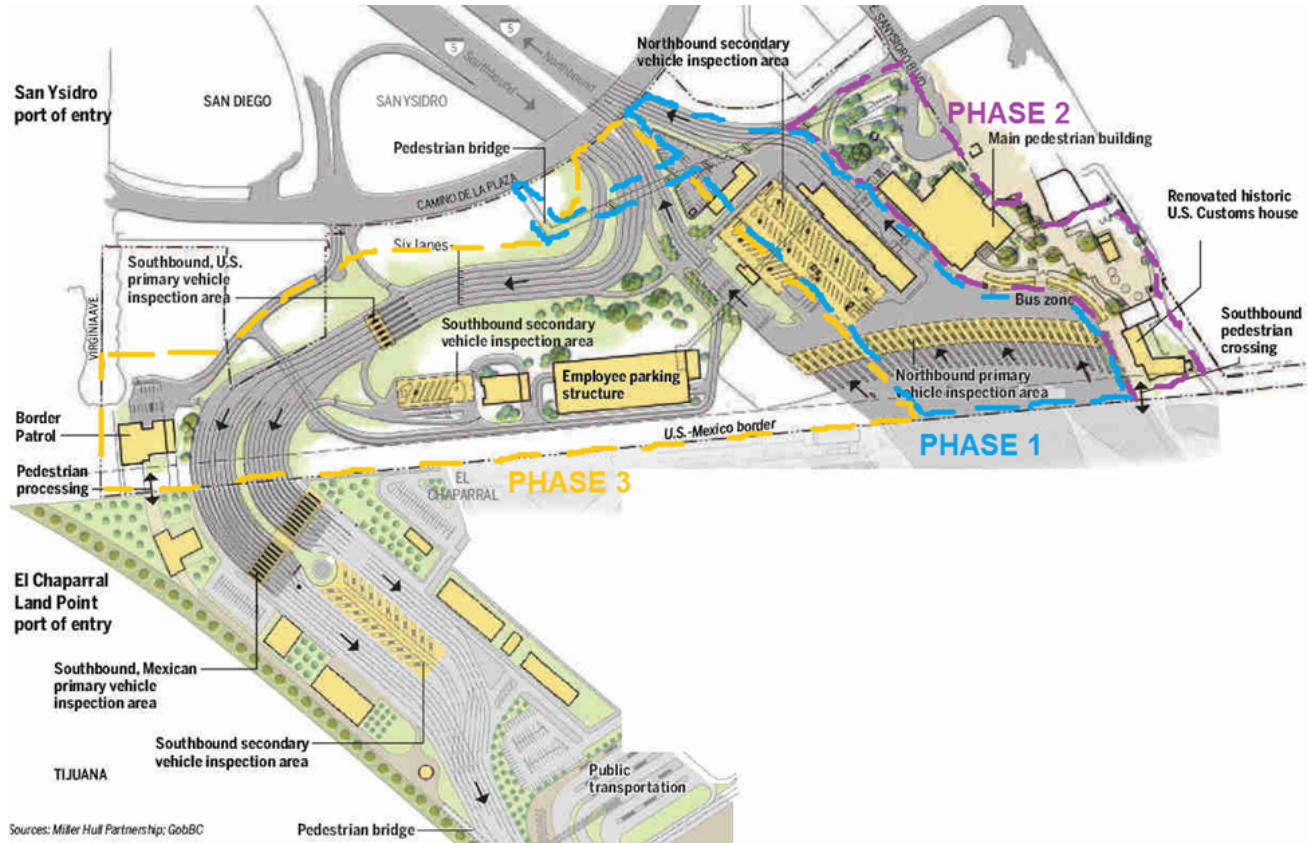




**SMART BORDER COALITION**  
**San Diego-Tijuana**

**YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT-2013**

**“ENVISION THE BORDER AS IT SHOULD BE”**



Sources: Miller Hull Partnership; GobBC

**“OPPORTUNITY COMES FROM A SEAMLESS INTERNATIONAL REGION  
 WHERE ALL CITIZENS WORK TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC AND  
 SOCIAL PROGRESS”**

**SMART BORDER COALITION**  
**Members of the Board 2013**

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 Malin Burnham  
 Rafael Carrillo  
 James Clark  
 Salomon Cohen  
 Joe Da Rosa  
 Aaron Feldman  
 Jose Fimbres

Jose Galicot  
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 Gaston Luken, Sr.  
 Gaston Luken, Jr.  
 John Lynch  
 Tom Pellette  
 JC Thomas

Victor Vilaplana  
 Steve Williams  
Honorary  
 Jorge Astiazaran  
 Greg Cox  
 Andrew Erickson  
 Todd Gloria  
 Remedios Gomez Arnau

## **PROGRESS REPORT 2013--INITIAL PHASE II**

Secure and efficient border crossings are the primary goal of the initial phase of the Coalition. The Coalition works with existing stakeholders in both the public and private sectors to coordinate regional border efficiency efforts not duplicate them.

