



The United States - Canada Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG) Action Plan 2015-2017

Overview

▶ Fall 2015 semi-annual plenary meeting	<i>Toronto, ON, October 27-28, 2015</i>
▶ Spring 2016 semi-annual plenary meeting	<i>Alexandria Bay, NY, May 17-18, 2016</i>
▶ Fall 2016 semi-annual plenary meeting	<i>Ottawa, ON, Fall 2016</i>
▶ Spring 2017 semi-annual plenary meeting	<i>Bellingham, WA, Spring 2017</i>
▶ Facilitate review of, and inputs to, the binational Border Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP) 3.0 and subsequent editions.	<i>Input on BIIP intended for consideration by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), Transport Canada (TC), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)</i>
▶ Ontario Ministry of Transportation Passenger Vehicle Data Survey Collection	<i>Planning for workshop in the U.S. during 2016 to disseminate the results and best practices learned from the data survey process</i>
▶ Coordinate Border Wait Time (BWT) measurement system deployments	<i>Seek applications in 2016 from states/provinces/local authorities to deploy and implement the BWT technology.</i>
▶ USDOT-Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Scenario Planning of Future Freight and Passenger Traffic Flows Across the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada Borders research project	<i>Finalize the modeling framework and begin data modeling efforts on a macro North American level and a micro border crossings level. Host three workshops in Ottawa, Canada, Washington, D.C., and Mexico City, Mexico in Spring 2016 to review results of the modeling efforts.</i>
▶ Facilitate peer exchanges on specific Canada – U.S. border topics; i.e., border master planning	<i>Host a trilateral border master planning workshop in Spring 2016 to leverage the best practices of U.S.-Mexico border master planning and its applicability to U.S.-Canada border planning.</i>

The TBWG

Mission

The Canada-U.S. TBWG was formed in 2001 to facilitate the safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods across the Canada-U.S. border. The TBWG brings together multiple transportation and border agencies, and other organizations, to coordinate transportation planning, policy implementation, and the deployment of technology to enhance border infrastructure and operations. As such, this forum fosters on-going communication, information sharing, and the exchange of best practices to improve the transportation, safety and security systems that connect our two countries.

Organization

The TBWG is jointly led by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada. Its core [membership](#) includes federal, state, and provincial departments/ministries of transportation from both sides of the border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Canada Border Services Agency. Other participants include Global Affairs Canada, the U.S. Department of State, and other partners, such as regional cross-border planning organizations, whose members encompass government agencies devoted to transportation and border issues.

Structure

The work of the TBWG is guided by a binational Steering Committee, which is led by Co-chairs from the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada. They are joined by representatives from their respective departments and agencies, federal border agencies, representatives of border states/provinces, subcommittee co-chairs, and co-leads on major topics and issues of interest (e.g. border infrastructure, technology, etc.). The Steering Committee meets regularly to plan and coordinate TBWG activities. Steering Committee responsibilities include planning the semi-annual plenary meetings of the TBWG membership in the U.S. and Canada and collaborating on TBWG communications, including the management of the TBWG website. TheTBWG.org.

Participation and governance



Introduction

TBWG Action Plan

TBWG Co-Chairs:

Tom Oommen

Director, Highway, Border and Motor
Carrier Policy
Transport Canada

Ken Petty

Director
Office of Planning
U.S. Federal Highway Administration

The TBWG Action Plan will be updated every two years by the TBWG Steering Committee to:

- Communicate current priorities and activities of the TBWG in support of its mission; and
- Track the progress and performance of the TBWG.

Purpose of the Action Plan

This Action Plan sets out areas of focus for the work of the TBWG:

1. Policy;
2. Planning and Programming;
3. Deployment of Technology;
4. Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group; and
5. Communication and Facilitation.

