



# TOWN OF JEROME

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331  
(928) 634-7943 www.jerome.az.gov

## AGENDA

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL JEROME CIVIC CENTER - 600 CLARK STREET - COUNCIL CHAMBERS MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 AT 11:00 A.M.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02 notice is hereby given to the members of the Council and above referenced boards and commission, and to the General Public, that the that the above meeting will be held.

Persons with a disability may request an accommodation such as a sign language interpreter by contacting Joni Savage, Deputy Clerk, at 928-634-7943. Requests should be made early enough to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For TYY access, call the Arizona Relay Service at 800-367-8939 and ask for the Town of Jerome at 928-634-7943.

A copy of the full public meeting packet may be reviewed at the offices of Jerome Town Hall and online at [www.jerome.az.gov](http://www.jerome.az.gov).

<b>ITEM #1:</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b> Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order. Town Clerk to call and record the roll.	
<b>ITEM #2:</b>	<b>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS</b> Council will discuss, with representatives of PACE Engineering, proposed improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and options for financing same.	Sponsored by Mayor Jack Dillenberg Discussion; Possible Action
<b>ITEM #3:</b>	<b>LETTER OF SUPPORT: CEMENT PLANT ROAD EXTENSION AND NEW BITTER CREEK BRIDGE</b> Council will review and may approve a request by the Town of Clarkdale for a letter of support for their grant funding proposals to enhance access to the former smelter site and a future industrial/commercial site.	Sponsored by Mayor Jack Dillenberg Discussion; Possible Action
<b>ITEM #4:</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

#### CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this notice and agenda was posted at the following locations on or before \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the statement filed by the Jerome Town Council with the Jerome Town Clerk.

970 Gulch Road, side of Gulch Fire Station, exterior posting case
600 Clark Street, Jerome Town Hall, exterior posting case
120 Main Street, Jerome Post Office, interior posting case

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Muenz, Deputy Town Clerk

**Subject:** Town of Clarkdale Letter of Support Request  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 at 2:59:27 PM Mountain Standard Time  
**From:** Bill Regner  
**To:** Candace Gallagher  
**CC:** Susan Guthrie  
**Attachments:** 9D334685A4B04BA382E031C9BBAA8DE1.png, 61886F87C85E4FE29392304A31034AE5.png, 64E73698DC254117AA1ACE46B21F263C.png, Clarkdale Project Descriptions 2022.docx, Sample Support Letter TOC-RAISE22.docx



## Town of Clarkdale

Post Office Box 308  
Clarkdale, AZ 86324  
Telephone: (928) 639-2400  
Fax: (928-639-2459)

March 7, 2022

Candace Gallagher  
Town Manager  
Town of Jerome  
600 Clark Street  
P.O. Box 335  
Jerome, AZ 86331  
[c.gallagher@jerome.az.gov](mailto:c.gallagher@jerome.az.gov)

Greetings Candace:

The Town of Clarkdale is seeking a letter of support from the Town of Jerome for our grant funding proposals intended to enhance access to our former smelter site and future industrial/commercial site.

Our goal is to open up this former economic generation site, with its intact three-phase power, available land, and adaptable structures, to new and expanded light industry by creating enhanced and safer access for current and future businesses and residents.

Enhanced access to this area is regionally important due to the presence of the Clarkdale Arizona Central Railroad which contains the only railroad head in the Verde Valley. The Railroad's desire to expand its light industrial freight business is constrained by limited vehicle access into the area which is confined to a 105-year-old single lane historic bridge with load bearing limitations.

The Town of Clarkdale will be pursuing grant funding for planning, design, and construction for two avenues of improved access through opportunities available in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. One is a new bridge over Bitter Creek Wash and the other an extension of an existing connector road. We believe that the Town of Jerome is a stakeholder of benefit whose declared support will enhance our proposals. Increased access and capacity to and from a rail shipping terminus benefits the entire Verde Valley region and beyond by providing significant supply chain benefits such as expanded shipping choices and reduced reliance on the I-17.

We are including with this request descriptions of our two projects and a sample support letter. If needed, we can provide additional suggestions for phrasing on the key benefits that the grant notice is seeking. Clarkdale thanks you in advance for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Guthrie".

