



Fact Sheet

A 21st Century Border Vision

A key component of our global competitiveness is creating a border for the Twenty-First Century. The Presidents recognize that our border offers singular opportunities for both countries. We must develop it and manage it in a holistic fashion and in ways that facilitate the secure, efficient, and rapid flows of goods and people and reduce the costs of doing business between our two countries. Both the United States and Mexico benefit from expediting legitimate travel through and between our two countries, especially by those who live in the border region.

*Presidents Obama
and Calderón
May 19, 2010*

Mexico and the United States have a shared interest in creating a 21st century border that promotes the security and prosperity of both countries. On May 19, 2010, Presidents Obama and Calderón released a joint Declaration on 21st Century Border Management focused on securing and facilitating the flows of people and cargo, strengthening public security and engaging the border communities in the creation of this new border vision. The presidents tasked a Bi-national Executive Steering Committee comprised of senior interagency leaders to oversee, prioritize, and shepherd critical projects that promote the economic well-being, global competitiveness and safety of our countries. In December 2010, this group began meeting regularly and implementing an action plan to improve the border. The United States and Mexico are also investing in border security through the Merida Initiative.

Achievements:

Securing Flows/Expediting Legitimate Travel and Trade:

- **Three New Ports of Entry in 2010** – When the Anzalduas International Bridge formally opened in January 2010, it was the first new U.S.- Mexico border crossing in over ten years. In November 2010, an important new commercial crossing between San Luis, Arizona and San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora opened, expediting the flow of trucks, reducing congestion, and cutting hazardous diesel emissions. In December 2010, the Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge opened, providing another connection for shoppers, students, families, workers and visitors.
- **Modernization of Border Crossings** – Major bi-national projects to replace outdated facilities and expand capacity are underway, including a \$500 million project at San Ysidro, the world's busiest crossing, and a \$200 million project at Nogales-Mariposa, the entry point for most winter produce.
- **Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE)** – Under the Merida Initiative the U.S. has provided \$39.3 million worth of NIIE equipment to assist Mexico's effort to efficiently detect illicit goods at the border and within Mexico, including 45 ion scanner vapor tracers (30 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida), 38 ZBV Backscatter Vans (23 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida), 10 mobile X-Ray Minivans and 2 Railroad Vehicle and Cargo Inspection Systems (VACIS).
- **Biometric Equipment** – \$14.5 million worth of biometric equipment has been installed and is in use at three checkpoints along Mexico's southern border. All biographic and biometric information collected will be stored in a database, serving as a powerful tool to support judicial proceedings and counter terrorism efforts.
- **Trusted Traveler Programs** – The U.S. and Mexico are expanding the Global Entry Trusted Traveler program to passengers and airports in both countries. Global Entry allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers.
- **Implementation of the Joint Security Program for Travelers** – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Secretariat of Government now place Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and National Migration Institute officers in select airports working cooperatively to secure the flow of air travelers between the two countries.
- **Fraudulent Document Training** – Since 2008 more than 1,100 people have been trained by U.S. and Mexican officials to detect fraudulent travel documents. The training includes personnel from Mexican air and land ports of entry as well as from air carriers on a quarterly basis.
- **Engaging Border Communities** – The participation of all levels of government is essential to collaborative and effective border management. The U.S. and Mexico will continue to engage border communities, as well as state, local and tribal governments in bi-national strategy development, law enforcement, and communications. U.S. and Mexican agencies are expanding bilateral cooperation with border state governors, border state legislators, state attorneys general, universities and community colleges, business groups and civil society groups.

Strengthening Public Security:

- **Arrests Fall and Border Control Increases**— Arrests between the ports of entry have dropped 36 percent since 2008 as a result of CBP's increased operational control of the border by adding man power, technology and border infrastructure. With better border security and fewer people attempting to cross the border illegally, officials can focus on those who would do the United States harm.
- **Mexican Law Enforcement between Ports of Entry** – In December 2009, DHS and the Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) signed a Declaration of Principles to coordinate law enforcement actions in certain sections of the border. SSP has assigned 200 officers, CBP has conducted basic patrol training for 123 officers, and each agency has placed exchange officers in the other's command posts.
- **Search and Rescue Training** – In 2009 Border Patrol agents from the Search and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) conducted training in Texas for 44 National Institute for Immigration (INAMI) "Grupos Beta" Agents. The course included training in trauma, swift water and technical rescues, and navigation through rural, mountainous and desert terrain. Such training makes the border safer and reduces the loss of life resulting from human trafficking.
- **Training to Strengthen Institutions** – CBP is training trainers from Mexican Customs to strengthen the Mexican Customs Basic Academy. ICE investigators trained 24 Mexican Customs officers in June 2010 to develop and increase investigative capacity.
- **K-9 Teams** - To date, a total of 58 canines and 44 handlers from Mexico's Customs agency (SAT) have been trained in the detection of narcotics, weapons, ammunition, and currency. Five handlers were certified as instructors. Under the Merida Initiative, a robust canine program across three Mexican agencies effectively uses canines that have been trained by U.S. experts in interdicting narcotics, weapons, ammunition and currency. A total of 114 canines have been donated to date, with plans to deliver a total of 174 canines by the end of next year.
- **Southbound Operations** –Under the Southwest Border Initiative begun in October 2009, CBP officers began conducting targeted, intelligence-driven inspections of southbound vehicles for the first time. CBP officers seized \$147 million in illicit currency and interdicted 2,451 illegal firearms in FY 2010. Additionally, 100% of southbound rail cargo is screened.

Future Directions:

Securing Flows/Expediting Legitimate Commerce and Travel

- **Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE)** – The U.S. plans to deliver at least \$60 million more in NIIE equipment by the end of 2011, with total NIIE program spending valued at approximately \$123 million. This equipment will contribute to a formidable web of 350 systems linked to a national database to control Mexico's borders and points of entry.
- **Internal Ports and Cargo Pre-Clearance** – The U.S.- Mexico Executive Steering Committee will review and assess potential locations for cargo preclearance with the goal of moving some inspections away from the physical border to relieve congestion at crowded crossing points and intercept threats as far from the physical border as possible.
- **Trusted Traveler/Shipper Programs** –Both countries are working together to expand trusted shipper programs such as the Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and FAST program for shippers, as well as increase the number of expedited travel (SENTRI) lanes through the ports of entry.
- **Biometric Equipment** – \$43.5 million in Merida funding has been designated to expand the biometrics system to support Mexico's ability to track all persons entering Mexico by land, air, sea or interior checkpoints as well as identify individuals in immigration detention centers.
- **Expedited Electronic Certificates of Health** – The movement of plants and animals across the border will be expedited with the introduction of Electronic Certificates of Health through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Mexican counterparts.
- **"Single Entry"** – The Executive Steering Committee will oversee the development and implementation of a system for standardized collection of trade data so that importers and exporters from both nations are asked for a piece of information only once.

Strengthening Public Security/ Increased Capacity Building

- DHS and the State Department are expanding Operation No Refuge, a program that denies admission into the U.S. to known traffickers and their associates through the application of immigration law, denial of visas, and denial of adjustment of status.

