

U.S. – Mexico 21st Century Border Initiative

Proposed 2013 Action Items

INFRASTRUCTURE

Coordinate efforts to ensure binationally agreed upon infrastructure projects delivered as envisioned:

1. San Ysidro Port-of-Entry: Ensure coordinated efforts to make any necessary adjustments resulting from the completion of Mexico's new port of entry, El Chaparral, and the completion of the United States' Phase 1. Continue planning for Phase II and III (pending funding) of the project of the U.S. renovation through established bilateral mechanisms.
2. Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge: Complete the Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge project between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. Ensure funding for and completion of the project on the Mexican side.
3. San Diego-Tijuana Airport Cross-Border facility: Continue to work with the private project sponsors of the San Diego-Tijuana Airport cross-border facility for air passengers to resolve anticipated staffing requirements and a no-cost lease for occupancy and building and begin the construction of the facility.
4. Nogales-Mariposa Port-of-Entry: Complete U.S. Phase III (pedestrian and repatriation crossing) of the crossing in November, 2013, where construction will dramatically improve the capacity of the port that processes more than half of U.S. winter produce. Begin construction of Mexican Phase II (expansion to three northbound POV lanes).
5. Veterans International Bridge: Conclude expansion of the Veterans International Bridge between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.
6. Otay Mesa East Proposed Port-of-Entry: Support efforts by California and Baja California to conclude the financial studies for construction of the crossing and initiate Phase 1 of construction.

Regional Border Master Planning:

7. Support the finalization of the Regional Border Master Plans with active federal participation and analyze the results of completed Plans, evaluating and identifying possible steps derived from their recommendations that can complement current efforts carried out for projected and existing ports of entry in those regions.
 - a. California – Baja California (Update underway)
 - b. Arizona-Sonora (Nearly Complete, pending release of final report)
 - c. New Mexico-Chihuahua (scheduled to start in July 2013)
 - d. El Paso/Santa Teresa/Chihuahua (to be completed in first quarter of 2013)
 - e. Laredo- Chihuahua/Tamaulipas/Nuevo Leon (Completed)

- f. Lower Rio Grande Valley-Tamaulipas (Nearly Complete, pending release of final report)

Resource Management:

- 8. Explore mechanisms related to the use of Public-Private Partnerships and their feasibility for funding border infrastructure.
 - a. Host a series of workshops to identify a common understanding of the definition and modalities of public-private partnerships, the first in conjunction with the May Binational Bridges and Border Crossing Meeting and the second in conjunction with the Department of Commerce U.S.-Mexico Border Conference in the third quarter.
 - b. Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) Inspections: DOTs FMCSA will work with GSA and CBP to conduct a feasibility study to define requirements for a funded \$24 million program of projects to upgrade commercial motor vehicle safety inspection infrastructure at key priority crossings to ensure optimum compatibility and efficient interface with other inspection plaza functions. FMCSA will conduct feasibility studies, identify up to 10 sites by September, 2013 and make design/build contract awards in calendar-year 2013. Construction will start in January, 2014 and be completed in January, 2015.
 - c. Explore creative infrastructure projects for facilitating trade.

Stakeholder Interaction/Public Communications:

- 9. Continue to implement coordinated binational stakeholder interaction mechanisms, including binational outreach efforts under the Executive Steering Committee, robust public participation in the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meetings, and increased public participation in the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning meetings. Additional outreach will be conducted in conjunction with Border Liaison mechanisms, with the first in April, 2013.
- 10. Develop a framework for incorporating public relations messaging before and during construction of border infrastructure projects and to promote the benefits of border infrastructure projects.

SECURE FLOWS

1. Building on the advances made during the FY12 Action Plan, continue to develop and implement Real Time Border Wait time measurement, in a bi-national approach.
2. Review Bi-national Border Wait-time reduction strategies (dated October 16, 2012) and the border wait time studies to identify best opportunities to test/implement suggested strategies.
3. Implement lane segregation strategies, along with other traffic management strategies, in the approaches to the border crossings, and measure benefits achieved.
4. Proactively support increased use of designated lanes such as READY lanes and participation in SENTRI and FAST programs.
5. Continue work from FY12 in harmonizing toll payment mechanisms by identifying ways to allow SENTRI participants in Mexico to be able to use different crossings, despite potential differences in bridge concessionaires. (This is an action item for Mexico, as the U.S. accepts a valid SENTRI card at any crossing, and even in non-SENTRI lanes as a WHTI compliant document.)
6. Grow the *Nuevo Esquema de Empresas Certificadas* (NEEC) program, building upon the progress made in FY 2012, by identifying ways to expand the benefits of the program, and work towards mutual recognition of the programs, as agreed under the bilateral plan between SAT and CBP for such purpose.
7. Grow the *Viajero Confiable* (MX Global Entry), building upon the progress made in FY 2012, by identifying ways to expand the benefits of the program, and work towards mutual recognition in conjunction with Canada. Develop and implement a strategy to promote enrollment into Global Entry by Mexican citizens.
8. Promote outreach efforts through joint participation in events, website linkages, cataloging the various outreach activities, and establishing the 21st Century Border Management Initiative webpage on the DHS and SRE websites.
9. Continue to coordinate and collaborate on southbound inspections, to include bi-directional capacity building, and explore opportunities to utilize existing technologies and systems towards the development of an entry/exit data exchange capability.
10. Work jointly to address the flow of third country nationals and contraband into both countries, including enhancing the exchange of biometric data, joint diplomatic outreach,

