

**U.S. – Mexico  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Border Management**

**2012 Progress Report**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 1. Made significant progress toward completion of construction of the West Rail Bypass project between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.**
  - Both the United States and Mexico are more than 80 percent complete on work on the bypasses on their respective sides and the both sides have completed construction of the bridge.
- 2. Participated actively in the established meetings to update the California-Baja California Border Master plan and encourage timely information sharing with plan coordinators.**
- 3. Supported binational effort to re-open the Port of Entry at Boquillas inside the Big Bend National Park with a goal of reopening by the end of 2012.**
  - Infrastructure on both sides of the crossing has been installed. Both governments have published notices in their respective Federal Registers that will allow the Port of Entry to open. The POE opened on April 10, 2013.
- 4. Continued regular discussions on resolving funding issues related to work with the private project sponsors of the San Diego-Tijuana Airport cross-border facility.**
- 5. Supported regional master planning processes with active federal participation in planning meetings and regular communication with plan coordinators in order to fulfill binational priorities embodied in the Declaration on 21st Century Border Management.**

**The locations and status of work are:**

- Laredo/Coahuila/Nuevo Leon/Tamaulipas  
Report Published:  
[http://www.borderplanning.fhwa.dot.gov/documents/LaredoBMP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.borderplanning.fhwa.dot.gov/documents/LaredoBMP_Report.pdf)
- El Paso/Santa Teresa/Chihuahua: A draft report was issued to the Binational Advisory Committee for initial review in February, 2013. Both Mexico and the U.S. have actively participated in the meetings.
- Arizona-Sonora: A draft report was issued to the Policy Advisory Committee at their last meeting in December, 2012. Both Mexico and the U.S. have actively participated in the meetings.

- Lower Rio Grande Valley-Tamaulipas: The last policy level meeting was held on September 12, 2012. Both Mexico and the U.S. have actively participated in the meetings.

**6. Continued to implement coordinated binational stakeholder interaction mechanisms, including holding expanded meetings of the Border Liaison Mechanism regarding 21st Century Border Management in two different locations along the border, as well as ensuring robust public participation in the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meetings and the Joint Working Committee on Border Transportation meetings.**

- A stakeholder outreach event that expanded on the existing Border Liaison Mechanism was held in Tijuana on February 23 with participation by DOS, SRE, Commerce, DOT, GSA and CBP. A series of stakeholder outreach events were also held along the border June 4 – 7 in San Diego, CA/Tijuana, BC; Santa Teresa, NM; El Paso, TX/Cd. Juarez, Chih; Laredo, TX/Nuevo Laredo, NL; and Monterrey, NL, in conjunction with the Secure Flows group. The October 22-23 Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting included a public outreach session in El Paso, TX, that was well attended. The last Joint Working Group Committee meeting was held September 20-21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Approximately 50 people attended.

**7. Through the Joint Working Committee, followed up on the conclusions of the 2010 Greening of the Border transportation workshop with the implementation of a study to address the impact of border transportation on air quality at the border.**

- The final report, entitled **Emissions and Border Wait-time Analysis**, was issued in November and can be found at:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border\\_planning/us\\_mexico/publications/emissions\\_and\\_border/emsbrdr.pdf](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning/us_mexico/publications/emissions_and_border/emsbrdr.pdf)

**8. Continued to support efforts by California and Baja California to conclude the financial studies for construction of the Otay II – East Otay Mesa border crossing.**

- The final Record of Decision was published in September. The final Traffic and Revenue (T&R) study remained in process.

**9. Advanced the San Ysidro-Tijuana port of entry expansion project by:**

- Continued the current phase of construction in the U.S., planning for Phase II and Phase III, pending funding approval from the U.S. Congress;
- Worked together closely on the “El Chaparral” phase, including mutually acceptable temporary road connections with sufficient capacity for existing POV traffic.
- El Chaparral was officially opened on October 31. Bilateral meetings were held often to address new issues as they arose.

**10. Supported progress of the Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge project between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.**

- On the U.S. side, work on the land port of entry was more than 50% completed and El Paso County awarded its bridge contract. The U.S. side of the project is expected to be finalized in June 2013. Mexico did not start work on its side of the project and is awaiting approval for funding from BANOBRAS. The United States and Mexico instituted periodic conference calls on the status of Mexican funding in November.

