

# OUR COMMON BORDER:

AN AREA OF PROSPERITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

A NEW ERA OF OPPORTUNITIES  
STANDS BEFORE THE REGION



**Our border is more dynamic and secure than it has ever been**

Over the last few years, our common border has increasingly become an area of prosperity and regional competitiveness. Together, the 10 border states —4 in the United States, 6 in Mexico—have 13 million inhabitants residing across each other and would constitute the world's 4th largest economy. Mexico and the United States continue to work closely together on a day to day basis. Much remains to be done, but our countries' progress can be objectively measured. Bilateral cooperation is stronger than ever in areas such as infrastructure development, security, and trade facilitation. Positive dynamics are now in place, benefitting both societies, and our common values and cultural ties are nowhere more visible than at our shared border. The level of ongoing cooperation between Mexico and the United States on border issues is a testament of the maturity and strength of the bilateral relationship.

## A SHARED, STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BORDER ISSUES

### The U.S./Mexico Twenty-First Century Border Management Declaration (May 2010)

Mexico and the United States have long recognized the importance of building a prosperous border that thrives and contributes to the welfare of communities in both countries. Sharing the objective of promoting greater economic competitiveness and security, the two governments work together through an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) that regularly monitors and ensures the implementation of specific actions to facilitate the movement of goods and people in a safe, efficient, expeditious and lawful manner.

### A common approach to shared natural resources

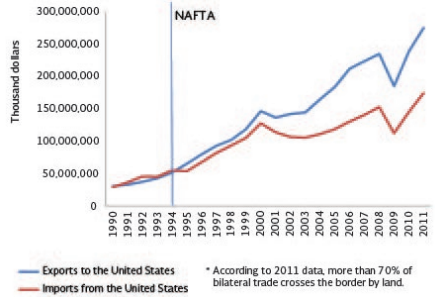
Only through joint actions can Mexico and the United States protect the ecosystems along the border and sustainably manage the available resources. The International Border and Water Commission's Minute 319 (November 2012) sets unprecedented institutional foundations to ensure regional water and environmental sustainability in the Colorado River. The creation of the Big Bend-Río Bravo Natural Area of Binational Interest (October 2011) is an important step in the preservation of the Río Grande/Bravo basin.

# A SMARTER BORDER AND HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

## Better use of government resources, greater cooperation

Smart and common sense approaches improve the quality of life and trade at the border. Mexico and the United States work towards ensuring regional security and agile inspection procedures. Several programs contribute to these goals: FAST, SENTRI, Ready Lane and Global Entry, to mention a few. The Single Rail Manifest allows companies to send their manifest, simultaneously and electronically, to customs authorities of both countries.

### Mexico's bilateral trade with the United States



## More bridges, more trade

The border between Mexico and the United States is one of the busiest in the world, with 56 ports of entry. Around 1 billion dollars is traded every day and 300,000 vehicle crossings take place (including 70,000 trailers). Three new border crossings are in operation as of 2010, two between the states of Texas and Tamaulipas, and one between Arizona and Sonora. In the coming months, the first new railway crossing in over 100 years will start operations, as well as a crossing between Boquillas del Carmen/Big Bend national parks, between Texas and Coahuila.

## Modern crossings for modern cities

San Diego and Tijuana are increasingly intertwined. Both cities, together, have become a hub for manufacturing with a strong presence of high technology businesses. A new southbound crossing at Tijuana —San Ysidro, “El Chaparral” (October 2012) is in operation, expanding capacity and using non-intrusive inspection devices to facilitate the movement of people and goods. The northbound crossing project remains a priority for both countries, along with the establishment of a pedestrian access point in the United States to the international airport in Tijuana.

### Immigration reform stands as a unique opportunity to further cooperation and to effectively manage a border for the 21st Century

The conversation taking place today on immigration reform stands as an enormous opportunity for the future of the United States —and of North America as a whole. North America can only benefit from an improved immigration framework that better responds to the needs of a 21st Century global marketplace, that promotes safer, more efficient and orderly flows of people and goods between our economies. Legislation on this issue could stimulate economic growth and prosperity in this country and throughout the region. Mexico has an interest in this process, as it is committed to increasing the opportunities and the well-being of its citizens, at home and abroad.