

# Recommendations and Highlights of the U.S.-Mexico CEO Dialogue

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## Optimization

- The function of “trusted traveler/shipper” programs should be enhanced and the number of companies participating should be substantially increased. Significantly reduced average border crossing times must be attained for certified/pre-cleared program participants.
- State-of-the-art transport tracking/monitoring technology should be deployed to analyze northbound and southbound flow of goods in detail at strategic U.S.-Mexican border crossings. Results should be used to establish an ambitious specific time target for the length of the average border crossing for goods shipments.
- The work of the U.S.-Mexico High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council should be reinvigorated and include ambitious interagency goals that require close coordination among involved stakeholders.
- Inspection practices for rail transport should be flexible enough to allow the operation of U.S. or Mexican crews in portions of the U.S. and Mexican railways alike, similar to what occur with Canada.

## North American Competitiveness

- Governments of the U.S., Mexico and Canada should develop and advance a positive long-term vision for enhanced continental cooperation and integration centered on four fundamental pillars: education, energy, infrastructure, and labor mobility.
- Create a unified North American Border Master Plan that would engage a broad group of stakeholders to produce a long-term vision for how regional infrastructure can best support our three integrated economies.
- The private sector and three governments should consider working jointly to fund Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives that specifically target development of workforce capabilities for increasingly tech-dependent economies.
- North American energy integration should be prioritized. For example, the three governments should work closely with industry to harmonize pipeline safety inspection requirements.
- U.S. immigration policy should acknowledge the reality of a highly integrated NAFTA economic space where goods, services and investment are highly mobile. We call upon the U.S. to enact common sense measures that provide better border security and provide the American economy with the workers it needs at all skill levels.

## **Connected Cross Border Cities**

- Challenges in the border region require a holistic strategy that fully integrates cross-border city pairs in order to enhance security and improve the flow of people, information and goods.
- The Cross Border Connected Cities Concept (CCBC) involves four key components: 1) Creation of a Transformation Zone; 2) the Strategic Bundling of Programs; 3) Development of a Governance Structure and Challenge Process; and 4) Technology Architecture.
- The advancement of the CCBC concept relies on the application of the already proven SMART City Solutions Architecture, which provides standardized, inter-operable, scalable solutions with known levels of investment and returns.
- Preliminary high level analysis based on application of real use cases indicates that significant societal and economic benefits can accrue in terms of GDP, jobs, productivity and improved quality of life – yielding returns that could range from 5 to 10 times inputs.
- Work must be done to identify future financing methodologies, including the role of PPPs if applicable.
- Six existing city pairs have been identified as potential candidates to serve as the pilot Connected Cross-Border City case. A preliminary analysis of the important pilot city-pair attributes has also been prepared.