

# CANADA—U.S. TRANSPORTATION BORDER WORKING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 — Fall 2010

## From the Desk of Co-Chair Jim Cheatham:



As the new Co-Chair of the Transportation Border Working Group, I want to express my appreciation to all of our Northern Border partners who have welcomed me to this new position. The TBWG is an excellent example of bi-national cooperation and it is my sincere wish to continue to foster the cooperative relationship that my predecessor, Jill Hochman, established.

As the next TBWG meeting inches forward, my staff and I are very excited about the opportunity to travel to Québec City and experience the French heritage and culture. I am sure I speak for most of the U.S. participants when I say the opportunity to travel to such an historic site and actually stay at the historic Château

Frontenac Grand Hotel is an experience that will make the next TBWG meeting a very memorable experience.

As the agenda for the Québec City Meeting is being developed, I wanted to share with you two of the key areas of interest that our current administration is focused on: Increasing exports and the Initiative to Combat Threats and Expedite Travel and Trade.

With respect to increasing exports, President Obama issued Executive Order 13534, or the National Export Initiative (NEI), on March 11, 2010. The NEI is the Administration's goal to double U.S. Exports over the next 5 years by working to eliminate trade barriers abroad. My staff will be working over the coming months and years to support this initiative by keeping exports a central focus in discussions on border issues and working to identify possible barriers that can be eliminated.

The Initiative to Combat Threats and Expedite Travel and Trade has been an ongoing effort between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Canada's Ministry of Public Safety. On July 13, 2010, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano met with Canada's Public Safety Minister Vic Toews to announce a first ever plan to establish a comprehensive cross-border approach to critical infrastructure resilience that was focused on the need for a strong partnership to share information and assess and manage risks to enhance both the ability of both nations to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Both of these areas require an excellent cooperative process and I am confident that the TBWG membership will play a crucial role in achieving these initiatives, based upon its history of cooperation and ability to address solutions to resolve North American transportation issues at the border.

In closing, I look forward to working with all of the TBWG participants in the future to work together to make the TBWG even more effective and to strengthen the bonds of mutual cooperation that have been pillars to its success. I encourage all of the TBWG participants to attend the Québec City TBWG Meeting and enjoy the very professional and educational agenda that Transport Canada and my staff have worked to develop.

## From the Desk of Co-Chair Ted Mackay:



It's been ten years since the U.S. Department of Transportation and Transport Canada first signed a memorandum of cooperation for the Canada-U.S. border. Since then, the TBWG has grown into a mature border organization. Our members include federal departments and agencies, provinces and states, academics and other interested public and semi-public entities. The transportation issues faced at the border have evolved, but the need for dialogue, information-sharing and coordination between our two countries has remained a constant.

We should reflect on many of the achievements accomplished by our organization on the larger border file. We have established ourselves as an excellent forum for government agencies, and others, working on transportation and border issues to network and share information. If there are two events that should not be missed, they are our two annual TBWG meetings. We continue to focus on the key inter-related issues of data, border policy, technology, and infrastructure.

On the other hand, as the economy recovers, we need to remind ourselves of the ongoing challenges at the border. Our stakeholders – our customers – at the border, have done a good job of reminding us that the state of the economy is one reason that wait times might have fallen in the past two years. They have been vigilant in their message that wait times, as well as other issues, could worsen as the economy recovers.

This fall and into 2011, we'll need to continue to keep ourselves informed of the ongoing challenges at the border. It's essential to keep the dialogue open with stakeholders and to make progress on the issues that we face at the border.

We are looking forward to our Fall Plenary in Québec City, October 27-28, and hope you will be able to attend.

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## New Canadian Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Communities



The Honourable Chuck Strahl was recently appointed at the Canadian Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities on August 6, 2010.

Mr. Strahl was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993. He was re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2006, and 2008.

In February 2006, Mr. Strahl was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board. In August 2007, he was named Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

Prior to entering politics, Mr. Strahl was a partner in a successful road construction and logging contracting firm, and held the responsibility of managing several operations throughout the Fraser Valley. Mr. Strahl has lived his entire life in the Fraser Valley. He and his wife Deb have four children and ten grandchildren.

## New Transportation Border Working Group Co-Chair



Please join us in welcoming Mr. Jim Cheatham as the new U.S. Co-Chair of the Transportation Border Working Group. A professional engineer by education and training, Jim began his career with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 1971.

