

TWENTY-SEVENTH NEW MEXICO FIRST TOWN HALL

NEW MEXICO'S BORDER WITH MEXICO: CREATING A VIABLE AGENDA FOR GROWTH

Las Cruces, New Mexico
November 1-4, 2001

The Twenty-Seventh New Mexico First Town Hall convened in Las Cruces to discuss New Mexico's border with Mexico, strategies for relations with Mexico, and potential public policy implications. The Town Hall expressed a need to achieve a shared vision that investing in the border is good for the entire state of New Mexico in its efforts to become a leader in border development.

OPPORTUNITIES

New Mexico's contiguous border with Mexico creates several opportunities. The border presents New Mexico and Mexico with mutually beneficial opportunities to engage in joint ventures and strategic alliances. Trade opportunities can promote jobs, education, tourism, and joint approaches to border issues. The Town Hall expressed a desire to capitalize on New Mexico's proximity with Mexico by enhancing and improving commerce, cultural exchange, and border crossings before the projected population increases become unmanageable. As our border is a gateway to Central and Latin America, New Mexico can also be a catalyst for trade, commerce, communications, and ventures with Mexico and Latin America.

The Town Hall recognized that New Mexico's common history, language, and a border with Mexico can be used to develop relationships with Mexico businesses to increase our share of commerce with Mexico. New Mexico must also define and capitalize on the benefits that Mexico gains by exporting its products and services to or through New Mexico. New Mexico can import finished products, agricultural products and livestock from Mexico, and can offer "value-added" products and services to Mexico. Another opportunity that New Mexico can capitalize on is Mexico's demand for New Mexico's natural resources. As the border offers a unique opportunity to improve the economies of New Mexico and Mexico, the Town Hall concluded that New Mexico should plan to develop financial, transportation, technology, water resources and infrastructure for growth. To achieve this end, New Mexico businesses need to cultivate distribution centers, direct marketing, and intellectual commerce, and to develop infrastructures, including tax incentives, bilingual/bicultural workforce development, tourism, road and water infrastructures, and health care and education services.

The Santa Teresa crossing can be an ideal test bed for new and innovative planning processes, technology, and management that can be applied to other present and planned border crossings. New Mexico must base its efforts on developing industry in the border region by building on local businesses, encouraging relocation of industry from other parts of the country and supporting maquiladoras. We can also expand financial and related services to Mexican businesses and take a role in developing commerce for Mexican citizens. Other opportunities include trading with Jalisco, which is similar to New Mexico, taking advantage of the history of

Juarez's growth to help us avoid the same problems and be better prepared to develop infrastructure, improving our infrastructure to plan for 21st century commerce, and attracting initiatives, such as the proposed Sandia Labs Bi-National Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory. NAFTA can also create a boom in commerce by allowing different ports of entry and reducing taxes. One of New Mexico's unique opportunities is its technology expertise and the highest percentage of any state of Spanish-speaking persons with high-tech backgrounds. The strong ties between the leaders of the United States and Mexico also provide an opportunity for us to broaden our relationship with Mexico.

CHALLENGES

The large economic disparities and high level of poverty that exist at New Mexico's border with Mexico also pose several challenges. These challenges include north and southbound trade, a lack of education, cultural differences, unskilled workforces, a lack of infrastructure development, lack of private sector involvement, inadequate funding of border development, and a lack of understanding of the potential of the border and the economic benefits of trade with Mexico. We also need to achieve a shared vision that investing in the border is good for the entire state of New Mexico.

There are also various political challenges. One political challenge is finding appropriate vehicles to develop comprehensive plans on border issues. No strategy exists to approach all of these challenges holistically. Similarly, no coordination exists between countries or among groups addressing these issues. The State of New Mexico should be encouraged to act on opportunities at the border and to raise border issues to a higher priority level. Northern New Mexico is separated from southern New Mexico by a "Tortilla Curtain," representing northern New Mexico's lack of understanding about border issues. Involvement of governments on both sides of the border and cooperation between branches of government are needed to deal with border issues, such as multiple jurisdictions, significant turnover of trade officials, and the lack of understanding of the border's potential.

The Town Hall also observed that other challenges include lack of financial capital and skilled workforces on both sides of the border, illegal immigration, security issues, population concerns, crime, and the need to keep New Mexico's agricultural products competitive. The border's fragile ecosystem, especially air quality and water resources, presents a challenge. Problems also may arise, as land use changes from agrarian to urban use. Colonias also present challenges in land use regulation, public health, and environmental concerns. Finally, other challenges facing New Mexico include a lack of literacy, particularly in immigrant populations, emergency services, hazardous materials, and waste management.

