

# **ITS Field Operational Test Summary**

## **Texas Regional International Border Crossing System**

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### **Introduction**

The Texas Regional International Border Crossing System (TRIBEX) ITS Field Operational Test demonstrates the use of ITS technologies as a means of reducing the delays incurred by users of three international border crossings. The goal is to enable commercial vehicles to cross a “transparent” international border. The main objective is to provide an accredited service to both the border officials and agencies and bridge users that allows pre-processed vehicles, drivers, and cargo to more quickly pass through international border check points.

The test takes place at three border crossings between the US and Mexico. The crossings are the Lincoln-Juarez Bridge between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, and the Columbia-Solidarity and Ysleta-Zaragoza bridges between Laredo Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The test operations will begin in February 1998. Inclusive dates for the terms of operation and evaluation have not yet been determined.

### **Project Description**

The international trade community and government officials responsible for customs, immigration, and transportation, must execute a complex set of transactions and inspections in order for vehicles, drivers, and cargo to cross legally and safely from one country into another. Because a large portion of these transactions is conducted manually, the time required to process an individual shipment can be significant. At land border ports such as these three international bridges, commercial vehicle traffic volume has grown to the point where lengthy processing delays are commonplace. These delays impact the trade community by increasing costs, and adversely affecting the efficiency of operations. The increasing volume of commercial vehicles has also led to lengthy traffic queues along the bridge spans, causing delays and presenting potential safety hazards. As part of the IBC (International Border Clearance) Program, FHWA has worked with representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation, the bridge authorities, the US Treasury’s North American Trade Automation Prototype (NATAP) program, and Mexican transportation officials, to cooperatively address these issues.

The IBC program has developed a system design and architecture. This design and architecture aims to significantly reduce administrative delays incurred by vehicles at international points of entry. The system also facilitates the safety screening of commercial vehicles. The TRIBEX system will facilitate vehicle processing using dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) for trade and transport related commercial vehicle electronic screening. The end goal is to replace current paper-based processes with ones supported by electronic data interchange (EDI). The TRIBEX system will address the safety of commercial vehicles operating in the State of Texas, and throughout the US, by forwarding transport safety data obtained by the system to an existing commercial vehicle weight and inspection facility. This data will be in a format consistent with those under development under the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks



**Test Partners**

City of Laredo, Texas

City of El Paso, Texas

Federal Highway Administration

Lockheed-Martin IMS

Signal Processing Systems, Inc.

Texas Department of Public Safety

Texas Department of Transportation

**References**

None published