FUTURE BORDERS COALITION

SMART BORDERS

Testing, Protocols and Digital Health Passports:
A Multi-Modal Approach to Recovery

MESSAGES FROM FBC

INSIGHTS

MEMBERS' CORNER

CO-CHAIR'S CORNER

Dear members,

Welcome to the second edition of *Smart Borders*, the Future Borders Coalition's newsletter.

First, we would like to provide you some updates. The publication of our four principles to ease border closures and other travel restrictions in July 2020 was well received by government officials and the industry. Despite the recent extension of the border closure for non-essential travel between the U.S. and Canada to November 21 – and possibly until the end of the year – we will continue to engage with our members and government decision-makers on both sides of the border.

In the meantime, the four Task Forces under the Border Recovery Working Group are defining their working plans for 2021. Some innovative pilot projects are being developed and we look forward to full implementation in the coming months.

Our members' continuous engagement is fundamental to the success of the Coalition. We encourage you to engage with us on social media through our LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. We are also discussing the possibility to organize webinars and other events online in the Fall of 2020 and Spring 2021. We will keep you posted!

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Future Borders Coalition: Our Vision, Our Mission

Responding to COVID-19: Beyond Our Original Mission

Due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Future Borders Coalition has recalibrated its original mission to focus on border recovery in the coming months. Our main objective is to help restoring the public's confidence in international travel. For this, 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 will deliver concrete proposals and pilot projects for recovery based on specific mandates and action plans.

Post-Pandemic Agenda: Our Long-Term Vision for the U.S.-Canada Border

Changes in technology and processes often act as a catalyst for a renewed vision and serve as instruments to improve multi-modal cross border travel and trade. With autonomous vehicles, blockchain, video analytics and new detection methods, a new vision to renew the U.S.-Canada border and security relationship is necessary, especially in light of growing public concerns over privacy, sovereignty and data management issues. 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 on biometrics and information sharing, exploring multinational cooperation with trusted partners, and focusing on process convergence with a long-term view to improve the mobility of people and goods through the border (air, land, and sea), all while ensuring that safety and security are not compromised.

Building the Future on Strong Foundations

The Beyond Preclearance Coalition was formed in 2018 as a group of bi-national organizations with a vested interest in advancing the efficiency and security of the Canada–U.S. border. Together, they commissioned a White Paper to explore the opportunities going forward. In 2020, the coalition was renamed "Future Borders Coalition" with a multi-year mandate to continue the work of accelerating a cohesive border vision based on improvements in technology, processes, facilities and innovation, and drive ahead health safety measures to ease border restrictions, economic recovery and security.

For interview inquiries, please contact us at:
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INSIGHTS

The Road Towards Systematic, Affordable and Accurate COVID-19 Testing Across Modes of Transportation

The cautious opening of borders by some countries during the 2020 summer season – coupled with new quarantine measures and complex entry requirements – continue to negatively affect the prospects of international travel recovery.

Based on a recent survey published by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 63% of U.S. travelers intend to travel domestically for the foreseeable

future. This percentage goes up to 84% for Chinese travelers.

According to the same survey, 80% of travelers fear potential quarantine requirements as much as contracting COVID-19.

In this context, the deployment of systematic, affordable and accurate pre-travel testing across modes of transportation is more pressing than ever for speedy recovery of the travel and tourism industries.

Although driven by similar goals, pre-travel COVID-19 testing and accompanying protocols may vary in terms of scope, testing methods, costs for users, levels of government involvement, and collaboration models.

Focus on Curbing Down Quarantine Requirements

In recent weeks, a number of U.S. and Canadian airports have introduced testing requirements or pilot projects aimed at curbing down quarantine requirements.

Testing pilot projects have been launched by Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ), and Vancouver International Airport (YVR) in order to gather information

on the effectiveness of current quarantine measures. Testing requirements have also been introduced in Alaska and Hawaii.

Another rapid testing pilot will be implemented at the U.S.-Canada land border crossing in southern Alberta and the Calgary Interntational Airport (YYC), starting November 2.

