SUMMARY: FUTURE DIRECTIONS DIALOGUE

TRANSPORTATION BORDER WORKING GROUP PLENARY MEETING

JUNE 1-2, 2005, DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

The following paper constitutes a summary of the Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG) Future Directions Dialogue that took place on the morning of May 10, 2005 at the TBWG plenary meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. Individual recommendations were either adopted, refused, or will be referred to the TBWG Steering Committee for further discussion.

1. **New TBWG Mission Statement:**

   After a lengthy discussion, the new TBWG Mission Statement was narrowed down to the following two versions, which differ only slightly. The new TBWG Steering Committee will formally adopt one of the two versions:

The mission of the Transportation Border Working Group is 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 ongoing communication, information sharing, and the exchange of best practices to improve the transportation and inspections systems that connect our two countries.

   Alternatively:

The mission of the Transportation Border Working Group is 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 ongoing communication, information sharing, and the exchange of best practices to improve the transportation and safety and security systems that connect our two countries.

2. **A: TBWG Co-Chairs**

It was agreed that Transport Canada and the Federal Highway Administration would remain the Canadian and U.S. Co-Chairs for the TBWG.

2. B: TBWG Steering Committee

The formation of a TBWG Steering Committee to help plan TBWG plenary meetings and coordinate TBWG activities was adopted. It was agreed that a Terms of Reference for the new Steering Committee will be produced.

2. C: Structure of TBWG Steering Committee

The Structure of the TBWG Steering Committee will be as follows:

Permanent Canadian and U.S. Co-Chairs:
Transport Canada, Federal Highway Administration

Permanent Canadian and U.S. Secretariats:
Transport Canada, Federal Highway Administration

Permanent Representation for Canadian and U.S. Customs Agencies:
Canada Border Services Agency
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Rotational State/Provincial Representation:
One Eastern State/Provincial Representative, to be determined by the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition
One Western State/Provincial Representative: Whatcom Council of Governments will occupy this seat until a mechanism for rotating to another Western member is determined.

3. A: Bi-annual Plenary Meetings

It was agreed that the frequency for TBWG plenary meetings would continue to be bi-annual: one annual meeting in Canada, and one annual meeting in the U.S.

3. B: Location of Plenary Meetings in Travel Hub-Cities

It was agreed that TBWG plenary meetings would be hosted in travel hub-cities (such as Toronto, Chicago) in addition to locations near the Canada-U.S. border. Transport Canada announced that this recommendation would be implemented for the 2005 TBWG plenary meeting in Canada, which will be hosted in Toronto.

4. A: TBWG Plenary Meeting Format

It was agreed that the format for TBWG plenary meetings would be changed from the present two-day format, to a three-day (half-day, full-day, half-day) format. Subcommittee meetings would take place during the half-day sessions, and the plenary session would take place on the single, full-day.

4. B: One-Hour Open Mic

It was agreed that the TBWG plenary session would include a one-hour Open Mic for participants to announce their individual items, and to provide for additional discussion.

5. One-Hour Presentation Slot

The proposal to allot one hour to all TBWG presentations was **not** accepted. TBWG presentations will **not** automatically receive one hour, nor will they be limited to one hour.

6. TBWG Action Plan

The proposal to re-structure and update the TBWG Action Plan was agreed to, however, this item requires further discussion. For example: how long should the Action Plan timeline be? What is the process for updating the Action Plan? Including Policy Implementation on the Action Plan was contentious.

This item will be referred to the Steering Committee for further debate.

7. Action Plan Item: Delete Coverage of Some Items

It was agreed that the items presently falling under the "Areas of Interest" column in the TBWG Action Plan would either be deleted or subsumed under existing Subcommittees.

8. A: Add "Policy Implementation" Item to TBWG Action Plan

It was agreed that the TBWG would form a Policy Subcommittee. However, whether the Subcommittee would focus on implementation, evaluation, and/or coordination requires further discussion. This discussion would take place through the new Policy Subcommittee.

8. B: Identifying, Describing and Reporting on Border Policy Changes

It was agreed that part of the function of the new Policy Subcommittee would be to identify, describe and report on border-related policy changes.

8. C: Border-Related Policy Research Centers

It was agreed that, through the new Policy Subcommittee, a dialogue with border-related policy research centers *and stakeholders* would be established.

9. **TBWG Communications**

It was agreed that a single, independent, no-logo TBWG website be established to enhance TBWG communications and coordination. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would have responsibility for managing the website and that Transport Canada would take the initiative for establishing the independent site.