These work areas are supported by co-leads (both Canadian and U.S. TBWG members), subcommittees or discussion groups. Responsibility for advancing specific TBWG actions and tracking progress under each work area is distributed among the federal lead-agencies (TC and USDOT), co-leads and subcommittee co-chairs. Currently, the areas of focus are:

- Policy;
- Border Infrastructure;
- Trade and Traffic Data; and
- Technology.

Current Action Items and Status

1. Policy

An important facet of the work of the binational and multi-agency TBWG in its mission to take coordinated action and innovate is the dedicated attention that it gives to differing policy and authority between the two countries. Types of work that are undertaken in this area include the assessment of new and proposed policies when requested by the TBWG Co-chairs. Policy work also provides a connection between TBWG and academic research on U.S.-Canada border issues.

The Policy work of the TBWG is supported by:

Policy Co-Leads:

Hugh Conroy

Manager, International Mobility & Trade Corridor (IMTC) Program
Whatcom Council of Governments

Daniel McGregor

Manager/Senior Policy Advisor,
Highway, Border and Motor Carrier Policy
Transport Canada

Objectives: Recognizing that changes in border policy have implications for transportation system operations and transportation infrastructure investment:

- To support the TBWG mission by fostering ongoing communication among TBWG participants to better anticipate, understand, and plan for changes in each country’s border-related policies (usually at the federal level but also at the state and provincial level);
- To improve practitioners’ view of potential connections between proposed and planned policy changes and border operations by maintaining a strong dialogue between TBWG and academic and applied research institutions;
- To manage the Policy section of the TBWG website;
- To foster discussion of policy issues at TBWG plenary meetings; and
- To maintain an inventory of cross-border financial arrangements.

Current Actions – Policy

Action 1.1: Work cooperatively with Transport Canada and USDOT to facilitate a new Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on the TBWG

Needs	TC and USDOT have been working to develop a new TBWG-focused MOC to supplement the existing general MOC that has been in place since October 2000
Responsibility	Policy
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to finalize MOC and obtain approval from TC and USDOT • Provide status updates at TBWG plenary meetings
Next Steps	Provide status update at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

Action 1.2: Facilitate the exchange of information regarding trusted-trader and trusted traveller program policy changes being evaluated under the Beyond the Border (BTB) Action Plan

Needs	Trusted trader programs (generally referred to collectively as the FAST program) and trusted traveller programs (known as the NEXUS Program) are being evaluated by CBSA and U.S. CBP for possible policy and operational changes. Outcomes have implications for the infrastructure linking transportation facilities to inspection facilities and for linking our two countries together. Ongoing review and feedback with respect to program performance, pilot tests, and findings will further TBWG’s coordinated planning and investment goals.
Responsibility	Policy
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions at TBWG plenary meetings with trusted trader and traveller program managers and inspection agencies • Sharing of relevant reports with TBWG participants including summaries of discussions held at TBWG plenary meetings or on separate conference calls
Next Steps	Pending policy decisions under the BTB Action Plan may result in decoupling of trusted trader program components – e.g., allowing dedicated lane access to commercial movements where the carrier <i>or</i> the importer of the goods is enrolled as a trusted trader but not necessarily both – as has been the requirement since the beginning of the FAST program. Depending on regional characteristics of trade flow, carrier firms, and existing border infrastructure, this policy change could have important implications for border and transportation operations and system capacity.
Status	Ongoing

Action 1.3: Facilitate coordination between U.S. and Canadian governments on the topic of freight transportation

Needs	<p>The overall goal in the area of freight planning is to ensure that U.S. and Canadian stakeholders share information on a regular basis to continue to improve the freight transportation infrastructure decision-making process in both countries. This collaboration will support the development of strategies and tactics that enable effective freight transportation planning.</p> <p><u>Proposed Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate coordination efforts at an appropriate level between U.S. DOT/Transport Canada, U.S. State DOTs/Canadian Provincial Ministries of Transportation, and U.S. & Canadian regional/local transportation planning agencies • Encourage U.S. and Canadian participation at appropriate cross-border stakeholder meetings • Encourage Canadian participation on U.S. state freight advisory committees for the northern border states • Encourage border master planning concepts. Any processes developed should include freight-specific criteria to prioritize freight projects
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to leverage innovative financing to deliver freight projects.
Responsibility	Policy
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status updates at TBWG plenary meetings • Identification of opportunity areas to champion binational freight-related projects and policies • Arrange for speakers and presentations on freight issues that are of interest to both governments • Develop freight specific work sessions
Next Steps	Status updates at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

