



North America's
SuperCorridor Coalition

Conference Summary Report

NASCO Conference 2006

**Building a Sustainable and Secure Trade and
Transportation Corridor for North America**

Wednesday, May 31 to Friday, June 2, 2006
Fairmont Winnipeg • Manitoba, Canada



CONFERENCE REPORT



North America's
SuperCorridor Coalition

NASCO Conference 2006

Building a Sustainable and Secure Trade
and Transportation Corridor for North America

Wednesday, May 31 to Friday, June 2, 2006
Fairmont Winnipeg • Manitoba, Canada

Conference Report

June 2006



A Message from the Conference Co-Chairs

Dear Conference Delegates,

As Co-Chairs of the NASCO Conference 2006, it was a sincere pleasure to welcome you to the NASCO Conference 2006 held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada from May 31 to June 2, 2006. The Conference was a huge success, and your participation certainly contributed to that success.

A key objective of the Conference was to promote discussion and action on key issues related to the development of secure and efficient trade and transportation along the International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor. Your presence and contributions throughout the conference enhanced the level of interaction among delegates and analysis of the various issues presented in the program.

Thank you for sharing your time and sharing your expertise with the delegates from Mexico, the United States, and Canada. We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ron Lemieux
Minister
Transportation and
Services

Scott Smith
Minister
Intergovernmental Affairs Government
and Trade



A Message from NASCO

NASCO would like to thank you again for participating in our 2006 Annual Conference!

As you know, this year's Conference was titled "Building a Sustainable and Secure Trade & Transportation Corridor for North America," and was attended by more than 230 delegates from Canada, the United States and Mexico. It succeeded in bringing together senior political, public sector and business leaders from all three countries to consider key issues and opportunities for improved cooperation and economic partnership along the International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor (the NASCO Corridor) and between the three jurisdictions.

The conference was a tremendous success and the discussion focused on capitalizing on global economic trends, inland ports, sustainable corridors, knowledge networks, corridor and border security practices, and planning for pandemics.

Key partnerships were formed throughout the conference, and a clear mandate was issued by the participants for NASCO to continue our objectives and to further our mission to develop an international, integrated and secure, multi-modal transportation system along the NASCO Corridor, as well as to continue to develop the contacts necessary to build solid trading relationships between the three NAFTA nations.

Highlights from the conference included presentations by the Assistant Secretary of International Affairs for the US Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State of Texas, the President & CEO of the US Mexico Chamber of Commerce, the Governor of the Nuevo Leon, The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Report from the Leaders Summit by Manitoba's Premier, Gary Doer, the Secretary of State of Texas, and the Ministers of Trade and Transportation from the Province of Manitoba, a number of Mayors from many cities along the corridor, and several Secretaries of Economic Development from Mexican states.

Because of the high level, tri-national representation from federal, state and local governments, state Departments of Transportation, and private sector business and industry leaders at the 2006 Conference, the power and enthusiasm of the NASCO membership and its partners reached new heights.

The conference was fantastic and the message was clear that NASCO will continue to lead the efforts to improve transportation efficiency, reduce congestion and improve the security along our corridor and at our nation's borders while promoting trade between the three NAFTA nations.

The NASCO Conference 2007 is returning to the United States, and will be hosted by the City of Fort Worth, Texas. We look forward to seeing you there!

George D. Blackwood Jr.
NASCO President



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Conference Report

This report is to provide an overview of the very successful NASCO Conference 2006!

NASCO would like to thank the moderators, presenters and panelists for taking the time to outline your viewpoints on our corridor developments, as well as the conference participants for traveling to Winnipeg to participate in a great exchange of information and ideas. **This conference report and the presentations from the 2006 Conference will be available for your review on the NASCO website at www.nascocorridor.com.**

The 2006 NASCO Conference commenced with an opening ceremony and welcoming remarks from Conference Co-Chairs Manitoba Transportation Minister Ron Lemieux, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Scott Smith, as well as Winnipeg Mayor Katz, Secretary of Economic Development of Colima Ignacio Peralta, Deputy Secretary of State Buddy Garcia and Honorary Conference Chair Art DeFehr each discussed the vision we share of the NASCO Corridor establishing partnerships, solving critical transportation problems, and giving a competitive advantage to the regional economies it serves in both the North American and global markets.

The presentations and topics of the conference helped to better define this overall vision. Very informative discussions were held related to inland ports and emerging markets, sustainable corridors and the environment, knowledge networks and a "Knowledge Corridor", corridor and border security practices, the role of North American cities in transportation and trade, and planning for pandemics. These are key issues as we move forward with a plan to

develop the NASCO Corridor on a "best-practices" and "pro-active" basis, and to differentiate our corridor and our regions, giving us a competitive edge in the world economy.