### **NORTHBOUND KEY PROGRAMS**

#### **1. ISSUE: INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFF FUNDING**

San Ysidro and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry border infrastructure and staffing.

- a. Funding in 2014 federal budget for completion of the San Diego /San Ysidro POE Phases 2 and 3
- b. Funding in 2014 federal budget to complete renovation of the San Diego/Otay Mesa Port of Entry.
- c. Funding in 2014 federal budget to adequately fund Customs and Border Protections staffing of the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry.

President Obama included more than \$2 Billion in the 2014 budget for border infrastructure. We are demanding action in the FY 2014 budget. **As of December 11, the funding requested was still in the Congressional version of the budget yet to be approved.**

#### **ACTION:**

1. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION. Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein as well as Congressmembers Brian Bilbray, Susan Davis, Bob Filner, Duncan Hunter and Darrell Issa signed a letter to former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano asking for assured funding for CBP staffing.
2. PHASE 3 AND 2 INFRASTRUCUTRE FUNDING. Coalition Board Members Jose Larroque, Steve Williams and James Clark participated in the, September 29-October 2 San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce "One Region/One Voice" Mission to Washington.

The mission was the eighth annual lobbying effort. The goal was to gain commitments from key committees of the Senate and House of Representatives for the funding necessary to complete the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry renovation and to adequately staff it. Meetings were be held with:

- a. Senate: Environment and Public Works Committee, Sub-Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Appropriations Committee, and Sub-Committee on Financial Services and General Government.
- b. House: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Sub-Committee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Sub-Committee on Government Organization, Efficiency and Financial Management and House Appropriations Committee.
- c. Administration: Departments of State, Homeland Security (CBP), General Services Administration.
- d. Other: Embassies of Canada and Mexico.

3. JOINT EFFORTS. We are working with the United States Chamber of Commerce and the United States Department of Commerce to frame the support for needed infrastructure as vital to the economy of the United States. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker visited the border during the October North American Competitiveness and Innovation Conference and pledge support for both funding and increased efficiency.
4. PUBLIC/PRIVATE EFFORTS. The Smart Border Coalition Working Committee brings the key members of the San Diego-Tijuana public and private sectors to explore innovative solutions to assuring infrastructure funding. The Working Committee has enlisted the support of the North American Development Bank to assist in the research efforts needed to support funding by Congress. In addition, the SBC Working Committee is exploring ways for the private sector to fund needed infrastructure through a system on revenue enhancements, including tolling of selected lanes.
5. **NOTE: As of June 30, the US Senate has passed an Immigration Reform bill that contains border funding. However, it has not passed the House of Representatives.**

## 2. ISSUE: SEGMENTED TRAVELER PROGRAMS.

- Increased efficiency of segmented traffic lanes—cost, time, convenience, recourse.
- a. Adequate staffing to reduce wait times for SENTRI approvals and renewals to 30 days.
  - b. Approval of SENTRI with Passengers lane for the San Diego/San Ysidro and San Diego/Otay Mesa Ports of Entry.
  - c. Assure separate lane for SENTRI travelers in Secondary Inspection.
  - d. Improve marketing of program.
  - e. Improve ease-of-use of on-line registration website.
  - f. Request that "Green Card" holders who live up to 25 miles into Mexico be allowed apply for SENTRI.
  - g. Open pedestrian Ready Lane at San Diego/San Ysidro Port of Entry.

### **ACTION:**

SENTRI vehicle lanes now average less than 15 minutes at both San Diego/San Ysidro and San Diego/Otay Mesa POEs despite construction. SENTRI and READY pedestrian lanes are being segmented from the regular passenger lanes on the Mexico side. (The San Diego/San Ysidro pedestrian READY Lane was inaugurated in the second semester of 2013.

Ready Lanes are now in place at both San Ysidro and Otay Mesa cutting auto crossing time approximately in half. More than 70 percent of crossings now are by SENTRI or Ready Lane card holders.

SENTRI has preference in Secondary Inspections (ask for a green cone).

SENTRI WITH PASSENGERS now has support of the United States Department of Commerce as well as regional economic development groups. It would serve to help create jobs in the United States.