**11. Supported expansion of the Veterans International Bridge between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.**

- The U.S. side is 90% complete. The Mexican side has awarded the contract and broken ground, but in light of Mexican schedule delays, the U.S. project sponsor applied for and received interagency clearance of a modification to facilitate use of its new spur, which will connect the new U.S. span with the existing bridge while awaiting Mexican project completion. Construction of the spur connection was completed in February.

**12. Finalized Phases I and II and supported initiation of Phase III of the Nogales-Mariposa crossing in Arizona/Sonora, where construction will dramatically improve the capacity of the port that processes more than half of U.S. winter produce.**

- Mexico completed the construction of four additional lanes in January, 2012.
- The United States completed Phases I and II of the project and began work on Phase III.

**SECURE FLOWS**

**1. Jointly reviewed analysis of completed border wait time studies in the El Paso-Juarez area, reflected in the completed El Paso Border Operations Study, to identify the causes of wait times and to propose specific operational wait time solutions.**

- The report is available at [www.elpasoborderplan.org](http://www.elpasoborderplan.org).

**2. Based on the joint review, developed neutral criteria for identifying potential pilot locations for wait time solutions, in particular the deployment of the Ready Lane technology to all major ports along the southern border and the implementation of Active Lane Management at all ports across the southern and northern border.**

**3. Supported the construction of new cattle inspection facilities at Colombia, Mexico by the Nuevo Leon Cattlemen's Association to further enhance the flow of Mexican cattle to the United States and to minimize temporary facility costs.**

- The project was completed and inspections of cattle through the new facilities began in December of 2012. The Quarantine Station has the initial capacity to operate 5000 head of cattle every day, which makes it the largest and most modern facility on the northern border of Mexico.

**4. Continued improving risk management and targeting cooperation by expanding existing exchanges of passenger information to detect possible drug and weapons smugglers, and other criminals who travel between the U.S. and Mexico.**

- The GOM has successfully tested its system for using Passenger Name Record data for risk management.

**5. Coordinated the announcement of the launch of the Mexico Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, “Nuevo Esquema de Empresas Certificadas” or NEEC, which was formally launched in December 2011.**

- SAT established and piloted its own trusted shipper program with security standards and a validation process aligned with the U.S. Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The program (Nuevo Esquema de Empresas Certificadas (NEEC) was officially presented on December 15, 2011, and officially started on January, 2012.
- As of December 2012, SAT has certified 72 companies and 170 additional companies are in the certification process (most of them are C-TPAT) for their NEEC program. CBP has been working closely with Mexico Customs to encourage C-TPAT members operating in Mexico to join the NEEC program. A number of outreach efforts have been undertaken including participation of SAT to promote the NEEC program at the CBP West Coast Trade Conference, on the DOC Border Tour at four major cities across the southern border and through promotion the CBP’s Commercial Operations Advisory Committee. CBP and SAT have agreed on a roadmap toward a Mutual Recognition Agreement to be worked on in the coming year.

**6. Developed and implemented a strategy to increase the enrollment of Mexican and U.S. citizens in the Global Entry Program, particularly working to expand U.S. and Mexican use of SENTRI.**

- In February 2012, GOM announced to CBP their implementation of Phase II of their trusted traveler program in Mexico which is called “Programa Viajero Confiable.” It should be available sometime in early 2013 in three different airports (Cancun, Los Cabos, and Mexico City). Members will have a five year membership once they enroll.
- In the meantime, over 23,000 Mexican citizens have applied for the program and over 18,000 have been approved for Mexican version of Global Entry (Viajero Confiable). This includes over 2,600 applications received from Mexican SENTRI members, all of whom are eligible for the program.

**7. Made significant progress toward launching Global Entry kiosks in February, 2012 at Mexico City International Airport, and San Jose del Cabo International Airport.**

- The Mexican Government has received their kiosk order, but the implementation of their program is delayed, due to issues with the software program. The contractor is working diligently to resolve the issues as quickly as possible. Once the software for the kiosks has been received, the Mexican Government will publicly launch Global Entry Mexico in early 2013. At that time, the trusted traveler arrangement will be fully reciprocal.