Art DeFehr – Honorary Conference Chair - brings welcoming remarks to the Conference

The opening keynote speaker, Michael Gallis, provided the global context for our future positioning of our corridor, based on flow patterns of goods and people, development of the new economy, and world political geography. He left us with the challenge to work as a corridor region to strategically position ourselves in the global network and to take action now to prepare us for the next 20 – 40 years.

The "Connecting Gateways to the Corridor" panel was the perfect segue way from the opening keynote speaker as panelists discussed the linkages the Corridor needs to the global marketplace. The panelists represented Mexico, the United States and Mexico, and explained how their own respective corridor networks, be they in Mexico or the Pacific Gateway in Canada, are connected and relevant to NASCO.

NASCO's North American Inland Port Network (NAIPN) initiative was presented, as well. (You may find more on this exciting initiative on the NASCO website.)

The Day 2 breakfast keynote speaker, Ambassador Cresencio Arcos, Assistant Secretary of International Affairs for the US Department of Homeland Security, updated the delegates on key initiatives the US Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to improve efficiency and security at its borders, an important strategic context for NASCO going forward.

The Premier of Manitoba, the Governor of Nuevo Leon and the Secretary of State of Texas attended the conference and presented a report from the Leader's Summit being held simultaneously in Gimli, Manitoba. The Premier and Governor signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Manitoba and Nuevo Leon, which will result in further mechanisms for cooperation along the NASCO Corridor. The leaders' update reinforced at the highest political levels the importance of this corridor to their jurisdictions.

We then moved on to our 'Knowledge Corridor' session, which solidified the fact that the NASCO corridor is more than just infrastructure, but that a real opportunity exists where knowledge meets infrastructure development. The institutions and partnerships along the corridor growing this knowledge network, particularly amongst academic institutions, is yet another opportunity for coordination and partnership. The discussion focused on ways to maximize the strengths of sectors such as life sciences and biotechnology, and information technology, and how companies can establish strategic alliances along the Corridor to improve their competitive advantage.

Key civic leaders along the corridor representing Winnipeg, Kansas City, Fort Worth, and San Pedro, Mexico, participated in a panel discussing the important role our cities must play in corridor development. And, again, we heard of the growing relationships between key cities, and even more importantly, the foresight by which our key corridor cities are planning infrastructure and service developments with an eye to our regional corridor development.



The Honourable Premier of Manitoba, Gary Doer, the Governor of Nuevo León, José Natividad González Parás, and the Secretary of State of Texas, Roger Williams, share a congratulatory hand shake following the Report from the Leaders Summit and signing of the Manitoba / Nuevo León Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

The 'Security and Border Issues Affecting the Corridor' panels dealt with the varied perspectives on border crossing and security issues affecting trade. Senior representatives from the North American transportation and trade industries effectively showed us the myriad of activities at the federal, state and local government levels, international border crossings, and private sector initiatives being undertaken to ensure trade flows while respecting the imperative for security.



His Worship Alejandro Páez Aragón, Mayor of San Pedro Garza García, Nuevo León, Mexico, speaks to the Conference about the key role of cities along the Corridor.

On the second day of the conference we heard from key representatives about the need to plan for a pandemic, and the likely impacts of a pandemic to the transportation industry. Again, through proper planning, we can ensure our corridor will have an advantage in the context of a global or North American disaster.

Day 3 began with a very informative presentation by Barry Rempel of the Winnipeg Airports Authority about the Winnipeg International Airport – the Gateway to the Mid-Continent Corridor, who reminded us not to forget that airports are a key intermodal contributor linking our corridor externally and internally.

The 'Sustainable Corridors' panel dealt with the various key issues about sustainability along the corridor, different initiatives and different priorities of the regions along the corridor in sustainable transport, and the opportunity for NASCO to knit these initiatives in a strategic way. Our natural environment, economic prosperity and social well being all depend on transportation systems that are clean, efficient, equitable and sustainable. Sustainable practices offer

a great means for us to again differentiate our corridor in the world trading framework.

Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General Toews' keynote speech reconfirmed the Canadian federal commitment to strong relations with the United States and Mexico on many levels, which will continue to advance our tri-national corridor objectives.

Closing the conference was the 'Rural Communities' panel, which focused on how remote communities can strategically position themselves as an integral part of a sustainable corridor. It will be important as we move forward to continue to incorporate rural communities into our overall strategic plan. We want to be a contributor to the revitalization of rural economies, and work to help bring value-added to rural regions.



