



## Eastern Border Transportation Coalition

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

### *-----2007 ANNUAL REPORT-----*

The Eastern Border Transportation Coalition has completed another successful year working to promote efficient and effective north/south transportation flows across the eastern Canada/U.S. border. This involved the member agencies exchanging relevant information and best practices as well as working through the coalition to produce a very useful border consultation guide. The EBTC also cooperated with and participated in other organizations and coalitions with common objectives.

The idea of producing a “Guide for Consultation and Approvals for Infrastructure Projects at/near the Canada/U.S. Border” came out of the EBTC 2006 fall workshop as a recommendation of the workshop participants. EBTC decided to make this a “deliverable” project for 2007. The work was coordinated by a subcommittee who drafted a document for consideration by the EBTC Board of Directors. This document was then sent to all of the agencies included so they could verify the content of the specific sections which pertained to them, and the resulting final draft was presented to the 2007 fall workshop. The final document is being translated and it will then be available on the EBTC website ([www.ebtc.info](http://www.ebtc.info)).

As mentioned above, EBTC held another successful one day workshop in October 2007 in Kennebunkport, Maine to exchange information and ideas among all agencies involved with border infrastructure and operations. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 participants including

representatives from most of the EBTC States and Provinces, Canadian Border Services Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, General Services Administration, Transport Canada, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the CanAm Border Trade Alliance. These annual workshops help to promote a better understanding of the various roles and responsibilities of agencies involved with the border and are consistent with one of EBTC's primary objectives to "Promote the establishment of a formal consultation process between border agencies and EBTC DOTs; to improve communication, coordination and to affect policy development"

In 2007, EBTC continued to be an active forum for its members to provide a common voice promoting efficient cross border transportation in support of economic growth, as well as an effective mechanism for exchanging and sharing important information related to border issues and cross border transportation. This exchange was accomplished via regular conference calls, face to face annual meeting, the EBTC website, as well as by issuing Information Bulletins on a regular basis.

There was progress by EBTC on the study of border and corridor transit times, which expands on work being undertaken by Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Transport Canada in the Ontario region. EBTC decided to purchase and install equipment to monitor transit times at two border crossings, Lacolle/Champlain and Stanstead/Derby Line. Turnpike Global Technologies will collect and process the data from these sites and provide border and corridor transit times to EBTC for two years. This information will provide a better understanding of the pattern of border crossing delay which will enhance transportation planning.

EBTC continued to monitor the development and implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and the new APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) regulations specifically with concerns about their effects on border operations.

In accordance with the objective to promote efficient cross border movements, the EBTC participated in a number of conferences and meetings during 2007, both as individual agencies and as the EBTC organization. This included a significant contribution to the bi-national Transportation Border Working Group which is co-chaired by Transport Canada and FHWA, where EBTC appoints one of the six members of the steering committee. It also included attendance at CanAm Border Trade Alliance conferences, participating with the CanAm BTA in meetings with the Department of Homeland Security to promote the use of the NEXUS low risk traveler program. EBTC also attended and made presentations at the Border to Border Conference in Texas as well as the Borders, Corridors & Gateways Conference in Montreal.

The 2007 EBTC Annual meeting was held in Maine in October. There was one change in the Board of Directors, with John Reed being elected to replace the retired Jerry Cioffi as the representative from New York State Department of Transportation. Brian Kirch from NYSDOT is the EBTC treasurer and Susi Derrah from New Brunswick is the Secretary. Two new co-chairs were elected for 2008; Kevin Rousseau from Maine will be the U.S. co-chair and Rob Tardif from Ontario will be the Canadian co-chair. The Board decided to extend the contract of Walter Steeves as Managing Consultant through 2008.