



**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)**

## **2013 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

## **2013 Accomplishments**

During 2013, 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. Ongoing networking and information sharing among EBTC member provinces and states
  - b. 127 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 including:
  - a. Participation on the Canada-U.S. Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG)

- i. Participation in TBWG subcommittees
  - ii. Participation in the TBWG April and October plenary sessions in Detroit and Montreal
  - iii. Participation in the 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 including:
  - i. Ongoing cooperation with the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance (CAN/AM BTA) by participating in CAN/AM BTA's May Ottawa and November Washington, D.C. conferences
  - ii. Participation in forums and workshops sponsored by Michigan State University and the Great Lakes International Trade and Transportation Summit
  - iii. Participation in the FHWA sponsored Border Modeling Peer Exchange workshop held October, 2013 in San Diego, CA

### **Passenger Rail Pre-Clearance**

EBTC has been and continues to be a strong supporter of passenger rail pre-clearance between the U.S. and Canada. EBTC, published in 2013 a white paper, entitled ["Improving and Expanding Cross Border Rail Passenger Service through the Implementation of Pre-clearance."](#) This paper provides background and an overview of the issues associated with pre-clearance for passenger rail between the United States and Canada, and the potential benefits of expanding pre-clearance to international rail service that provides a direct route from the border to a clearance facility.

As part of its advocacy and education efforts, EBTC sent letters supporting pre-clearance to Transport Canada and the United States Department of Transportation. EBTC continues to advocate for passenger rail-preclearance along the U.S. Canada border through its involvement in the TBWG passenger rail discussion group. EBTC member states and provinces continue to support the

efforts of AMTRAK to establish a pre-clearance facility at the Montreal Train Station.

### **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, "Canada – U.S. Border: Dynamics of Change" held in Burlington, Vermont on September 17, brought together forty-seven bi-national trade, travel, and border security experts to discuss critical issues impacting the movement of people and goods between Canada and the United States.

The main topics of the workshop were:

1. An examination of North American trade, traffic and logistics trends bi-nationally and on the Canada – U.S. border
2. Updates by Federal Agencies on the implementation of the Beyond the Border Action Plan
3. Updates by state/provincial transportation agencies on the status of the Beyond the Border pilot projects.
4. Private sector perspectives on the impact of Beyond the Border Action Plan on trade, travel and logistics.

The final session of the day was a roundtable discussion on likely future impacts of border policies, programs and initiatives on trade, travel and logistics.

For more information regarding the workshop, visit <http://www.ebtc.info/ebtc-info/presentations.html>.

## **EBTC Strategic Planning Process**

Following the annual workshop, the EBTC Board of Directors met with Glenn McRae, of the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center to initiate a planning process with the goal of creating a long term strategic plan to update the organization's mission, vision, goals and work plan. This process will be completed by April of 2014 and will help EBTC define its priorities for the next three to five years.

## **EBTC Annual Meeting**

At its annual meeting, the Board of Directors re-elected Dave Henry and Sara Moore as the organization co-chairs. Maurice Rasheed was re-elected as Treasurer-Secretary. Z. Kris Wisniewski was appointed to serve as Executive Director in 2014.