Susan Guthrie,  
Clarkdale Town Manager  
(928) 639-2415

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



### **Cement Plant Road Extension – Bitter Creek Industrial Area:**

This roadway would provide needed ingress and egress for surface transportation to the existing Bitter Creek Industrial Area which formerly contained an important economic generator for the region. Infrastructure installed by the United Verde Copper Company to serve its smelter, railroad, and other industries is still viable today. The area also contains several large buildings that could be rehabilitated for industrial uses. Having both existing structures and utility infrastructure in place can make this location attractive to manufacturers and other job creators seeking a location in the Verde Valley. Interspersed with the existing structures are a significant number of undeveloped sites that would lend themselves to commercial and industrial uses. The Town owns several hundred acres within the area; portions could be developed for similar uses. Again, the ready availability of utility infrastructure and rail access create ideal conditions for future employment opportunities. More important, however, is the presence of the Clarkdale Arizona Central Railroad Company (AZCR). Based in Ogden, Utah and also owned by The Western Group, it is a sister company to the Verde Canyon Railroad. AZCR owns the railways that connect the industrial park to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad near Drake, Arizona. From Drake, the railways run north to Flagstaff and south to Phoenix, enabling rail connections across the United States.

Additionally, major industrial users like Bent River Machine and Clarkdale Metals exist in the Industrial Area. Bent River is a high-precision metal fabrication operation that supports various market segments – from environmental and technology to defense and hobby. Clarkdale metals is a reclamation operation to recover precious and base metals by reprocessing residual left in place from the smelting of copper ore operation. Enhanced ingress and egress would allow these and future industrial users to safely and efficiently facilitate the movement of raw materials, finished goods, and personnel.



### **New Bitter Creek Bridge:**

Currently, the only ingress and egress access to Clarkdale's historic industrial site that housed the United Verde Copper Company's smelter site is the Bitter Creek Bridge. This 105-year-old historic bridge (1917) has limited capacity due to its existing width that with contemporary vehicles functions as a one-lane bridge. Recent Arizona Department of Transportation traffic counts indicate that as many as 2598 combined eastbound and westbound vehicle crossings take place in any forty-eight-hour period. The goal is to open up this former economic generation site with its intact three phase power and adaptable structures to new and expanded light industry by creating an adjacent bridge to allow enhanced and safer access for current and future businesses and residents. In addition, this area contains the only railroad head in the Verde Valley. The Western Group is a consortium of ten rail related companies which includes the Clarkdale Arizona Central Railroad and the Verde Canyon Railroad both of which reside in this industrial area accessible solely by the existing bridge. The Clarkdale Arizona Central Railroad has expressed a desire to increase their regional light industrial freight business that connects with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway at Drake, Arizona. Doing so will provide light industrial rail freight access to the entire Verde Valley region and beyond. The Verde Canyon Railroad wishes to ensure continued safe access for their wilderness excursion customers. Additionally, this bridge is critical to major industrial users like Bent River Machine and Clarkdale Metals. Bent River Machine is a high-precision metal fabrication operation that supports various market segments – from environmental and technology to defense and hobby. Clarkdale metals is a reclamation operation to recover precious and base metals by reprocessing residual left in place from the smelting of copper ore operation.

(Date)

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I wish to extend my support for the Town of Clarkdale's planning grant application for their New Bitter Creek Bridge and Cement Plant Road Extension project. Both aspects of the project have been vetted by regional transportation technical experts and determined to be of significant value to the Verde Valley region. I am enthusiastic for the development of this project that will positively impact both the economy and quality of life of the region.

The benefits this project brings to the Verde Valley include:

- Provides secure and enhanced access to the only railroad terminus in the Verde Valley resulting in significant supply chain benefits, expanded shipping choices, and reduced reliance on regional highways and interstates;
- Increases job creation potential with workforce availability within walking distance.
- Regional businesses become more stable, competitive, and the area more attractive to site selectors for the location of new and expanded businesses;
- Provides business continuity protection, emergency response capability, and ensures access to residences and places of work while providing alternative ingress/egress routes away from residential neighborhoods and retail/commercial business districts for freight transport;
- Provides multi-modal access to work places, hiking trails and water recreation activities;
- Supports tourism through increased access by larger escorted touring vehicle;
- Achieves a priority in the Clarkdale General Plan and the Northern Arizona Council of Government's Regionally Significant Projects List.

In rural communities such as those in the Verde Valley, we understand that often our best solutions are regional in nature. By working together, we improve conditions for all of our residents, businesses, and governmental entities. I am particularly supportive of efforts such as Clarkdale's project as described in this grant application. I encourage your consideration to invest in this project so we can increase commerce, create jobs, protect business continuity, and enhance the quality of life for all residents in the Verde Valley region.

Sincerely,