



Canada-United States Transportation Border Working Group

**Border Infrastructure Coordination Subcommittee (BICSC)
Conference Call
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (EST)
2007-02-23**

Participants:

- Daniel Lagacé (CBSA), Petar Duvnjak (TC), Allan Wilson (TC), Paul Arvanitidis (TC), Isabelle Trépanier (TC), Philippe Joubert (TC), Walter Steeves (EBTC), Gordon Rogers (WCOG), Simon Leung (BCMOT), Ron Kerr (IDDOT), Valencia Williams (FHWA), Dan Melcher (GSA), Michael Avery (FHWA), John Reed, Jerry Cioffi, and Maurice Rasheed (NYSDOT).

Updates – Issues & Planning Regional Workshops:

- Mr. Paul Arvanitidis summarized the results of the last teleconference (December 2006), focusing on the revised language of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) deliverable and noted the purpose of, and approach to, the regional workshops.
- Ms. Isabelle Trépanier noted that although an SPP Ministers meeting was taking place today (2006-02-23) in Ottawa, discussions were not expected to reach that level of detail. At this time, the detailed language has not been published nor is it likely to be until a proposed SPP Leaders meeting later in 2007.
- Mr. Jerry Cioffi (New York Department of Transportation - NYDoT) apprised the group that NYDoT is planning to hold a regional workshop either before or shortly after the 2007-06-16/18 TBWG meeting in Chicago. It is envisioned that the workshop will encompass New York's large and smaller border crossings and include a full range of stakeholders from both sides of the border (e.g., bridge associations, Canada & U.S. Border agencies, federal, state and provincial departments of transportation, representatives from NYDOT regional offices (2 in total), MTQ, MTO, etc.).
- The key areas for discussion are projects specific details, scope, timing cost estimates etc.
- BC and Idaho expressed an interest in holding another workshop. Mr. Simon Leung (BC) offered to speak offline with Mr. Ron Kerr (ID) with regards to the progressing details of setting up a west coast workshop (i.e., eastern BC, eastern Washington State, Idaho, and Montana). TC (Allan Wilson & Petar



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Duvnjak) agreed to follow-up with BC & ID via telephone to discuss progress in a few weeks.

- Mr. Gordon Rogers offered his support to BC and Idaho based on IMTC's experience and timing.
- TC also offered its support to the planners of the New York and BC/Idaho Regional workshops (e.g., catering, contacting invitees, publicity via TBWG website, etc.).
- BICSC members noted that instead of firmly defining geographic regions in which to hold the workshops, it would be advantageous to hold events where there is expressed stakeholder demand. Another possible criterion included the inclusion of a certain number (i.e., an upper limit) of border crossings in each workshop. Given differing geographic and population-related factors, it was also noted that to some extent, each regional workshop would be a unique event.
- BICSC members also discussed ideas surrounding the importance of involving other regions (i.e., provinces & states) in the workshops as observers, the travel challenges faced by some BICSC members, and the necessity of sharing the results, lessons-learned, best practices, etc. of completed regional workshops with all TBWG members.

Other Business:

- Ms. Trépanier noted that Mr. Allan Wilson has joined TC's Highway & Border Policy team, as Mr. Paul Arvanitidis has assumed new infrastructure fund-related duties. Mr. Wilson would be working with Mr. Petar Duvnjak on TBWG-related files and projects.
- Members thanked Mr. Arvanitidis for his excellent work in support of both the TBWG and the BISC and wished him well with his new assignment.

Date on Next Conference Call:

- Based on comments from BICSC members, the next BISC conference call was tentatively scheduled for early April 2007. An exact date will be confirmed with BICSC members.