

# U.S.–Mexico Border Planning

## Facilitating Transportation Across The Southern Border



### U.S.–Mexico Border Transportation Planning

Border transportation planning involves the development of goals, objectives, and strategies for moving people and goods across the U.S.–Mexico border. FHWA leads multiple binational stakeholders to collaboratively create safe and effective cross-border transportation.

FHWA also facilitates the development and maintenance of the surface transportation system along the U.S.–Mexico border to address existing and anticipated demand for cross border travel and trade while working with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, international partners at the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) of Mexico, the private sector, and various stakeholders. The U.S.–Mexico border is the most frequently crossed international border in the world. In 2016, over **5.8 million trucks**, **75.6 million personal vehicles**, and **140.7 million vehicle passengers** crossed through the **47 Land Ports of Entry (LPOEs)** along the U.S.'s **1,933 miles of shared border** with Mexico.<sup>1,2</sup>



San Ysidro Border Crossing. Image credit: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

### Focus on the Southern Border

Along the Southern Border, planning efforts include:

#### Coordination



FHWA actively participates on the **Good Neighbor Environmental Board**, which provides a forum for intergovernmental coordination on environmental infrastructure along the Southern Border.

#### Policy, Plans, and Programs



FHWA championed the creation of **six binational Regional Border Master Plans (BMPs)** along the Southern Border. Each BMP includes an analysis of future land use conditions and a prioritized list of border transportation needs.

#### Projects



FHWA provided coordination and technical assistance to support the construction of the **West Rail Bypass International Bridge**, the first new

international rail crossing between the U.S. and Mexico since 1910.

#### Research



Recent FHWA-sponsored research includes an analysis of Bluetooth technology for measuring border wait times. FHWA also provides support for the **Border Crossing Information System**,

which is administered by Texas A&M University's Transportation Institute.

### FHWA Coordination Spotlight:

#### U.S.–Mexico Joint Working Committee

In 1994, FHWA and SCT created the U.S.–Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning (JWC) to facilitate the efficient, safe, and economical movement of people and goods across the U.S.–Mexico border. Biannual JWC plenaries provide a forum for interagency collaboration on transportation planning, policy implementation, and technology deployment. The 2016-2018 JWC Action Plan describes the planned projects and focus areas for JWC.

### FHWA Coordination Spotlight:

#### Border Infrastructure Finance Workshop

In 2016, FHWA held a workshop on border infrastructure finance in San Diego, CA to educate stakeholders about potential funding sources for binational transportation projects. The workshop featured presentations on traditional and innovative funding sources, including public-private partnerships and crowd-financing. Presenters discussed strategies for mitigating risk when using innovative financing for border transportation projects.

### For more information, contact:

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To learn more, visit: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border\\_planning](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning)

# U.S.–Mexico Border Transportation: Facts and Figures



Image credit: 123rf.com (mg7 and ribsonoff)

## Did You Know?

- The U.S.–Mexico border is approximately **1,933 miles long** and the trade relationship between the two countries is one of the largest in the world.
- There are **47 land ports of entry** and **six rail-only crossings** along the Southern Border, which spans four U.S. states and six Mexican states. Among the ports are two dams, one hand-drawn ferry, and non-motorized pedestrian access in Big Bend National Park.
- Nearly **100 million people** live in the 10 U.S. and Mexican states along the Southern Border. This region represents **the world's fourth-largest economy**.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately **81.6 million vehicles** crossed from Mexico into the U.S. in 2016,<sup>1</sup> including:



**75.6 million personal vehicles**  
carrying 140.7 million people



**5.8 million trucks**  
carrying 20.8 million tons of goods



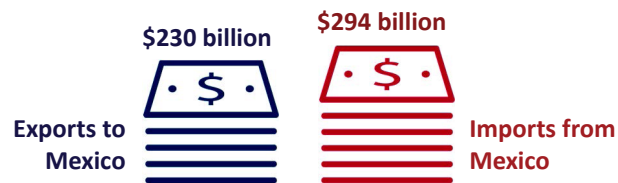
**181,000 buses**  
carrying 2.3 million people



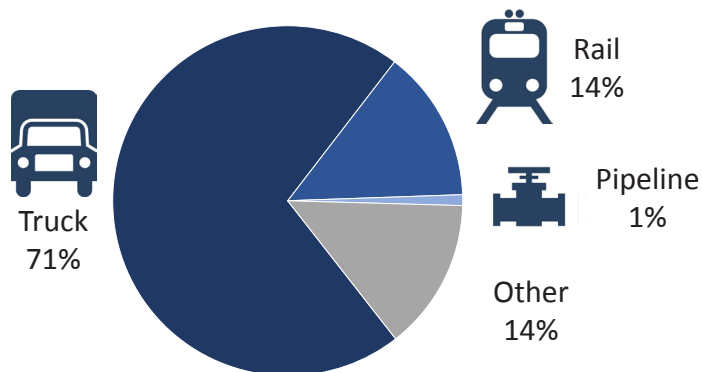
**42.1 million pedestrians**  
through land ports of entry

## Importance of U.S. – Mexico Border Transportation to the U.S. Economy

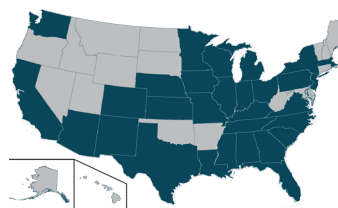
- Mexico is the U.S.'s second-largest export market and third-largest import market.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, trade with Mexico totaled **\$526 billion**.<sup>1</sup>



- By value, 86 percent of trade with Mexico in 2016 moved across the border by surface transportation modes: trucks, rail, or pipelines.<sup>1</sup>

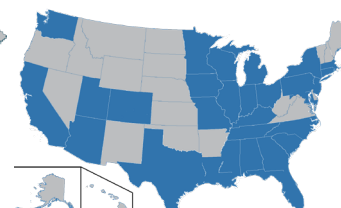


- Trade with Mexico is not limited to the Southern Border States: In 2016, 30 states exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Mexico, while an additional 30 states imported more than \$1 billion in goods from Mexico.<sup>1</sup>



### Exported more than \$1 billion to Mexico

All but AK, AR, CT, DE, HI, ID, MD, ME, MT, ND, NH, NV, OK, OR, RI, SD, UT, VT, WV, WY



### Imported more than \$1 billion to Mexico

All but AK, AR, DE, HI, ID, KS, ME, MT, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, VA, VT, WV, WY

## Citations

1. Bureau of Transportation Statistics

2. U.S. Census Bureau



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