

## Members

John Minto, Chair  
Vice Mayor, City of Santee  
(Representing **East County**)

Greg Cox, Vice Chair  
Supervisor, **County of San Diego**

David Alvarez  
Councilmember, **City of San Diego**

John Renison  
Supervisor  
(Representing **Imperial County**)

Lorraine Wood  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Carlsbad  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)

Ed Gallo  
Councilmember, City of Escondido  
(Representing **North County Inland**)

Serge Dedina  
Mayor, City of Imperial Beach  
(Representing **South County**)

## Alternates

Ruth Sterling  
Councilmember, City of La Mesa  
(Representing **East County**)

Dianne Jacob  
Vice Chair, **County of San Diego**

Mark Kersey  
Councilmember, **City of San Diego**

Maritza Hurtado  
Councilmember, City of Calexico  
(Representing **Imperial County**)

Al Corti  
Councilmember, City of Del Mar  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)

Jim Cunningham  
Deputy Mayor, City of Poway  
(Representing **North County Inland**)

Bill Sandke  
Councilmember, City of Coronado  
(Representing **South County**)

## Advisory Members

Laurie Berman  
District 11 Director, Caltrans

Remedios Gómez-Arnau  
Consul General  
**Consulate General of Mexico**

Jim Ferryman  
(Representing **Orange County**)

Marsha Swanson  
City of Wildomar  
(Representing **Riverside County**)

Elsa Saxod  
**San Diego County Water Authority**

Michael Garcia (Ewiiapaayp)  
**Southern California Tribal  
Chairmen's Association**

Naresh Amatya  
**Southern California Association of  
Governments**

Gary L. Gallegos  
Executive Director, **SANDAG**

# **BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**Friday, May 27, 2016  
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
SANDAG Board Room  
401 B Street, 7th Floor  
San Diego**

## **AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS**

- **UPDATE ON THE OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY PROJECT**
- **UNITED STATES – MEXICO HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE**
- **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SAN YSIDRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region (Orange, Riverside and Imperial Counties, and the Republic of Mexico) as well as government-to-government relations with tribal nations in San Diego County. The preparation and implementation of SANDAG's Binational, Interregional, and Tribal Liaison Planning programs are included under this purview. It advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board of Directors for action.*

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Public comments regarding the agenda can be sent to SANDAG via [comment@sandag.org](mailto:comment@sandag.org). Please include the agenda item, your name, and your organization. Email comments should be received no later than 12 noon, two working days prior to the Borders Committee meeting. **Any handouts, presentations, or other materials from the public intended for distribution at the Borders Committee meeting should be received by the Committee Clerk no later than 12 noon, two working days prior to the meeting.**

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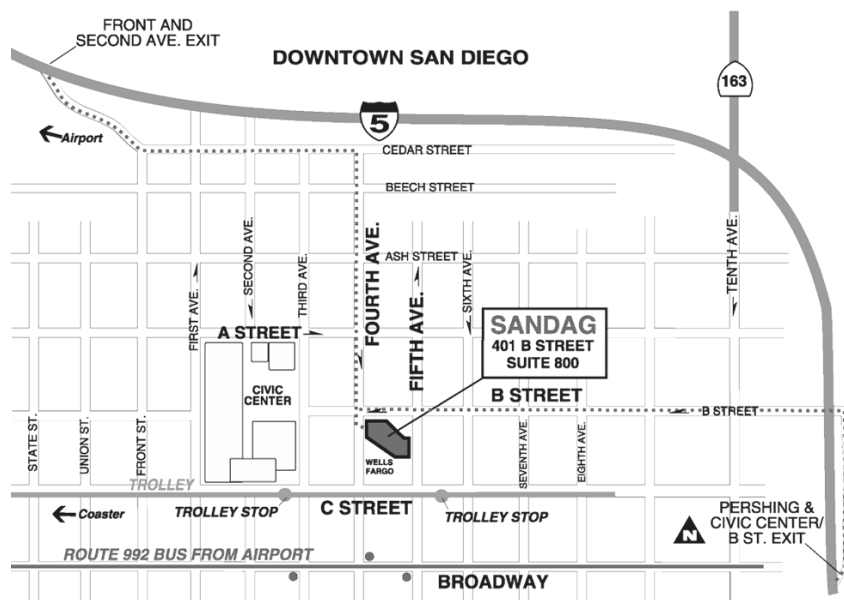
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# **BORDERS COMMITTEE**

Friday, May 27, 2016

## **ITEM NO.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**+1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**APPROVE**

The Borders Committee is asked to review and approve the minutes from its April 22, 2016, meeting.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Borders Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee that is not on this agenda. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a "Request to Speak" form and giving it to the Clerk prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the Clerk if they have a handout for distribution to Committee members. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Committee members also may provide information and announcements under Agenda Item No. 3.

