



U.S. - MEXICO BORDER
MAYORS ASSOCIATION | ASOCIACIÓN DE ALCALDES
FRONTERIZOS MÉXICO-E.U.

*An International Association of Border Mayors from México and the United States.
Our purpose is to speak with one voice on issues that impact the communities that our borders join together.*

Resolution Trade and Cross-Border Infrastructure

WHEREAS, the cities along the United States–Mexico border have a history of friendship and excellent collaboration on the shared concerns of their border residents, including infrastructure, economic competitiveness, trade and investment, tourism, public safety and security; and

WHEREAS, the cities along the United States–Mexico border share an interest in a border region that is managed to enhance public safety, encourage trade, strengthen cultural ties, and reduce the cost of doing business in North America; and

WHEREAS, the relationships and collaboration between the cities along the United States–Mexico border are enhanced by effective shared border management, professionalism in law enforcement, strong institutional capacity, and effective interagency coordination in and between Mexico, the United States, and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 enhanced collaboration and created economic prosperity and job growth for the United States, for Mexico, and for Canada; and

WHEREAS, the economies of the United States, Mexico, and Canada have never been more intertwined in co-production and trade (including supply chains), with North American partners representing 28 percent of the world’s gross domestic product but having less than seven percent of the world’s population in 2016; and

WHEREAS, 14 million U.S. jobs depend on trade with Canada and with Mexico, and 43 of 50 U.S. states identify Canada or Mexico as their first or second largest export market, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is the United States’ third largest trading partner, with goods and services trade totaling an estimated \$616 billion in 2017, including exports of \$276.2 billion and imports of \$340 billion; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is the largest trading partner for all four United States southern border states; and

WHEREAS, U.S. cities and metropolitan areas are increasingly connected to their counterparts in Mexico and in Canada through economic relationships, integrated cross-border production of goods within industry clusters, foreign direct investment, migration, cultural and educational exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the interaction between the U.S.–Mexico border cities is reflected in the significant numbers of bridges and border crossings, which are among the busiest in the world; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned economic activity is facilitated by approximately 10 million annual truck crossings at commercial ports of entry along the U.S.–Mexico border, travelling through our border communities and impacting our roads, traffic patterns, and air quality; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 million individuals transit the U.S. land ports of entry or Mexican land ports of entry in passenger vehicles or as pedestrians each day; and

WHEREAS, long delays at ports of entry adversely affect the residents and the economies of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the most efficient border crossings are also the safest and most secure border crossings; and

WHEREAS, land ports of entry infrastructure are under federal jurisdiction, but has significant impacts on local communities; and

WHEREAS, coordination and collaboration of multiple agencies of local, state and federal governments are required to successfully develop border infrastructure projects that enhance both security and efficiency and to facilitate cross-border trade; and

WHEREAS, after 24 years, recognize that NAFTA needed to be modernized to ensure the United States remains competitive against other trade blocs, to preserve U.S. jobs, and to discourage the outflow of capital; and

WHEREAS, note the United States and Mexico announced a bilateral trade agreement in principle in August 2018 and continue to negotiate Canada’s participation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S.–Mexico Border Mayors Association urges the President and Congress to recognize the importance of trade and the secure, lawful flow of goods, services, and people between the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S.–Mexico Border Mayors Association is committed to strengthening cooperation to enhance economic competitiveness and sharing information that enhances the secure flows of goods and people.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in modernizing NAFTA, the President and Congress:

- 1) Maintain a trilateral trade partnership for the North American region in order to optimize the region’s competitiveness; and
- 2) Ensure that all businesses, especially small- to medium-sized businesses, have the opportunity to engage by providing streamlined and transparent rules of trade; and
- 3) Adopt trade rules recognizing advances in technology not in existence in 1994; and
- 4) Amend rules of origin without impairing the quality of a product or its competitive pricing; and
- 5) Ensure cross-border, inter-agency coordination; and
- 6) Allocate tariffs and fees generated and collected at all borders to support border infrastructure, customs facilitation, and staffing; and
- 7) Update NAFTA labor and visa categories to reflect modern classifications and expand common standards for professions and for mutual recognition of skills credentials.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S.–Mexico Border Mayors Association calls on both the United States and Mexican federal governments to:

- 1) Continue to work with state and local governments to improve the efficiency of traffic circulation at all border bridges and crossings, mitigating economic and environmental impacts on the border region resulting from deficiencies or from lack of adequate border infrastructure, and its resulting border wait times; and
- 2) Deploy Intelligent Transportation Systems as upgrades are made at all land ports of entry; and
- 3) Fully staff all crossings; and
- 4) Expand the successful pre-inspection pilot programs currently operating at Mariposa, at Otay Mesa and at the Laredo airport to develop joint inspection facilities where feasible; and
- 5) Continue to invest to upgrade and to expand existing border crossings and to develop new border crossings as indicated by locally driven cross-border transportation master plans, leveraging federal funds with local and private financial resources and mechanisms; and
- 6) Continue to expand and to integrate trusted traveler programs such as SENTRI, GLOBAL ENTRY and FAST with the goal that residents of all three North American nations may utilize a single accepted trusted traveler document; and
- 7) Consider joining efforts of local governments and private industry to finance and to build improvements and new land Ports of Entry and associated access roads, supporting public-private, and public-public partnerships.

Sonia Villarreal Pérez, Mayor, Piedras Negras, COA, Mexico

Nora Barraza, Mayor, Town of Mesilla, NM, United States

Roberto de los Santos Vasquez, Mayor, Ciudad Acuña, COA, Mexico

Raul Reyes, Mayor, El Cenizo, TX, United States

Mario Guevara (Director of COPRESAN) Mayor Designee, San Luis, SN, Mexico

Ruben Mendoza, Mayor, Horizon City, TX, United States

Jesus Antonio Pujol Irastorza, Mayor Elect, Nogales, SN, Mexico

Pete Saenz, Mayor,Laredo, TX, United States

José Alfonso Peña Rodriguez, Interim Mayor, Reynosa, TAM, Mexico

Jim Darling, Mayor, McAllen, TX, United States

Juan Diego Guajardo, Mayor, Río Bravo, TAM, Mexico

Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, San Antonio, TX, United States

Juan Manuel Gastelum Buenrostro, Mayor, Tijuana, BC, Mexico

Dee Margo, Mayor, El Paso, TX, United States

Nereida Fuentes Gonzalez, Mayor, Tecate, BC, Mexico

Manuel Leos, Mayor, Vinton, TX, United States

Martin Sanchez Valles, Mayor, Ojinaga, CHI, Mexico

Armando O'Cana, Mayor, Mission, TX, United States

Rafael Román Soltero (Director of Public Relations) Mayor Designee, Guerrero, COA, Mexico

Jose Fito Salinas, Mayor, La Joya, TX, United States

Kevin Faulconer, Mayor, San Diego, CA, United States

Robert Uribe, Mayor, Douglas, AZ, United States

Javier Perea, Mayor, Sunland Park, NM, United States

Matias Rosales (Council Member) Mayor Designee, San Luis, AZ, United States

Ramsey English Cantu, Mayor, Eagle Pass, TX, United States