

**Teleconference Summary**  
**TBWG Policy Research Subcommittee**  
**April 3, 2006 2:00 PM EST**

In on the call:

Janice Baird, **Canada Border Services Agency**; Walter Steeves, **Eastern Border Transportation Coalition**; Lucille McLaughlin, **Manitoba Transportation & Government Services**; Mimi Sukhdeo, Isabelle Trepanier, **Transport Canada**; Nena Morgan, Julie Peterson, **U.S Customs and Border Protection**, Michael Avery, Jill Hochman, Roger Petzold, Sidney Stecker, Valencia Williams, **U.S. Federal Highway Administration**; David Davidson, **Western Washington University, Border Policy Research Institute**; Hugh Conroy, **Whatcom Council of Governments**.

---

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

Roll call (listed above)

- 1) Review of agenda
  - a) Additions?
- 2) Any brief, policy-related news items from participants.
- 3) Quick review of Issues List and revisions requested in Toronto.
- 4) Policy issues on the June TBWG agenda. (WHTI? SPP? Others?)
- 5) Continued work on binational, issue-specific policy assessments
  - a) Cross-border communications protocol. (draft distributed)
  - b) Cross-border ITS hardware maintenance agreement. (draft distributed)
- 6) New and proposed policies.

None are currently listed on the Issues List but this agenda item is a chance to collectively report on what may be getting hot or emerging (national policies regarding intermodalism?).
- 7) Policy-related research being pursued by other institutions  
Examples listed and linked-to in earlier e-mail includes: WWU, UBC, and Canadian federal Policy Research Initiative program covering issues of North American integration.
- 8) Suggestions of needed research topics.
- 9) The Policy Subcommittee and the June TBWG meeting – plenary update and breakout session. What do we want to report on? How do we want to use our time together in the breakout session?
- 10) Next steps, next meeting, adjourn.

Hugh Conroy noted an additional agenda item if there is enough time. Hugh mentioned some recent contacts with staff to the [U.S.-Canada Interparliamentary Group](#). These contacts were made in preparation for a recent IMTC meeting in Bellingham. But, Hugh is interested in initiating a discussion with this group to see if they are interested in findings of the TBWG Policy Committee. *(We never did get to this. The above link points to the Canadian Parliament info page. I will be attending the CAN-AM BTA meeting in Ottawa on May 1-2. I'll see if I can line up a meeting with Mr. Serge Pelletier the Association Secretary for Canada. -Hugh)*

Policy updates:

Walter Steeves noted that there was some discussion regarding the United States' Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) at the recent trilateral summit in Mexico.

Isabelle Trepanier noted that there is work being done in Ottawa to estimate the economic impact of WHTI. This is not finished and so it is too early to share any results.

David Davidson noted a recent discussion with staff of the Government Accounting Office (GAO) in Seattle. The GAO is planning to do an analysis of the economic impact of WHTI. Hugh Conroy asked if this was a result of the [BESTT coalition's] recently proclaimed effort to have WHTI declared a regulation of economic significance (or some such status that would require a formal economic analysis). David responded that it is not related to the BESTT effort. The current GAO effort is a result of a request by an individual member of congress.

Isabelle Trepanier noted a poll conducted regarding WHTI by Zogby [International]. Isabelle suggested that a link to this information be sent to the subcommittee. ([Zogby WHTI poll](#))

Isabelle recounted the Transport Canada study of the impacts of border security measures on the trucking industry and noted that another study, this time of border security impacts on other modes, is due out in June.

Michael Avery noted a recently initiated U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) project aimed at improving the way that regulatory and compliance information is made available to Canadian carriers. Jill Hochman suggested that Milt Schmidt at FMCSA be invited to give an update on this work at the June TBWG meeting.

Hugh Conroy recently became aware of a [Memorandum of Cooperation](#) between the state of Washington and the province of British Columbia. It was signed (without too much fanfare apparently) by Washington Governor Christine Gregoire and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell on October 7, 2005. (Link above).

### Review of Issues List

Hugh Conroy reviewed the sections of the Issues List and noted the changes that had been made since the last meeting in Toronto.

### Policy issues on the June TBWG agenda

Looking ahead to the TBWG plenary meeting in June, and noting that the Policy Subcommittee is on the agenda for both an update to the full committee and our own breakout session, Hugh Conroy asked those on the call, especially those who are also on the TBWG Steering Committee, if they could list what policy-issues are already on the agenda. This would help the Policy Subcommittee start planning sooner for the meeting without being unexpectedly redundant.

Valencia Williams had the most current draft of the agenda the Steering Committee is putting together. So far, the WHTI and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) are on the June agenda. Also, Professor Globerman from Western Washington University will be presenting findings from his research on impacts of post 9-11 security measures on cross-border freight transportation.