### **REPORTS**

**3. SUBREGIONAL REPORTS FROM BORDERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**INFORMATION**

Members of the Borders Committee may report issues and activities within their subregion that are of interest or within the purview of the Borders Committee.

**+4. REPORT FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO  
(Hon. Remedios Gómez-Arnau, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego)**

**INFORMATION**

Hon. Remedios Gómez-Arnau, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, will report on binational activities within the purview of the Borders Committee.

**+5. UPDATE ON THE OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY PROJECT  
(Laurie Berman, Caltrans District 11)**

**INFORMATION**

This report will provide an update on the latest coordination actions with Mexico to advance the State Route 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project.

**+6. UNITED STATES - MEXICO HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE  
(Kevin Vaillancourt, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana)**

**INFORMATION**

Kevin Vaillancourt, Political and Economic Officer, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana, will provide an update on collaboration and coordination efforts for United States-Mexico border infrastructure as part of the High Level Economic Dialogue.

**7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SAN YSIDRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY  
RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT  
(Anthony Kleppe, United States General Services Administration)**

**INFORMATION**

Anthony Kleppe, United States General Services Administration, will provide a progress report on the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Reconfiguration and Expansion project, including the updated construction schedule.

**8. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT**

If the five speaker limit for public comments was exceeded at the beginning of this agenda, other public comments will be taken at this time. Subjects of previous agenda items may not again be addressed under public comment.

**9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**INFORMATION**

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2016, at 12:30 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment



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**BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

**APRIL 22, 2016**

The Borders Committee was called to order by Chair John Minto (East County) at 12:34 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Inland), and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Lorraine Wood (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the February 26, 2016, meeting. Yes – Chair Minto, Vice Chair Greg Cox (County of San Diego), Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County), Mayor Pro Tem Wood, and Councilmember Gallo. No – None. Abstain – None. Absent – City of San Diego and Imperial Beach.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no public or member comments.

**CONSENT**

3. 2016 SAN DIEGO BIKE TO WORK DAY AND TIJUANEANDO EN BICI (INFORMATION)

On Friday, May 20, 2016, the San Diego region will celebrate National Bike to Work Day with a series of activities to encourage people to GO by BIKE. Community groups from both sides of the border are organizing the sixth annual "Tijuaneando en Bici" bike ride event on the same date to promote bike mobility and healthier transportation.

Action: This item was presented for information.

**REPORTS**

4. SUBREGIONAL REPORTS FROM BORDERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS (INFORMATION)

Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County) commented on Highway 98 from Calexico was recently resurfaced and expressed his appreciation to Caltrans.

Ms. Laurie Berman, Caltrans District 11 Director, stated that Caltrans recently held a ceremony for the grand opening of State Route 11 segment one. She also stated that she and other representatives from SANDAG attended the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Mission to

Mexico and held several successful meetings with our Mexico counterparts for the new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.

Chair Minto thanked Rick Backlund, FHWA, for his service to the Borders Committee and wished him success with his new assignment in Topeka, Kansas.

Chair Minto commented that Consul General Remedios Gómez-Arnau, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, was transferred to a position in North Carolina and expressed his appreciation for her service to the Borders Committee. The Chair also recognized Deputy Consul General Rafael Laveaga, currently serving as the Acting Consul General of Mexico in San Diego.

The 2016 binational event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

Action: This item was presented for information.

5. REPORT FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO (INFORMATION)

Acting Consul General Laveaga provided this report.

7. CROSS BORDER XPRESS FACILITY (INFORMATION)

Enrique Valle, Cross Border Xpress, provided a briefing on operations of the Cross Border Xpress facility in Otay Mesa serving the Tijuana International Airport.

