

Teleconference Summary
TBWG Policy Research Subcommittee
July 12, 2005, 3:00 PM EST

Present on the call:

Janice Baird, **Canada Border Services Agency**; Walter Steeves, **Eastern Border Transportation Coalition**; Jill Hochman, Ed Rodriguez, Sarah Clements, Alicia Nolan & Roger Petzold; **U.S Federal Highway Administration**; Mimi Sukhdeo **Transport Canada**; Paul Storer, **Western Washington University**; & Hugh Conroy, **Whatcom Council of Governments**;
Stephen Tzikas, **U.S. Customs & Border Protection**; Evelyn Wheeler, U.S. Department of State.

Hugh Conroy started the discussion with roll-call and a review of the agenda.

Hugh Conroy noted that, since the June 21 conference call, a few participants had indicated concern with the broad range of topics listed for the subcommittee to work on.

Hugh Conroy reviewed the proceedings of the final meeting of the TBWG Futures Committee (June 27). The Futures Group has now disbanded and will re-emerge as the TBWG Steering Committee. The Steering Committee's first teleconference is scheduled for July 28. During this meeting, the Steering Committee intends to start finalizing the TBWG Action Plan, incorporating feedback given in Dearborn.

Focusing specifically on the Policy section of the current draft Action Plan, Hugh noted that one of the probable changes would be to remove the word, "implementation" from the Policy section title. Both Jill Hochman and Steven Tzikas agreed that the intention is not to implement policy or even propose new policy but rather to assess existing policies and evaluate how emerging policies would affect other TBWG objectives.

Steve Tzikas gave an example of how, currently, CBP and other agencies under DHS are figuring out how to integrate various policy mandates regarding consolidation of travel programs – FAST, NEXUS, VISIT, etc. Roger Petzold raised the related issue of universal I.D. proposals.

Hugh summarized two areas of activity that it seems the Policy Subcommittee is poised to pursue: assessment of effects of policy changes and assessment of existing policy with regard to existing TBWG objectives.

Noting that some policy subcommittee members had suggested that we need a more formal goals-statement, Hugh suggested that policy subcommittee rely on the Action Plan as documentation of the groups agenda. There was concurrence with this direction.

Noting that the Action Plan was scheduled for finalization by the Steering Committee, Hugh suggested that the policy subcommittee submit some draft revisions for consideration. There was concurrence with this direction.

Next steps.

The next conference call will be on Tuesday, July 12 at 3:00 PM EST. Alicia Nolan mentioned that she could arrange a toll-free conference number.