COVID-19 Travel Trends

83%
of travelers will not travel if there is a chance of being quarantined at their destination

80%
of travelers fear potential quarantine requirements as much as contracting COVID-19

69%
of travelers cite health measures and cleanliness as critical components of travel brands' crisis response

Sources: IATA, WTTC

US$8.9 trillion

contribution to the world's GDP (or 10.3% of the world's GDP)

1 in 10

jobs around the world (330 million jobs)

US$1.7 trillion

visitor exports (6.8% of total exports and 28.3% of global services exports)

Note: Numbers above are for 2019 and include direct, indirect and induced economic impacts
Source: WTTC

Mandatory Testing and Strict Health Protocols

The cruise line industry – through its global trade association, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), which represents 95% of global ocean-going cruise capacity – has recently adopted mandatory testing protocols as part of a gradual resumption of passenger service operations. In collaboration with scientists, medical experts, health authorities – as well as external independent experts – the gradual resumption includes 100% testing of all passengers and crew world-wide with a requirement for a negative test result prior to boarding.

For passenger service operations in US ports and waters, CLIA Members have also identified the core elements of a broader industry policy with stringent health protocols to be applied throughout the travel journey – from booking to debarkation. A noteworthy protocol involves shore excursions. Passengers are expected to fully comply with prescribed protocols otherwise they may be denied re-boarding. According to CLIA, the support and approval of national regulators and destinations will be crucial for cruises to resume during the remainder of 2020.

Testing to Comply with Entry Requirements

In an effort to facilitate compliance with local entry requirements – particularly in the states of Alaska and Hawaii – pilot projects have been launched by some airlines at major U.S. airports in October 2020. Travelers are currently provided options for pre-flight testing – i.e., at the airport, at home, drive-thru or at approved testing centers. Tests – mostly PCR – are administered by local health providers. In addition, a number of state-initiated pilot projects in the U.S. have been launched with the primary aim to limit the spread of COVID-19 and provide centralized testing grounds for workers in remote regions. Examples of such pilot projects include those initiated in the states of Alaska, New York and New Jersey.

Rapid Testing Technologies: A Game Changer

Both governments and industry understand that rapid and reliable testing is set to become a game changer to stimulate demand for travel and tourism, and eliminate burdensome health procedures before traveling. The U.S. and Canadian governments have already approved rapid testing capable of providing results within 15 minutes. More recently, Edmonton International Airport (YEG) partnered with GLC Medical, a Canadian medical technology company that manufactures graphene-enhanced rapid COVID tests. The proposed test method relies on saliva samples that can be administered "at-the-door" without medical personnel and promises rapid results within 1 minute. The clinical trial at YEG is expected to support GLC Medical in securing regulatory approval and certification.

Digital Health Passports for Multi-Modal Travel

As testing pilot projects continue and new health protocols are set to be implemented across various modes of transportation in the coming months, the recently-launched *CommonPass* has the potential to provide travelers with a reliable and verifiable way to document their health status as they cross borders, making it the first digital health passport for multi-modal travel.

Under the *CommonPass* framework, travelers have to take a COVID-19 test at a certified lab and then upload the results to their mobile phone. The *CommonPass* then confirms a traveler's compliance with the entry requirements at destination and generates a QR code that can be scanned by airline staff, health personnel and border officials.

The *CommonPass* is particularly suitable for frequent and business travellers. For the moment, Cathay Pacific Airways and United Airlines have announced the implementation of a trial on select flights between London and New York, as well as Hong Kong and Singapore. The East African Community has previously adopted the *CommonPass* for trials at land, sea and air border crossings.

Potential COVID-19 Impact on Tourism

850 million to 1.1 billion

fewer international tourism arrivals in 2020

100 to 120 million

direct tourism jobs at risk, affecting women disproportionately

Source: UNWTO

Looking Ahead

Pilot projects and testing trials are likely to expand in number as governments and the industry continue to evaluate options to restore travelers' trust. These projects have the potential to provide insights and lessons learned for pilot projects that different FBC Task Forces are currently pursuing.