A formal proposal was made by the Smart Border Coalition to the Acting Secretary of Customs and Border

Protection at the September meetings

There has been no action on permitting Green Card workers to live in Mexico. This would require Congressional action and is very unlikely with the present Congress. .

### **3. ISSUE: REDUCTION OF GENERAL VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN BORDER CROSSING TIME TO 30 MINUTES OR LESS.**

#### **ACTION**

- a. SENTRI and READY Lanes for pedestrians has reduced crossing time to the stated goal or less. Staffing by Customs and Border Protection (see Issue 1) is inadequate. CBP has agreed to provide staffing for Cross-Border Terminal at Tijuana International Airport.
  - b. Pedestrian border crossings for those not holding SENTRI or READY Lane cards renewed Foreign National Visas with laser chips or Enhanced Drivers licenses from those states which issue them continues to be a serious problem. Often wait times can reach two hours. There is a southbound pedestrian crossing on the east side at San Diego/San Ysidro; however, the west side pedestrian crossing is scheduled to be closed until a new gate and crossing is completed in 2016. .
  - c. The Smart Border Coalition Working Committee hosts bi-monthly stakeholder meetings to discuss progress and enlist support. Next meetings are January, March, May, July, September and November as set by the Co-Chairs.
  - d. Ready lanes have improved crossings for general vehicles in those lanes to an average of one hour or less. This is still not good enough, but will not likely change during construction phases.
- 

The stated goal of GSA and CBP is that vehicle crossings will be 30 minutes or less when construction of Phase 3 is completed.

- e. Bus crossing continues to be a major problem with long lines. Buses also idle next to pedestrians causing a major health hazard.

### **4. ISSUE: REDUCTION OF CARGO CROSSING TIME TO 30 MINUTES OR LESS**

**ACTION** There is no funding for construction on recently acquired 9.63 acres.

- a. The Smart Border Coalition has initiated talks with Customs and Border Protection on approval of pre-clearance away from the border. Construction of an Agriculture Pre-Clearance facility is completed by Mexico for use by both US Customs and Border Protection and Mexico Aduanas together on Mexican soil. However, agreement between the two governments has not been sufficient for utilization of the facility.
- b. We need to continue to lobby Washington for adequate staffing required assuring maximum usage of the Otay Mesa Commercial Crossing.
- c. The Smart Border Coalition was in discussion with the North American Development Bank for a \$200,000 grant to conduct a study of the economic impact of the San Diego/San Ysidro and San Diego/Otay Mesa (general and cargo) on the United States targeting specific Congressional districts. However, SANDAG has requested that the study wait until at least the completion of Phase 1 at the San Diego/San Ysidro POE.

- d. A Cargo Efficiency Task Force has been formed to concentrate on cargo issues. The base for the Committee is SBC members Kyocera and Solar Turbines/Turbotec, Asociación Industrial Maquiladora (AIM), Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, DEITAC Tijuana EDC, and the Smart Border Coalition.

## **SOUTH BOUND KEY PROGRAMS**

### **1. ISSUE: COMPLETION OF EL CHAPARRAL PORT OF ENTRY**

#### **ACTION**

- a. The Smart Border Coalition supported the Mexican government which completed the El Chaparral border crossing which was opened by former-President Felipe Calderon on October 31, 2012.
- b. The Smart Border Coalition supported the temporary opening of Virginia Street crossings until construction of I-5 redirection is completed in Phase 3 of San Ysidro renovation. This was rejected by federal and municipal authorities. However, Phase I does allow for the construction of a west side pedestrian crossing to connect with El Chaparral. This should be completed by 2016
- c. The Smart Border Coalition does not support any Mexico plans to charge border crossing fees at El Chaparral unless limited to two or fewer lanes.
- d. The Smart Border Coalition and other stakeholders were unsuccessful in lobbying for joint United States-Mexico southbound inspections to avoid redundancy. There will be a southbound inspection facility on Mexico territory and another on United States territory (Note: CBP has assured that the United States facility will not be staffed 24/7 "at this time". Current "pulse and surge" checks by CBP at San Diego/San Ysidro have resulted in long back-ups during the afternoon southbound commute.  
*Note: The United States Congress has passed a bill requiring all persons leaving the United States be checked. This has not been implemented but could happen at any time.*
- e. The Smart Border Coalition has lobbied in Mexico City for INAMI (Mexico Immigration) to drop FMN visa requirement for foreign nationals attending one-day meetings at local businesses and maquiladora installations. The fee for the visas have been waived

### **2. ISSUE: SIGNAGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED IN TIJUANA SECTOR**

#### **ACTION**

- a. There is still no adequate signage leading from Playas de Tijuana as well from the Tijuana/Rosarito Libre road to direct drivers to Ready and SENTRI lanes.
- b. We have suggested the utilization of electronic signage in the Zona Rio area (CECUT and Cuauhtémoc/Paseo de los Heroes intersection for border crossing information for both San Diego/San Ysidro and San Diego/Otay Mesa.
- c. We have requested the City of Tijuana to re-pave and repair the streets leading to the SENTRI gates at San Diego/ Otay Mesa Port of Entry from Avenida Bellas Artes.

