BORDER TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Texas-Mexico Border: Gateway to Texas and U.S. International Trade and Economic Competitiveness

UTEP Campus, Union Building East – 3rd Floor, Room 308
UTEP – Tomas Rivera Conference Center
El Paso, TX 75205

September 7, 2016
8:30am – 3pm
8:30–8:45AM  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and introductions
■ Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos
■ The Honorable Oscar Lesser, Mayor, City of El Paso
■ The Honorable Veronica Escobar, El Paso County Judge
■ Lauren Garduno, P.E., Director of Project Planning and Development, TxDOT

8:45–9:00AM  ADOPTION OF JUNE 30, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Committee adopts Minutes from last meeting
■ Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos

9:00–10:30AM  TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES PLAN

Discuss and get input on: White papers and framework for developing the strategic plan
■ Michael Bomba, UNT
■ Juan Carlos Villa, TTI
■ Rafael Aldrete, TTI

10:30–11:30AM  PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

Provide an overview of the commercial vehicle perspective, the maquiladora perspective, and the Customs broker Perspective
■ Alan Russell, President and CEO, TECMA
■ Martin Campos, Executive Director, CTE Mexico
■ Hector Martinez, Vice President, Customs Brokerage

11:30–11:45AM  BREAK
11:45–12:45PM  REGIONAL PLANNING

Provide an overview of planning efforts in the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez Border Metroplex Region

- Bob Bieleck, El Paso District Engineer, TxDOT
- Mathew McElroy, Director of International Bridges, City of El Paso
- Michael Medina, Executive Director, El Paso Metropolitan Organization
- Nicolas Lopez, Director of Urban Mobility, Municipal Institute of Planning and Investigation of Ciudad Juarez

12:45–2:15PM  LUNCH SPEAKER

Discussion on Texas-Mexico Trade, significance, current issues

- Roberto Coronado, Assistant Vice President, El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

2:15–2:45PM  BORDER CROSSING CHALLENGES, WAIT TIMES, INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES, DONATION ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM IN EL PASO, FUTURE PLANS

- Hector A. Mancha Jr., Director, Field Operations, El Paso CBP Field Office

2:45–3:00PM  OPEN DISCUSSION – FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS

- SOS Carlos H. Cascos, Chair

3:00PM  ADJOURN

- SOS Carlos H. Cascos, Chair

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

December 7, 2016, Brownsville, Texas
K. Alan Russell

President and C.E.O. of the Tecma Group of Companies

Alan Russell co-founded the The Tecma Group of Companies in 1986 and serves as President and CEO. The Tecma Group of Companies provides shelter, manufacturing support, and consulting services throughout Mexico for foreign manufacturing and energy services companies across the world. Over the past 30 years, Alan has grown the company to more than 7,000 employees, over 75 Clients with over 2.5 million square feet of manufacturing space in Mexico.

Alan is Chairman of one of Mexico’s major Industrial Development Committees. Alan also leads Tecma’s membership in the Energy Council of the Americas (ECOTA), focused on Mexico’s energy reform. Alan is also member of the Southwest Maquila Association; member and major investor in the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.


Martin Campos

Executive Director of CTE Mexico

Martin Campos is the Executive Director of CTE Mexico which is a transportation and logistics company. He also is the international Relations Representative for CANACAR in Ciudad Juarez, an umbrella organization representing various economic development interests. He has held numerous positions in the maquiladora industry for the past 30 years, including production, sales, and inventories. He considers logistics a major component of trade, specifically as it relates to exports. He holds a B.A. in Public Administration and Political Science from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez.

Hector Martinez

Vice President Customs Brokerage

Currently Vice President Customs Brokerage, at Trans-expedite, Inc., have been in the international traded/logistics in the El Paso/Juarez area for over 25 years. Obtained Customs Brokers License in 2001 and have worked in different positions with major manufacturers in the area. Managed a Foreign Trade Zone for Thomson Consumer Electronics, which had imports of televisions and consumer electronics. Managed imports for Cardinal Health and Zenith Electronics thru many of the southern ports with Mexico and the Caribbean. Have been part of the brokers association for over 20 years, been a director and the treasurer for this association.
Robert (Bob) Bielek, D.P.A., P.E.
District Engineer, El Paso District

