



'26 ARIZONA
DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE &
OPPORTUNITY ZONES
SUMMIT

PANELIST

Mila Besich

Mayor

Town of Superior



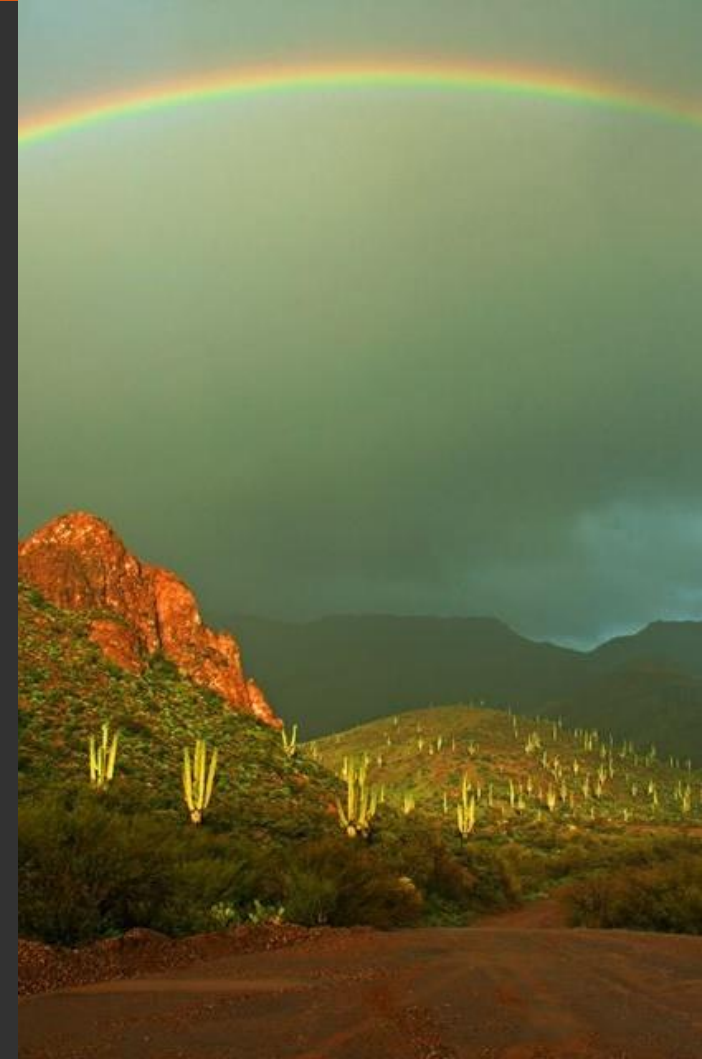
Presentation to
Arizona Development Finance & Opportunity Zones Summit
ACA Conference Center
Bonds Panel

April 2, 2026

Superior Mayor Mila Besich

SUPERIOR, AZ RENAISSANCE

- Once in a generation opportunity taking place right now for propelling a community into its next stage of economic and community development.
- Working from a strategy that guides how we work with our partners and how our service delivery is tracked with key performance indicators.
- Building strong public-private partnerships based on integrity and shared values.
- Unparalleled opportunity for investment and funding – private, philanthropic and public.



SUPERIOR, AZ RENAISSANCE



- Superior's community and economic resurgence in the last five years has been momentous!
- With the vision, resolve and unequivocal dedication of the Town's elected leadership and professional staff, all indicators of fiscal health and integrity, community well-being, and economic vitality confirm a net positive bottom line that benefits every person and business in Superior.
- Today, Superior enjoys a growing economy that is generating business and employment opportunities; a government that is characterized by efficiency, sound financial management and an evolving diversified economic base.



BUILDING A BRIDGE

For years, the Queen Creek wash crossing on Panther Drive was a lifeline for our community; connecting families, students, and first responders between the north and south sides of Superior.

This critical route is heavily relied upon by our Fire and Ambulance crews and serves as a main corridor for the Superior Unified School District. Bus routes.

CALL TO ACTION



“After a dangerous wash rescue and the realization that future restoration efforts would increase creek flows, our Town leadership recognized the urgency — improving emergency access and building a bridge became a top priority.”

