

U.S. - Mexico Border Planning

Promoting Trade and Mobility Along Our Southern Border



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

What is U.S. - Mexico border planning?

Border planning facilitates the development and maintenance of the surface transportation system along our Nation's border with Mexico. Border transportation planners develop policies and investments that prepare for future flows of people and goods across the Southern Border.

An efficient border transportation system is important for economic competitiveness, mobility, accessibility, sustainability, and quality of life. The Southern Border is the most frequently crossed international border in the world, and binational planning ensures that transportation investments reflect the current and future needs of the U.S.



San Ysidro Border Crossing. Image credit: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

FHWA on the Southern Border

Along the Southern Border, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Border Planning Team supports:

Projects



FHWA provided coordination and technical assistance to support the construction of the **West Rail Bypass International Bridge**, the first new international rail crossing between the U.S. and Mexico since 1910.

Policy, Plans, and Programs



FHWA championed the creation of six binational **Regional Border Master Plans** along the Southern Border. Each Master Plan includes an analysis of future border conditions and a prioritized list of border infrastructure needs.

Research



Recent FHWA-sponsored research includes an analysis of **Bluetooth technology for measuring border wait times**. FHWA also provides support for the **Border Crossing Information System**.

Coordination



FHWA participates actively on the **Good Neighbor Environmental Board**, which provides a forum for intergovernmental coordination on environmental infrastructure along the Southern Border.

To learn more, visit:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning

FHWA Project Spotlight:

U.S. - Mexico Joint Working Committee

In 1994, FHWA and its counterparts in Mexico created the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning (JWC) to facilitate the efficient, safe, and economical movement of people and goods across the U.S.-Mexico border. JWC brings together transportation and border agencies from both countries to coordinate transportation planning, policy implementation, information sharing, and technology deployment. Biannual JWC plenaries provide a forum for interagency collaboration and sharing of best practices.

FHWA Project Spotlight:

Border Infrastructure Finance Workshop

In 2016, FHWA held a workshop on border infrastructure finance to educate stakeholders about potential funding sources for binational transportation projects. The workshop featured presentations on traditional and innovative funding sources, including public-private partnerships and crowdfunding. Presenters discussed strategies for mitigating risk when using innovative financing for border projects.

For more information, contact:

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U.S. - Mexico Border Planning Facts and Figures



Image credit: Volpe (Robert Slack), 123rf.com (mg7 and ribsonff)

Did you know?

- + The U.S.-Mexico border is approximately 1,954 miles long and is the most frequently crossed international boundary in the world.
- + There are 47 active land border crossings and 7 rail crossings along the Southern Border, in 4 U.S. states and 6 Mexican states.
- + Nearly 100 million people live in the 10 U.S. and Mexican states along the Southern Border. This region represents the world's fourth largest economy.¹
- + Approximately 75 million vehicles crossed into the U.S. from Mexico in 2014, including:²



69.6 million personal vehicles,
carrying 129 million people



5.4 million trucks,
carrying 40 million tons of freight



214,000 buses,
carrying 2.8 million people

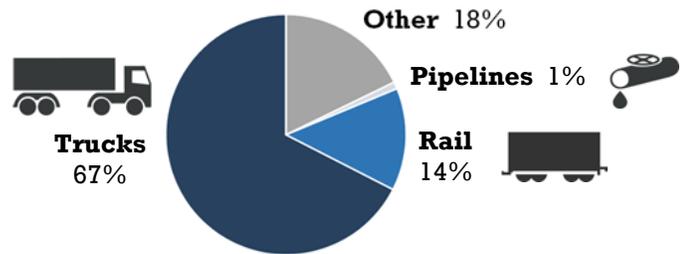
- + In 2014, approximately 41.2 million pedestrians crossed into the U.S. from Mexico.²

Importance of U.S. - Mexico border transportation to the U.S. economy

- + Mexico is U.S.'s second-largest export market and third-largest import market.³ In 2014, trade with Mexico totaled \$534 billion.²



- + By value, 82% of trade with Mexico in 2014 moved across the border by surface transportation modes—trucks, rail, or pipelines.²



- + Trade with Mexico is not limited to the Southern Border states: In 2014, 31 states exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Mexico, and 29 states imported more than \$1 billion in goods from Mexico.²



Exported more than \$1 billion to Mexico

All except AK, AR, DE, HI, ID, MD, ME, MT, ND, NH, NV, OK, OR, RI, SD, UT, VT, WV, and WY



Imported more than \$1 billion from Mexico

All except AK, AR, DE, HI, ID, KS, ME, MT, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OR, RI, SD, VI, VT, WA, WV, and WY

Sources:

- 1) U.S. Department of State. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35749.htm>
- 1) Bureau of Transportation Statistics. <http://transborder.bts.gov>.
- 2) U.S. Census. census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/toppartners.html



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