## **KEY ISSUES: ALL BORDER**

### **ACTION**

#### **Work in Progress**

- a. Quantify federal and state tax dollars lost due to excessive border wait times and propose application of recovered taxes for border infrastructure enhancement and staffing.
- b. Augment the study of United States Congressional District destinations of cargo shipped through Otay Mesa and Calexico Ports of Entry, to include destinations and dollar amounts of shipped cargo to respective Congressional Districts.

**Note: Items a. and b. Require funding for research of up to \$200,000. This funding has been requested from the North American Development Bank based on the negative environmental impact of border delays. SANDAG has requested that the study wait until Phase 1 at San Diego/San Ysidro POE is completed..**

- c. Both the United States and Mexico Federal Officials were lobbied during the April 2013 Mission to Mexico City and September 2013 Mission to Washington to assure adequate border infrastructure funding as well as adequate staffing of facilities by Customs and Aduanas officials.
- d. Lobby to extend the I-94 Border Crossing Cards for 150 miles (past Los Angeles).  
**There is no movement on this issue.**
- e. Research Public/Private Partnerships for Border Infrastructure Funding and Construction.
- f. Consult with the United States Embassy in Mexico City and the United States Consulate General in Tijuana to eliminate unnecessary fear aspects of travel warnings while assuring that United States citizens have the knowledge to help assure their safety while traveling in Baja California as well as in California. The current travel warning went into effect in July 12, 2013. It is the position of the Smart Border Coalition that the warnings about Baja California and much of Mexico are unwarranted. **In Progress: Travel warnings are now regionally specific, but still caution travel to Tijuana.**
- g. Railroad. The Coalition supports the reactivation of rail service between Tijuana/Tecate and Plaster City, California. Rail service is essential for the regional economy and attraction of foreign direct investment. **Progress: The Coalition hosted Pacific Imperial Railroad (US side) at the February 2013 SBC Working Committee. All participants on both the United States and Mexico side attended the June SBC Board of Directors Meeting at Toyota in Tijuana. Secretary of Tourism Oscar Escobedo pledged that Governor Francisco Vega would make the railroad a priority of the Administration.**

