

Calexico West Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Calexico, CA

March 2014

Fact Sheet: Expansion and Reconfiguration of the Existing LPOE

Goals of the Project

The Calexico West LPOE is one of the busiest crossings on the southern border. The space required for modern inspection technologies is not available and the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to accomplish its rapidly changing mission is seriously compromised by the inadequacy of the existing facilities. When completed, the project will provide adequate operational space, reduced traffic congestion and a safe environment for port employees and users. Additionally, the project will reduce delays and congestion, improve air quality and serve to encourage economic development of the region.

Regional Needs

The downtown Calexico West LPOE is the principal gateway between California's Imperial Valley and the Mexican State of Baja California. On an average day, over 22,000 privately operated vehicles (POVs are auto, bus and recreational vehicles) and 26,000 pedestrians travel through this port, north and southbound. This LPOE also includes a rail crossing operated by Union Pacific Railroad. In 2012, the rail line processed \$273 million in U.S. exports to Mexico. The existing POV and pedestrian facilities are undersized relative to existing traffic loads and obsolete in terms of inspection officer safety and border security. Delays are causing significant impact to the Imperial Valley and U.S. economy. The project involves construction of new pedestrian and POV inspection facilities, expanding the POE onto the site of the former commercial inspection facility, whose operations moved to Calexico East in 1996.

Project Scope

The LPOE's existing structures will be replaced by three buildings totaling 106,605 gross square feet. The project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will include a headhouse, ten of the project's 16 northbound POV inspection lanes, five southbound POV inspection lanes with temporary asphalt paving, and a bridge across the New River for southbound traffic. The second phase will include the balance of the project, including the remaining six northbound POV lanes, southbound POV inspection islands, booths, canopies and concrete paving, an administration building, an employee parking structure and a pedestrian processing building with 12 northbound pedestrian inspection stations.

Project Status

The project is identified as the 2nd highest priority for port expansion projects in the 2014 California/Baja California Border Master Plan.

Environmental Studies

A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was developed and the final EIS was issued in June 2011 and Record of Decision in July 2011.

Funding

Congress has appropriated \$23.8 million to date, for site acquisition and design. President Obama has included a proposed allocation of just over \$98 million in the FY2015 budget; with \$100 million required for construction of Phase 1. An additional \$275 million is required for construction of Phase 2. Across the border, Mexico's planned expansion of Mexicali I port and roadways is fully funded and ready for construction.

Schedule

Master Planning Complete – Summer, 2009
EIS Complete – Spring, 2011
Phase 1 Construction Documents Complete - July, 2012
Begin construction of Phase 1 – Upon appropriation
Begin construction of Phase 2 – TBD

Partners*

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)
U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
City of Calexico
County of Imperial
Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC)
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC)
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
* Coordination with local, state and federal counterparts of Mexicali, Mexico is facilitated through bi-monthly meetings of the Imperial-Mexicali Binational Alliance.



U.S. and Mexico's Planned Expansion Concepts at Calexico West/Mexicali I

ICTC Contact: Mark Baza, ICTC Executive Director
or Virginia Mendoza (760) 592-4494