Bottom line

The time for action is now! The issues we discussed at the conference are critical to the trade competitiveness of North America, and the conference itself was a significant step in furthering the powerful momentum along the NASCO Corridor to bring the public and private sectors together to increase focus, improve our transportation systems and to

solidify trading relationships between Canada, the United States and Mexico. We must keep that momentum going and build upon it. We hope you will continue to be an active participant in NASCO throughout the year and for many years to come. NASCO will continue to bring the strengths and resources of our international partnership to bear on the challenges facing Canada, the United States, and Mexico, to solidify our leadership in the growing global market.

Tiffany Melvin,
Executive Director
NASCO

Contact NASCO

Please keep in touch. We want to hear from you!

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Conference Delegates

Two hundred and thirty three delegates attended the Conference! 155 of the delegates were Canadian, 55 were from the United States, and 23 delegates were from Mexico.

The geographic distribution of the delegates is as follows:

Canada

Manitoba	123
Ontario	9
Saskatchewan	2
Alberta	1
Undefined	20
Total	155

Mexico

Nuevo Leon	11
Michoacán	4
Colima	2
Hidalgo	2
Jalisco	2
Leon Guanajuato	1
San Luis Potosi	1
Total	23

United States

Texas	22
Missouri	12
North Dakota	4
Oklahoma	3
District of Columbia	2
Iowa	2
Kansas	2
Minnesota	2
Arizona	1
California	1
Illinois	1
Maryland	1
North Carolina	1
New York	1
Total	55



Media Coverage

News Release



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May 29, 2006

MANITOBA HOSTS NASCO INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Manitoba will host the first North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) conference to be held in Canada in Winnipeg from May 30 to June 2, Transportation and Government Services Minister Ron Lemieux and Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Minister Scott Smith announced today.

"The international trade corridor reaching from our doorstep to Mexico represents billions of dollars in annual economic activity," said Lemieux. "We are honoured to host our NASCO partners for the first time on Canadian soil because it reflects Manitoba's leadership in the development of North American transportation opportunities."

"NASCO and this conference bring the strengths and resources of our international partnership to bear on the challenges and opportunities facing Canada, the United States and Mexico in the growing complexities of global markets," said Smith. "In creating a sound, sustainable and secure mid-continent trade and transportation corridor, our NASCO partnership is telling the world North America is open for business."

NASCO's membership and alliances include many of the cities, counties and states located along the trade corridor in Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Mexico. The Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ont., the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba are the only Canadian members. Manitoba serves as the northern hub linking Churchill, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver to the corridor. Private sector organizations and government transportation departments from Canada, the United States and Mexico are also members.

"NASCO is really looking forward to this year's conference in Winnipeg. The issues we are discussing at the conference are critical to both the trade competitiveness and the quality of life in North America, and the delegates in attendance are influential decision makers from the three NAFTA nations in each of the critical issue areas," said George D. Blackwood, Jr., president, NASCO. "This conference is a significant step in the powerful momentum along the NASCO corridor to bring the public and private sectors together to increase focus, improve our transportation systems and to solidify trading relationships between Canada, the United States and Mexico."



The conference will bring delegates together from the three countries to discuss developing economic partnerships, strengthening inter-modal connections, creating inland ports, and meeting needs related to emerging global markets, cross-border security issues, pandemic planning and transportation sustainability initiatives.

"The NASCO Corridor has the potential to be an alternative to the increasingly integrated supply chains of Asia and Europe," said Art DeFehr, honorary conference chair. "A leap of imagination followed by political will is required to make our cross-border differences work for us rather than against us. We hope this conference will advance this agenda."

NASCO was created to develop an integrated and secure multi-modal transportation and trade system along the International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor through strategic planning, advocacy, infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements, facilitating trade opportunities, implementing new technologies, establishing an inland ports network and providing education.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABOUT NASCO

North America's SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc. (NASCO) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1994, and dedicated to developing the world's first international, integrated and secure, multi-modal transportation system along the International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor (the NASCO Corridor) as well as developing the contacts necessary to build solid trading relationships between the three nations.

The NASCO Corridor directly impacts the continental trade flow of North America. Membership includes public and private sector entities along the corridor in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

From Manitoba, Canada and the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario; to the border crossing of Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico; extending to the deep water Ports of Manzanillo and Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico; the tri-national NASCO membership reflects the international scope of the corridor and the regions it impacts.

NASCO FACT SHEET

The NASCO/ International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor:

- is over 4,200 miles long;
- connects 71 million people and a total gross domestic product of over \$2.3 trillion;
- moves more than \$190 billion between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, a 68 per cent increase since 1995;
- supports total commerce between the three NASCO nations approaching \$1 trillion a year;
- has approximately 2.1 million trucks travelling along any portion each year;
- is expected to play a central role in doubling international trade by 2020; and
- includes three of North America's top-20 NAFTA land ports: Detroit (first), Laredo (second) and Pembina, N.D., (11th).



