

SMART BORDERS



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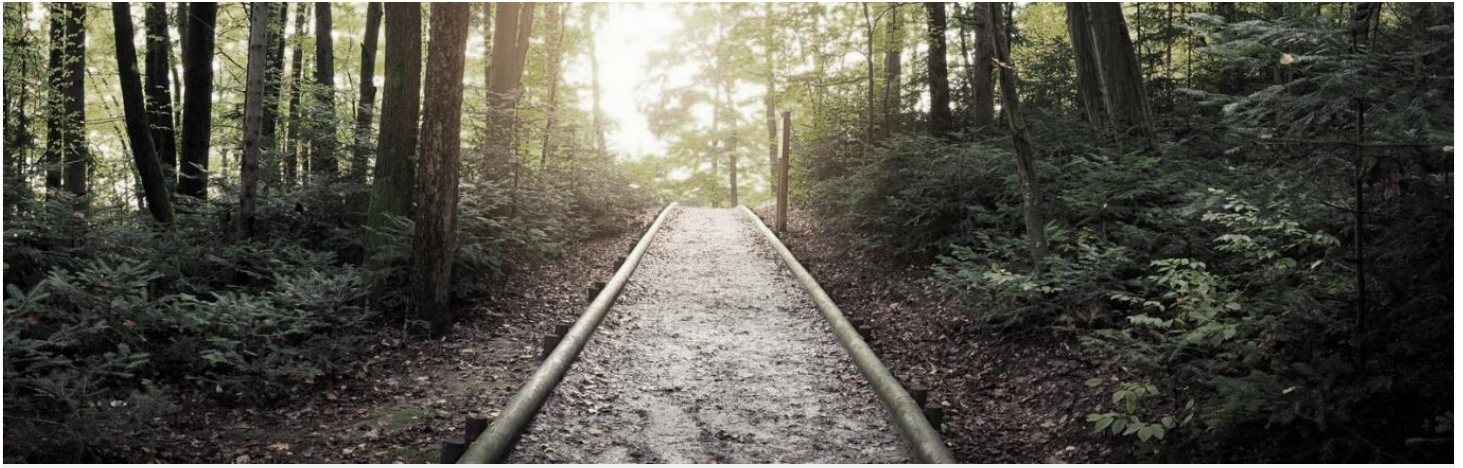


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CO-CHAIR'S CORNER

Dear Members,

Welcome to the fourth edition of Smart Borders!

Despite a few unexpected border setbacks at the beginning of 2021, the deployment of vaccines is already under way and we continue to engage with government and industry decision-makers to ensure a smooth and safe recovery for all.

In line with FBC's vision, we have decided to focus on multi-modal recovery initiatives for the first two events of the year. We have asked senior officials from the U.S. and Canadian governments, as well as executives from the transportation and tourism sectors, to engage in a candid discussion on recovery and the way forward for government-industry coordination. We invite you to browse through the article summarizing the themes discussed during our first webinar at pp. 4-6.

For this fourth edition we also decided to feature for the first time one of our government's partners. We are extremely honored to welcome Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner Diane Sabatino from U.S. Customs and Border Protection in p. 7.

In the coming months, we are looking at expanding our membership across modes and industry sectors (p. 8). We will be asking for your support as we deploy our efforts in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

As always, your engagement and participation are fundamental for the long term success of our coalition. We welcome your ideas and feedback as we continue the recovery journey.



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One Year Anniversary of the U.S.-Canada Border Closure: Our Vision and Principles for Recovery

Our Vision

The Future Borders Coalition is a group of bi-national organizations with a vested interest in advancing a cohesive vision of the U.S.-Canada border based on the principles of efficiency, safety, and security, and supported by continuous improvements in technology, processes, facilities, and innovation. In our view, the promise of facilitated trade and travel in a seamless manner for both Canada and the United States should be complemented by developing common approaches and information-sharing, exploring models of government coordination and cooperation, and focusing on greater government-industry convergence with a long-term view to improve the mobility of people and goods through the border (air, land, and sea), while ensuring that safety and security are not compromised.

Responding to COVID-19: Preparing the Border of the Future

Due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Future Borders Coalition has temporarily recalibrated its mission to focus on border recovery activities. Although our main objective remains promoting a more efficient, safe, and secure U.S.-Canada border, the work we have undertaken since the beginning of the pandemic is setting strong foundations for a more resilient border that addresses the particularities and needs of all modes of transportation. That is why we have created four Task Forces organized around modes and types of transportation: Air, Land, Maritime and Supply Chain/Movement of Goods. Each Task Force has a mandate to develop concrete proposals and pilot projects for recovery and engage constructively with governments on both sides of the border.