This wash crossing was becoming more and more dangerous, after post Telegraph fire flooding as well

HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE

- Have shovel ready plans ready to go. Our planning began with a an engineering scoping and plan conducted by the University of Arizona, Civil Engineering & Engineering Mechanics Masters Project
- Develop scoping documents to begin Army Corps of Engineers permits. Having plans and engineering in place is critical to success and enduring permits can be processed in a timely manner.
- Seek out funding - State of Arizona transportation appropriations assisted with the original 2.5 million dollar project.
 - Inflationary costs increased the costs, making the project almost improbably.
 - GADA funding came to the rescue at just the right time, providing an affordable funding mechanism to fund the the rest of the bridge construction.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS



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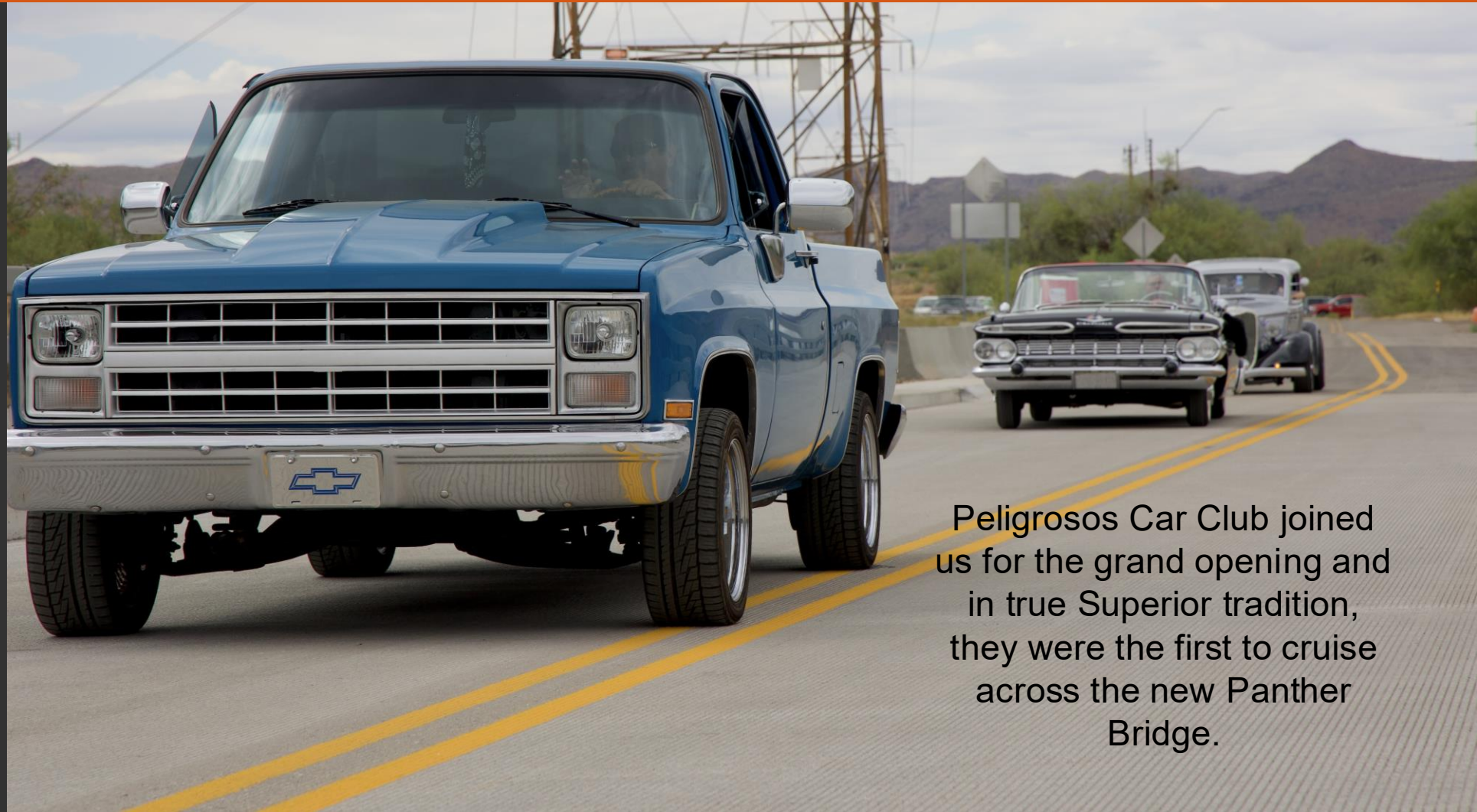


PANTHER DRIVE BRIDGE STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Office of the Governor
Katie Hobbs
- Arizona Office of Economic
Opportunity
- Greater Arizona
Development Authority
- University of Arizona Civil
Engineering and
Engineering Mechanics
- Central Arizona
Governments