2. Planning & Programming

The Planning and Programming work of the TBWG aims to:

- Coordinate national-level planning of cross-border infrastructure and trade and travel systems and support regional binational coordination efforts; and
- Facilitate understanding of the objectives of each country's federal programs that focus on facilitation and management of cross-border trade and travel.

In its Planning and Programming work, the TBWG Steering Committee is supported by co-leads on Border Infrastructure and Trade and Traffic Data.

Border Infrastructure Co-Leads:

Daniel McGregor

Manager/Senior Policy Advisor
Highway, Border and Motor
Carrier Policy
Transport Canada

David Franklin

U.S. - Canadian Border Coordinator
U.S. Federal Highway Administration

Objectives: To support the implementation of the border infrastructure components of the BTB Action Plan including the binational Border Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP). In addition, to facilitate shared binational understanding and information-sharing on border-related infrastructure projects.

Current Actions – Border Infrastructure

Action 2.1: Solicit and consolidate TBWG participant feedback for next versions of the binational Border Infrastructure Investment Plan

Needs	TBWG was identified under the BTB Action Plan as a source of input for ongoing updates to the BIIP
Responsibility	Border Infrastructure
Outcomes	Provision of input, feedback on format/content of annual updates to the BIIP from TBWG members, including provinces, states, border operators and federal departments and agencies
Next Steps	Provision of input on BIIP 3.0
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.2: Facilitate the exchange of information on border infrastructure projects

Needs	Shared understanding of status of border infrastructure projects
Responsibility	Border Infrastructure
Outcomes	Provide regular updates at TBWG plenary meetings on federal, state, provincial and border operator infrastructure projects; disseminate information related to project openings (i.e. ribbon-cuttings, shovel diggings, etc.) for FHWA leadership attendance
Next Steps	Coordinate infrastructure project updates at TBWG plenary meetings, TBWG steering committee calls, and ongoing phone/email communication
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.3: Post existing border master planning and transportation studies to the TBWG Website

Needs	Post regional border master planning and transportation studies and/or web links to the TBWG Website; create a new webpage if necessary to list the plans or links to the plans from the original host websites
Responsibility	Border Infrastructure
Outcomes	Add existing border master planning documents and transportation study documents and/or links to the TBWG website
Next Steps	Identify existing border master plans and transportation studies that are available on the Internet and link those documents to the TBWG website
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.4: Facilitate a Regional Master Planning Peer Exchange

Needs	Coordinate with agencies involved with cross border infrastructure planning activities and identify the need for border master planning on the U.S.-Canada border
Responsibility	Border Infrastructure
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a Peer Exchange in 1st or 2nd quarter of 2016 to highlight the benefits of border master planning; leverage best practices and lessons learned from U.S.-Mexico border master plans • Identify external planning partners who would benefit from participating in the peer exchange format • Document the meeting to share results on the TBWG Website • Plan for future peer exchanges/workshops on the U.S.-Canada border to capture possible momentum • Work with interested government agencies to create border/regional master planning agreements to guide the planning of future infrastructure planning and investment
Next Steps	Coordinate to plan a peer exchange in the 1 st or 2 nd quarter of 2016 and identify potential participants and issues relevant to the U.S.-Canada border region that will have an impact on the creation of a border master plan
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.5: Disseminate information on potential funding sources currently available to support border projects and research needs

