

New Mexico Border Planning

Facilitating Transportation Across The Southern Border



New 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, the private sector, and various stakeholders. In 2016, **129,000 trucks**, **1 million personal vehicles**, and **2 million vehicle passengers** crossed through the **three Land Ports of Entry (LPOEs)** along New Mexico's **180 miles of shared border** with Chihuahua, Mexico's largest state.^{1,2}



A freight x-ray scanner at the Santa-Teresa crossing in New Mexico. Source: J. Davis

Focus on the New Mexico Border

Along the New Mexico border, planning efforts include:

Coordination



In 1994, FHWA and its counterparts in Mexico created the U.S.–Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning (JWC). FHWA's New Mexico

Division, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and the New Mexico Border Authority coordinate and participate in many border-related events, studies, and workshops. In 2016, JWC held its **fall plenary session in Las Cruces, New Mexico**.

Policy, Plans, and Programs



FHWA has allotted more than \$11 million in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) **grants to 27 multi-modal projects**

across New Mexico. NMDOT oversees the projects and administers the funds.

Research



In 2016, NMDOT proposed and FHWA funded a **two-year border wait-time analysis study** in an effort to better understand and expedite border wait and border crossing times for commercial

vehicles at the Santa Teresa Land Port of Entry.⁴ The study will allow agencies in New Mexico to compare the efficiency of their busiest crossing to other ports and will be part of a regional wait-time reduction approach alongside an effort in El Paso, Texas.

FHWA Planning Spotlight:

New Mexico–Chihuahua Border Master Plan

In 2015, New Mexico and Chihuahua completed their Border Master Plan to guide future improvements and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cross-border transportation infrastructure in three principal metropolitan areas: Las Cruces, New Mexico; Deming, New Mexico; and Juárez, Chihuahua.

FHWA Project Spotlight:

Union Pacific Santa Teresa Terminal

The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) recently completed construction of its Santa Teresa Terminal, which will one day handle the current workload of the Dallas Street Yard in El Paso, Texas. The facility provides the UPRR a key inland port for its operations in the Southwest United States, specifically the Sunset Route, a critical rail line running 760 miles from El Paso, Texas, to Los Angeles, California. The terminal was completed one year ahead of schedule and has been operational since 2014. It sits on 2,200 acres and has the ability to expand in the future to accommodate 700,000 freight containers annually.³

For more information, contact:

Sylvia Grijalva, U.S.–Mexico Border Planning Coordinator
FHWA Office of Planning, Environment & Realty
(602) 510-7986, sylvia.grijalva@dot.gov

To learn more, visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/border_planning

New Mexico Border Transportation: Facts and Figures

2040 Projection: Major Flows by Truck, NM

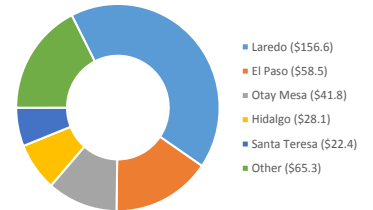


Credit: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Freight Analysis Framework, version 3.4, Office of Freight Management and Operations.

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

Santa Teresa–San Jerónimo sees the fifth-highest value of goods transported by truck along the U.S.–Mexico border, accounting for **\$22.4 billion of the \$372 billion** in goods that crossed the border in 2016.¹

Value of Goods Shipped by Truck Between the U.S. and Mexico, 2016 (billions)



In addition, Santa Teresa–San Jerónimo is the largest facility for the import and export of livestock along the U.S.–Mexico border, exchanging upwards of **\$300 million in cattle each year**.⁷ This livestock facility can hold up to 15,000 head of cattle, and can process as many as 5,000 head in less than 12 hours.⁸

Did You Know?

- New Mexico and Mexico share three border crossings: **Santa Teresa, NM–San Jerónimo, CH; Columbus, NM–Puerto Palomas, CH; and Antelope Wells, NM–El Berrendo, CH.**
- The Santa Teresa–San Jerónimo LPOE is the busiest on the New Mexico–Chihuahua border, accounting for **87 percent** of the state’s truck crossings and **63 percent** of its personal vehicle crossings.¹
- Trade supports **over 200,000 jobs** in the state of New Mexico, which exported **\$3.6 billion** in 2016.^{1,6}

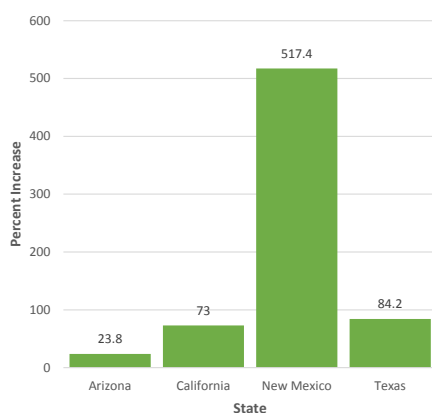
Rapid Growth in Traffic Volumes at the New Mexico – Mexico Border

Over the last 20 years, New Mexico’s LPOEs have seen dramatic increases in traffic and resource demand.

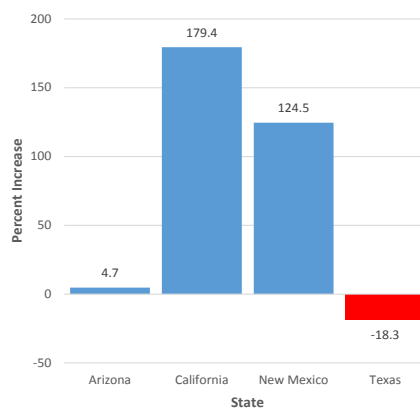
Santa Teresa and Columbus combined for a **record-high 128,000 truck crossings in 2016**.¹ Near the Santa Teresa–San Jerónimo port, the recent completion of the Union Pacific terminal, a Foxconn manufacturing plant, and related industrial developments have contributed to the recent spike in commercial and personal vehicle crossings.

Below are charts depicting the increase in traffic along the New Mexico border compared to other southern states.¹

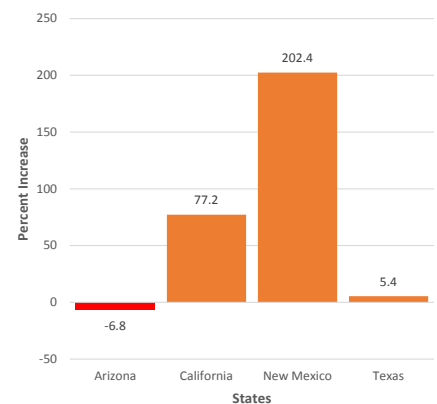
U.S. Border Crossing Data: Trucks (1996-2016)



U.S. Border Crossing Data: Personal Vehicles (1996-2016)



U.S. Border Crossing Data: Pedestrians (1996-2016)



Citations

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- U.S. Geological Survey
- El Paso/Santa Teresa-Chihuahua Border Master Plan
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- United States Global Leadership Coalition
- International Trade Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Border Authority



February 2018

For more information, contact:

Sylvia Grijalva, U.S.–Mexico Border Planning Coordinator
FHWA Office of Planning, Environment & Realty
(602) 510-7986, sylvia.grijalva@dot.gov