The Need for a Binational Public-Private Advisory Group

Our view is that the implementation of a phased approach coordinated by a Binational Public-Private Advisory Group composed of government officials, public health experts, and private sector leaders is more likely to ensure an orderly, safe and gradual easing of restrictions. The ultimate policy goal should be to reconcile public health safety with the social need to speed up economic recovery, based on the following four principles.



BI-NATIONAL AND COORDINATED

Development of mutually accepted risk-mitigating measures and common health protocols to facilitate cross-border travel for all modes of transportation.



USE OF SCIENCE-BASED CRITERIA

Easing of restrictions should be informed by science-based criteria and communicated based on easily understood requirements.



LAYERED RISK-BASED APPROACH

Adoption of a layered risk-based approach when reviewing entry requirements and other travel restrictions, supported by the latest technologies and innovation.



ASSESS IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The economic impact of border closures on communities should be carefully assessed and inform the path towards the easing of border restrictions.

For interview inquiries, please contact us at:

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FBC IN ACTION

Webinar on Safe Travel Resumption and Multimodal Perspectives

The Future Borders Coalition organized a Travel Resumption webinar on February 26, 2021. More than 200 participants attended the event, including senior government officials from the U.S. and Canadian governments, as well as seasoned industry executives from the transportation and tourism sectors.

This webinar was part of FBC's ongoing efforts to foster constructive and meaningful binational dialogue between government and industry, and put forward concrete and feasible solutions that apply to all modes of transportation. Three of our Task Forces presented their vision for recovery, elaborated on some of their current initiatives and projects, and provided an overview of their key priorities moving forward.

The **Air Border Task Force** highlighted the importance of accurate and reliable testing for recovery, and reported that over 30 pilot projects have been deployed across Canadian and U.S. airports.

Concepts such as air bridges and health preclearance were referred to as having great potential since they tend to point to low COVID-19 transmission rates.

In the meantime, the Air Border Task Force invited governments on both sides of the border to speed up the development and implementation of safe alternatives to current travel restrictions, and consider greater harmonization of quarantine actions.



The **Land Border Travel Task Force** emphasized the need to ensure the interoperability of digital solutions that share verified and secured health data, while also protecting travellers' right to privacy. The value of pilot projects for recovery was also highlighted as an opportunity to collect data that can be used to improve processes and protocols in the coming months.

The **Maritime Task Force** stressed the need for science-based protocols and the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach that considers the entire passenger journey across air, land, and sea. Bringing efficiency and security to passenger and baggage processing was presented as a key longer-term priority.

All three Task Forces agreed on the importance to promote a multimodal approach to travel resumption.



FBC Proposals for Safe Air Travel Resumption

1. Develop and implement safe alternatives to current border restrictions.
2. Government coordination needed to promote orderly and safe reopening.
3. Harmonization of testing and screening regimes for cross-border travel.
4. Adoption of digital travel solutions that include testing and vaccination information while addressing interoperability and privacy protection.
5. Ensure new solutions are beneficial to the travelling public while keeping additional costs related to testing requirements in check.

The Path Towards Safe, Seamless, and Touchless Travel



The incorporation of public health requirements into the travel ecosystem is one of the main challenges facing governments and industry today. As rightly pointed out by Alan Bersin, Former Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Chief Diplomatic Officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Policy, “in the counterterrorist context we were looking for needles in a haystack, in the public health COVID-19 context we actually have to look at the entire haystack”.

That is why government-industry consultations and coordination are critical during COVID-19 recovery. In fact, the current public health crisis provides an opportunity to transform and enhance the future of travel by reigniting

historic partnerships and leveraging touchless technologies such as biometrics. The consistent application of protocols is also likely to inject further predictability for travellers and support the path towards greater harmonization.

Government and industry panelists agreed on the importance to continue to support a vision based on a seamless and touchless travel experience across modes of transportation. Designing travel systems that allow for minimal contact between travellers and border authorities was also highlighted as a viable approach to reduce risks.

Finally, building back travel confidence in travel was identified as a key policy objective of recovery.

FBC Proposals for Safe Land Border Travel Resumption

1. There is a need for interoperability and alignment in systems that share verified and secured health data while maintaining privacy.
2. Immediate verification of health data through a preclearance model is needed for a safer and more efficient touchless environment.
3. Government collaboration with the private sector is fundamental when scoping solutions to communicate precleared health information at the border.
4. There is a need to implement pilot projects to establish proof-of-concept, test best practices, and collect data to inform public policy moving forward.

