



International Mobility & Trade Corridor Program Steering Committee Meeting Summary

January 18, 2018

Meeting packet available at: theIMTC.com/meetings

Meeting location

The meeting was held at Douglas Port-of-Entry, Surrey, BC.

Meeting attendance

B.C. Trucking Association [BCTA] (Lindsay Samson); **British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure [BC MoTI]** (Abid Sivic, Linda Halwani); **Border Policy Research Institute [BPRI]** (Laurie Trautman); **Canada Border Services Agency [CBSA]** (Linell Redmond, Matt Jollymore, Shane Hainsworth, Leanne Richardson); **Pacific Corridor Enterprise Council** (Jim Kohnke); **U.S. Consulate Vancouver** (Mike Bradecamp) **U.S. Customs and Border Protection [US CBP]** (John Dahm, Kenneth Williams, Craig Hope, Orlando Caridad); **Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT]** (Todd Carlson, Timothy McCall); **Whatcom Council of Governments [WCOG]** (Hugh Conroy, Melissa Fanucci, Jaymes McClain)

Conference Call

City of Blaine (Dave Wilbrecht); **General Services Administration [GSA]** (Kristen Curiale); **U.S. Department of Transportation [USDOT]** (Michael Villnave); **WSDOT** (Cliff Hall)

Current event updates

Melissa Fanucci said that the Whatcom Council of Governments [WCOG] applied for funding through Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund [NTCF] for an upgrade to the Cascade Gateway Border Data Warehouse in part to incorporate new data, such the primary client booth status data they are receiving from U.S. Customs and Border Protection [US CBP]. They are awaiting word on the status of that application. She also reported that the 2017 IMTC performance measures report will be completed by next month.

Todd Carlson reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT] will be laying chip seal from Badger Rd up to the border.

Laurie Trautman said that the Border Policy Research Institute [BPRI] Fall 2017 Policy Brief has been released, which looks at trade and travel patterns between the U.S. and Canada since the recession. She noted

that Blaine is the only major port-of-entry [POE] on the U.S.-Canada border to have higher traffic volumes now than in the year 2000.

Matt Jollymore said that Canada Border Services Agency [CBSA] is anticipating the canopy improvements at the Douglas POE to be completed by March. They are closing 3 to 4 lanes at a time until then.

Shane Hainsworth reported that 8 to 9 percent of commercial vehicle traffic in the region is crossing through the CBSA Aldergrove POE.

Mike Bradecamp reported that the Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently visited the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver. There were no talks regarding the border. The Columbia River Treaty negotiations started this week.

Craig Hope of US CBP told the group that at the Pacific Highway border crossing, the duty free vendors are consolidating into one location.

Orlando Caridad of US CBP reported that at the Vancouver International Airport [YVR] they have been seeing a 7 to 10 percent increase in passenger travelers over the past year. At the seaport, they've seen passenger travel increase by about 10 percent. US CBP is gearing up for full preclearance for rail and for the seaport in Vancouver. Preclearance will be implemented in phases, with the airport being the highest priority followed by new rail service from Rocky Mountaineer. Preclearance at the seaport will be a later phase.

Tim McCall reported that there will be roadwork on SR539 at the bridge. Freight vehicles could move to using Pacific Highway POE rather than the Aldergrove POE while the roadwork occurs. In December there were problems with the border wait-time and border camera feeds, but Mr. McCall said that problem has been fixed.

Lindsey Samson reported that Dave Earl is the new CEO of the B.C. Trucking Association [BCTA]. The new electronic logging device (e-log) requirement, where commercial vehicle drivers are required to record their hours of operation electronically, went into effect in the U.S. on December 18th. Most carriers have had a transition period to adjust to the new requirements. Transport Canada is proposing similar regulation, which would have to be passed by all provinces in Canada.

Abid Sivic of the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure [BC MoTI] said that the border wait-time signage on Hwy 99 was not working for several months. The signage has been replaced and is working. The widening project on Hwy 13 is at about 90 percent design. Mr. Sivic also announced that Linda Halwani will now attend IMTC meetings in his stead.

Linda Halwani reported that the Hwy 13 project will be in construction soon. At Hwy 11 BC MoTI is working with the City of Abbotsford regarding the extension of the NEXUS lane from the border.

John Dahm reported that US CBP was very successful in bringing in new recruits for the Blaine region. Many of them are currently going through training.

Linell Redmond said that CBSA will be implementing technology to track speeds in commercial lanes at Pacific Highway to better determine the benefits of the new FAST-first configuration. CBSA will be upgrading their loading dock at Pacific Highway, and they will use their old warehouse for secondary inspections until March 8th. At Pacific Highway and Douglas POEs CBSA is upgrading the license plate readers. The approach to the Large Scale Imaging at Pacific Highway was recently improved. There will be

paving at Abbotsford-Huntingdon this spring. CBSA is looking for contractors for the Pacific Highway pedestrian walkway. At Pacific Highway CBSA is improving the building envelope, but traffic flows will not be affected.

Ms. Redmond explained that CBSA has been having trouble with travelers adhering to the WSDOT signs recommending traffic go to Pacific Highway because of the canopy construction at Douglas. The construction is limiting the amount of booths they can have open at Douglas.

-Tim McCall said that navigation apps may be averaging the travel times of both NEXUS and standard traffic at the border, making it appear to non-NEXUS travelers that the wait at Douglas is shorter than it actually is.

-John Dahm suggested that WSDOT signage include other languages like Punjabi and Mandarin to assist travelers who do not speak English as a primary language.

-Hugh Conroy noted that a passenger vehicle intercept survey could help inform this problem.

Hugh Conroy announced that the next Transportation Border Working Group meeting will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 25th and 26th.

Project list – 2018 additions

Melissa Fanucci presented the draft 2018 IMTC Project List. A funding status column has been added to the descriptions of projects. Ms. Fanucci presented each unfunded project in PowerPoint, describing their current status. She also showed currently funded projects and asked for updates to their status from respective agencies.

Hugh Conroy suggested a project that would assess the rerouting options for commercial vehicles if a POE in the Cascade Gateway were to close or experience limited inspection capacity for any reason. Policies from both US CBP and CBSA as well as BC MoTI and WSDOT would be gathered and used to communicate clear options to carriers about how they could route to another POE.

2018/2019 IMTC Cross-Border Passenger Travel Survey – development and funding needs

Hugh Conroy reviewed the preliminary funding requirements and project schedule for a 2018 IMTC Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey. He recounted a suggestion from a meeting about handing out comment cards that travelers could fill out on their own time to give feedback directly to inspection agencies.

Jaymes McClain explained that the final reporting for this survey could be more interactive than previous projects. Using Tableau data dashboards and ArcGIS Online webapps, the survey data could be easily accessed through a webpage where end-users can query the data themselves. In previous survey projects, the data has been stored in Microsoft Access and distributed on CDs or flash drives as an Access file. This required physically distributing the data in person and users being familiar with Access. Using a webpage with easy to understand querying tools would broaden the audience for the project.

Border Master Planning product updates

Web-based platform

Hugh Conroy discussed the possibility of using a web-based platform to post border master planning documents and strategies for IMTC member agencies to easily access. This permanent location would be on the IMTC website.

Cascade Gateway project schedule

Hugh Conroy presented a Cascade Gateway project schedule, developed to be used as a tool to track projects and compare their construction timelines. This could help agencies mitigate congestion-causing scenarios by considering other agencies' projects that are occurring in a certain area or at a certain time.

Regional demographics

Hugh Conroy presented population trends between 1990 to 2016 with comparison charts for the U.S. and Canada, Washington and British Columbia, and Whatcom County and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.