NewsRelease



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June 01, 2006

MANITOBA AND MEXICAN STATE OF NUEVO LEON SIGN MOU TO PROMOTE TRADE, TOURISM AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) to build on growing co-operation across North America was signed today between the Province of Manitoba and the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, at the North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) conference being held in Winnipeg, Man., Canada.

The two-year agreement was signed by Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba and Gov. González Parás of Nuevo Leon.

"I am pleased to be able today to follow up on initial discussions with Gov. González Parás in 2005 and build upon our mutual strengths to maximize opportunities between Manitoba and the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico," said Premier Doer. "Since that initial meeting, our relationship with Nuevo Leon has begun to develop significantly," he added.

Manitoba's Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Minister Scott Smith visited Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, with delegations in late 2005 and again in February 2006 to explore specific opportunities to collaborate on trade and tourism.

"We will also strive to foster investments, co-operation in innovation and the development of new sectors through new mechanisms based on risk capital, and also expand commerce and fair trade between the two jurisdictions," said Gov. González Parás.

The MOU formalizes a strategic relationship between Manitoba and the state of Nuevo Leon, and provides a framework for co-operative activities in a broad range of areas including:

- trade promotion,
- education and training,
- tourism, and
- agriculture and agribusiness.

Under the MOU, the participants will focus their co-operative efforts to explore business opportunities in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and Winnipeg. The two parties will also undertake bilateral trade missions between the two cities.

The agreement details a co-operative alliance between Manitoba and the state of Nuevo Leon and calls for both levels of government to share best practices in areas including culture, technology, agriculture and education



Winnipeg Free Press ONLINE EDITION

Thursday, June 1st, 2006

Conference studies ways to improve trade corridor

By David Kuxhaus
Thursday, June 1st, 2006

IT may not be the silk road but the trade corridor stretching from the icy climes of Churchill to the Mexican west coast has the potential to generate great wealth for the communities along it, a conference was told yesterday.

Already more than \$190 billion moves along the route which connects 71 million people.

Over the next several days, more than 200 delegates from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico will try and come up with ways to make the route even more profitable.

Winnipeg is playing host to North America's SuperCorridor (NASCO) conference. It's the first time the annual even is being held in Canada.

Formed in 1994, the non-profit organization has representatives from both the public and private sector.

Its president, George Blackwood, who is also a Kansas City councillor, said among the key issues are developing inland ports, exploring the roles cities can play in establishing trading partners and reducing border congestion.

Blackwood said the amount of documentation required for him to travel to Mexico is "silly".

"I travel to Mexico and Canada all the time and the difference in the amount of paperwork necessary to go to Mexico versus Canada is palpable and that's crazy," said Blackwood in an interview. "I come into Canada and have to put my name and address down and that's about it."

While NASCO is trying to make borders more free flowing, the Bush administration wants to require Canadians to get passports to enter the United States. Premier Gary Doer and other Canadian politicians are hoping to convince the U.S. to consider accepting an alternative document, such as a more secure driver's license.

Blackwood said NASCO doesn't have a position on the passport policy.

"Our interest is more in freight than people," he said.

Among those attending the conference are Buddy Garcia, deputy secretary of the State of Texas and Jose Ignacio Peralta Sanchez, secretary of economic development for the State of Colima in Mexico.

Sanchez told the audience that free trade leads to higher GDP per capita. He said his country is working hard to develop its infrastructure.

The keynote speaker yesterday was Michael Gallis, a leading expert in large-



scale metropolitan regional development strategies.

Gallis said North American needs to move quicker to exploit trade opportunities. He pointed out that European countries, despite their historical divisions, have moved to form an economic and political union. Gallis said leaders should think of the corridor as just one piece of the global network which connects markets around the world.

The conference winds up tomorrow.
david.kuxhaus@freepress.mb.ca

- Manitoba's two-way trade with the states, including Mexico, along the corridor is about \$10.4 billion.
- The Emerson/Pembina border crossing, a major gateway for the corridor, is the eighth busiest border crossing in Canada, with \$13 billion worth of goods passing through.
- The volume of trade along the corridor has increased by 68 per cent since 1995.

-- *Source: Manitoba Government and NASCO*

Super Corridor facts

- It's 6,720 kilometres long
- About 2.1 million trucks travel along any portion each year

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Winnipeg Free Press
ONLINE EDITION

Friday, June 2nd, 2006

Winnipeg urged to forge ties with Mexico, U.S.

By Lindsey Wiebe
Friday, June 2nd, 2006

WINNIPEG needs to focus on strong relationships with both of its neighbours to the south when it comes to trade, according to speakers at North America's Super Corridor Coalition (NASCO) conference yesterday.