**8. Worked through nearly all of the key operational issues to establish a pilot pre-inspection pilot at Otay Mesa and a pre-screening pilot at the Laredo Airport.**

- The US and Mexico are working on the final pieces leading toward implementation.
- The U.S. and Mexican governments have worked through nearly all of the key operational issues to establishing a pre-inspection pilot at Otay Mesa and a pre-screening pilot at the Laredo Airport. The FOXCONN facility in Santa Teresa will be ready to begin the pilot once the infrastructure improvements triggered by the facility's RFE status have been completed.
- Implementation of these pilots will be a priority for CY13 Action Plan.

**CORRIDOR SECURITY**

**1. Developed an investigative strategy that encourages increased intelligence-driven investigations and prosecutions and coordinated interior and border enforcement operations.**

- At its last meeting on May 31, 2012, the ESC adopted the Coordinated Investigation Strategy. This document establishes actions that will promote the most efficient use of law enforcement investigations and is focused on combating and dismantling transnational criminal organizations.

**2. Continued to implement the Border Violence Prevention Protocols (BVPPs) and review progress at six- month intervals.**

- Border Violence Prevention Groups (BVPGs) have been established in the four corridors and continue to meet regularly. The corridors are:
  1. Baja California / California.
  2. Sonora / Arizona.
  3. Chihuahua-Coahuila / West Texas-New Mexico.
  4. Nuevo Leon-Coahuila-Tamaulipas / South Texas.
- We have final versions of the Mexico-United States Border Joint Threat Assessment 2012 and the Regional Joint Threat Assessments for the Sonora / Arizona corridor and the Tamaulipas-Nuevo Leon-Coahuila/South Texas corridor. Under the direction of the local BVPGs, the Baja California /California and Chihuahua-Coahuila / West Texas New

Mexico corridors have completed their respective Regional Joint Threat Assessment, which are pending review by headquarter components in Mexico City.

- On November 14, 2012, the Participants signed the Letter of Intent between the Mexican Attorney General's Office of Mexico and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Washington, D.C. This letter is meant to increase the exchange of information and cooperation on law enforcement issues.

**3. Implemented the United States-Mexico Joint Statement on Corridor Security and review progress every six months.**

- At the fourth Technical Meeting for 21st Century Border Management, held in Mexico City on September 11, 2012, the Participants agreed to subsume this document into the BVPPs since the content of the Declaration of Secure Corridors refers at the established topics on the BVPPs. In addition, this step will avoid duplicative efforts and to continue strengthening security on both sides of the border.

**4. Identifying criminal networks of organizations that participate in firearms, drugs and bulk cash trafficking, as well as human smuggling and trafficking, and develop strategies to address vulnerabilities, deter and disrupt those networks, and promote coordinated training, enforcement, and information collection and sharing.**

- The OASISS Program, which operates in the Baja California / California and Sonora / Arizona corridors has promoted an increase in the exchange of information resulting in prosecutions and convictions of individuals engaging in human smuggling and trafficking across our common border.
- There also has been coordinated research on firearms trafficking, leading to the extradition of several people involved in said crimes. Finally, Mexican personnel have received training in ballistics identification.
- On November 14, 2012, the Participants signed the Letter of Intent between the Mexican Attorney General's Office of Mexico and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. This letter is meant to increase the exchange of information and cooperation on law enforcement issues.
- By using technology as well as analysis and exchange of information with national and international police institutions, it has been possible to identify criminal networks and groups.
- It is important to highlight the signing of the Declaration of Cooperation between U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Ministry of Public Security of Mexico. The Declaration expands the use of coordinated enforcement operations along the common border to combat border related crimes through the exchange of information as well as joint assessments, mapping and geo-referencing of specific areas of jointly identified high risk areas.

**5. Identified ways to improve collaboration on the identification and investigation of cross-border tunnels.**

- Regular communication between U.S. and Mexican authorities, namely the Federal Police and Customs and Border Protection, resulted in the discovery and remediation of seven smuggling tunnels (five in Sonora / Arizona and two in California / Baja California).

**6. Produced a joint study that assesses firearms and explosives trafficking between the U.S. and Mexico.**

- On November 30th, 2012 the bilateral study was concluded.