

**TBWG policy subgroup
Teleconference summary
February 21, 2007, 2:00 PM -3:00 PM EST**

Attendees

Dan Breeden, **Alaska State Department of Transportation**; Kathy Carrol, **Canada Border Services Agency**; Walter Steeves, **Eastern Border Transportation Coalition**; Dave Henry, **Ministry of Transport Quebec**; Mike Makowsky, **Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation**; Isabelle Trepanier, Allan Wilson, **Transport Canada**; Michael Avery, Jill Hochman, Alicia Nolan, Roger Petzold, Valencia Williams, **U.S. Federal Highway Administration**; Tracey Lewellyn, Milt Schmidt, **U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**; David Davidson, **Western Washington University, Border Policy Research Institute**; Hugh Conroy, **Whatcom Council of Governments**.

Agenda

- Roll call
- Review of a one-page summary of US FMCSA's Canadian Issues study on trucking-regulations for cross-border operators, compliance-information dissemination, and efforts to assess and improve cross-border regulatory reciprocity, standards, and harmonization. Milt Schmidt of FMCSA will participate on the call.
- Status of assembling a guide to mechanisms for facilitating cross-border cooperation and project partnerships.
- Border economic-impact study draft scope forwarded from FHWA/Roger Petzold.
- Early consideration of potential implications for TBWG of Canada's recent announcements regarding funding of e-manifest, development of cross-border protocols, and enhancements to FAST (PIP).
- Others.
- Next steps

FMCSA Canadian Issues project update

Milt Schmidt provided the group with an overview and update for this project. A one-page summary (attached) was also distributed prior to the conference call.

Objectives of the project that Milt highlighted include: cataloging of issues and cooperative efforts regarding commercial vehicle safety and enforcement; evaluation of U.S. and Canadian regulations (inconsistencies, efforts towards harmonization on safety-rating reciprocity and data exchange); identification of significant issues ("show stoppers"); development of a internet-based tools on FMCSA's website.

The study has been underway with a consultant for about a year. All provinces have been visited and given feedback. Isabelle Trepanier asked if TC had been contacted. Milt answered that, yes, both TC and CCMTA have been involved by the consultant. David Davidson asked Milt if was aware of work recently completed at the University of British Columbia's Bureau of Intelligent Transportation Systems and Freight Security (BITSAFS). Milt asked David to send him a link to the research.

Hugh Conroy noted two primary aspects of the TBWG's interest in this study. First, TBWG as a whole is interested in how it might be able support implementation of outcomes. Second, from this Policy Subcommittee's perspective, there is interest in learning from the methodologies employed and the work completed on compiling and comparing rules and regulations across national, state, and provincial jurisdictions.

Mechanisms for facilitating cross-border cooperation

Hugh noted a document attached to earlier e-mail which is a first draft of a list of the basic categories of instruments used between jurisdictions across the border to foster partnership on various initiatives.

Isabelle noted some other specific arrangements to be aware of: 24 international structures across the boundary;

Hugh noted that he is continuing to work with subcommittee members Ted Mackay and Pedro Erviti on refining this document and will continue to circulate updates as work progresses.

Border economic-impact study draft scope

Roger Petzold gave an overview and update regarding this item. This draft document was circulated in earlier e-mail. FHWA has had the sense that there is a lack of understanding of the economic impact of border-related travel-time delay. Results from such a study could be an important input for U.S. federal transportation program funding reauthorization proposals.

Isabelle mentioned earlier work by Transport Canada on the costs of border-related regulations on the trucking industry. Isabelle added that, with the TC study as one experience, the \$100,000 cost estimate for this study seemed low. Roger responded that the final scope and corresponding budget for any subsequent effort would be determined later as a function of the pooled-fund process.

Roger stressed that input from the policy subcommittee was important and needed in the next couple of weeks. Isabelle noted an interest in coordinating the effort with potential, similar analyses by Transport Canada.

David Davidson noted that WWU's Border Policy Research Institute is currently supporting three studies that consider an aspect of border delay.

Hugh mentioned at the TBWG meeting in Niagara that FHWA was preparing white-papers on reauthorization and asked Roger what opportunities might still exist for submitting feedback on future program development and funding. Roger explained that many different groups will be submitting information over the next six to twelve months. There will also be formal solicitations for input.

Canada's announced funding for e-manifest, cross-border protocols, and enhancements to FAST (PIP).

Hugh noted the [January announcement](#) by Canadian minister, Stockwell Day, of \$430 million for border-related programs including: e-manifest, communications protocols, and enhancements to FAST. Kathy Carrol noted that there was an SPP ministers meeting this week where these objectives would likely be discussed. Hugh noted potential new opportunities for information sharing and process interoperability which the BIFA would likely complement.

Other items

Chicago agenda

Isabelle explained that the TBWB Steering Committee is looking at a format for May's meeting in Chicago where subgroups will meet, if they desire, at times of their own choosing rather than at times listed on the overall, plenary agenda.

FHWA is moving

Jill Hochman noted that FHWA offices will be moving to a new building during the first week of May. This will likely interrupt communication until after May 5.

Other FMCSA items

Hugh noted a few other FMCSA border-related items that have appeared in the U.S. Federal Register lately: FMCSA's involvement with US CBP in the ACE e-manifest deployments and FMCSA's proposed rule-making announcement regarding standards for electronic on-board reporting. Tony Shallow at Transport Canada had also, earlier noted his interest in the EOBR issue.

Milt Schmidt noted that the work with CBP also includes FMCSA's role as a federal partner under ACE as well as the International Trade Data Systems (ITDS) components of ACE. On both the ACE and EOBR issues, Milt and Jill Hochman agreed to explore some coverage of those issues at the Chicago meeting in May.

Follow up

- David Davidson will send information to Milt Schmidt regarding UBC BITSAFS freight logistics studies.
- Hugh will call Allan Wilson who now works in Isabelle's office about coordinating on the work on a classification of U.S.-Canada mechanisms for cross-border project and program partnership.
- Everyone who wants to give feedback on the draft statement of work for a study of economic impacts of border wait times should do so in the next two weeks.
- Hugh will poll the subgroup regarding a meeting in Chicago shortly after the plenary agenda is distributed.
- Jill Hochman and Milt Schmidt will look into including the FMCSA issues on the Chicago agenda (ACE e-manifest/ITDS and proposed standards for electronic on-board reporting).

Next conference call

We will have our next conference call during the first week of April. A day and time will be determined via e-mail.