



Canada-United States Transportation Border Working Group

**Border Infrastructure Coordination Sub-Committee (BICSC) Meeting
2007-10-24**

8:15 – 9:30 am

**Hôtel Omni Mont Royal
1050 Sherbrooke Street West
Montréal, Québec**

Participants:

Allan Wilson (TC) – Vice-Chair
Isabelle Trépanier (TC)
John Reed (NYSDoT)
Brian Kirch (NYSDoT)
Daniel Lagacé (CBSA)
Dave Henry (MDQ)

Alicia Nolan (FHWA) – Vice-Chair
Maurice Rasheed (NYSDoT)
Roger Petzold (FHWA)
Walter Steeves (EBTC)
Gordon Rogers (WCOG)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- The BICSC co-chairs (A. Wilson & A. Nolan) welcomed members to the meeting and invited BICSC members to introduce themselves.

2. Review & Approval - 2007-09-05 Teleconference Record of Discussion *(All)*

- BICSC members reviewed the 2007-09-05 teleconference minutes. No additional comments were noted. The BICSC Co-Chair noted that the approved minutes would be posted to the TBWG website (specifically the BICSC section).

3. Update on Regional Workshop(s):

- 2007-08-29 MDQ – NYSDoT Montréal Workshop

- Mr. Brian Kirch (NYSDoT) provided a verbal summary of the 2007-08-29 MDQ-NYSDoT Regional Workshop. Mr. Kirch noted that the event was well attended by all of the relevant border-related stakeholders and provided a relaxed atmosphere for information exchange, clarification of concerns / issues, and question and answer sessions. Other topics reviewed at the workshop included federal funding programs (Canada & U.S.), the U.S. Presidential Permit process, and recent TBWG activities. Participants also noted the usefulness of the video clips utilized during the review of individual crossings.
- A. Wilson noted that initial planning was still underway with respect to second regional workshop scheduled to take place in western Canada / U.S. (B.C., Washington State, Idaho, etc.) – exact date and time to be confirmed.

4. Online Border Infrastructure Compendium (OBIC) – Update

- A. Wilson updated committee members on progress to date. He noted that over the course of summer 2007, all remaining Canada-U.S. land border crossings had been



Canada-United States Transportation Border Working Group

entered into the OBIC (bringing the number from 65 to 120) and that the accompanying port-of-entry characteristics and data (e.g., number of approach lanes, traffic volumes, etc.) were also being collected and entered.

5. Review & Discussion - FHWA Proposal for OBIC Re-vamp

- A. Nolan noted that with ongoing OBIC usage, some functional limitations have been identified (e.g., ability to select and compare fields / crossings, data entry procedures, etc.) that, if addressed, could improve the operation of the OBIC.
- She also noted that U.S. Northern Border States have agreed that funding from their pool fund effort could be used to explore OBIC enhancements. Currently, \$25,000 has been identified. This amount could be used to hire a consultant to assess the existing OBIC and explore the feasibility for enhanced features.
- At this point, comments and suggestions were invited from subcommittee members regarding possible improvements / enhancements to the operation of the OBIC. Some of the suggestions included:
 - altering the data entry / update process;
 - change in database format - opportunity to upload material from other data bases and/or convert data into other formats (e.g., excel spreadsheets);
 - information for cross-border sharing (e.g., Port names);
 - ability to query & sort data fields with greater specificity (e.g. ability to compare specific ports using specific characteristics);
 - additional uses for / combinations of OBIC information (i.e., ability to generate different types of reports);
 - ensure a dedicated point of contact for project specific data collection and entry;
 - frequency of data & project updates (e.g., annually, bi-annually, etc.); and
 - dated entries / repository for past projects.
- Based on the discussions, BICSC agreed that the proposal should be brought forward to the full TBWG (on Plenary Day Two) for to seek approval to proceed.

6. Other Business *(All)*

- The BICSC Co-Chairs noted that a record of discussion would be distributed for information and comment prior to the next BICSC teleconference / in-person meeting.
- There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment