necessary infrastructure restoration of an historic site that will turn 100 years old in 2020,” Perry told the council.

Restoring the old council chambers in the basement could open it up for community use. He noted that the chambers, which are not being used, would host theater works, webinars, and other events.

He listed the investments needed in Old City Hall in order of urgency:

- Flat roof repairs: $4,850.
- Exterior stucco repair and paint: $42K.
- HVAC unit replacement: $12K.
- Replace windows with EE: $238K.
- Remodel bathrooms/new pipes: $100K.
- Remodel/repurpose old council chambers: $150K.

The organization also wants to clear out vegetation at the East Wetlands to make way for fishing, biking and hiking and benches for watching nature.

It is also looking for other sources of funding to augment the city’s investment, Perry said.

Members of the council liked Perry’s idea of a mega park but some of them asked that he look more into public/private partnerships to make it happen.

Mike Shelton said the mega park concept “excited” him and noted that all the pieces could be part of one coherent narrative that tells Yuma’s story.

Chris Morris said he’s “very much for bringing in” more attractions for visitors and residents and likes Perry’s ideas, but he too would like to see more private involvement.

Read more at Yuma Sun. (Subscription required.)
Fountain Hills Council Talks Capital Projects

By Bob Burns for Fountain Hills Times

When the (Fountain Hills) Town Council met for its annual budget planning session, staff presented a proposal for $4M in capital improvement projects next fiscal year.

The total for 16 items on the list is projected at $4.1M.

The capital improvement plan tends to be a fluid process for the town with actual bid amounts different from estimates and projects that are deferred or cancelled.

The largest of the proposed projects is the replacement of the storm drain along Panorama Drive estimated at $1.9M. This would replace more than half a mile of drainage pipe between Saguaro Boulevard to just beyond El Lago Boulevard and Via Del Oro.

It was discovered earlier this year when portions of the drainage pipe collapsed from deterioration of the more than 40-year-old infrastructure.

Many of the proposed projects are for less than $100K such as equipment, miscellaneous drainage improvements and project design.

Staff is proposing approximately $500K for the continuation of Golden Eagle Park flood impoundment area improvements. This is to mitigate a repeat of the damaging flooding in the park from two years ago.

Staff is also proposing a flood detention area of Brantley Drive above Grande Boulevard. Residents went to the town this past summer after a storm caused flooding of private property in the area. Staff is asking $100K for this project.

Another $308K would be used to complete unpaved alley projects.

The capital plan also includes $260K for continued improvements at Four Peaks Park. Additional sidewalks, shade options and restroom improvements are planned.

The capital improvement plan is subject to further council review before projects are included in the 20/21 fiscal year budget plan. They are subject to further council consideration at bidding and contract award.

Read more at Fountain Hills Times.
**ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS**

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Did You Know?
You can find roadrunners running up to 17mph from their enemies in Arizona. Dynamite-wielding coyotes remain harder to spot.

Road Runner: $134M road project will boost border business, safety in Nogales
$134 million road project in Nogales is expected to boost international commerce with Mexico and make the area safer for residents. The Arizona Department of Transportation is set to start construction in April on two flyover ramps on Mariposa Road, also known as Arizona 189, to connect with Interstate 19 and keep commercial trucks from potentially having to stop three times at traffic lights after crossing the border. Arizona officials held a groundbreaking event for the 18-month project last week. Read more at Tucson.com.

Featured Federal-Aid Projects

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<td>ADOT - Construct UPRR/Trail Grade Crossing, Western Canal Powerline Trail &amp; Neely St. Gilbert. The work consists of constructing new grade separated crossing of the UPRR, including constructing sidewalk, retaining walls, bridge structure, signing, &amp; striping.</td>
<td>Layth Al Obaidi, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:LAlobaidi@azdot.gov">LAlobaidi@azdot.gov</a> or Micah Hannam, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:Mhannam@azdot.gov">Mhannam@azdot.gov</a></td>
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<td>IFR</td>
<td>ADOT - Bridge Preservation &amp; Scour Retrofit, Little Colorado River Bridge Str #416, Show Low-McNary-Eagar Hwy (SR 260). The work consists of constructing a new scour concrete floor underneath the existing bridge &amp; repairing pier stem walls, including box culvert extension, shotcrete, pavement marking, &amp; signing.</td>
<td>Farhana Jesmin, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:fjesmin@azdot.gov">fjesmin@azdot.gov</a> or Randy Routhier, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:rrouthier@azdot.gov">rrouthier@azdot.gov</a></td>
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<td>IFR</td>
<td>ADOT - Helmet Peak TI UP, &amp; Duval Mine Rd TI to Pima Mine Rd TI, Nogales-Tucson Hwy (I-19). The work consists of replacing existing concrete bridge deck &amp; concrete barrier walls, construction of new bridge barriers &amp; bridge deck rehabilitation, pavement rehabilitation, including milling &amp; repaving, guardrails, lighting, signing, pavement marking, &amp; additional work.</td>
<td>Vian Rashid, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:VRashid@azdot.gov">VRashid@azdot.gov</a> or Chris Page, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:CPage@azdot.gov">CPage@azdot.gov</a></td>
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