#### **2014 GOALS**

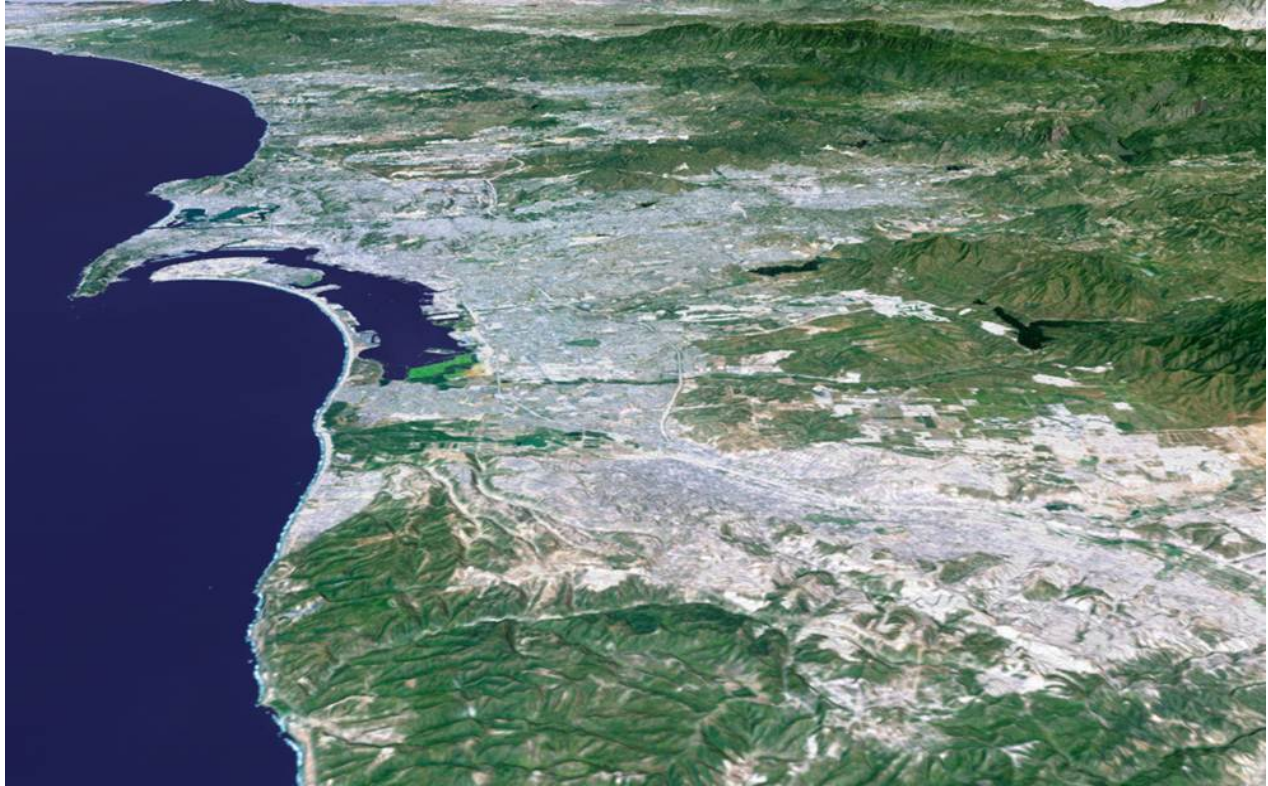
- a. Secure funding for completion of United States San Diego/San Ysidro Port of Entry Phases 2 and 3 constructions.
- b. Secure funding for the modernization of the San Diego/Otay Mesa Port of Entry
- c. Assure funding for adequate United States Customs and Border Protection staffing of all ports of entry between San Diego and Tijuana.
- d. Support the completion of construction and the utilization of the Cross Border Terminal at Tijuana International Airport
- e. Support "SENTRI with Passengers".



- f. Support Tijuana-Tecate Railroad project for Baja California cargo to link Pacific Imperial Railroad and US rail grid.
- g. Offer financial support for studies that can assist in helping to assure Congressional funding for border crossing efficiency.
- h. Support allowing buses with less than 25 passengers to cross the border to Mexico for tourism expansion

### **SMART BORDER COALITION MEETINGS 2013**

- January 7: San Diego County Supervisors Swearing In Ceremony
- January 22: Inaugural Meeting of Cargo Efficiency Task Force
- January 30: Inaugural Meeting of Pedestrian Efficiency Task Force
- February 1: Meeting with Congressman Juan Vargas
- February 8: SBC Working Committee Meeting @ Sempra Energy
- February 19: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- February 20: SBC Board of Directors Meeting at US Navy Point Loma
- February 22: Inauguration of San Diego City office in Tijuana
- March 20: Cargo Efficiency Task Force Meeting
- March 28: Cargo Efficiency Task Force Meeting
- April 8: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- April 15-18: SBC Working Committee/San Diego/Baja California Mission to Mexico VIII
- April 30: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- May 22: SBC Board of Directors Meeting at Estancia La Jolla
- June 4: SBC Dinner with Alan Bersin at home of Mayor Carlos Bustamante, Tijuana
- June 14: SBC Working Committee Meeting @ SDRCC
- June 20: SBC Board of Directors Meeting at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Tijuana
- July 23: Initial meeting with Xavier Peniche regarding the Astiazaran Administration
- August 13: US Customs and Border Protection Meeting
- August 16: SBC Working Committee Meeting, Tijuana
- August 21: SBC Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Padres Outing
- August 29: SBC Co-Chair Malin Burnham Honors on USS Midway
- September 5: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- September 29-October 2: SDRCC One Region/One Voice Mission to Washington
- September 8: US Customs and Border Protections Meeting
- October 27-30: North American Competitiveness and Innovation Conference, La Jolla
- November 4: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- November 7: SBC Working Committee Meeting at World Trade Center Tijuana
- November 18: Institute of the Americas 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with former President Calderon
- November 19: US Customs and Border Protection Meeting
- December 3: SBC Executive Committee Meeting
- December 11: SBC Board of Directors Meeting and Holiday Luncheon at Jose Fimbres



**ONE PEOPLE/ONE REGION/ONE ECONOMY  
SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA**



**SMART BORDER COALITION  
SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA**

Malin Burnham/Jose Larroque, Co-Chairmen  
James Clark, Executive Director