

Personnel

Without sufficient staffing, the benefits to improving trade and security cannot be accrued.²⁵ It is imperative that the border officials, on both sides, receive the training and support necessary to implement all facets of the new security measures. Without their vigilance on the ground, any improvements will provide only a false sense of security.

Cooperation with Private Sector

The participation of business is seen as an integral part of the solution. Companies that choose to become part of FAST and NEXUS must upgrade their supply chain security and conduct a security audit. The incentive for companies lies in the fact that those who make this commitment will enjoy the benefits of a fast lane for commercial processing and a reduced administrative burden (streamlined accounting and payment processes for traders using electronic commerce).

In summary, in the words of the responsible Canadian Minister:

“Our goal was not to just bring the border back to the wait times experienced on September 10th. Our goal was to re-shape the border security foundation using the latest technology and shared intelligence—all guided by the principle of effective risk-management. This allows us to expedite the flow of low risk goods and people and focus our resources on higher risk traffic. The ‘smart’ in smart border is about not having to

²⁵ The passage of the Border Security Bill in the US House of Representatives, H.R. 3525, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 authorized additional inspectors to ports of entry (the number of inspectors had remained the same since 1986) with improvements already being noted. Canadian Customs official, interview with author, Windsor-Detroit border crossing, Windsor, Ontario, January 22nd, 2003.