The annual conference, held for the first time in Canada, brings together

more than 200 representatives from Mexico, Canada and the United States to discuss trade and transportation along the mid-continent corridor, extending from Churchill through to Mexico.

Yesterday's panel on the role of cities in trade included a talk by Alejandro Paez Aragon, mayor of San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico.

Aragon said the key to improving trade is making cities transparent and accountable -- and thereby making them more appealing to private investors.

Among other initiatives, Aragon said his city of 120,000 broadcasts city council meetings live on the Internet,



archiving past meetings for later viewing. Those without Internet access can view the broadcasts on free Internet kiosks throughout the city.

San Pedro also lets citizens sit on some council subcommittees -- something Winnipeg does already.

"We created a higher standard of accountability and transparency in San Pedro," said Aragon. "It obviously establishes trust between the general public and the local government, and that eventually will generate more wealth for everybody."

Kansas City councillor Bonnie Sue Cooper, also on the panel, said her city's improved trade came when they started taking advantage of its central location along the transit corridor.

"When you think about that, Winnipeg and all these other cities, you have the same opportunity, because your location is next to this corridor," she said.

Kansas City recently launched an innovative way to make international trade easier for truckers. With government assistance, the city has set up its own Mexican customs office, to fast-track truckers through to Mexico and ease border congestion.

All the panelists stressed the need for strong, cross-border plans of action between the private sectors and various levels of government in all three countries.

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Winnipeg Free Press

ONLINE EDITION

Friday, June 2nd, 2006

Doer signs accord with Mexican state

Friday, June 2nd, 2006

IN efforts to further strengthen ties between Manitoba and the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, Premier Gary Doer and Governor Gonzalez Paras signed a two-year agreement yesterday for enhanced co-operation.

The two jurisdictions are at the north and south ends of the mid-continent trade corridor. Mexico's second largest city, Monterrey, is located in the state of

Nuevo Leon, which borders on Texas in the northeast part of the country.

The agreement was signed at the annual meetings of the North American SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) being held in Winnipeg this week.

Doer said it is important for Manitoba to continue to grow its ties with the corridor group because much of the province's trade is in the north-south direction.

"We have had good relations with Governor Paras, who is one of the most powerful governors in Mexico," Doer said.

He and several other Manitobans were in Monterrey last year at the NASCO meetings.

-- Staff

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June 2, 2006

'Toba, Mexican state boost ties

By STAFF

The province is hoping to strengthen a mid-continental trade corridor by beefing up trade with a Mexican state.

Premier Gary Doer and Gov. Gonzalez Paras signed a memorandum of understanding to expand trade, tourism and co-operation between Manitoba and Nuevo Leon yesterday. Officials from Mexico and Texas are in Winnipeg for the North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) conference.

Under the agreement, the two parties will focus on exploring business opportunities in Winnipeg and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon's capital. The province signed a similar agreement with the state of Texas in 2002.

Art DeFehr, president of Winnipeg-based Palliser Furniture and a panelist at the NASCO conference, said there is great potential for increased trade with Mexico, Manitoba's fourth-largest export market.

"Certainly, I think there's a lot more opportunity for trade between Mexico and companies to the north and a lot of it has to do with the degree to which we can get the logistics right," said DeFehr.

Officials Attend NASCO Conference

Thursday, June 08, 2006 ::
infoZine Staff :: page views

City of Kansas City, Mo., officials attended the North America SuperCorridor Coalition conference in

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada from May 31 to June 2.

Kansas City, Mo. - *infoZine* - This conference brought together senior government and business leaders from Canada, the United States and Mexico. The conference focused on building a sustainable and secure trade and transportation corridor for North America.



CONFERENCE REPORT



The City's delegation met with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer, Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz, Winnipeg Councillor Franco Magnifico, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, and Manitoba trade representatives.

"Kansas City was recognized everywhere. During his presentation, even Premier Doer spoke of Kansas City's active work in developing business along the corridor," City Manager Wayne A. Cauthen said.

Councilman George Blackwood Jr., 4th District, who also serves as president of the North America SuperCorridor Coalition, was the master of ceremonies of the three-day conference. Ron Lemieux, Minister, Manitoba Transportation and Government Services served as conference chair.

Long-term benefits of building relationships at conferences like these are more jobs in Kansas City and with partners in Canada and in Mexico. Immediate results of the conference include a session that is slated to take place in Manzanillo, Mexico, in June. Leaders from Kansas City, Mexico and Canada will be a part of the gathering slated to take action on trade and transportation issues affecting all three areas. Kansas City established a trade agreement with officials at Manzanillo's deepwater port in 2005.

"I started working on our North American relationships and partnerships when I was mayor pro tem, and Mayor Barnes has continued supporting me in that work. Councilwoman Bonnie Sue Cooper and I have worked on this issue together. Now it's paying off," Blackwood said.

