U.S. – Mexico Border Operations

Dear Valued Customer,

As the U.S. administration debates potential changes at the U.S.–Mexico border in response to increased numbers of people crossing the border, supply chain professionals can keep up to date with the latest impacts below.

Port of Entry Operational News

Updated wait times for commercial cargo can be found here. Please note: it is widely believed that the published wait times are inaccurate and significantly underestimate actual wait times, particularly later in the day.

Otay Mesa/Calexico (New Update)
- Otay Mesa has 5 standard and 3 FAST lanes open of 10 total.
- Calexico has 2 standard and 1 FAST lane open of 3 total.

Nogales (New Update)
- There are currently 6 standard lanes and 2 FAST lanes open of 8 total.
- View the Nogales live camera here

El Paso (New Update)
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) held a meeting yesterday. No new information was shared. They expect current conditions to be the new normal for the next few months.
- CBP confirmed that 108 officers will be returned to the Port of Entry and 86 will remain in rotation.
- CTPAT is still being prioritized. Anyone crossing with CTPAT should use the FAST lanes at the Ysleta Bridge. El Paso CBP and Houston CTPAT are hosting a free CTPAT workshop on May 8, 2019. The deadline to register is tomorrow April 19.
- Wait times have not improved. Drivers unable to cross yesterday were in line early this morning and crossed the border around 1:30 p.m. today.
- Current wait times are about 6 hours.
- Ysleta has 4 standard and 2 FAST lanes open of 8 total.
- Bridge of the Americas has 3 standard and 2 FAST lanes open of 6 total.
- View the El Paso Live camera here

Laredo (New Update)
- CBP shared that 165 officers will return to the Laredo Port of Entry. 135 officers from this location will remain in rotation.
- World Trade Bridge currently has 8 standard and 4 FAST lanes open of 12 total.
Colombia has 2 standard and 2 FAST lanes open of 4 total. Mexican customs brokers must have authority to cross via Colombia.

View the Laredo live camera [here](#).

**McAllen/Pharr (New Update)**

- On Tuesday, the Pharr Port of Entry closed the bridge to passenger vehicles. The City of Pharr and Mexican authorities made the decision to restrict the bridge to only commercial vehicles.
- Veterans Bridge at the Brownsville Port of Entry has been closed due to systems errors.
- There are 5 standard lanes and 1 FAST lane open of 6 total.

FAST lanes refer to the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. It is a commercial clearance program for known low-risk shipments entering the United States from Canada and Mexico. Learn more about the program [here](#).

**Policy News**

- Talk continues to grow in Washington about a potential plan to move migrants waiting for processing to “sanctuary cities”.
- Many members of congress and their staff will likely visit the border during the next two weeks as they head out for a legislative recess.
- There are concerns about how the normal increase in pedestrian traffic across the border during Holy Week will impact staffing for freight customs inspections.

**What This Means**

We are now over two weeks into what has been, essentially, a partial shutdown of the freight border between the U.S. and Mexico and seeing impacts across the supply chain.

Last week, CBP provided industry some optimism that agents may begin to return to their home ports of entry and reduce wait times. However, this week is one of the busiest weeks of the year along the border as families and goods cross in higher volumes for Holy Week. Wait times remain high at most ports of entry, with some even increasing with no indication of when operations will return to normal levels.

We will keep a close eye on operational changes, such as the number of lanes open and reductions in wait times, which would indicate staffing changes.

We encourage you to work with your C.H. Robinson account management team to adopt strategies to mitigate the impacts of these delays on your supply chain, including mode shifting to air and rail, delaying or adjusting production schedules, and sourcing inventory from other locations when possible.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your C.H. Robinson commercial representative for further information.

Sincerely,

C.H. Robinson