



Mayor John F. Cook

Briefing to City Council on
Ports of Entry Task Force

July 10, 2012





SUBGROUPS

- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Staffing
- Private Public Partnerships
- POV & Pedestrians





INFRASTRUCTURE

- First survey to the industry covered change in CBP times of operation and moving operations from BOTA to Zaragoza.
- New survey will be sent - targeted Plant Managers, upper level managers and shippers that represent 80% of the trade that comes across and will ask input on the following:
 - Moving all northbound commercial vehicle crossings to Zaragoza
 - Moving all southbound empty commercial vehicle crossings to Bridge of the Americas (BOTA)
 - Restricting commercial traffic using BOTA for C-TPAT & FAST only

Survey also asks for optimal hours of operation for CBP and how much lead time is needed to make production changes/adjustments to match hours of operation. For changes to be effective, other variables have to change, any financial implications and if there is any value added benefit that will assist the industry. Also asking if C-TPAT certified, and if not, the reason for not obtaining the certification. Asking for alternatives to every suggestion if possible.





TECHNOLOGY

- Meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.
- They will be identifying a technology solutions integration plan with an executable timeline to meet current needs.
- They are also in the process of identifying IT partners with canned solutions to avoid propriety issues and facilitate implementation System to measure wait times.



STAFFING

- Standard border wait time measurement – independent, real-time, and accurate
- Continuous and effective training for CBP staff
- Meet border-crossing demand and peak hours
- Alternative staffing – part-time and seasonal workers, retirees, etc.
- Outbound inspections
- Use of technology to reduce use of officers performing non-inspection duties
- PORTS Act – increase number of officers
- Public Private Partnerships
- SENTRI – expand the program, increase registration, and create effective and formal review process for rejections and revocations.





PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

- On June 7th, Senator Cornyn officially introduced the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2012 (S.3279) with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison as a co-sponsor.
- On June 22nd, Congressmen Henry Cuellar and Michael McCaul (both of Texas) introduced HR 5964, the “Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2012”. This is the companion bill to the legislation that Senators Cornyn and Hutchison introduced in early June.
- The City of El Paso has provided a list of potential public-private partnership projects to the Senators’ Office and Congressman Reyes to submit to GSA and CBP for their review.
- Privately funded project - Secure Origins for the segregation of traffic in Cd. Juárez.





POV & PEDESTRIANS

- Streamline Immigrant Visa Admission
- Automate I-94 Processing
- Automate and improve process for return of I-94 upon departure
- Improve customer service signage
- Improve access to and training of immigration subject matter experts
- Improve immigration-related information available online
- Prioritize adequate staffing



INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES STAFF

- RFID readers to measure border wait times
- CIP Plan for bridges
- Potential Pedestrian Processing Center
- Potentially expanding buses for pedestrian

ADDITIONAL:

Senator Hutchison's border wait study request to the Government Accountability Office should begin this summer and hope to be completed this fall.