Needs	Disseminate information on potential funding sources available through USDOT-FHWA to support border infrastructure projects and research
Responsibility	Border Infrastructure
Outcomes	Disseminate information on potential funding sources available through USDOT-FHWA to support border infrastructure projects and research to TBWG participants from the U.S. so they may apply for funding as needed
Next Steps	Coordinate with FHWA on potential funding sources, such as the USDOT TIGER program and FHWA's planning research program
Status	Ongoing

Trade and Traffic Data Co-Leads:

David Franklin

U.S. - Canadian Border Coordinator
U.S. Federal Highway
Administration

Rob Tardif

Team Leader
Ontario Ministry of Transportation

Objectives: To coordinate border trade, traffic, and corridor data among TBWG partners with the objectives of:

- Keeping an inventory of state and provincial highway and infrastructure data collection;
- Identifying data-collection, transportation demand modeling, and operational modeling best practices;
- Fostering partnerships to maximize border data collection.

Current Actions – Trade and Traffic Data

Action 2.6: Solicit and provide TBWG participant feedback on the FHWA-Ontario Ministry of Transportation Passenger and Commercial Vehicle Survey Data Collection Efforts & Accompanying Workshops

Needs	FHWA contracted with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to conduct both a commercial freight and a passenger vehicle flow study of border traffic across the U.S. – Canada Border
Responsibility	Trade and Traffic Data
Outcomes	Hold two to three workshops in a U.S.-Canada border state to disseminate the results of the data collection efforts and learn how stakeholders can apply the process and best practices to their own data collection efforts. A workshop was held in Detroit in Fall 2015 on the commercial vehicle data results; a workshop is planned in Lewiston, NY for April 2016 to present the results of the passenger vehicle collection efforts.
Next Steps	Hold a workshop in April 2016 for passenger survey results
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.7: Solicit and provide TBWG participant feedback on the USDOT-FHWA Scenario Planning of Future Freight and Passenger Traffic Flows Across the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada Borders research project

Needs	USDOT-FHWA is conducting a trilateral freight and passenger traffic flow research project to examine traffic flows at both the macro North American level and the micro border crossing level. Solicit TBWG participant feedback and input for the draft modeling framework and accompanying freight flow projections and results. Provide status updates on the project to TBWG participants at upcoming TBWG plenary meetings.
Responsibility	Trade and Traffic Data
Outcomes	Provide status updates on modeling framework results and freight flow projects, based on North American stakeholder input to TBWG participants
Next Steps	Provide status updates on the project as needed at the TBWG plenary meetings. Invite TBWG participants to the Spring 2016 modeling workshops in Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, Canada.
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.8: Add/create relevant cross-border freight and passenger data for TBWG and post it to the TBWG website

Needs	Provide a compilation of relevant data sources and data needs as well as freight and passenger flow studies to TBWG participants
Responsibility	Trade and Traffic Data
Outcomes	Provide a compilation of relevant data sources and data needs as well as freight and passenger flow studies
Next Steps	Provide status update at TBWG plenary meetings on data sources added to the TBWG website
Status	Ongoing

Action 2.9: Share reports and information on the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange (NATS) with TBWG participants

Needs	Provide information related to NATS to TBWG participants through the formation of a working group dedicated specifically to reporting such data (with Steve Beningo from USDOT-Bureau of Transportation Statistics as lead)
Responsibility	Trade and Traffic Data
Outcomes	Form working group dedicated to identifying transportation statistics available to TBWG participants and provide status updates at the TBWG plenary meetings.
Next Steps	Form a working group, identify data needs, post available data to TBWG website, and provide status updates at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

3. Deployment of Technology

The TBWG mission includes facilitating discussion and coordination of the role of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and other technology that will improve the efficient movement of goods and people across the U.S./Canada border.

