

**United States-Mexico Bilateral Action Plan
for Endorsement at
the Third Meeting of
the Bilateral Executive Steering Committee on
Twenty-First Century Border Management
December 15, 2011**

The May 19, 2010, Declaration by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning Twenty-First Century Border Management identified key areas for engagement.

The United States-Mexico Executive Steering Committee (ESC) on Twenty-First Century Border Management has agreed to focus on the following priority projects, some of which are elements of larger initiatives, with the intent that the U.S. and Mexican governments accomplish them in twelve months, or less. When the U.S. and Mexican governments complete any listed initiative, another agreed to bilaterally would replace it, after endorsement by the ESC or its delegates in each country. This document carries over work from the 2011 Action Plan so that the U.S. and Mexico may continue their mutual focus on certain important initiatives.

This Plan is focused on concrete actions to be carried out over the next twelve months. It does not exclude other long-term cooperation that continues to be part of the bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico.

Binational Infrastructure Coordination

Improve binational coordination in planning, financing, permitting, designing, building, and operating ports of entry, including considering shared priorities for investments in border infrastructure, funding mechanisms for infrastructure projects, and optimal staffing of ports of entry.

- Finalize Phase I and Phase II and support 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.

- Conclude construction of the West Rail Bypass project between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

- Participate actively in the established meetings to update the California-Baja California Border Master plan and encourage timely information sharing with plan coordinators.
- Continue to support the binational effort to re-open the border crossing at Boquillas inside the Big Bend National Park.
- 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.
- Support regional master planning processes in the following locations 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.
 - Arizona-Sonora
 - El Paso/Santa Teresa/Chihuahua
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley-Tamaulipas
- Continue 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.
- Through the Joint Working Committee, follow 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.
- Continue to support efforts by California and Baja California to conclude the financial studies for construction of the Otay II – East Otay Mesa border crossing.
- Advance the San Ysidro-Tijuana port of entry expansion project by:

- Continuing the current phase of construction in the U.S., planning for Phase II and Phase III, pending funding approval from the U.S. Congress;
 - Working together closely on the “El Chaparral” phase, including mutually acceptable temporary road connections with sufficient capacity for existing POV traffic.
- Support completion of the Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge project between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.
 - Analyze the results of the recently concluded Laredo – Coahuila/ Nuevo León/ Tamaulipas Border Master Plan, evaluate and identify possible steps derived from their recommendations that can complement current efforts carried out for projected and existing ports of entry in that region.
 - Conclude expansion of the Veterans International Bridge between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

Improve cross-border commerce and ties

Reduce congestion and delays in cross-border traffic entering both Mexico and the United States, building a foundation for an efficient border and expanded economic growth, improving community safety, and reducing unhealthy emissions from idling vehicles.

- Jointly review 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.
- Based on the joint review, develop neutral criteria for identifying potential pilot locations for wait time solutions. Solutions could include piloting optimal staffing configurations or segregation solutions like “ready lanes,” and would involve consultations with local stakeholders to identify possible solutions for more than just the trusted traveler universe.
- Support 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.

Binational Stakeholder Interaction Mechanisms

To better address community concerns about both security and efficiency, implement coordinated binational stakeholder interaction mechanisms, and establish regular public meetings of these mechanisms that engage supply chain stakeholders and other interested parties, including local and state governments.

- Develop a stakeholder outreach strategy that will provide all stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to developing solutions for facilitating legitimate cross-border trade and travel.

Binational Risk Management

Use shared programs, enhanced information sharing, improved technology, and other risk management strategies to focus law enforcement attention on those who most merit it while speeding the passage of lower risk passengers and cargo.

- Continue 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.
- Establish a program to harmonize toll payment mechanisms along the border to encourage SENTRI and FAST program participants to use multiple ports of entry.
- Coordinate the announcement of the launch of the Mexico Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, “Nuevo Esquema de Empresas Certificadas” or NEEC, which will be formally launched during the first quarter of 2012.
- Expand trusted traveler programs:
 - Develop and implement 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;
 - Launch Global Entry kiosks in February, 2012 at Mexico City International Airport, and San Jose del Cabo International Airport

- Identify possible new airport locations for future expansion of Global Entry kiosks.
- Continue to explore the implementation of pilot pre-clearance, pre-inspection, or pre-screening programs at locations of mutual interest and review policies and standards based on the results of the pilots.
- Explore options for safe, humane, and orderly repatriations and identify options for the effective electronic transfer of data on returnees/repatriates.

Binational Law Enforcement Cooperation

Consistent with the principle of co-responsibility, augment law enforcement cooperation including the collection, analysis, and sharing of information – consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies – from interdictions, investigations, and prosecutions in order to disrupt “criminal flows” and enhance public safety.

- Develop an investigative strategy that encourages increased intelligence-driven investigations and prosecutions and coordinated interior and border enforcement operations.
- Implement the Border Violence Prevention Protocols Between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America and review progress at six month intervals.
- Implement the United States – Mexico Joint Statement on Corridor Security and review progress at six month intervals.
- Identify high-risk networks of firearms, drugs and bulk cash trafficking, as well as pathways for human smuggling and trafficking and develop strategies to resolve vulnerabilities, deter and disrupt those networks, and promote coordinated training, enforcement, and information collection and sharing.
- Identify ways to improve collaboration on the identification and investigation of cross-border smuggling tunnels.

- Conclude the joint study that assesses firearms and explosives trafficking between the U.S. and Mexico.