6. SOUTH BAY *RAPID* UPDATE (INFORMATION)

On February 19, 2016, SANDAG, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, Caltrans, and the City of Chula Vista began construction of the South Bay *Rapid* project.

Jennifer Williamson, Senior Regional Planner, provided an update on the project.

Action: This item was presented for information.

8. UPDATE ON IMPERIAL COUNTY BORDER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (INFORMATION)

Mark Baza, Imperial County Transportation Commission, updated the Borders Committee on various transportation projects in Imperial County and progress of the Imperial-Mexicali Binational Alliance.

Action: This item was presented for information.

9. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION)

There were no continued comments.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, May 27, 2016, at 12:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Minto adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
 SANDAG BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING  
 APRIL 22, 2016**

| JURISDICTION   | NAME                  | MEMBER/<br>ALTERNATE | ATTENDING |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| South County   | Serge Dedina          | Member               | No        |
|  | Bill Sandke           | Alternate            | No        |
| North County Coastal                                 | Lorraine Wood         | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Al Corti              | Alternate            | No        |
| North County Inland                                  | Ed Gallo              | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Jim Cunningham        | Alternate            | No        |
| East County  | John Minto (Chair)    | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Ruth Sterling         | Alternate            | Yes       |
| City of San Diego                                    | David Alvarez         | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Mark Kersey           | Alternate            | No        |
| County of San Diego                                  | Greg Cox (Vice Chair) | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Dianne Jacob          | Alternate            | No        |
| Imperial County                                      | John Renison          | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Maritza Hurtado       | Alternate            | No        |
| ADVISORY MEMBERS                                     |                       |                      |           |
| County of Riverside                                  | Marsha Swanson        | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Shellie Milne         | Alternate            | No        |
| Republic of Mexico                                   | Remedios Gomez-Arnau  | Member               | No        |
|  | Rafael Laveaga        | Alternate            | Yes       |
| Southern California Tribal<br>Chairmen's Association | Michael Garcia        | Member               | No        |
|  | Cody Martinez         | Alternate            | No        |
| Caltrans   | Laurie Berman         | Member               | Yes       |
|  | Bill Figge            | Alternate            | Yes       |
| San Diego County Water<br>Authority                  | Elsa Saxod            | Member               | No        |
|  | Ken Olson             | Alternate            | No        |
| SCAG   | Naresh Amatya         | Member               | No        |
|  | VACANT                | Alternate            | ---       |
| County of Orange                                     | Jim Ferryman          | Member               | No        |
|  | Jim Dahl              | Alternate            | No        |

## Modernization of Baja California Roads

Presidencia de la República, May 9th, 2016

The objective: improve internal roads, veins, and the arteries that run through communities.

President **Enrique Peña Nieto** delivered road infrastructure in the Tijuana-Tecate-Rosarito metropolitan area in Baja California.

“Today we are inaugurating, for example, maintenance work on the four lanes of the Tijuana to Tecate route and improvements have been made to the Tijuana-Ensenada highway.”

In 2012, the government made a commitment to improve road infrastructure in the Tijuana-Tecate-Rosarito metropolitan area. Four years later, these works have been completed.

### **Works in the metropolitan area:**

- 100 km of roads have been modernized.
- Maintenance work has been carried out on the four lanes that make up the Tijuana-Tecate route.
- Improvements have been made to the Tijuana-Ensenada highway, which goes through the center of Rosarito.
- “Conservation work has been performed on Juárez Avenue and University Avenue and on the Mexicali-Tecate highway, where a third lane was built.

These works entailed an investment of over 617 million pesos and benefits more than 1,750,000 inhabitants of the border region.

### **Works completed on the northern border:**

- Construction of Pedestrian Bridge at Tijuana International Airport. (185 million pesos).
- Construction of new pedestrian access East *Puerta México*, at the intersection of San Ysidro-El Chaparral, the world’s busiest crossing point.



With these infrastructure projects, Baja California and Mexico as a whole will be able to attract more investment, create more jobs and, above all, improve families' quality of life.

"Here we can already see the various other infrastructure projects with private sector participation being promoted in Baja California."