The Role of Public Health Agencies

While all panelists recognized the noble objective of coordinating border policies, it was highlighted more than once that border authorities such as DHS and CBSA are ultimately following the guidance provided by their respective public health authorities (CDC and PHAC), so it remains difficult to predict at this point whether there could ever be full alignment in the future.

Despite different perceptions regarding the risk continuum, it was reported that health agencies on both sides have been engaged right from the start, whether on developing diagnostic methodologies or evaluating data sets. Some government panelists noted that defining an acceptable level of risk is important, but there is added complexity in having a standard that works for all jurisdictions as the public health situation varies from country to country.

Digital Travel Solutions and Interoperability

In recent weeks, the adoption of digital travel solutions such as health passports has been widely discussed by industry as a viable option to minimize cases of cross-border COVID-19 transmission. The FBC webinar was not the exception.

Although government panelists agreed that an effective reopening strategy will be enabled by new technologies, no commitments were made to the effect that privately-developed travel apps will be or should be interoperable with government travel systems.

Accessibility was highlighted as a key barrier to implementation of digital travel solutions because there are still parts of the world where local populations have limited access to mobile and internet technologies.

Subject to privacy and data considerations, digital travel solutions should perhaps be leveraged in some way as both countries enhance and hopefully harmonize border processes during recovery?



Our Vision and the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership

On February 23, 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau announced a Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, which committed to establish “a blueprint for an ambitious and whole-of-government effort against the COVID-19 pandemic”.

The Future Borders Coalition proposes to create a Binational Public-Private Advisory Group composed of government officials, health experts and private sector leaders to ensure an orderly, safe and gradual easing of restrictions.

As noted during the webinar, the ongoing uncertainty around reopening conditions continues to hurt the travel and tourism industry, and clear safety benchmarks would be beneficial going forward.

Our view is that these benchmarks can be discussed and advanced within the framework of the Binational Public-Private Advisory Group, which is the foundation of our proposal for the safe ease of travel restrictions along the U.S.-Canada border. Time is of the essence as we have now reached the one-year anniversary of the border’s closure



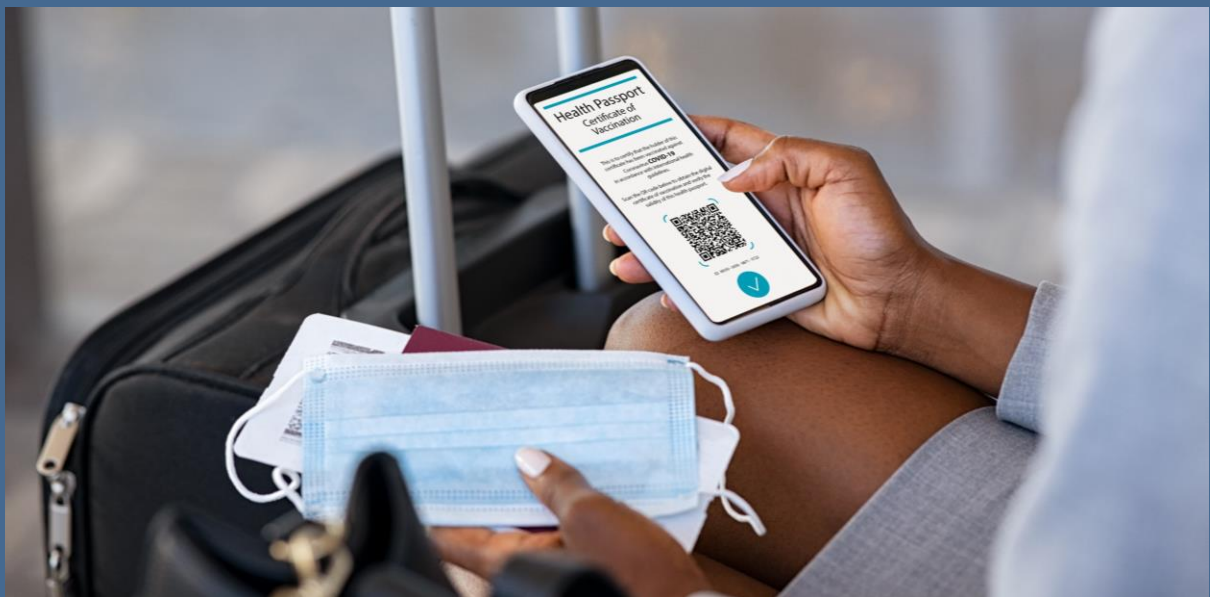
FBC Proposals for Safe Cruise and Ferry Travel Resumption

