

## United States-Mexico Partnership: A New Border Vision<sup>1</sup>

Mexico and the United States have a shared interest in creating a 21st century border that promotes the security and prosperity of both countries. The U.S. and Mexican governments have launched a range of initiatives that challenge the traditional view of “hold the line” and are developing a framework for a new vision of 21st century border management.

The new framework is based on the principles of joint border management, co-responsibility for cross-border crime, and shared commitment to the efficient flow of legal commerce and travel:

- **Enhancing Public Safety:** The protection of Mexican and U.S. citizens from the criminal organizations responsible for the traffic in people, drugs, arms, and money across our common land border is a key priority for both countries. In addition to the bilateral Merida Initiative programs currently underway, we must develop joint strategies for key smuggling and trafficking corridors along with regular sharing of information on investigations, prosecutions, and screening practices.
- **Securing Flows:** The central challenge in managing flows of people and goods is to separate high-risk travelers and cargo from low-risk ones. Tools that help prevent illegitimate trade and travel while expediting legitimate trade and travel include implementing complementary risk management strategies in both countries, establishing a bi-national “model port” to share information on goods and people, and improving trusted traveler and shipper programs. We must work together with the private sector to ensure that we achieve these goals.
- **Expediting Legitimate Commerce and Travel:** Each day, about a billion dollars of commerce and a million people cross the U.S.-Mexico border. Affirmative steps that accelerate the flow of people and goods through ports of entry enhance both countries’ economic competitiveness. Both countries need work with the private sector to encourage investment in the people, technology, and infrastructure that comprise a 21st century border. Secure transit lanes for pre-cleared rail and truck shipments as well as passenger pre-clearance programs are two tools that could make cross border trade and travel more efficient.
- **Engaging Border Communities:** Mexico is the number one or number two export destination of twenty-two U.S. states. Cross-border trade contributes enormously to the economic vitality of both countries, especially in the border region. Continuing to engage border communities, as well as state, local, and tribal governments in bi-national strategy development, law enforcement, and communications, is essential to collaborative border management.
- **Setting Policy:** Achieving rapid policy change requires an agile inter-agency process within each country as well as a means by which both governments can easily coordinate at a bi-national level. Both countries need to reinvigorate their policy-setting architecture to address the statutory, regulatory, systems, and infrastructure changes needed to realize our new vision of collaborative border management.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dept. of State, Office of the Spokesman, *United States-Mexico Partnership: A New Border Vision* Fact Sheet, Mar. 23, 2010, available at: <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/March/20100323170448xjsnommis0.1441767.html> (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

## ***What is a Model Border Port in the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez/Southern New Mexico Region?***

Paso Del Norte Borderplex Conference  
August 12-13, 2010 El Paso/Ciudad Juarez/Southern New Mexico

### **Concepts for Consideration**

- Regional international traffic management system (Port Metro Vancouver [2008 Annual Report](#)<sup>2</sup>; Port Metro Vancouver [trades \\$75 billion in goods](#) with more than 160 trading economies annually.<sup>3</sup>)
- Full staffing of existing port infrastructure and commercial lanes [Texas Comptroller John Sharp's [1998 Borderlands Report](#)<sup>4</sup>; Congressman Silvestre Reyes' [H.R. 1320 - Secure Borders Act](#)<sup>5</sup> (109th Congress) ([summary](#)) and [H.R. 2068 - Southwest Regional Border Authority Act](#)<sup>6</sup> (110th Congress) ([summary](#))]
- Strategic new infrastructure [TxDOT - El Paso border port study<sup>7</sup> (ongoing)]
- Secure manufacturing tax credits and zones (BLC's [A New Vision for Trade Along the U.S. – Mexico Border Region: Secure Manufacturing Zones](#)<sup>8</sup>; [XXIV Border Governors Conference United States-Mexico Joint Declaration 2006](#)<sup>9</sup>)
- Fast-safe-smart movement of commercial trucks ([El Paso County Secure Border Trade Demonstration Project](#)<sup>10</sup> and BLC's [A New Vision for Trade Along the U.S. – Mexico Border Region: Secure Manufacturing Zones](#)<sup>11</sup>)
- 21st century international light rail ([Vancouver-Seattle rail](#); [City of El Paso](#); [Oregon Street Rail Project](#); and [Comments by Juarez Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz](#)<sup>12</sup>)
- Multimodal international freight shuttle [[Texas Transportation Institute's freight shuttle study](#)<sup>13</sup> (ongoing); TxDOT - El Paso border port study<sup>14</sup> (ongoing)]

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<sup>2</sup> Port Metro Vancouver, *Maintaining Ties: 2008 Annual Report*, available at:

[http://portmetrovancover.com/Libraries/ABOUT\\_Corporate/Port\\_Metro\\_Vancouver\\_2008\\_Annual\\_Report\\_English.sflb.ashx](http://portmetrovancover.com/Libraries/ABOUT_Corporate/Port_Metro_Vancouver_2008_Annual_Report_English.sflb.ashx) (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Port Metro Vancouver, *Statistics Overview 2009*, Feb. 10, 2010, available at:

[http://portmetrovancover.com/Libraries/ABOUT\\_Facts\\_Stats/2009\\_PMV\\_Statistics\\_Overview\\_Report.sflb.ashx](http://portmetrovancover.com/Libraries/ABOUT_Facts_Stats/2009_PMV_Statistics_Overview_Report.sflb.ashx) (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, *Bordering the Future*, July 1998, available at:

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/border/border.html> (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> Congressman Silvestre Reyes, H.R. 1320 - Secure Borders Act, introduced Mar. 15, 2005, available at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:H.R.1320>: (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>6</sup> Congressman Silvestre Reyes, H.R. 2068 - Southwest Regional Border Authority Act, introduced Apr. 26, 2007, available at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.2068>: (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>7</sup> Texas Dept. of Transportation, El Paso border port study (ongoing)

<sup>8</sup> Border Legislative Conference, *A New Vision for Trade Along the U.S. - Mexico Border: A New Border Trade System to Enhance Border Security and Competitiveness Through Secure Manufacturing Zones*, Dec. 2005, available at:

<http://www.borderlegislators.org/pdfs/Publications/Final%20New%20Border%20Vision.pdf> (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>9</sup> XXIV Border Governors Conference United States-Mexico Joint Declaration, Aug. 24-25, 2006, available at:

<http://bordergovernors.org/en/pdf/21.pdf> (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>10</sup> El Paso County Secure Border Trade Demonstration Project, Project Summary, Oct. 7, 2009, available at

[http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting\\_document/file/398/CBI\\_Project\\_Summary\\_Revised.pdf](http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting_document/file/398/CBI_Project_Summary_Revised.pdf) (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>11</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>12</sup> Gustavo Reveles Acosta, *Juarez Mayor: Light Rail Can Exist By 2013*, *El Paso Times*, Sept. 30, 2009, available at:

<http://shapleigh.org/news/3856-juarez-mayor-light-rail-can-exist-by-2013> (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>13</sup> Texas Transportation Institute, *Freight Shuttle Study Underway for Border Crossing Use*, Mar. 9, 2010, available at: [http://tti.tamu.edu/infofor/media/news.htm?news\\_id=5364](http://tti.tamu.edu/infofor/media/news.htm?news_id=5364) (last accessed Apr. 21, 2010).

<sup>14</sup> See footnote 7.