Councilwoman Bonnie Sue Cooper, 2nd District at large, was the keynote presenter at the tri-lateral luncheon and her topic was the role of cities in enhancing trade and transportation along the mid-continent corridor.

"Without a doubt, the response was wonderful when I told the story of how Kansas City established its trade and transportation routes and took a lead role in becoming an inland port," Cooper said.

Cooper took the lead with the City in establishing the Mexiplex, which currently houses the Kansas City-Mexico Business Development Office, the Hispanic Chamber, the Mexican Consulate and other offices related to Latino trade. Canada has been invited to join the City and Mexico in that center and establish a trade office.

As a result, Kansas City companies seeking local market exposure, agents, distributors or strategic alliance partners in central Canada will have an opportunity to take part in a trade mission to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in September.

Companies that participate in the mission will have one-on-one prescheduled appointments with Canadian businesses in the greater Winnipeg area and the Province of Manitoba.

For more information about this trade mission to Canada, contact Stephan Bras, Office of International Affairs and Trade, (816) 513-3521, or Stephan_bras@kcmo.org.



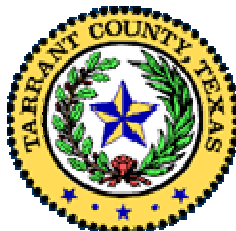
NASCO Conference 2007 – Save the Date!



Join us in Fort Worth, Texas for
the NASCO 2007 Conference

Dates: MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2007

City of Fort Worth: www.fortworthgov.org
North American SuperCorridor Coalition: www.nascocorridor.com



Appendix 1 – Conference Program



NASCO Conference 2006 – Building a Sustainable and Secure Trade and Transportation Corridor for North America

Wednesday, May 31 to Friday, June 2, 2006
Fairmont Winnipeg • Manitoba, Canada

Program

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

7:00 pm Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Pre-Conference Networking Reception
Radisson Hotel Winnipeg Downtown - 288 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba

Day 1 Wednesday, May 31, 2006

8:30 am Registration (*open until 4:30 pm*)

9:00 am NASCO Board Meeting
Fairmont Winnipeg – (*9:00 – 11:00 am*)

12:00 pm Opening Luncheon and Welcoming Remarks (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

Master of Ceremonies
George D. Blackwood, Jr., NASCO President

The International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor represents a complex and integrated supply chain and transportation system allowing trade and economic development to occur within its communities. The economic and trading partnership established among jurisdictions along the Corridor, benefit the Corridor as a whole. Welcoming remarks from political figures and business leaders will focus on why and how the Corridor is a critical part of respective economic development strategies.

Co-Chairs
*Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister, Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, and
Honourable Scott Smith, Minister, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade*

Day 1 Wednesday, May 31, 2006 (con't)

Distinguished Guests

His Worship Sam Katz, Mayor – City of Winnipeg

José Ignacio Peralta Sánchez, Secretary of Economic Development, State of Colima

Honourable Buddy Garcia, Deputy Secretary of State for Texas

Art DeFehr, President and CEO Palliser Furniture and Honourary Conference Chair

1:45 pm Break

2:00 pm **Opening Keynote Speaker – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
**Capitalizing on Global Economic Trends through Economic Partnerships,
Intermodal Connectivity and Inland Ports**

Michael Gallis, Michael Gallis & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Gallis will set the stage for the Conference with an impressive presentation about the integration of the global network, a new global economic geography and a new economy. He will touch on opportunities for Corridor jurisdictions based on these current global economic trends.

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm **Plenary Session 1—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
Connecting Gateways to the Corridor

Introductory Remarks

Captain Héctor Mora Gómez, General Director, Port of Manzanillo / V.P. – Mexico, NASCO Board

Moderator

Andrew Horosko, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Transportation / V.P. – Canada, NASCO Board

The International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor represents a critical transportation and supply chain system supporting east-west and north-south trade flows within North America. The Plenary will focus on perspectives from Mexico, United States and Canada on the importance of, and efforts being made to connect to trade gateways to the Continent (i.e. Linking Pacific gateway ports to the Corridor is of critical importance to trade in Corridor jurisdictions).

Panelists

Strategies Adopted to Meet Emerging Global Markets and Trade Opportunities

José Ramón Robledo Gómez, Secretary of Economic Development, State of Jalisco

Linking Mexican Ports to the Corridor

Eloy Vargas Arreola, Secretary of Economic Development, State of Michoacan

Linking the Pacific Gateway to the Corridor

John Higginbotham – Principal Advisor on the Pacific Gateway, Transport Canada

Inland Port Strategies to Connect to the Global Economy

Al Figuly, President, Greater Kansas City Foreign Trade Zone, Inc.

