

The Canada – United States Transportation Border Working Group’s Passenger Rail Discussion Group Meeting Outcome - November 8, 2012

The second meeting of the Canada – United States Transportation Border Working Group’s (TBWG) Passenger Rail Discussion Group was held on November 8, 2012. The meeting was chaired by Barbara Pelletier, Director of the International Program, the United States Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Carolyn Crook, Director of Rail Policy, Transport Canada (TC). The primary focus of the meeting was to provide an update on developments since the inaugural April 17, 2012, meeting in Seattle, Washington, and to address questions from the TBWG’s membership. The meeting began with TC addressing developments such as the ongoing passenger rail preclearance negotiations between Canada and the United States, the High-Speed Rail study for the Quebec City to Windsor Corridor, and the introduction of Rocky Mountaineer’s tourist service connecting its rail tours of the Canadian Rockies to Seattle, Washington, via Vancouver, British Columbia. The FRA then addressed recent developments in the United States, as well as announcing \$7.9 million in funding to improve rail service between St. Albans, Vermont, and the Canadian border. The TBWG’s membership posed questions following these opening remarks, which were primarily focused on the ongoing preclearance framework negotiations and longer term strategies to improve cross border passenger rail services. The meeting concluded with TC and FRA agreeing to conduct a follow-up call in order to address how the discussion group best fits within the TBWG.