Bob Bielek is a transportation industry veteran with 47-years of experience in the planning, design, construction and operation of highways, airports, and transit facilities. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh respectively and a Doctorate in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University. He has been a licensed professional engineer since 1975 and is currently licensed in Florida, Colorado and Texas and holds a national certificate from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. He has been TxDOT’s District Engineer in El Paso, Texas for the past 4-years and is responsible for more than a billion dollars of infrastructure improvements completed, underway or planned as well as the maintenance and operation of the El Paso District which encompasses nearly 22,000 square miles made up of the six westernmost counties in Texas. The District has several hundred miles of both international border with Mexico as well as state border with New Mexico. El Paso is the nexus where Texas, Mexico and New Mexico join and is a critical hub for both international and domestic commerce that use air, highway and rail transportation.

Mathew McElroy
City of El Paso

Mathew McElroy, AICP, CNU-A, is the Director of International Bridges for the City of El Paso where oversees the City’s three Ports of Entry. He works extensively with US Customs and Border Patrol, Mexican Customs, and a myriad of other state and federal agencies in the US and Mexico to improve the systems that move trade, people, and vehicles between the two countries. Prior to joining the City of El Paso, he served as the Associate Director of the Institute for Policy and Economic Development (IPED) at the University of Texas at El Paso. In his work at IPED, he co-led the team that won the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) National Award for Excellence in Policy Analysis for a binational industry cluster study. He is also the 2012 winner of the Groves Award, among the highest individual honors in Planning in the United States. Mathew is a University of Texas at El Paso graduate of the English (BA) (1997), Master in Public Administration (2000), and Master of Science in Economics (2008) programs.

Michael Medina
CNU-A - El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization

Michael Medina is the Executive Director for the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) and has been with the EPMPO staff since 2004. The EPMPO is one of two bi-state MPOs in Texas and includes elected officials and administrators from both New Mexico and Texas. Michael is responsible for directing staff on the development of long and short range plans designed to improve regional and international mobility, air quality, safety, quality-of-life, and economic development. Representing the largest MPO along the U.S. - Mexico border, the EPMPO is involved in many international and regional transportation projects.
Speaker bios

**Alberto Nicolas Lopez**

*Director of Urban Mobility*

Alberto Nicolas Lopez is a leader in the development and improvement of transportation procedures related to the safety and efficient movement of traffic in order to increase economic competitiveness, flexibility and efficiency in a global environment. In his current position as the Director of Urban mobility in the Municipal Institute of Planning and Investigation of Ciudad Juarez, he is responsible for planning the urban mobility projects for the city and coordinates the incident Geographic Information System (GIS). He holds Master Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez.

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**Roberto Corondado**

*El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*

Roberto Coronado is assistant vice president in charge and senior economist at the El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. In this capacity, Coronado serves as the Dallas Fed lead officer and regional economist for West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Coronado works closely with the branch’s board of directors and provides leadership and oversight for the operating and administrative functions of the El Paso office. He oversees the branch’s outreach activities through publications, presentations and speeches, public conferences and economic education. His research focuses on issues pertaining to the Mexican economy, the U.S.–Mexico border economy, and the maquiladora industry. Coronado has written articles for various Federal Reserve publications and academic journals in both the United States and Mexico. Coronado currently serves as the president of the Rio Grande Economics Association, the El Paso chapter of the National Association for Business Economics. He is also a board member of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, The World Affairs Council of the North American Borderplex, Workforce Solutions Borderplex, and United Way of El Paso. He is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he teaches in the executive MBA program. He obtained his PhD in economics from the University of Houston and holds a BBA in accounting and economics and an MS in economics from the University of Texas at El Paso.

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**Hector A. Mancha, Jr.**

*Director, Field Operations El Paso CBP Field Office*

Hector A. Mancha, Jr. was appointed Director, Field Operations, El Paso on June 9, 2014. As the principal field manager for CBP-OFO operations, Mr. Mancha directs the activities of over fourteen hundred employees located at various ports of entry covering over 500 miles of border from west Texas across the state of New Mexico, an operational area of 153,851 square miles. Included in this area of responsibility are the Texas ports of El Paso, Presidio, Boquillas, Tornillo and Fort Hancock and the New Mexico ports of Santa Teresa, Columbus, Antelope Wells and Albuquerque.