Mr. Cheatham has served in many key leadership positions with the FHWA that includes his current position as the Director of the Office

of Planning and past positions as the Division Administrator of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Division Offices. He has also served as the Programs Development and Management Engineer/Assistant Division Administrator, Statewide Programs Engineer, and District Engineer in St. Paul, Minnesota, Statewide Planning Program Manager in FHWA Region 5 now the National Resource Center in Matteson, Illinois, Area Engineer and Assistant Planning and Research Engineer in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Assistant Area and Acting Area Engineer in Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Cheatham is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas and recently retired as a Major General in the U.S. Army Reserves from his last assignment as the Assistant Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Affairs at the U.S. Army Material Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and is a graduate of the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Please join us in welcoming him to the ranks of TBWG. His outstanding leadership background in FHWA and the U.S. Army Reserves will provide the TBWG participants with a valuable resource to turn to in the coming months to solve complex binational border issues.

## New Eastern Border Transportation Coalition Executive Director

The Eastern Border Transportation Coalition (EBTC) recently announced that Mr. Z. Kris Wisniewski has officially assumed the responsibilities of Executive Director, EBTC.

The member provinces and states of EBTC work closely with US and Canadian transportation and border agencies to assure the secure and safe efficient flow of people and goods across our borders, and the EBTC Board of Directors feels that Kris will help the organization continue in that endeavor.

Kris has extensive and relevant experience in the field of Canada/U.S. transportation. He was with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the past 19 years where he worked on transportation reauthorization legislation, border policy development, and federal transportation financing. Kris served as MDOT's project manager for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study, helping guide the development of a new 55-acre border plaza in Port Huron. He has managed and participated in the number of U.S./Canada border studies. Kris is also familiar with EBTC's activities as he previously represented Michigan DOT on the Board of Directors and served two terms as the U.S. Co-Chair. Kris is familiar with the work of the TBWG, representing MDOT during its formation and early years of operation.

## The Government of Canada to Build New Bridge at Cornwall

The Government of Canada will fund construction of the new North Channel Bridge at the Seaway International Bridge in Cornwall. The recent announcement was made by the Honourable John Baird, Leader of the Government in the Canadian House of Commons, and Guy Lauzon, Member of Parliament for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, and Keith Robson, chair of the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited.

This project involves constructing a new bridge connecting the City of Cornwall and Cornwall Island, as well as demolishing the current high-level structure and ramps that connect to the existing roadway. While the current bridge remains safe for the travelling public, the new bridge will ensure the long-term viability of this important border crossing. "The Seaway International Crossing at Cornwall is an important link between Canada and the United States," said Baird.

This initiative will cost approximately \$75 million and will be financed entirely by the Government of Canada. Nearly all preliminary work has been completed and portions of the construction are now ready to be publicly tendered. The bridge is expected to be open to the public by spring 2016.



The artwork pictured above is an artist's drawing of the proposed bridge that will be built by the Canadian Government.

# Scenes from the Boston TBWG Meeting



Dr. Brian Ballantyne, of the International Boundary Commission, attended the Boston Meeting and gave a presentation on the U.S.—Canada Border and the International Boundary Commission.



The Boston Marriott Long Wharf Hotel proved to be an excellent venue for the TBWG Meeting. The Boston Commons, the Historic District, and the wonderful restaurants were enjoyed by all of the TBWG Participants attending the meeting.



The Featured Luncheon Speaker of the Meeting was Thomas J. Kinton, Sr., CEO and Executive Director of the Boston Port Authority



TBWG Participants listening to one of the many presentations given during the two day meeting.



Hiroko Kawai, A Principal with the Rocky Mountain Institute gave a presentation on Double Efficiency: Transformational Trucking.



TBWG Co-Chairs Ted Mackay and Roger Petzold present former FHWA Michigan Division Jim Steele with a TBWG Letter of Appreciation. Steele announced his retirement just prior to the Boston Meeting.



Dr. Kathryn Bryk-Friedman, from the University of Buffalo Regional Institute gave a presentation on the Border Barometer. David Davidson (not pictured) also presented with Dr. Freidman.



TBWG Co-Chair Ted Mackay (pictured left) and Neal Burnham, with the Consulate General of Canada in Boston, pose for a photograph during one of the breaks.