expanded detention times, jointly deploying jump teams to transit points in partner countries, and examining approaches to enhancing security along Mexico's southern border and major routes of travel such as the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and updating threat assessments for those regions.

11. Build on the successes in the area of passenger and travel security, in particular PNR collection, by continuing to enhance the vetting of air passengers through advance targeting and strengthening the system of validating the documents of travelers using U.S. visas to enter Mexico.
12. Continue to pursue implementation and evaluation of pre-screening pilots.
13. In 2012, installation was completed on the Cross Border Secure Communications Network (CBSCN), which includes ten pairs of secure communications towers in each of the city pairs along the U.S.-Mexico border, plus one set of mobile towers. With this capability in place, determine what types of data may be exchanged via this network to speed progress and begin use of the system.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Implement the “Border Violence Prevention Protocols”

1. Producing Joint Risk Assessments:
 - a. Conclude the final versions of the Joint Risk Assessments of Baja California-California and Chihuahua/Coahuila-West Texas/New Mexico.
 - b. Update the Mexico-United States Border Joint Threat Assessment on an annual basis as well as the four regional evaluations every six months.
2. Response to incidents of violence:
 - a. Identify ways to improve bilateral response for incidents of border violence.
 - b. Standardize, at the headquarters level, the exchange of information and intelligence regarding incidents of violence in the border region in order to improve the regional Border Violence Prevention Groups' ability to jointly analyze data and identify possible operational adjustments.
3. Coordinated patrols:
 - a. Establish a schedule for coordinated patrols in each of the identified corridors.
 - b. In each corridor, generate an assessment of results of coordinated patrols and define areas of opportunity.
4. Communications:
 - a. Strengthen communication mechanisms along and across the border, including the use of the Cross Border Security Communication Network.
5. Border Violence Prevention Group:
 - a. Institutionalize quarterly meetings of the Border Violence Prevention Group, as a forum to monitor the full implementation of the actions set out in the Protocols.
6. Law Enforcement Procedures and Best Practices:
 - a. Convene a yearly Regional Commander's Conference (the members of the four BVPGs and their appropriate Headquarters leadership) to discuss and share BVPP implementation best practices, to include communications, coordinated patrolling, and the use of lethal and non-lethal force (methods, procedures and standards).

- b. Schedule a visit of Mexican Government officials to the CBP Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico.

7. Safe Corridors:

- a. Based on the regional threat assessments, develop regional plans which support the coordination of security and law enforcement actions, in order to prioritize threats and address identified risks, as well as counter criminal groups and individuals.

Implement the Coordinated Investigative Strategy by identifying high-risk networks of arms, drugs, cash, human traffickers and migrant smuggling, and develop initiatives to address vulnerabilities, disrupt and dismantle such networks, as well as promote coordinated training and the collection, analysis and exchange of information.

- 8. Establish protocols for information sharing to identify priority targets in furtherance of coordinated investigations to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal enterprises, using existing mechanisms such as EPIC.
- 9. Share with Mexico the statistical data, derived from the e-Trace System, related to multiple sales of firearms within the United States, as well as information on networks of firearms traffickers that have been previously identified.
- 10. Identify training and information needs, and develop protocols for personnel to attend USG-led training seminars.
- 11. Establish Mexican Federal Police (FP) access to eTrace.
- 12. Implement the joint recommendations in the United States-Mexico Bi-National Assessment on Firearms and Explosives Trafficking into Mexico, and establish a protocol to jointly discuss specific issues and challenges relating to implementation.

Identify means to enhance coordination of investigations on border smuggling tunnels.

- 13. Use the information obtained from the Joint Risk Assessment to produce georeferencial maps to locate and remediate border tunnels.