



Introduction

The International Mobility & Trade Corridor Program (IMTC) is an award-winning binational multi-agency coalition that works to identify and promote improvements to **mobility** and **security** for the border crossings that make up the Cascade Gateway, the five land border ports-of-entry between Whatcom County, Washington State and Lower Mainland British Columbia.

The goals of the IMTC program are to:

- Coordinate planning
- Improve regional, cross-border trade and transportation data
- Support infrastructure improvements
- Support coordinated implementation of U.S. and Canadian border policy
- Improve operations.

IMTC stakeholders have been meeting since 1997 and have coordinated and advanced over **\$50 million** (USD) of regional border projects.

IMTC is administered by the Whatcom Council of Governments.

IMTC funding

For 28 years core funding for the coordinated planning efforts of IMTC have been provided by U.S. Federal Highway Administration and WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). In 2025, Whatcom Council of Governments received operational funding from WSDOT.

IMTC participants

There are two levels of participation in the **IMTC: Steering Committee** participants are agencies and organizations directly involved in the Cascade Gateway ports-of-entry. The Steering Committee meets regularly to work through issues at a detailed level. The **IMTC Assembly** includes public agencies and private sector organizations with an interest in regional border crossings.

Representatives from the following agencies and organizations attended IMTC meetings in 2025:

- Abbotsford Duty Free
- Airporter Shuttle/Bellair Charters
- BC Chamber of Commerce
- BC Ministry of Transportation (BCMOT)
- BC Trucking Association
- Border Policy Research Institute, Western Washington University (BPRI)
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- City of Blaine, WA
- City of Surrey, BC
- City of White Rock, BC
- Consul General of Canada, Seattle
- Duty Free Americas
- Future Borders Coalition
- Pacific Northwest Economic Region
- Port of Bellingham
- Surrey Board of Trade
- Transport Canada
- U.S. Border Patrol
- U.S. Consul General, Vancouver
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. General Services Administration
- U.S. Representative Rick Larsen's Office
- U.S. Senator Murray's Office
- WA State Department of Transportation. (WSDOT)
- WA Trucking Association
- West Coast Duty Free
- Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG)
- YVR Airport

IMTC Projects

The following projects were started in 2025 and are ongoing:

2025/2026 IMTC Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey

Roughly every five years, IMTC stakeholders provide funding to conduct a survey of cross-border travelers at the land ports-of-entry in the Cascade Gateway. These surveys help inform regional investment strategies and provide insight into travel trends.

This effort is undertaken jointly by the Whatcom Council of Governments and the Border Policy Research Institute in Bellingham

The last Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey was completed in 2018/2019. The effort this year will provide data on how travel patterns have changed after COVID-19 border restrictions and recent decreases in traffic volume. In addition, the survey will ask about border wait time system usage and collect data on the percentage of electric vehicles crossing the border.

The summer wave of surveying was completed in July of this year. Another wave of surveys is scheduled for February 2026 to collect comparable winter data. Once both waves are completed and the data have been organized and analyzed, results will be made available online and in spreadsheet format.

Cascade Gateway Advanced Border Information System Stage II (ABIS)

At the end of 2024 the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program awarded \$6,599,400 to WSDOT to implement Stage II of the Cascade Gateway Advanced Border Information System project. This project involves multiple IMTC partner agencies and is overseen by a binational advisory team.

The agreement between WSDOT and USDOT was signed in 2025, and work is expected to begin in 2026.

IMTC meetings

Seven IMTC meetings were held in 2025. This includes five meetings of the Steering Committee (stakeholder agencies at the border including inspection, transportation, and planning agencies) and two Assembly meetings (a broader range of stakeholders).

IMTC key focus areas in 2025

In 2025 much of the discussion between IMTC stakeholders focused on the following issues:

- Changing policies between the U.S. and Canada and impacts to trade and travel
- Decreasing cross-border traffic volumes
- Preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Games that will be held in Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC
- Development of the Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey
- Updates on Amtrak Cascades service – available trainsets and the completion of the pre-clearance facility in Vancouver BC
- Changes and concerns regarding cross-border trucking
- Review of cross-border transportation volume trends
- Lynden and Sumas Port-of-Entry facility redesign project updates
- Pacific Highway facility upgrades
- Advanced manifest programs
- Cascadia high-speed rail updates
- I-5 Master plan updates
- Coordination with national-level efforts (U.S. Transportation Border Working Group, Eastern Border Transportation Coalition)

Data sharing

The collection and distribution of border-related data is a key objective of the IMTC program. The following data efforts were undertaken in 2025:

- The IMTC Data Digest was published online. A briefer print version is also available.
- Monthly volume changes in cross-border passenger vehicles compared to the previous year are published on the website, available for download, and are distributed upon request to media and other agencies who ask for updates.
- Economic analyses of the impacts of the decrease in border traffic.
- Previously collected IMTC Commercial-Vehicle Operations data was shared with inspection agencies upon request.

Collaboration

In addition to the day-to-day partnership coordination efforts, IMTC staff also participated in the following border-related meetings:

- May 2025 Eastern Border Transportation Coalition Conference (Quebec City, QC)
- June 2025 U.S. – Canada Transportation Border Working Group Meeting (Niagara Falls, ON)
- November 2025 Cascadia Innovations Corridor Conference (Seattle, WA)

Ideas for 2026

IMTC staff have the following goals for next year:

- At least two in-person meetings in Canada and one in-person meeting in the U.S.
- Participation in the U.S. – Canada Transportation Border Working Group
- Development of a Cascade Gateway Advanced Border Information System (ABIS) Stage II Advisory Team
- Continued planning and data sharing related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup Games in Seattle, WA and Vancouver BC.
- Collection of 2026 winter wave data for the IMTC Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey and the development of a data dashboard for the project
- Continued monitoring of construction schedules and traffic impacts related to the Pacific Highway, Lynden, and Sumas Ports-of-Entry facility development projects.