Daniel Lagacé, with the Canadian Border Services Agency, was on hand to present during the Ottawa—Washington Update Session

## Cascade Gateway BIFA: This is a Test

By Hugh Conroy, Whatcom Council of Governments

### Transport Canada Pilot Program

The Border Information Flow Architecture (BIFA) is a regional intelligent transportation systems (ITS) framework developed by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Transport Canada (TC), and states and provinces participating in the U.S.-Canada Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG). Prompted by support from TC's BIFA Pilot Program, the BIFA will be used in the Cascade Gateway border region between British Columbia and Washington. The project is being managed by the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) in Bellingham, Washington. Funding partners (detailed at right) for the entire effort include FHWA, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and WCOG.

### The British Columbia – Washington Border & IMTC

WCOG, a U.S. metropolitan planning organization (MPO) advanced the Cascade Gateway proposal on behalf of the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Project (IMTC), a binational planning coalition. WCOG leads the IMTC.

Agencies participating in IMTC have together funded and completed multiple cross-border information systems improvements including wait-time measurement and traveler information systems, weigh-in-motion (WIM) software integration, incident response protocols, and a data warehouse ([www.cascadegatewaydata.com](http://www.cascadegatewaydata.com)). Institutions that identify shared goals create opportunities to improve operations by avoiding redundancies and cooperating to address shared gaps. An information architecture—a completed BIFA—will provide the level of detail and organization needed to pursue the above strategy.

**Transport Canada: \$250,000**  
**US FHWA: \$100,000**  
**WSDOT: \$150,000**  
**WCOG \$15,000**

### Project specifics

As part of the pilot, IMTC agencies will evaluate several data sources and expand access. Specific efforts will include:

- Development of a BIFA-based project architecture that can be used by other, border-technology project planners
- Coordination with regional ITS architectures of WCOG, British Columbia, and TransLink
- Upgrades to the regional border data warehouse
- Activation of unused CVISN readers on the I-5 corridor approaching the border
- Expanded acquisition of GPS truck fleet data up to and beyond the land-border
- Connection of border-route weigh-in-motion (WIM) detectors for integration of vehicle classification, weight, and arrival rate data with information on delay and commodity flow
- Evaluation of tests completed this summer by the binational Border Wait-time Working Group



Passenger vehicle arrivals and queuing at the U.S. and Canadian (top) Pacific Highway ports of entry between BC and WA. Photos, Hugh Conroy

- Development of application programming interfaces (APIs) for third-parties developers

## Secretary Ray LaHood Speaks at the North American Supercorridor Coalition Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa



U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood was the keynote speaker at the North American Superhighway Coalition (NASCO) Conference on June 24, 2010 and addressed the need to increase exports. Citing the trade relationship with Canada, the United States' largest trading partner, Secretary LaHood told the group that was meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, "We're just getting

started. And as we move forward, we're leveraging our transportation investments to help meet President [Barack] Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports within five years. Bolstering trade with Canada and Mexico will be an essential part of this effort," LaHood said. "So, we're making it safer, easier, and more efficient to move freight from one border to another. We get it: international goods movement is part of a larger system. In the 21st century, companies need end-to-end logistics solutions. They need infrastructure that is intermodal and multi-modal."

Secretary LaHood referenced both the Transportation Border Working Group and Joint Working Committee in his speech noting that, "Our departments are working together on measures ranging from vehicle and railroad safety standards to information-sharing about freight flows along major trade corridors like NASCO. And our planners and policy-makers — the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Border Planning in the south and the Transportation Border Working Group in the north — are ensuring that our borders are as efficient as they are secure."

NASCO, according to the organization's website, is a coalition devoted to uniting public and private sectors to address critical national and international trade, transportation, security, and environmental issues. The coalition spans approximately 2,500 miles through the heartland of the United States, connecting to both Canada and Mexico.

The NASCO coalition has been founded in 1994 and its membership has been a leader in uniting public and private sectors to address national and international infrastructure issues associated with trade, security, and environmental issues.

### New FHWA Division Border Coordinator Named



The Federal Highway Administration is pleased to announce that Mr. Christopher "Chris" Dingman was named at the new Division Border Coordinator. Chris takes over for Alicia Nolan who was named the FHWA New York Division Planning, Environment, and Realty Director.

Chris is a native of Flint, Michigan, and has a very diverse background working for both Metropolitan Planning Organizations and as the Statewide Planning Specialist for the Michigan Division of FHWA.

Chris has attended many of the TBWG meetings in the past so he already has a very good conceptual understanding of TBWG's mission. He has participated in TBWG Steering Committee calls and recently completed a rotational assignment with the FHWA Borders and Corridors Team. Chris brings enthusiasm and energy to the position and will be an excellent partner to work with on border issues.