Regarding the SPP, Isabelle mentioned the possibility of updated materials on the web at [www.pm.gc.ca](http://www.pm.gc.ca) (link to media center).

Jill Hochman mentioned the establishment of an SPP council (*insufficient notes on this*).

### Continued work on binational, issue-specific policy assessments

Referring to two, previously distributed documents, Hugh Conroy reviewed the draft policy assessments for a cross-border communications protocol agreement and for another agreement initiative for binational maintenance of cross-border ITS hardware. Both draft assessments limit

the scope to U.S., Canadian, British Columbia, and Washington laws and regulations. Other state and provincial laws and regulations can be added later.

Hugh noted that, while not all anticipated sections of the analysis had been drafted, there were already some interesting findings with potential implications for the issues under current review. But the questions put before the group at this juncture were: Is this going in the direction that the subcommittee expected? Does this kind of compilation look like it's going to be useful to the TBWG?

Isabelle Trepanier commented that she found it interesting that there were already laws on the books. Isabelle also thought this would be good to define best practices and procedures. Jill Hochman concurred with this assessment.

Isabelle suggested spending some time on this at the June plenary meeting.

Mimi Sukhdeo, referring specifically to the assessment of the communications protocol, noted the potential value as a shared best-practice that involved transportation and inspection agencies.

David Davidson suggested that the document should note somewhere that laws of local jurisdictions and local authorities can also be critical when evaluating cross-border initiatives.

### New and proposed policies

*(Some of the following discussion took place earlier in the conference call but is more pertinent to this agenda item)*

Hugh Conroy referred back to the "Purpose 3" section of the Issues List which reads, "Assess the fit of new and proposed policies with TBWG Action Plan objectives." This section used to list the WHTI. The WHTI issue was moved under Purpose 1 in Toronto – thus putting it more directly on the agenda of the full TBWG. Hugh then asked the group if there were any new or proposed policies out there that should be added under this section for future attention by the Policy Subcommittee.

Jill Hochman noted the recent announcement of the [\[Framework for a\] U.S. National Freight Policy](#). Hugh said he would look into it and add the issue to the Purpose 3 list.

Hugh asked Isabelle Trepanier if there was any news on earlier-discussed efforts in Canada to form a federal, intermodal policy. Isabelle answered that some provincial intermodal policies have been released. Work by Canada on the Multi-modal Blueprint continues. There is a meeting with provinces on this at the end of the month.

Jill Hochman mentioned new provisions in the U.S. transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU) that might have implications for U.S. states' assumption of certain environmental protection functions.

### Policy-related research being pursued by other institutions

Hugh Conroy noted material sent out to the subcommittee earlier regarding ongoing, border related research projects at Western Washington University (as well as the Canadian Policy Research Initiative). Noting that it was time to wrap up the meeting, Hugh suggested that we could continue this discussion later and hopefully consider creating a list of current research for the Policy Subcommittee section of the TBWG website. Isabelle Trepanier noted that this would be a good feature for the website.

## Suggestions of needed research topics.

This agenda item was skipped over in order to adjourn closer to the planned end time.

## June TBWG meeting

Hugh Conroy asked the subcommittee for input on how it should use its time at the upcoming plenary meeting in June – for both our 15-minute report to the full TBWG and our breakout working session.

As discussed earlier in the call, there was support for reviewing the policy-mapping examples, with specific attention to the cross-border communications protocol for border related incident management.

Isabelle Trepanier also suggested the issue of cross-border contracting, especially as it might relate to current work under the Compendium actions with regard to research on coordination of U.S. and Canadian planning and project-delivery processes. Isabelle also suggested breakout-group time be spent on the issue of snow plowing at border crossings which is already on the Issues List and keeps coming up.

It was also discussed that, at the working session, it might be good to solicit and hear from other state-province pairs on the existence or lack of arrangements, cross-referenced legislation, etc. [to the degree these factors relate to TBWG Action Plan objectives].

## Next steps

**Next teleconference:** Hugh proposed a conference call for the second week of May (*I think that was it*). Hugh will send out a follow-up scheduling e-mail.

**Follow-up items:** 1) This meeting summary, 2) Additions to Issues list as discussed, 2) Start compiling a list (list of lists) of ongoing research for the TBWG website, 3) Send out links to certain things discussed today (BC-WA communications protocol agreement, BC-WA MOU, WHITI survey by Zogby, others?), 4) Draft outlines of policy subcommittee meeting time at the June plenary meeting.

## Adjourn

The meeting ended at 2:10 PM EST.