

TBWG BORDER DATA SESSION

In April 2003, TBWG sponsored a Border Data Users Workshop, which was intended to provide data users from key Canadian and U.S. agencies with a comprehensive understanding of the 1999 National Roadside Survey (NRS) data and its uses. By all accounts, this workshop was useful for all concerned. As a follow-up, the participants and other TBWG members have expressed an interest identifying next steps in the area of border data.

In May 2003, a conference call was convened involving participants from key agencies to discuss possible areas of interest. There was a particular interest expressed in exploring what might be done in the area of border transit times/performance measures in a timely manner. Accordingly, the participants agreed on several priorities to be discussed during the TBWG border data session in Burlington, Vermont. These include:

COORDINATION PRIORITIES:

1. Border Data Subcommittee – Establish a standing subcommittee to:
 - a. Oversee/manage action items
 - b. Share information of mutual interest, particularly on products/data sets developed by other agencies and the Canada-US-Mexico Data “Interchange”
 - c. Identify and suggest topics for TBWG meetings/Action Plan and related border data sessions/workshops; and
 - d. Consider data needs and how the Subcommittee could complement other groups e.g. the Bi-national Infrastructure and Modeling Working Group

Note: The border data subcommittee would hold conference calls perhaps quarterly or every two months to foster information exchange and discuss areas of interest.

ACTION ITEM PRIORITIES:

1. Explore approaches to measuring border transit times/performance as well as tools/metrics for doing so. (See accompanying Backgrounder).
2. Discuss scope and applications of a possible National Roadside Survey, including the potential “border component”.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Are there other coordination priorities that a border data subcommittee should consider?
- Can we identify/agree on a particular product or initiative, particularly in the area of border transit times/performance measurement that we would like to pursue as part of the TBWG Action Plan?