**Projects in progress:**

- BRT articulated transport system in the city of Tijuana, together with the state government (2,859 million pesos).
- Expansion of *Puerta México* San Ysidro-Puerta El Chaparral International Crossing Point (600 million pesos).
- Construction of new international crossing point Otay II (2 billion pesos).

"And for the first time, today, Baja California and Tijuana have the first binational airport, an airport that is located precisely in the middle of the border of two nations, and where the crossing from one nation to another, from Mexico to the United States and the United States to Mexico, can be done directly at Tijuana International Airport. This is the impact of these infrastructure projects that are being developed."



**BORDERS COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 27, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16-05-5**

**ACTION REQUESTED – INFORMATION**

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**UPDATE ON THE OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY PROJECT** File Number 1201101

**Introduction**

On July 30, 2014, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Communications and Transportation of Mexico (*Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transporte* or SCT), which established a commitment to monitor the development of the new port of entry (POE) at Otay Mesa East—Mesa de Otay II, two miles east of the existing Otay Mesa—Mesa de Otay POE. The agreement provides a forum to address relevant policy issues and review major milestones during the development of the new Otay Mesa East—Mesa de Otay II POE. Under this framework, state and federal agencies and interested stakeholders have held biweekly conference calls, conducted site visits, and facilitated technical and policy meetings. This report will provide an update on relevant project meetings held in Mexico City last month.

**Discussion**

On April 19, 2016, SCT, CalSTA/Caltrans, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) held meetings in Mexico City to discuss project milestones and next steps. Discussions included updates on the completion of the Investment Grade Traffic and Revenue Study (T&R) and preparation of the scope of work for the Innovation Concepts Study. The T&R identified \$4.3 billion in potential funding for the new POE, to be collected through tolls over the next 40 years. The funds would be sufficient to pay for capital expenses but the T&R identifies a funding shortfall for operations and maintenance of the facility. The Innovation Concepts Study will analyze the feasibility of implementing various technological and POE design concepts and its impacts on efficiency at the proposed facility. The entities met to discuss collaboration and timing to ensure adequate review timelines for the various documents.

Undersecretary Raúl Murrieta of SCT reviewed recent activities to acquire the right-of-way for the Mesa de Otay II POE and access roads in Mexico, which are expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year. CalSTA Assistant Secretary for Rail and Ports Ben de Alba discussed plans for the State of California to acquire federal discretionary grant funding through competitive U.S. Department of Transportation programs such as the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant programs. Funds obtained through the grant process would be used to complete right-of-way acquisition and complete Segment II of State Route 11 access to the Otay Mesa East POE in the US.

Meeting participants also acknowledged the importance of the binational High Level Economic Dialogue forum, which identified in February 2016, the Otay Mesa East—Mesa de Otay II POE as the top priority infrastructure project for both Mexico and the U.S. and highlighted the project as the border crossing of the future and a paradigm for binational planning.

The meetings concluded with a discussion on next steps, including development of criteria for the implementation of the financial strategy, and the need for a binational facilitator.

VICTORIA STACKWICK  
Principal Legislative Analyst

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, [hector.vanegas@sandag.org](mailto:hector.vanegas@sandag.org)



**BORDERS COMMITTEE  
MAY 27, 2016**

**ACTION REQUESTED - INFORMATION**

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**UNITED STATES - MEXICO HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE** File Number 3400200

**Introduction**

The United States and Mexico are strategic allies and critical economic partners that share a 2,000 mile border and a dynamic commercial relationship that generates more than \$500 billion in two-way trade, supporting millions of jobs in both countries. In an effort to codify and strengthen the bilateral commercial and economic relationship, President Barack Obama and President Enrique Peña Nieto established in 2013, the United States - Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) to advance bilateral and multilateral economic priorities, foster entrepreneurship, create jobs, and drive growth and innovation; and partner to strengthen regional and global leadership. Through this premier forum, the goal of the HLED is to forge a more competitive and dynamic relationship between Mexico and the United States.

**Discussion**

Since its creation in May 2013, the HLED has had three Cabinet-level and multiple sub-group meetings to continue progress on binational strategic trade and economic priorities.