1. Develop a framework to implement a phased cruise restart plan, in coordination with local industry and tourism partners.
2. Increased collaboration across ports to share information and coordinate protocols.
3. Adoption of a phased-in approach for a safe cruise restart, modifying and adjusting timelines as public health conditions evolve.
4. Continue study on how to best mapping passenger journeys in order to meet or exceed jurisdictional safety standards.
5. Establish protocols that create a foundation for responsible and sustainable standards for the future.
6. Create a customer friendly experience with multiple layers of health, safety and security measures built in to protect passengers, crews, and communities.

INVITATION

FBC TECHNOLOGY FORUM

May 2021

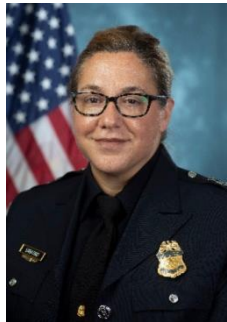


Our next event, the FBC Pandemic Recovery Technology Forum, will showcase emerging technologies that can support with pandemic responses and promote border processing innovation. It will also provide an opportunity for industry, government, and technology companies to exchange on recovery solutions and approaches such as touchless travel and trade, the interoperability of digital travel apps, and blockchain technology.

**Dates and format will be announced later in April.
Stay tuned!**

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS' CORNER

Interview with DEAC Diane J. Sabatino

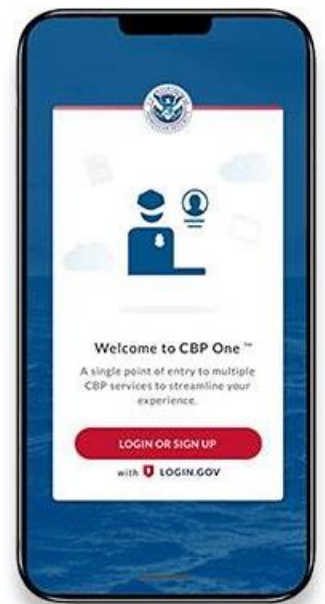


Q CBP has unveiled CBP One™ as a mobile application to serve as a single portal. What are the ways this portal will help improve CBP processing and efficiencies during pandemic recovery?

A As part of our innovation efforts, CBP has developed the CBP One™ Mobile App as a way to offer services and benefits to travelers and stakeholders. Through the app, travelers will have an opportunity to streamline their travel into the United States by providing information before or upon their arrival or departure, and the ability to pay for fees in advance to reduce their processing time at the border. They will also have immediate access to their arrival information on the mobile device. Essentially, travelers will spend less time processing through CBP and more time with family and friends or enjoying their vacation in the United States.

There are also benefits for brokers and carriers, including the reduction of time spent making phone calls and waiting for email responses, the increase in transparency from live status updates and instant chat access, as well as the ability to manage multiple requests on the app's dashboard. The more effective our inspection process, the faster the product is delivered to local businesses or businesses throughout the United States.

CBP One™ services will be phased in over time. In the future, pleasure boat travelers will no longer have to travel to a CBP office for clearance or apply for certain benefits like a cruising license which can be done through the app. CBP will continue to enhance the app over time and will inform travelers and stakeholders about these new capabilities.



CBP One™ Mobile App
| Source: U.S. CBP

Q The model CBP has used in the past is leveraging transportation industry partners to help with facial verification. Traveler Verification Service is the go-to mechanism for cruises, airlines and airports. How else will CBP leverage joint private-public partnerships in travel?

A CBP's public-private partnerships to expand facial biometrics have been critical to further strengthen our nation's security, streamline travel, and enhance the customer experience while supporting travel recovery efforts. CBP can offer "identity as a service" by providing its biometric facial matching system, the Traveler Verification Service, wherever identity verification is required in air travel. CBP has also partnered with cruise lines to implement facial biometrics at the debarkation process when vessels return to the United States.

A

At the land border, a good example of a public/private partnership is the Pre-Arrival Readiness Program (PARE) between CBP and Peace Bridge's Public Bridge Authority (PBA). PBA operates license plate readers and biometric cameras on the Canadian side of Peace Bridge, in advance of the primary line, and shares the information they collect with CBP for use in its inspection of inbound commercial traffic. CBP is exploring options to see where the PARE model could be expanded to along the Northern land border.