The Deployment of Technology work of the TBWG is supported by:

Technology Co-Leads:

Tiffany Julien

Freight Management Specialist
U.S. Federal Highway
Administration

Julie Irvine

Senior Program Policy Analyst
Transportation Infrastructure Programs
Transport Canada

Objectives: Working with a number of different U.S. and Canadian stakeholders, the TBWG promotes the use of the technology and other tools, including the Border Information Flow Architecture (BIFA) to help ensure institutional agreement and technical integration for ITS & other technology projects at major land border crossings.

Desired outcomes include: identification of technologies and agencies that use technologies at or near the border; fully coordinated border ITS/technology deployments; integration of technology considerations into the planning process; interoperability of technologies; reduced technology investment cost; and enhanced information exchange, coordination, and communication.

Ongoing work/areas of interest include:

- Identifying opportunities to maximize data gathering efficiency and information-sharing by mapping data collectors, users, and identifying and addressing redundancies and gaps;
- Integrating technology considerations into the planning process (e.g. facilities, infrastructure, transportation, future technology);
- Supporting interoperability of technologies;
- Identifying technologies that could enhance border capacity & efficiency;
- Coordinating stakeholders on both sides of the border to ensure complementary approaches to border initiatives; and
- Supporting implementation of technology components of the BTB Action Plan.

Current Actions – Deployment of Technology

Action 3.1: Binational Automated Border Wait Time (BWT) Measurement Initiative

Needs	Identify technology-based solutions for the monitoring, measurement, and prediction of BWT; solicit applications in Spring 2016 for the joint Transport Canada-FHWA border wait time measurement initiative
Responsibility	Technology
Outcomes	Status updates at TBWG plenary meetings; solicit, review, and announce recipients for the TC-FHWA BWT measurement initiative in Spring 2016
Next Steps	Disseminate information on application process for BWT measurement initiative in Spring 2016; provide status updates at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

Action 3.2: Integration of Technology and Operations Considerations into the Planning Process

Needs	Make recommendations and undertake activities that will raise awareness of the role of ITS and technology in improving the efficiency of goods and people movement across the U.S.-Canada border. Provide a model for integrating technology deployment as part of facility modernization or infrastructure improvement, including operations and maintenance through state DOT implementation.
Responsibility	Technology
Outcomes	TBD
Next Steps	Provide updates at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

Action 3.3: Evaluate opportunities to increase the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) among cross-border travelers.

Needs	<p>The continued deployment of RFID technology is an adopted BTB strategy. While RFID is a potential source of significant system capacity and border wait-time reduction, individuals' acquisition of <i>non-NEXUS</i> RFID documents, primarily state and provincial enhanced drivers' licenses (EDLs), has remained too low to generate such results.</p> <p>The need is to identify and evaluate strategies that could complement inspection-agency investments in RFID reader hardware by significantly increasing the share of non-NEXUS cross-border trips made by individuals using an RFID.</p> <p>TBWG was established in part to support binational applications of information technology to improve border operations and explore alternatives to infrastructure-based capacity. RFID hardware installation is already a binational strategy under BTB. Effective strategies to increase RFID use by travelers will also need to be binational and multi-agency – requirements that align well with the composition of TBWG.</p>
Responsibility	Technology
Outcomes	<p>Under this action item, TBWG will be a forum to identify and evaluate strategies to optimize the effectiveness of RFID technology at border crossings. The TBWG Steering Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage representatives from stakeholder agencies to develop strategies and to attend TBWG meetings to further these discussions. • continue as a venue for sharing information from individual agencies and regional efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional RFID business case development by the IMTC Program as part of its Dynamic Border Management project • document discussion and conclusions to support possible policy and investment decisions to advance one or more implementations
Next Steps	Multi agency discussion at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

4. Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group

Rail Co-Leads:

Barbara Barr

Director, International Programs
U.S. Federal Railroad
Administration

Marcia Jones

Director, Rail Policy
Transport Canada

Objectives: Ongoing functions of the Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group include:

- Exchange of information about each country’s rail policies, business models, investment planning, and existing and proposed cross-border rail services; and
- Identification of shared objectives and opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Current Actions – Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group

