Future Borders Coalition

Border Technology for Travel and Trade Working Group Inception Meeting Report

November 18, 2022

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Thanks to all who attended our initial working group meeting. Below are detailed terms of reference and participant comments. In order to get most important items up front, here are the main focus areas FBC will be working for 2023. Note that some digital technology issues will be shared with/cross over to the travel/tourism working group and the supply chains working group. Please review the following themes and actions and identify areas where you could contribute.

THEME 1: DIGITAL ID and PRIVACY

Scope:
- All modes (air, land, marine)
- All instruments (trusted traveler, mobile passport and declarations, ETAs, e-visas)
- Geography – US-Canada plus main travel partners (Mexico, Europe, Asia, as appropriate)
- Lessons and examples from other regions (EU, WEF, IATA)

Actions:
- Map the existing landscape of digital identity instruments and future trajectory. Identify areas of duplication, fragmentation and inefficiencies.
- Provide recommendations for alignment
- Assess the current status of US and Canada digital privacy frameworks. Identify areas for harmonization.
- Incorporate lessons learned and areas of alignment with other countries/regions/IOs
- Assess the state of public trust in border technology. Provide recommendations to improve public trust through – changes in how technology is implemented and/or increased public education.

THEME 2: ALIGNING PASSENGER SCREENING TECHNOLOGY

Scope:
- Border screening technology
- Passenger screening technology – governmental and private sector (airlines, cruise lines)
- Start with air and marine; add land in 2024

Actions:
- Map the current state of border and security screening technology and near-term trajectory.
- Identify areas of duplication, friction, inefficiencies, and fragmentation.
- Provide recommendations for alignment. Ensure that technologies are accessible (affordable) for smaller air, land, and marine sites.

THEME 3: TRUSTED TRAVELLER AND PRECLEARANCE

Scope:
- US and Canada Trusted Traveler and Preclearance Programs; Mexico and Europe as appropriate

Actions:
- Map the current state and future trajectory of TT and Preclearance programs.
- Identity areas of friction; need for upgrading.
- Provide recommendations for alignment and modernization; proposals for pilot programs.

If possible: Add AI and Cybersecurity (see below)

Next Steps:

FBC will set up the next meeting in early 2023 for continued discussions and for narrowing down the focus to actionable items and set up a cadence for working group meetings every 8 weeks.

II. Working Group Terms of Reference

Why are we here? FBC members and stakeholders agree that effective use of border technology is key to efficient supply chains and optimized passenger experience. However, the effectiveness of border technology is predicated on a number of conditions including **user experience**, **public trust**, i**nteroperability, cybersecurity**, and cost-benefit for government and industry.

This working group will identify 3-4 priority areas and action items for 2023 through regular meetings and outreach to other specialists as needed. These meetings are a confidential space for frank discussions with industry and government in the U.S. and Canada. The Chatham House rule applies.

Meetings will be organized and chaired by FBC with volunteer participation on an as-available, as-needed basis.

Working Group Composition

- Participants from Canada and U.S., government, private sector, and industry/academic organization.
- Membership may change from time to time. All conversations are Chatham House unless specifically exempted (e.g. webinar participation).
- Members should reflect the broadest spectrum of activities captured by the theme from carriers, to border officials, to service providers.

FBC Action Channels/Potential Outputs

1. Conducting research and focus groups, examining and evaluating issue options
2. Building consensus on recommendations among industry partners and between/within governments
3. Convening information sharing and coordination meetings
4. Providing recommendations to governments (formally or informally)
5. Building public awareness on certain issues
6. Convening information sharing and coordination meetings

III.. November 18, 2022 Rapporteur's Notes

Total of 22 people in attendance.

Meeting started with Laura's welcome and introduction of participants

Feedback from attendees:

Participants agree that Digital ID (identity verification) is a key theme.

- Looking around what other countries are doing, best practices, and what can be duplicated. UK was given as an example, where they are deploying new Digital ID tech for visas, and electronic travel authorization, and remote read on applicants' electronic passports. Another example given was regarding EU's Digital Wallet.

Interoperability

- Participants agree that Nexus, Trusted Traveler and alike programs are fragmented. Canadian and U.S. officials are trying to work together more.
- Changing drivers' licenses to meet universal standards. Both U.S. and Canada should start from this.

Trusted Traveler

- Digital technology vs card-based. Cost? Reliability/security of smart phones? Digital inclusion?
- Information sharing across borders
- National differences / harmonization

Shared Privacy Frameworks

- Cross-border information sharing relies on public trust and shared privacy principles.
- Multiple privacy frameworks impedes implementation of effective and efficient technology.
- US – Canada starting point plus the addition of third countries. There is a need to have interoperability. While we talk about interoperability between U.S. and Canada, we also need to have 3rd country ID's work for us.
- Thorough understanding of the reliability of biometrics / demographic bias

Ways this is handled currently:

- Publishing policy impact assessments
- Pilots
- Cooperation with NIST in the US

Cybersecurity
- Where do we need to get to nationally and binationally for security, resilience and trust?
- Are there trade-offs between security and access? Security and efficiency?

Leveraging AIML (Artificial intelligence machine learning)
1. Solves the problem of single point of failure. Support tools to augment human decision making.
2. Identifies friction points and challenges in processes
3. Example - Voice transcription. When an agent needs to conduct an interview, this can remove the translator, have voice recognition, and voice transcribing. Saves time, money, and leads to a better customer experience. Agents get help deciding who is a threat.
4. Example - Bomb detection for vehicles for ports of entry. Can help identify body, drugs, and money, once the machine learns the vehicle specifications. You keep teaching the machine what is a threat and what is not, and once a threshold is met, an agent makes a decision.

TRANSFERRED FROM END-TO-END PASSENGER EXPERIENCE WORKING GROUP
- Digital ID, biometrics, advance declarations, information sharing, joint apps, e-gates, AI, visas and ETAs

Other issues:

- Tolling systems at bridges having multiple bar codes
- Trusted traders/Remote inspection technologies
- Touchless travel experience (digital visas, digital passports).
- Interoperability between U.S. and Canada and also with EU
- Digital surveillance at airports and train stations. Getting people to understand difference between digital ID surveillance to regular surveillance cameras.
- What is the future for digital credentials?
  1. Do kids need digital identity documents? This can take months.
  2. Business impact costs of transitions