

**United States-Mexico Bilateral Action Plan
for Endorsement at
the Inaugural Meeting of
the Bilateral Executive Steering Committee on
Twenty-First Century Border Management**

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 initially 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.

Binational Infrastructure Coordination

Improve bi-national 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.

- Support the current Laredo-Coahuila/Nuevo León/Tamaulipas regional master planning process with active federal participation in planning meetings and regular communications with plan coordinators in order to fulfill binational priorities embodied in the Declaration on 21st Century Border Management.
- Encourage the launching of border master planning processes in the Arizona-Sonora and Lower Rio Grande Valley/Tamaulipas regions and actively participate in both once they begin
- Support efforts by California and Baja California to update the current California-Baja California Border Master Plan
- Advance the San Ysidro-Tijuana port of entry expansion project by formally identifying agreed crossings points, continuing the current phase of construction in the U.S., and working together closely to plan for the “El Chaparral” expansion phase.
- Continue to support efforts by California and Baja California to conclude the environmental and financial studies for construction of the Otay Mesa II border crossing.

- Resolve discussions with the private project sponsors of the San Diego-Tijuana Airport cross-border facility for air passengers regarding the funding and design of the U.S. facility.
- Begin construction on the Tornillo-Guadalupe Bridge project between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.
- Complete construction of and begin operating new northbound commercial vehicle lanes at the World Trade Bridge between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.
- Break ground on the West Rail Bypass project between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

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.

- Expand use of trusted traveler and trusted shipper programs by increasing enrollment and increasing the incentives for and ease of using them.
- Continue improving risk management and targeting cooperation by expanding existing exchanges of passenger information to detect and detain possible drug and weapons smugglers, and other criminals that travel between the US and Mexico.
- Enhance mechanisms, such as the Global Entry Program, that permit travelers from Mexico and the U.S. to facilitate their entrance to both countries at land POEs by using expedited and dedicated processes to process pre-approved, low-risk international travelers who qualify.
- Establish a common standard for vetting Trusted Traveler participants.
- Agree upon common security standards and validation for Trusted Shipper programs and that Mexico will establish its own trusted shipper program with security standards and a validation process that aligns with the U.S. Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program.
- Establish a program to harmonize toll payment mechanisms along the border to encourage SENTRI and FAST program participants to use multiple ports of entry.
- Strengthen bilateral cooperation on repatriations to return Mexican nationals in a safe, humane, and orderly manner that discourages human smuggling and promotes social and economic reintegration.

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.

Business Resumption

- Create protocols to ensure full binational coordination before, during, and after emergency shutdowns.
- Develop a combined study of business resumption options following emergencies.

Binational Pre-Clearance, Pre-Screening, and Pre-Inspection

Test concepts for pre-clearance, pre-screening, and pre-inspection of people, goods, and products, in order to alleviate congestion at land ports of entry and intercept dangerous individuals, hazardous or counterfeit goods, plant and animal pests, adulterated or spoiled food, and contraband before they cause harm.

- Develop a joint cost-benefit analysis of potential pre-clearance models.
- Explore options for different models of pre-clearance at locations of mutual interest.
- Develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes necessary to allow pre-clearance and the use of private sector funds for staffing and operating costs.
- Define a binational statement of standards and policy for pre-clearance and pre-inspection programs.
- Initiate pilot pre-clearance, pre-screening, and pre-inspection programs in locations such as the Laredo airport and the Nogales-Mariposa port of entry.

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.

- Reach bilateral agreement on standards and technology for regular and continuous measurement of wait times at land border ports of entry in order to establish mechanisms to reduce wait times and provide useful information for travelers and shippers.
- Conclude the seven ongoing pilot studies on border wait times at Pharr, Laredo, Colombia, Brownsville “Veterans,” Nogales “Mariposa,” Jerónimo-Santa Teresa, and El Paso “Ysleta-Zaragoza,” in order to develop a base line for improvement.
 - Identify funding for and fully implement operational solutions at two locations.
- Review all Intelligent Transportation Systems used in the border region, including electronic toll systems, and identify areas for improvements.

- In accordance with the commitments of Presidents Obama and President Calderón to establish a High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council (HLRCC), find key areas of engagement where the US-Mexico Executive Steering Committee can work with the High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council to take advantage of its expertise and to avoid redundancy.
- Review regulations and other requirements that pertain to cross-border rail operations and work cooperatively to achieve additional efficiencies within the existing legal and regulatory environment.
- Convene a Greening Transportation Border Workshop to share best practices and encourage better resource use.

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.

- Release a binational statement endorsing the corridor security concept.
- Develop an investigative strategy that encourages increased intelligence-driven investigations and prosecutions and coordinated interior and border enforcement operations.
- Continue to conduct coordinated patrols between ports of entry.
 - Decide on the participating agencies, locations, and timeline for implementation.
 - Establish communication protocols and mechanisms for coordinated patrols, envisioned to include secure communications, real time information exchanges.

This Plan is focused on concrete actions to be carried out over the next 12 months. It does not exclude other long-term cooperation that continues to be part of the bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico.