



The International Mobility & Trade Corridor Program

Core Group Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 15, 2015

9:00am – 12:00pm

@ the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Bellingham, Washington

1. Introductions
2. Current event updates
3. Project updates:
 - a. IMTC Passenger Vehicle Survey – Final report and database available
 - b. Dynamic Border Management Project – Next steps
 - c. Booth status data feed – Efforts to archive data
4. New IMTC freight study for 2015 – discussion
5. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and finalization of the 2015 IMTC Future Project Priority List
6. Update from U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen
7. TOPIC FOCUS: Cross-border buses
 - a. Cross-border bus trends
 - b. Bus survey results from 2014 and 2008
 - c. Operational changes discussed by CBP, CBSA
 - d. Industry perspective

**INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY TRADE CORRIDOR PROGRAM (IMTC)
2015 FUTURE PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

Priority	Project	Est. cost	Type
1	Exit 274 interchange preliminary design	\$300,000	Planning
Complete the preliminary design and environmental documentation for revisions to the partial interchange consisting of a full tight diamond configuration. The preliminary design process will include geometric alignment, foot print, hydraulic report, environment reconnaissance, and NEPA.			
2	Exit 274 interchange final design	\$3,000,000	Planning
This project will design revisions to the I-5 interchange in Blaine, and will include: preparation of environmental documentation and address connections for eastbound traffic headed towards alternate border crossings via SR 539 and SR 546; improve access to Birch Bay; and evaluate a grade separated rail crossing at Bell Road (SR 548).			
3	Peace Arch/Douglas bicycle and pedestrian route improvements	\$70,000	Construction
Depending on discussions among stakeholder agencies and municipalities, this project would complete design and improvement of pedestrian and bicycle pathways and way-finding strategies to complement recently enhanced U.S. and Canadian border clearance facilities for bikers and walkers.			
4	Pacific Highway southbound lane-to-booth traffic flow improvement	TBD	Construction
Border approach traffic lanes at this location unevenly distribute traffic volume to inspection booths. This generates additional congestion and creates a discrepancy between published border wait times and individual driver experiences. This project will develop traffic management strategies and improvement alternatives to optimally direct current traffic volumes to the corresponding open-booth capacity.			
5	SR 539 congestion relief: Lynden to H Street	\$30,000,000	Construction
This project will widen State Route 539 (Guide Meridian) to four lanes from the City of Lynden to H Street.			
6	Pacific Highway northbound active lane management	TBD	Planning
This project will evaluate the feasibility of using dynamic over-lane LED signage to enable CBSA to synchronize booth designations at Pacific Highway's port-of-entry with varying designations of approach lanes for the booths (autos, NEXUS, bus, etc.)			
7	Regional mapping of near border freight logistics	\$50,000	Planning
This will be an investigation of near border freight logistics trends such as locations of carrier bases, location of production or distribution facilities, truck parking and/or trailer staging, shipment consolidation, etc. What aspects have changed? What are the implications or observable opportunities for infrastructure, operations, and policy? How stable are these conditions?			
8	Regional economic model	\$650,000	Planning
This project will acquire and populate a regional economic model to estimate the effects of alternative investments and policy decisions—on both sides of the Cascade Gateway border. Estimated cost assumes five years of licensing, staff operation, and data that would include coverage of both U.S. and Canadian economic analysis zones.			
9	Point Roberts/Boundary Bay border wait time/ATIS installation	TBD	Construction
Passenger vehicle traffic has increased dramatically at this POE and with that volume have come longer wait times. In the context of the Beyond the Border Action Plan, this POE is in the top-20 passenger vehicle volume locations on the U.S.-Canada and is thus also a national priority for a wait-time-system installation. This project will involve installing a wait-time measurement system in both directions (for regular and NEXUS traffic) and connect the distribution of resulting wait-time information to existing real-time media (BC MoT and WSDOT internet based services) and archive wait-time system data in the regional border-data warehouse.			
10	External traffic counts (Whatcom County borders)	\$80,000	Study
Commonly performed with license-plate readers, this project will provide data to improve regional travel demand modeling: separate counts of trips to, from, and through the county road network specific to points of entry and exit.			
new	BlueTooth wait time validation	\$80,000	Construction
In addition to providing an additional wait-time measure to use to validate existing system estimates, a BlueTooth-based measure will accord better with agency-tracking of experienced wait times vs. the existing system's configuration to estimate wait times for the next arriving vehicle.			

Projects advanced since April, 2014 Core Group meeting

RFID cost-benefit study			Study
An evaluation of the benefits of increased use of RFID documents at border crossing -- especially relative to the cost of achieving equal additions of system capacity with additional road and facility infrastructure.			
ATIS assessment and calibration			Planning
Recent construction (booth additions and approach lane reconfigurations) along with changing operational strategies such as active booth management (opening of additional NEXUS booths during peak periods) have resulted periodic discrepancy between posted wait-times and observable circumstances. This project will assess and document sources of current error, identify new variables that need to be accounted for in algorithm modifications, and establish a repeatable methodology for system validation and regular calibration.			
Hwy 11 interim NEXUS lane improvements			Construction
Although BCMOT has funding for the major improvement to extend the NEXUS approach lane to Vye Rd, various proposals for interim improvements have been suggested.			
Pac. Hwy. northbound bus approach assessment and <i>preliminary</i> design			Planning
Bus traffic is growing and periodic queues of buses block critical passenger-vehicle approaches and access to businesses adjacent to the port-of-entry. Options exist for rerouting bus traffic into the bus inspection area and this project will conduct initial review of traffic demand, routing options, impacts on other systems, and if basic feasibility is established, a business case and some alternatives for next-phase design will be identified.			
Pac. Hwy. northbound bus approach alternatives analysis and <i>final</i> design			Planning
Following validation under the Assessment and Preliminary Design phase, this project will review identified alternatives with affected parties, select a preferred alternative, and complete a design and environmental work so that an identified improvement is ready for construction.			
Cascade Gateway border circulation analysis phase II			\$50,000 Planning
Phase II of the Cascade Gateway Border Circulation Analysis will identify specific improvements using the information and tools developed in Phase I; preliminary planning and cost estimation for specific improvements; evaluation with WCOG traffic and simulation models, and, if available, cross-border regional economic impact model (project below); and overall funding			
Cross-border commercial vehicle intercept data collection			\$187,500 Study
This project will result in refreshed commercial vehicle origin-destination & commodity-flow data for the three Cascade Gateway commercial ports-of-entry. The target time for this work is summer and late fall/early winter of 2015/2016.			