



EBTC Members are the Transportation Agencies of the U.S. States of Michigan, New York, Vermont and Maine and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador

(Honorary members are the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council and the Regional Municipality of Niagara)

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The economic recession and the accompanying reduction in Canada-U.S. trade exacerbated the reduction in cross border traffic in 2009. Also, there was a new Administration in Washington which resulted in some uncertainties regarding future border policies. Additionally, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative was fully implemented at land border crossings in June. All of these issues reemphasized the importance of the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition in continuing to promote efficient north/south transportation flows, including efficient border operations, and EBTC did continue to pursue these objectives throughout 2009, both by consultation between its members as well as working with other organizations with similar goals.

Intra-coalition consultation was accomplished through regular member conference calls and by issuing Information Bulletins on issues relating to cross border transportation.

Consultation and cooperation with other agencies was achieved primarily through EBTC representation and involvement in other committees, coalitions and forums. EBTC continued to play a significant role in the bi-national transportation forum, the Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG). Individual member jurisdictions are members of TBWG, but EBTC is also represented at meetings by the Managing Consultant who sits as a member of the TBWG steering committee. Consultation with trade

organizations was accomplished through EBTC representation at Border Trade Alliance and CanAm Border Trade Alliance conferences. The presence of EBTC at all of these events also allows for continuing relationships with the Federal Highway Administration, Transport Canada, border customs and security agencies, border bridge operators and corridor coalitions.

The 2009 workplan had as one of its primary objectives the need to get involved in promoting a better understanding of important initiatives to make cross border transportation, and transportation in general, more environmentally friendly. As a mechanism to enhance this understanding, EBTC compiled a repository of green initiatives underway or planned in each of the member jurisdictions. This proved to be a valuable tool, not only for EBTC members, but it was made available to other agencies on request. This repository also served as the focus for planning the annual EBTC fall workshop which was held in Burlington, Vermont in October. It was the most successful workshop to date with approximately 50 participants, with representation from States, Provinces, Federal Governments, Customs Agencies, Environmental Agencies and Trucking Companies. Presentations, for the most part, related to “green” initiatives and they precipitated a very energetic and constructive dialogue among attendees. All of these presentations have been made available on the EBTC website.

In January, EBTC was presented with a new challenge when the company which was hosting its website ceased operation on very short notice. This resulted in the EBTC website being off line for a couple of weeks until a new service provider was secured and the site content moved over. Thanks to the assistance of personnel at the New York State DOT, this problem was corrected with a minimum interruption.

During 2009, EBTC continued to measure the wait time by collecting data at 2 border crossings using the equipment installed earlier, through agreement with Turnpike Global Technologies. Efforts will continue to try to find mechanisms to coordinate and share data collection with other agencies.

The EBTC annual meeting was held on the day following the workshop where consideration of the annual budget, election of officers and preliminary work on the 2010 workplan were undertaken. John Reed, New York State DOT and Dave Henry, Quebec Ministry of Transportation, were elected as the new EBTC co-chairs for 2010. Maurice Rasheed, NYSDOT, will take on the duties of Treasurer and Susi Derrah will continue as the Secretary. It was tentatively decided to hold the 2010 fall workshop in Montreal.