The North American Inland Port Network

Greg Dandewich, Director, Economic Development, Destination Winnipeg



Day 1 **Wednesday, May 31, 2006 (con't)**

- 5:00 pm **Break**
- 5:30 pm **Dinner (Casual Dress) – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
- 7:00 pm **Baseball Game – Winnipeg Goldeyes vs. Kansas City T-Bones
CanWest Global Park**

Day 2 **Thursday, June 1, 2006**

- 7:30 am **Breakfast – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
- 8:20 am **Keynote Speaker – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
**US Department of Homeland Security—Update on Security Measures and Customs
Modernization**
Ambassador Cresencio Arcos, Assistant Secretary for International Policy, US Department of Homeland Security

The United States Administration has committed to accelerating border security. Ambassador Arcos will identify key initiatives that the US's Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to improve efficiency and security at its borders such as; customs modernization, e-manifest, C-TPAT, FAST, NEXUS, etc.
- 9:00 am **Leaders Report – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
Report from the Leaders Summit
Chair
Art DeFehr, President and CEO, Palliser Furniture
Leaders
The Honourable Gary Doer, Premier, Province of Manitoba
José Natividad González Parás, Governor, State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico
Roger Williams, Secretary of State, Texas
- 9:30 am **Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the Province of Manitoba and the State of
Nuevo Leon**
Participants
The Honourable Gary Doer, Premier, Province of Manitoba
Jose Natividad Gonzalez Parás, Governor, Nuevo Leon
- 10:00 am **Plenary Session 2—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)**
Establishing the Mid-Continent Knowledge Corridor
Moderator
Terry Duguid, President and CEO, International Centre for Infectious Diseases (ICID)



Day 2 Thursday, June 1, 2006 (con't)

Panelists will address sectoral interdependence amongst jurisdictions and propose strategies and collaborative partnerships to address common trade and investment challenges and opportunities. For example, there are significant life science clusters along the corridor (Winnipeg, Minneapolis and Kansas City, Nuevo Leon). Discussion will focus on ways to maximize the critical strengths of sectors such as life sciences and biotechnology, and information technology, and how companies can establish strategic alliances along the Corridor to improve their competitive advantage. Discussion will also look at partnerships among research institutes, centers of excellence and universities to improve information sharing.

Panelists

What is a Knowledge Corridor—The Importance of Economic Partnerships

James Bergfalk, President, TransAm Group Ltd.

Developing a Knowledge Economy in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon

Dr. Gustavo Alarcón, Secretary of the Economy, Nuevo Leon

Connecting Centres of Excellence along the Corridor

Donald Whitmore, President, Vector Construction / Chair, ISIS Canada

Technology Transfer along the Corridor

Garold Breit, Executive Director – Technology Transfer Office, University of Manitoba

11:30 am Luncheon and Keynote Presentation – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

The Role of Cities in Enhancing Trade and Transportation along the Mid-Continent Corridor

Discussion will focus on the perspective municipal representatives have on the role North American cities must play collectively to strengthen economic growth, through establishing trading partnerships and improving transportation linkages and supply chain systems.

Chair

Honourable Scott Smith, Minister, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Panelists

His Worship Alejandro Páez Aragón, Mayor, San Pedro Garza García, N.L.

Peter De Smedt, Councillor, City of Winnipeg

Bonnie Sue Cooper, Councilwoman, Kansas City – Councilwoman responsible for Winnipeg-KC Economic Development Partnership

Honourable Glen Whitley, County Commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas

1:00 pm Plenary Session 3A—Keynote Presentation – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

Security and Border Issues Affecting Trade and Transportation along the Corridor

Chair

Jim Phillips, President & CEO, Canadian American Border Trade Alliance

Keynote Speaker

Canada Border Services Agency—Update on Security Measures and Customs Modernization

Greg Goatbe, V.P. of Admissibility, Canada Border Services Agency



Day 2 Thursday, June 1, 2006 (con't)

Mr. Goatbe will identify key initiatives being undertaken by the Canadian Government to improve security and the flow of people and goods at Canada's Borders.

1:30 pm **Plenary Session 3B—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)** **The Impacts of Security and Border Regulations on North American Businesses – Challenges and Solutions**

Moderator

Jim Phillips, President & CEO, Canadian American Border Trade Alliance

Discussions will focus on the impacts of new legislation regarding cross-border traffic to North American Businesses. Panelists will discuss steps their companies have taken to comply with new regulations. The panel will also touch on how standardization and automation of customs requirements can be used to improve the corridor as an avenue of commerce.

Panelists

Challenges and Opportunities Facing the North American Trucking Industry Due to Increased Security Measures

Allan Robison, President and CEO, Reimer Express Lines Ltd.