Action 4.1: Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group that focuses on both passenger and freight rail topics

Needs	<p>Cross-Border Rail Discussion Group focuses on both passenger and freight rail topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail Safety Partnership; • Current topics of interest; and • Current updates from the Regulatory Cooperation Council and Beyond the Border Action Plans on Rail specific issues.
Responsibility	Rail Discussion Group
Outcomes	Arrange for speakers and presentations on rail issues that are of concern to both governments
Next Steps	Status updates and presentations/discussion at TBWG plenary meetings
Status	Ongoing

5. Communication and Facilitation

This work area is supported by the:

TBWG Steering Committee

TBWG Co-Chairs:

Tom Oommen

Director, Highway, Border and Motor
Carrier Policy
Transport Canada

Ken Petty

Director
Office of Planning
U.S. Federal Highway Administration

Steering Committee Coordinators:

Daniel McGregor

Manager/Senior Policy Advisor
Highway, Border and Motor Carrier
Policy
Transport Canada

David Franklin

U.S.-Canadian Border Coordinator
Office of Planning
U.S. Federal Highway Administration

Objectives:

Ongoing functions of the Steering Committee include:

- Facilitate effective communications among TBWG members including the IMTC, Eastern Border Transportation Coalition (EBTC), Inland Border Working Group (IBWG), and with other border organizations including the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning (JWC);
- Promote the TBWG as the principal government forum on Canada-U.S. transportation border issues;
- Organize semi-annual plenary meetings hosted alternately in Canada and the U.S;
- Provide conference planning documents on upcoming border meetings to facilitate planning, organizing, and increasing meeting attendance;
- Maintain an updated TBWG website; and
- Provide summaries of TBWG plenary meetings.

Current Actions – Communication and Facilitation

Action 5.1: Planning of Upcoming Plenary Meetings

Needs	Coordinate, collaborate, and exchange best practices to allow for better cross-collaboration between the TBWG and JWC
Responsibility	Steering Committee
Outcomes	Create a conference planning document and identify future TBWG meeting locations and possible meeting dates to allow members to plan for attendance; create a list of both Canada – U.S. and U.S. - Mexico border meetings for 2016 and 2017 to allow for better cross-collaboration and to maximize participation of border stakeholders
Next Steps	Create a conference planning document and list of upcoming Canada – U.S. and U.S. - Mexico border meetings in 2016-2017
Status	Ongoing

Action 5.2: TBWG Website Updates

Needs	Canada – U.S. border stakeholders and TBWG Steering Committee members look to the TBWG website as a “one-stop shop” for border planning needs and the website should provide current, timely information on border topics
Responsibility	Steering Committee
Outcomes	Update the TBWG website in a timely manner to disseminate information to participants in a timely fashion
Next Steps	FHWA to host the TBWG website and use the U.S. Volpe Transportation Center as the webmaster. Specific updates to the website include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage and links to border master plans and other transportation studies and border planning documents for the Canada-U.S. border; • Webpage and links for freight and passenger vehicle data sources that are useful for Canada-U.S. border planning purposes; and • Webpage for meeting summaries which fully capture the content and discussion at the TBWG plenary meetings.
Status	Ongoing

Action 5.3: Documentation of TBWG Plenary Meetings

Needs	Documentation of the TBWG plenary meetings is needed as a reference tool for past attendees and for those stakeholders unable to attend the meetings in person. Comprehensive documentation is needed to show the TBWG Steering Committee’s progress towards project, policy, and research implementation along the Canada-U.S. border to government officials, stakeholders, and the general public.
Responsibility	Steering Committee
Outcomes	Reports prepared after each TBWG plenary meeting and disseminated to the membership
Next Steps	TC and FHWA will prepare a report after each TBWG plenary meeting and disseminate the report to members directly via email and/or the TBWG website
Status	Ongoing