Otay Mesa Simplified Arrivals | Source: U.S. CBP

Q

Given the strong history of collaboration between Canada and the U.S., much has been accomplished with trusted traveler programs. Where do you see the greatest possible alignment during the recovery period?

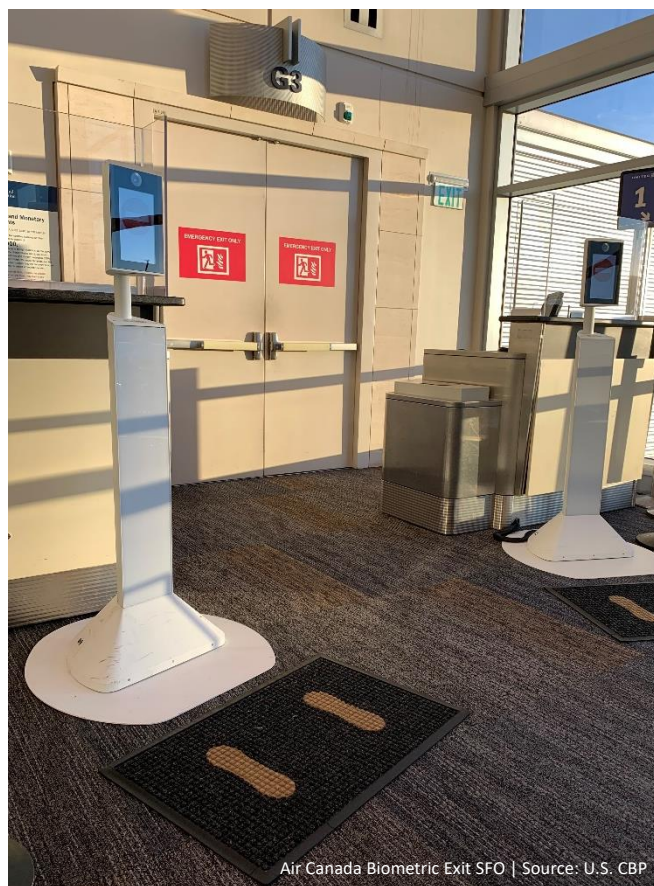
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CBP has a strong partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and we collaborate regularly to enhance our Trusted Traveler Programs. To support the travel recovery efforts, CBP is actively engaged with CBSA to resume joint interviews for NEXUS and FAST-North applicants at enrollment centers in the U.S. and Canada as soon as operationally feasible.

While that is pending, CBP and CBSA continue to evaluate remote platforms to permit remote interviews of NEXUS and FAST-North applicants and are evaluating alternative methods to separate the joint interview and enrollment process required for NEXUS and FAST-North applicants.

In the short-term, this process will be limited to existing NEXUS and FAST-North members seeking to renew as opposed to first-time applicants. This is because CBP has already captured biometrics (photo and fingerprints) for this NEXUS and FAST-North population.

Since October 1, 2020, CBP has received nearly 400,000 Trusted Traveler Program applications and has enrolled more than 510,000 new and renewing members, including more than 40,000 NEXUS renewals and nearly 2,000 FAST-North renewals.



Air Canada Biometric Exit SFO | Source: U.S. CBP

NEXUS and FAST-North enrollments for new applicants remain paused as a result of the non-essential border travel restrictions, Canadian mandatory self-quarantine requirements and the continued closure of joint enrollment centers located in Canada. To mitigate the impact on NEXUS and FAST-North applicants, CBP grants Trusted Traveler Program members who submit renewal applications before their memberships expire, an extension of Trusted Traveler Program benefits for 18 months beyond the scheduled expiration of membership cards while the renewal applications are pending, and is in the process of extending these benefits for up to 24 months. First time NEXUS and FAST-North applicants granted conditional approved now remain conditionally approved for 24 months to allow additional time to schedule joint enrollment interviews.

JOIN OUR COALITION



Our membership covers all modes of transportation (air, land, maritime), cargo and logistics, the business and tourism sectors, technology companies, and think tanks. Together we engage constructively with governments and key decision-makers on the most pressing issues affecting the U.S.-Canada border, with a long-term vision to support economic development, bilateral trade, social safety, and prosperity.

Membership in the Future Borders Coalition connects you with influential industry and important sectoral players on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border, including key government partners. It also provides you the opportunity to participate in one of our Working Groups or Task Forces, and contribute to the advancement of our vision and mission. Our diverse membership is our greatest asset.

We invite you to review the list of benefits in our website at <https://www.futureborderscoalition.org/join-the-coalition>

OUR MEMBERS

