

SIXTH MEETING OF THE MEXICO-U.S. 21ST CENTURY BORDER MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

As part of the shared commitment of Mexico and the U.S. on economic competitiveness and public security, delegations from both countries held the Sixth Meeting of the 21st Century Border Management Executive Steering Committee (ESC) today in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

In 2010, Mexico and the United States issued a Declaration on 21st Century Border Management and pledged to make sure that the common border would promote economic competitiveness and enhance public safety through the secure, efficient, rapid and lawful movement of goods and people.

For the first time since the ESC was created, the high-level committee met in a border city to discuss specific steps to take in the coming months in order to continue developing the border region with a long-term, comprehensive and strategic approach.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Executive Secretaries of the committee: Sergio Alcocer, Undersecretary for North America of the Mexican Foreign Ministry; Amy Pope, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Transborder Security of the National Security Council; and Ricardo Zúñiga, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the White House. Officials from the federal agencies of both countries involved in the initiative also attended.

The 2013 Progress Report of the 21st Century Border Management Executive Steering Committee was issued at the conclusion of the meeting, highlighting the notable achievements made since the last meeting.

For example, the U.S. and Mexico coordinated infrastructure projects at several ports of entry. Five northbound lanes were opened at the San Ysidro-El Chaparral Port of Entry that connects Tijuana and San Diego; construction began on the Mexican side of a pedestrian bridge that will connect the Tijuana and San Diego airports; and construction also began on the new Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge. Expansion of the Veterans-Los Tomates International Bridge was completed in April 2014.

Mexico and the United States expanded their cross-border law enforcement cooperation between the Federal Police and the Border Patrol all along the key border corridors in order to increase security in the region.

Considerable progress was made in implementing the Border Violence Prevention Protocols (BVPP) and in sharing information. Both governments agreed on the utmost importance and priority of deterring and preventing border violence, including through a constructive dialogue on the use of force, and continuing to enhance coordinated law enforcement efforts.

Mexico and the United States will build on the substantial achievements already made in the management of our shared border. Mexico will continue the *Programa Viajero Confiable* (Trusted Traveler Program) that speeds processing for previously authorized travelers at designated Mexican airports.

Both governments are also coordinating traffic management strategies to swiftly process trusted traders in both countries. Competitiveness will be strengthened by reducing wait times and making progress towards mutual recognition of the North American trusted travelers programs, such as NEXUS, Global Entry and the *Programa Viajero Confiable*, as agreed at the North American Leaders' Summit.

This year major infrastructure milestones will be reached, such as the completion of the new Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge, the Nogales-Mariposa Port of Entry and the Brownsville-Matamoros West Rail Bypass.

Recognizing the importance of public consultations, the ESC met with key players on both sides of the border for a fruitful discussion that will help identify projects and additional areas in which both governments can improve their economic competitiveness, facilitate trade and lawful migration flows, enhance border development and strengthen public safety.