The HLED focuses on the following priority work areas: energy, modern borders, workforce development, regulatory cooperation, partnering in regional and global leadership, and stakeholder engagement. Through this work plan, the HLED has produced tangible results. Specifically, the two countries agreed to create the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research to expand educational exchanges, research partnerships, and crossborder innovation to build a workforce that will be able to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Additionally, the Mexico-United States Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council also was established to share innovative practices and support to entrepreneurs on both sides of the border.

The most recent meeting of the HLED was held on February 25, 2016, in Mexico City. At this meeting, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Mexican Secretary Luis Videgaray Caso underscored the significant progress made during 2015 and discussed the goals of 2016. Likewise, the two countries agreed to continue cooperation on the design of the Otay Mesa East-Otay II port of entry. The HLED also recognized the project as one of the top infrastructure priorities for both countries and that the project aims to be the port of entry of the future and a new paradigm for binational planning.

The activities of the HLED have been regularly reported to this Committee (see agenda packets of meetings on November 15, 2013; May 23, and October 24, 2014; January 23, February 27 and March 27, 2015).

VICTORIA STACKWICK  
Principal Legislative Analyst

Attachment: 1. Joint Statement: 2016 U.S.-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue.  
February 25, 2016.

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, [hector.vanegas@sandag.org](mailto:hector.vanegas@sandag.org)

**The White House**

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2016

# Joint Statement: 2016 U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue

The U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) is the premier forum for bilateral economic cooperation, promoting mutual economic growth and prosperity, job creation, and global competitiveness for Mexico and the United States. Today, in Mexico City, U.S. Vice President Biden and Mexican Secretary Videgaray co-chaired the third Cabinet-level meeting to highlight the significant progress made during 2015 and discuss goals for 2016 and beyond.

**Priorities for 2016**

The HLED focuses on the following priority work areas: energy, modern borders, workforce development, regulatory cooperation, partnering in regional and global leadership, and stakeholder engagement. Our two countries agree to work toward the following goals in 2016:

**Energy**

- The United States and Mexico will formalize the establishment of the U.S.-Mexico Energy Business Council. The United States has issued a Federal Register Notice to select U.S. membership and both countries intend to hold the inaugural Council meeting in the next few months. Mexico will initiate its internal process to select Mexico's membership.
- Our two governments will convene experts to provide assistance to support Mexico's transition to a competitive power market, to promote the sustainable development of unconventional resources and to share best practices on offshore oil and gas project regulations and environmental procedures.
- The United States and Mexico, in cooperation with Canada, will continue to share energy data and advance work on a North American mapping system.

**Modern Borders**

- For the United States and Mexico, the continuing development of our shared border is a critical part of our bilateral relationship. With that in mind, we will strengthen our binational coordinating processes to collaborate on priority projects and policy issues with the hope of making significant progress in this area. More specifically, the Executive Steering Committee of the 21st Century Border Management Initiative plans to report to the HLED with the goal of proposing, leading, coordinating, monitoring, and ensuring progress on priority border infrastructure issues and projects. The ESC can also be mandated to hold separate and focused discussions on the HLED priorities on border infrastructure, including to oversee implementation and execution of issues and projects already deemed priority by HLED principals, as well as to define new priorities over time. The North American Development Bank (NADB) can serve as an important technical resource to support these efforts.
- To help reduce the costs of trade, our customs administrations will continue the implementation of single cargo manifests in the rail, air, and maritime modes of transportation and initiate the development and

implementation of the truck single manifest. We will inaugurate a third Cargo Pre-Inspection pilot in San Jerónimo, Chihuahua.

- We will also continue binational cooperation on the design at Otay Mesa East. The new Otay II-Otay Mesa East port of entry project is one of the top infrastructure priorities for both countries. Otay II- Otay Mesa east aims to be the port of entry of the future and a new paradigm for binational planning.
- In order to ensure a secure, efficient travel experience and to promote tourism, Mexico and the United States will jointly promote and expand enrollment in trusted traveler programs and will also work with partners in Canada to implement the North American Trusted Traveler framework agreed to in July 2015.
- Investments in our border crossings will be matched by improvements in transportation. To ease trade-related transportation across borders, we will work toward mutual recognition of commercial and federal driver's licenses and commercial truck inspection standards.
- Because technology increases production speed and efficiency, we will work through the Binational Intelligent Manufacturing Initiative to streamline IT capacities into all major elements of the manufacturing process along our border.
- To catalyze economic development in the border region, we must understand it. Using interoperable asset mapping tools, the United States will work with Mexico to map industrial, manufacturing, and financial communities. Together, we can make smart decisions about exports, imports, and investments based on assets across our border.