Challenges and Opportunities Facing the North American Manufacturing Sector Due to Labour and Immigration Regulations

Art DeFehr, President and CEO, Palliser Furniture

The Impacts of Customs Modernization and Security Measures on Land Ports of Entry

Thomas L. (Skip) McMahon, Executive Director, External Affairs, Community Relations, Canadian Transit Company—Ambassador Bridge

The Impacts of the Upcoming Mexican Federal Elections on Border Flows

Al Zapanta, President and CEO, US Mexican Chamber of Commerce

Private-Public Partnerships to Develop Effective and Efficient Border Security Measures

Sandra Scott, President & CEO, SASync Borders

Solutions – Improving Security AND Efficiency – NAFTRACS Project

William Ett, NAFTRACS Project System Architect, Lockheed Martin

3:30 pm **Break**

3:45 pm **Plenary Session 4—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)** **Planning for a Pandemic**

Moderator

Dr. Joel Kettner, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Province of Manitoba



Day 3 Thursday, June 1, 2006 (con't)

Pandemic will have significant impact across all facets of life and regions of the world. This panel will address pandemic facts, steps governments and health organizations are taking to prevent the spread of diseases and provide early warning of pandemic threats. The panel will also focus on the likely impacts of a pandemic to the transportation industry, as well as the potential impacts of a pandemic (Economic, Societal, and Business).

Panelists

Considerations for Businesses – Risks, Costs and How to Plan for a Pandemic / Resources and Tools to Help Your Company Plan

Leslie Dornan, Senior Partner, Meyers Norris Penny

The Flu Has Arrived: Now What?

John A. Read, Director General, Transport Dangerous Goods Directorate, Transport Canada

5:00 pm Break

6:30 pm Reception / Entertainment
Manitoba Museum

Day 3 Friday, June 2, 2006

7:30 am Breakfast – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

8:30 am Keynote Speaker – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

Winnipeg International Airport - Gateway to the Mid-Continent Corridor

Barry Rempel, President and CEO, Winnipeg Airports Authority

In 2005 the Winnipeg Airports Authority launched its airport redevelopment initiative. *“From now until 2009, Winnipeg International Airport will be transformed—not only in the physical sense—but also in the way we serve our community. The airport redevelopment will be adaptable to changing markets, regulatory and security environments.”*—Barry Rempel, President & CEO

9:00 am Plenary Session 5—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)
Moving to a Sustainable Corridor

Moderator

John Spacek, Chair, Centre for Sustainable Transportation

Our natural environment, economic prosperity, and social well being all depend on transportation systems that are clean, efficient, equitable, and sustainable. Current transportation trends are considered unsustainable. Altering these trends is not an easy task and requires the cooperation of many stakeholders. Discussions will focus on how Corridor jurisdictions can partner to develop an ecologically and economically sustainable corridor.

Panelists

Blue Skyways Collaborative

Carol Kather, Deputy Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 7

Day 4 Friday, June 2, 2006 (con't)

Innovative Infrastructure

Dr. Aftab Mufti, President, ISIS Canada

Initiatives for a Sustainable Corridor in Mexico

Al Zapanta, President and CEO, US Mexican Chamber of Commerce

10:15 am Break

10:45 am Keynote Speaker – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

The Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Justice, Attorney General of Canada, Member of Parliament, Provencher

11:05 am Plenary Session 6—Panel Discussion – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)

Healthy Rural Communities as an Integral Component of Sustaining Trade and Transportation along the Corridor

Rural communities have unique needs when it comes to development, and their survival will depend on how they can be partners within our economic fabric. In particular, access to markets by rural-based business is frequently hampered by infrastructure policies that place greater emphasis on urban users. A perception that a “vacuum” between urban centres is strategically linked by transportation corridors exists. This panel will focus on how remote communities can strategically position themselves as an integral part of a sustainable corridor, such that both service providers and rural users benefit from infrastructure planning.

Moderator

Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agri-Food and Rural Development, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Panelists

Strategic Options for Rural Communities – How Rural Communities can Use Strategic Partnerships along the Corridor to Harness their Resources and Increase Local Productivity

Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Province of Manitoba

US Initiatives to Promote Healthy Rural Economies

Dr. Thomas G. Johnson, Frank Miller Professor of Agricultural Economics and Director of the Community Policy Analysis Center, University of Missouri-Columbia

12:00 pm Conference Wrap-Up—Closing Raporteur – (Midway Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)
Reporting on Outcomes and Next Steps

Andrew Horosko, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Transportation / V.P.-Canada, NASCO Board

12:20 pm Closing Luncheon and Passing of the Torch – (West Ballroom – Mezzanine Level)
City of Fort Worth, Texas – Hosts of NASCO Conference 2007

2:00 pm Afternoon Recreational Events
Tour of Historic Winnipeg