



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)

2012 Annual Report

Introduction

This report highlights the activities of the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition (EBTC) and its member provinces and states in working to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods between Canada and the United States.

EBTC's Mission Statement

EBTC defines its purpose in the following mission statement.

“The Eastern Border Transportation Coalition, through its member activities, will assist in the development of a seamless, multi-modal transportation network which is secure, safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable. EBTC will provide a proactive forum within which each state, provincial and metropolitan transportation and border service agencies, and likeminded public and private organizations, can work together to overcome barriers and impediments to our shared vision.”

EBTC Strategic Plan

EBTC has developed a strategic plan to implement its mission statement. The five key elements of that plan are:

1. Provide organizational, communications and administrative support to EBTC members.
2. Develop a common understanding of cross-border issues among Coalition members and as they relate to other transportation organizations.
3. Influence the development and implications of federal and international policies that support the Coalition's missions and goals.

4. Work closely with U.S. and Canadian transportation and border agencies to assure the secure, safe, and efficient flow of people and goods across our borders.
5. Support and participate in the development of US/Canada cross-border planning and coordination initiatives.

2012 Accomplishments

During 2012, the EBTC Board and staff worked closely together to carry out a wide range of activities aligned with the strategic plan. These included:

- Maintaining an awareness of current border issues and provide ongoing updates to members through:
 - a. Regular board conference calls;
 - b. 113 EBTC News Updates on relevant border-related issues;
 - c. Reports on staff and board involvement in border-related conferences, workshops, and meetings sponsored by federal and private sector organizations.
 - d. Participation in border-related conferences and workshops;
 - e. An annual workshop focusing on current border issues impacting member provinces and states;
- Maintaining and broadening the organization's relations with U.S. and Canadian government and agency officials, with border operators, and with other stakeholder organizations committed to improving border flows. These included:
 - a. Participation on the Canada-U.S. Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG)
 - i. Participation in TBWG subcommittees
 - ii. Participation in the TBWG April and November Plenaries in Seattle and Ottawa
 - iii. TBWG cross border passenger rail discussion group
 - b. Working closely with other public and private sector organizations committed to improving the movement of people and goods across the borders. In 2012, EBTC:
 - i. Continued its cooperation with the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance (CAN/AM BTA). EBTC Board members and the Executive Director actively participated in CAN/AM BTA's May Ottawa and November Washington, D.C. conferences.
 - ii. Participated in Beyond the Border Action Plan Meetings held in February and March in Buffalo and Toronto and the CBP Trade Symposium

- iii. Participated in a forum to discuss high speed rail and cross-border rail opportunities in the Toronto – Chicago corridor set up by Congressman Gary Peters (MI) in Detroit on June 15.
- iv. Maintained a relationship with the Border Trade Alliance, a public/private sector organization that focuses on improving the safe and efficient movement of people and goods on the U.S./Mexico border. EBTC believes that border programs, initiatives, issues, and policies on the southern border with Mexico have a profound effect on the U.S./Canadian border.
- v. Worked with US border state departments of transportation to evaluate the potential impacts of US federal transportation reauthorization proposals on future border infrastructure funding.

EBTC Annual Workshop and Meeting

Each year EBTC hosts an annual workshop that focuses on key issues affecting the northern border. The workshop provides an opportunity for EBTC members to interact with key public and private sector officials involved in cross border commerce, security, and transportation. This year's annual workshop, "Enhancing Border Efficiency" was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 11.

The main themes of the workshop were:

- Implementation of the Beyond the Border Action Plan – federal, provincial, state, regional and private sector perspectives
- Trade and logistics initiatives in the EBTC Region
- EBTC provincial/state updates

Thirty five participants representing state, provincial, federal, and private sector organizations participated in the workshop. Speakers and presenters included: Paul Lafleche, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal; Ted Mackay, Director, Highway and Border Policy, Transport Canada; David Franklin, US – Canadian Border Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration; Hal Parker, Director, Strategic Planning, Infrastructure and Environmental Operations Directorate, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA); and Anne Marie Paul, Assistant Director, Trade Buffalo Field Office, from the Federal agencies.

Anne Stubbs, Executive Director, Northeastern Coalition of Governors; Nelson Balido, President, Border Trade Alliance; and Jill Stephen, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer, Regional Niagara gave presentations on the work that their respective organizations were doing to improve cross border trade and travel from the national and regional perspectives.

Participants heard modal perspectives on the implementation of the Beyond the Border Action Plan from Jean Marc Picard, Executive Director, The Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association; Mike Tamilia, Senior Manager, Customs and Transborder Operations, Canadian National Railway; and Patrick Bohan, Port Authority Business Development Manager, Port of Halifax

Trade Initiatives and Logistics in the EBTC Region was the focus of an afternoon session. David Oxner, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Gateway Secretariat spoke about the Atlantic Gateway Initiative. Dr. Daniel Lynch, Dalhousie University, Centre for Trade and Transportation Innovation spoke about the Great Lakes International Trade and Transportation Hub Initiative. Jim Phillips, CANAM Border Trade Alliance, Executive Director spoke about the work of the Border Commercial Consultative Committee advising CBSA.

Ed Courtemanch, Senior Principal, Operations, Service Planning, Operations Department, AMTRAK provided an update on current efforts to establish a customs pre-clearance center at the Montreal train station.

Presentations from the workshop can be found at EBTC's website, <http://www.ebtc.info/ebtc-info/presentations.html>.

At the EBTC's annual Board meeting, members approved the annual budget; Elected Sara Moore, Michigan DOT and Dave Henry, Quebec Ministry of Transportation, EBTC co-chairs for 2013. Maurice Rasheed, NYSDOT was elected Treasurer and Secretary.

The Board of Directors identified four priority areas for 2013. These are:

- Implementation of the Canada-U.S. Beyond the Border Action Plan
- Federal Funding of Transportation Border Infrastructure
- Cross Border Rail Passenger Service
- Information Needs in Support of Transportation Planning

For more information regarding these issues and EBTC's proposed strategies to address them, visit www.ebtc.info.