#### Workforce Development

- Together, we recognize that at the heart of workforce development is human development. To develop a smart, agile North American workforce, we must invest in our citizens.
- We will expand the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation, and Research's (FOBESII) focus and products so we can incorporate more stakeholders with specific needs based on their own priorities. Through curriculum development and English language training we will foster greater technical expertise in energy and tourism.
- We will increase participation in exchange programs for students, teachers, professionals, and scholars through new funding and private sector engagement for specific programs, including *Jóvenes en Acción* (Youth in Action), the J-1 Mexico intern program, and the U.S.-Mexico Fulbright Garcia Robles program.
- Proyecta 100K will strive to reach its goal of sending 64,500 Mexican students and researchers to the United States to participate in a mobility program within a higher education institution.
- In order to promote educational exchanges to diverse populations, we will work together to open 22 new EducationUSA advising network centers in Mexico.
- Ensuring our workforce is inclusive means investing in women. We will promote women's access to finance and support the development and growth of women lead businesses and make mainstream gender issues an integral component into our public policy and workforce dialogue.

#### Regulatory cooperation

- To strengthen our cooperation, we will continue working on energy regulatory cooperation.
- At the same time, we will develop a Second Work Plan to include other sectors for the High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council (HLRCC) that considers lessons learned from the First Work Plan. The Second Work Plan should be developed on a balanced approach considering sectors and activities of interest to both countries.
- On energy, we will continue to convene experts to draft regulations and procedures. We will also hold periodic "whole-of-government" meetings, to ensure that energy regulatory cooperation remains a priority and to ensure best practices and lessons learned are implemented across all energy regulators.
- The U.S. Department of Interior, Mexico's Secretariat of Energy (SENER) and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) will work together to expand existing energy cooperation, particularly in offshore safety and environmental enforcement. By increasing coordination and aligning regulations, we will create market efficiencies that lower costs and benefit both U.S. and Mexican consumers.

## Regional and global leadership

- On February 4, 2016, Mexico and the United States joined 10 other Asia-Pacific countries to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Both Parties affirm their commitment to seek rapid approval of the TPP Agreement as soon as possible and to coordinate closely on the implementation of the Agreement.
- Open access to information is a key component to economic growth. In 2016, we will encourage international adoption of the Open Data Charter to expand access to information to all citizens. Mexico and the United States will support affordable, reliable, and open internet access.
- Both governments will promote the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), which aims to foster access to information and public participation in the procurement process. We will continue to work on improving openness and accountability in extractive industries.
- Mexico and the United States will continue to foster actions that strengthen the anti-corruption agenda in international fora such as: the G20 and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) anti-corruption working groups.
- Working together is crucial to expand the availability of climate risk insurance in Central America, to help mitigate the disruptive impact of natural disasters and strengthen fiscal buffers in these countries.
- Mexico and the United States will continue to work with the Inter-American Development Bank to deepen regional electrical and natural gas integration in Central America.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- Mexico and the United States will continue improving its engagement with relevant stakeholders (private sector, academia, and civil society), in order to receive their feedback and those initiatives that contribute to the objectives of the HLED.
- Recognizing the importance of telecommunications and sustainability to foster productivity, job creation, innovation, market development of emerging sectors and stakeholder participation with positive impacts in overall competitiveness, we will incorporate both topics into the work of the High-Level Economic Dialogue.

*These 2016 strategic goals and initiatives are only possible because of the strong and cooperative partnership which defines the U.S.-Mexico relationship and builds off of the success of 2015.*

## 2015 Achievements

### Energy

- The United States, Mexico, and Canada have worked together to share data and other information on our energy sectors. North American energy information is now gathered on one platform available on all three countries' websites.
- We agreed to establish the United States-Mexico Energy Business Council to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between energy industries in our countries. We launched several other energy initiatives focused on governance, capacity, unconventional gas, power sector reform, and energy education.
- We enhanced cross-border electricity coordination through increased information sharing on a range of topics, including wholesale energy markets, renewable energy, system planning, natural gas, and smart grid development.

