

Viable practices shared to reduce air emissions from transit through land ports of entry



2013–2014 Project

Greening Transportation at North American Land Ports of Entry

Building on recent work of the CEC on ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from freight transportation and along transportation corridors, this project analyzed vehicle emissions associated with border wait times and related health impacts, and proposed viable options and practices to reduce vehicle emissions from traffic congestion at terrestrial border crossings between Canada and the United States, and the United States and Mexico. The results of the studies were presented at two selected crossings.

Key Accomplishments

- Produced a literature review of air emission reduction studies at North American land ports of entry and recommendations. The report will support future initiatives on reducing air emission at land ports of entry and inform areas for further research
- Completed studies of cross-border traffic wait times, air quality and health impacts at the Mexico-US (San Ysidro/El Chaparral) and the Canada-US (Pacific Highway) ports of entry with the support of twenty experts from the three countries
- Held two workshops at the selected ports of entry to present the study results. More than 80 key government stakeholders and experts invited by the steering committee participated in these workshops

Products

- *Reducing Air Pollution at Land Ports of Entry: Recommendations for Canada, Mexico and the United States*
- *Analysis of Wait Times, Traffic-related Air Emissions, Operations, and Health Impacts at the Pacific Highway Land Port of Entry*
- *Analysis of Wait Times, Traffic-related Air Emissions, Operations, and Health Impacts at the San Ysidro/El Chaparral Land Ports of Entry*
- Report summarizing the discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the two workshops held in May and June 2015

Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

The Steering Committee members of this project include Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, *Secretaría de Economía, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Partners include members of the Trilateral Consultative Group, composed of representatives from Environment Canada, *Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza*, US/Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning, Canada-United States Transportation Border Working Group, US and Texas Department of Transportation, US General Services Administration, Ontario and Quebec Ministries of Transportation, US Department of State, as well as representatives from universities and the transportation industry, among others. Other stakeholders and beneficiaries include communities living near the border crossings and daily commuters.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