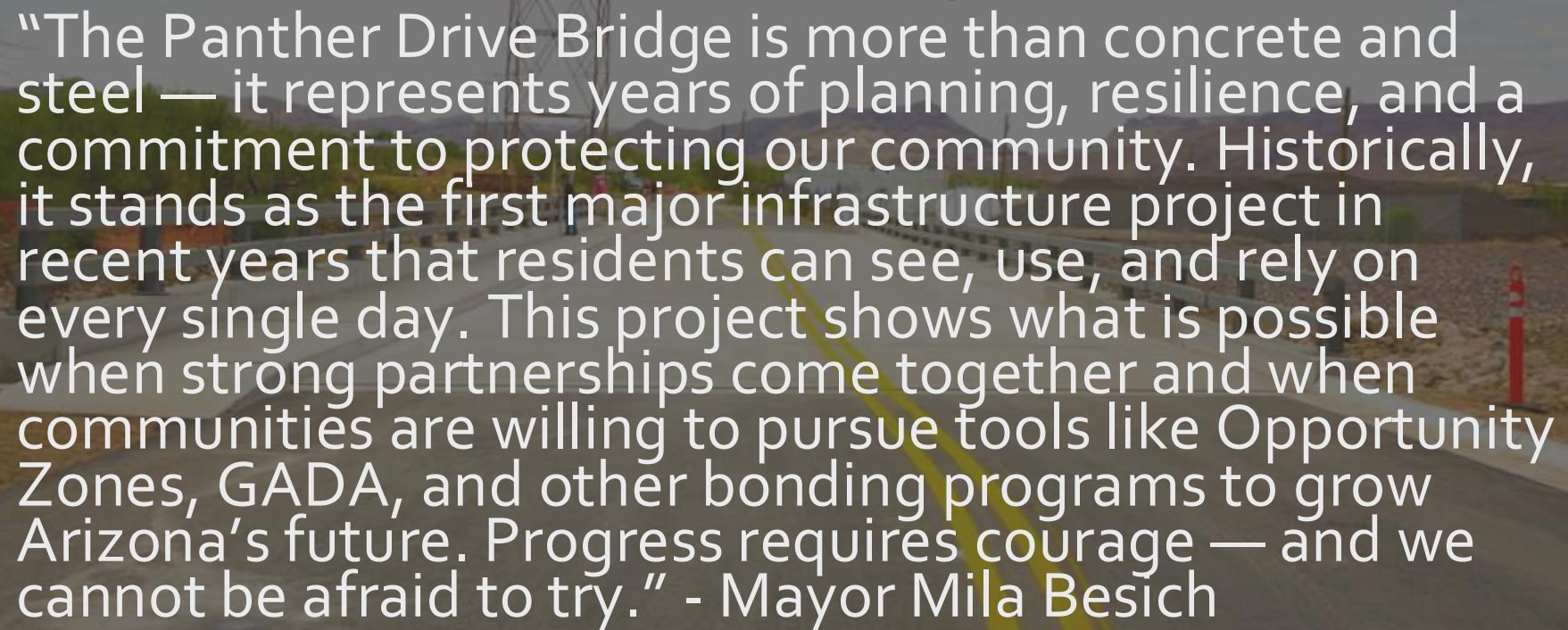
ALWAYS REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE



Peligrosos Car Club joined us for the grand opening and in true Superior tradition, they were the first to cruise across the new Panther Bridge.

GRAND OPENING

JULY 21, 2025



“The Panther Drive Bridge is more than concrete and steel — it represents years of planning, resilience, and a commitment to protecting our community. Historically, it stands as the first major infrastructure project in recent years that residents can see, use, and rely on every single day. This project shows what is possible when strong partnerships come together and when communities are willing to pursue tools like Opportunity Zones, GADA, and other bonding programs to grow Arizona’s future. Progress requires courage — and we cannot be afraid to try.” - Mayor Mila Besich

SUPERIOR ENTERPRISE CENTER

- We have served approximately 65 entrepreneurs and owners of existing small businesses through programming and mentorship.
- 8 successful business ventures have been created.
- Over 600 hours of direct support have been provided to ventures through office hours and programming.
- The Enterprise Center plays a vital role in bolstering workforce development in the area.
- Our partnerships with SEED SPOT and The Hive are assisting us in providing needed entrepreneurial resources and equipment.
- Our partnership with AZ StRUT has given us access to technology and programs to raise the level of digital literacy for our residents.



TOGETHER, WE ARE



SUPERIOR

Thank you!