### Modern Borders

- The West Rail Bypass Bridge at Brownsville-Matamoros between Texas and Tamaulipas opened in August 2015. It is the first rail international bridge between the two nations in 100 years. The "Puerta Este" pedestrian crossing opened in August 2015, part of the larger renovation project on both sides of the San Ysidro-El Chaparral ports of entry between San Diego and Tijuana, the busiest land port of entry in the Western Hemisphere. The San Diego-Tijuana International Airport Cross Border Xpress opened in



December. The Cross Border Xpress, a pedestrian bridge connecting San Diego with the Tijuana Airport, allows passengers access to more international connections. The new, modern Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge and connecting roadways were fully completed in late 2015 and opened to traffic on February 4, 2016.

- Our customs administrations launched two Cargo Pre-Inspection pilots at the Laredo, Texas International Airport and at the Mesa de Otay, Baja California customs facilities, where our customs officers' collaboration will reduce the number of inspections, leading to reduced wait times and transactions costs.
- We signed an Air Transportation Agreement that will increase travel and shipping options between the U.S. and Mexico as well as lower costs.
- Under The Mexico-United States Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council (MUSEIC), we created a binational, compatible cluster maps that identify geographic concentrations of interconnected companies, suppliers, service providers, and associated institutions that are present in the U.S. and Mexico. These maps can be used to create the connections for more effective trade and investment, and enhance regional economic development.
- The United States and Mexico have promoted each other's trusted traveler programs, with the support of the travel and tourism industry from both countries. As a result, already more than 3,530 applications by American travelers were submitted by U.S. Global Entry members to join Mexico's *Viajero Confiable* program.

#### Workforce Development

- The Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation, and Research (FOBESII) expanded opportunities for educational exchanges, scientific research partnerships, and cross-border innovation for both countries.
- Through Mexico's programs like the Mexican national program *Proyecta 100,000* and the United States' *100,000 Strong in the Americas* initiative, we increased by 15.4 percent the number of Mexican students in U.S. higher education institutions and the number of U.S. students in Mexican institutions increased 19.2 percent between 2014 and 2015. With this, Mexico rose from fourth to second place as a destination for U.S. students to study in Latin America.
- More than eighty new collaboration agreements between universities of both sides of the border have been signed and we created a new Internship Program between Mexico and the United States.
- Four binational research and innovation centers have been created with the support of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- In March 2015, the first Pilot Project of the NSF's I-Corps Program was launched in Mexico with the National Council for Science and Technology - CONACYT.

#### Regulatory Cooperation

- Robust agency-to-agency regulatory cooperation between United States and Mexican agencies occurred during 2015.
- During 2015, both countries closed the 1st Work Plan of the HLRCC. In February 2015, Mexico undertook public consultations for the definition of the 2nd Work Plan of the HLRCC. In September 2015, Mexico sent the United States its proposals for the 2nd Work Plan. The response from the United States was provided in December 2015, and further discussion remains in order to develop a 2nd HLRCC Work Plan.
- Related to energy, Mexico's Agency for Safety, Energy, and Environment (ASEA) and Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement are working together on environmental safety regulations related to natural resource exploration. Also, on June 5, 2015, the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on regulatory cooperation with Mexico's Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) to focus exchanges on information related to monitoring and oversight of Mexico's wholesale power market, best practices related to large-scale integration of renewable energy in to the bulk power system and information related to natural gas infrastructure and market operations.

## Regional and Global Leadership

- Both countries collaborated to deepen the impact of open government at the subnational level, including by launching a pilot program for subnational governments at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit and promoting use of open source information to foster transparency.
- Mexico, the U.S., and the Steering Committee of OGP launched the “Joint declaration that promotes the use of the principles of open government as enablers of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”.
- We also worked together to advance our efforts to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).
- We worked together to promote regional interconnection between Mexico and Central America.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- During 2015, we met with stakeholders to ensure the HLED remains relevant and increases the competitiveness of both economies.