For now, it seems that rapid and reliable testing – coupled with the use of technologies to support a multi-modal approach – is the most promising option towards industry recovery and resumption of international tourism.

In the short-term, travel bubbles and corridors can be effective solutions to stimulate air traffic between two markets, but they require full coordination and continuous trust between public health authorities and can be subject to conflicting and changing political agendas.

The road towards systematic, affordable and accurate testing appears uncertain for now, but at least it offers a solid ground for scaling up regional pilot projects into global standards. Testing facilities and protocols should become integral components of a multi-layered approach to mitigate health risks across the global transportation ecosystem.

Air Border Task Force

Co-Chairs
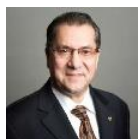
Gerry Bruno, *Executive Advisor to the CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority (VAA)*

Matt Cornelius, *Executive Vice President, Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA)*

Secretariat

Gavin Tan, *Manager Airport Programs, Canadian Airports Council (CAC)*

Land Border Travel Task Force

Co-Chairs

Jennifer Fox, *Vice President of International Trade Policy and Canada Relations, North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)*

Laurie Trautman, *Director of the Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University (BPRI)*

Secretariat

Matthew Johnson, *Executive Director, IBLS, Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC)*

Supply Chain / Goods Movement Task Force

Co-Chairs

Allison Gifford, *Former Director of Public Affairs, UPS*

Jim Titsworth, *General Director, Canadian Business Development, BNSF Railway (BNSF)*

Secretariat

Bruce Rodgers, *Executive Director, Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA)*

Maritime Task Force

Co-Chairs

Donnie Brown, *Vice President Maritime Policy, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)*

Peter Xotta, *VP Planning and Operations, Port Metro Vancouver (VFPA)*

Secretariat

Sue Stiene, *President and CEO, Optimas Management Group*

MEMBERS' CORNER

Interview with the Land Border Travel Task Force

Laurie Trautman
Co-Chair

Jennifer Fox
Co-Chair
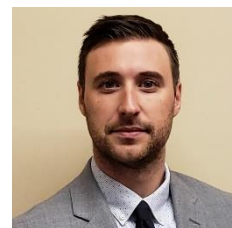
Matthew Johnson
Secretariat

Q **What is the overall focus of the Task Force?**

A Our focus is to develop recommendations and formulate pilot projects that will allow border restrictions to be eased while also protecting public health. Our approach is based on three principles. First, a more seamless and touchless processing at the land border in order to minimize contact between travelers and border officers. Second, submission and verification of individual health data must be done prior to arrival at the land border. Third, both federal governments have to be in agreement for an efficient and integrated approach to succeed.

Q **What are the some of projects you are planning to implement in the next 12 months?**

A In order to shift to a more seamless and touchless processing environment, we are exploring the increased use of biometrics, facial verification, vicinity-readable RFID technology in border crossing documents, and virtual adjudications. Specifically, we are suggesting a pilot project that will enable remote interviews for Global Entry, FAST and NEXUS applicants and eliminate the need for face-to-face interviews. This would begin as a pilot with renewals, and then roll out to first time applicants.

In order for the submission and verification of individual health data to occur prior to arrival at the land border, we are recommending establishing pathways to communicate to border agencies that a traveler is COVID free *before* they arrive at the border through a health pre-clearance model. To that end, we have developed a "NEXUS Healthy Traveler Pilot Project" that can serve as a proof of concept for communicating health information to border officers prior to arival at the land border.

Q **How do you see health screening being implemented in a land border environment?**

A The land border environment functions differently from the air mode, and submission and verification of health information must be done *prior to arrival* at the border in order to maintain efficiency and protect public health *at the border*. This will require bilateral coordination and inter-agency collaboration on issues spanning from privacy to database sharing. An integrated approach to health screening is essential and should be established at the inception of these efforts. Developing different systems and going it alone will only result in a thickening of the border.

OUR MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members!