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN LEARN FROM OTHER STATES ABOUT BORDER DEVELOPMENT

New Mexico has an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other states and develop appropriate strategies to take advantage of the opportunities. Since mere transportation of goods through New Mexico produces little revenue, the state should foster trade-related commerce that adds value to goods handled within the state. New Mexico must endeavor to train a workforce

that can compete for the community's new job and industry targets. In order to sustain and encourage economic development, the State of New Mexico should also work with the private and public sectors. The private sector needs to become unified and to lead economic development efforts. The government should provide encouragement to the private-sector. New Mexico should follow the examples of Arizona, California, and Texas and have dedicated private-sector taskforces working with government to sustain economic development. For instance, Arizona has a Mexican affairs office that looks at a number of matters comprehensively. The Town Hall suggests an office of intergovernmental affairs to establish an alliance with Mexico, such as the Arizona/Mexico Commission. At the local and state levels, New Mexico can act with vision to develop a meaningful business alliance with Mexico. Northern New Mexico will gain significant economic benefit from the trade corridor resulting from enhanced border development and commerce.

RESOURCES FOR BORDER DEVELOPMENT

New Mexico has many resources in place that position us to move toward effective border development. New Mexico is one of only four states bordering Mexico; but it has no major 24-hour border crossing. In light of New Mexico's strengths in research and technology, and its large, low-cost, productive workforce, New Mexico is uniquely situated to develop its border with Mexico. Although there are many existing resources, the Town Hall identified the following major resources for border development: the New Mexico Border Authority, local, state, and federal government agencies, existing border crossings, institutions of higher education, federal laboratories, non-profit organizations, the state economic development office, transportation, financial organizations, corporations, business groups, trade offices, border communities, border groups, arts and culture organizations, physical infrastructure, religious organizations, sister cities, and existing trade laws and agreements.

The only way that a border strategy is going to get legislative support is if it is demonstrated that the entire state will benefit from border commerce. All local communities need to be involved in border issues. To assist local communities, there should be a clearinghouse of resources developed and managed by a public/private entity to combine present resources, provide technical assistance, and coordinate strategic planning. Existing resources should be streamlined and coordinated to focus on strategic planning with an emphasis on networking resources at local, state, federal, and international levels. These existing resources provide a framework for the process of moving us to effective border development. Existing resources need oversight and mutual commitment, with better trained and compensated trade officials, to assure consistency in trade efforts that are supported by an office such as the Mexican Affairs Office for the State of New Mexico.

The Town Hall observed that the following additional resources and actions are needed to help New Mexico move forward in border development:

- The New Mexico State Legislature should pass a resolution or memorial urging the NAFTA Trade Commission, the Border Trade Alliance, and the Border Governors' Conference to take steps to resolve any remaining trade issues within five years.

- A border czar should be appointed for the United States to keep communications open with the Mexican office and keep the President apprised of what is going on.
- Any task force formed within New Mexico to focus on border issues should address with United States/Mexico bi-national officials the need to improve the quality of education, access to health care, and environmental regulatory enforcement.
- A tax equalization formula should be approved by the federal and state governments to address the inequities in health care, environmental, and education arenas in border communities.
- New Mexico technology should be utilized to ensure border security and the efficient crossing of people and products along the New Mexico-Mexico border.
- Efforts of local, state, national, and international organizations should be coordinated.
- New Mexico trade offices should be funded adequately to develop commercial opportunities.
- There should be more direct flights from Mexico into the Albuquerque International Sunport and better connections for non-direct flights to Mexico.
- Increased emphasis should be placed on expediting and providing the necessary resources for resolving outstanding water issues in the border region between Texas and New Mexico as well as between the United States and Mexico.
- Access and other enhancements to the significant fiber optics communication links existing in parts of the border area should be developed.
- The Pete Domenici Highway should be connected with the Las Cruces West Mesa Industrial Park.
- Energy transmission facilities should be developed in the Columbus area and/or other parts of western New Mexico.
- The bi-national pairings of experts and professionals on issues should be expanded.
- Universities should be involved in bi-national efforts.

Participants in the Town Hall suggested that an appendix be attached to this report of border development resources for research and implementation purposes.

NEW MEXICO'S OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF CHIHUAHUA AND MEXICO

To take advantage of the industrialization of Chihuahua and Mexico, New Mexico must apply "value-added" to products and services passing through the state. The New Mexico economy has become global in scope and New Mexico businesses are engaging in trade with other countries. We need to develop ties to companies in the United States that do business in Mexico. The Town Hall also recognized that to compete in the global market, New Mexico should understand the Mexican economy and business culture, and that doing business in Mexico is based on long-term business relationships. New Mexicans should understand the business environment in the maquiladora industry. New Mexico officials and business people should also utilize strategic alliances, both private and public, go on trade missions and spend time in Mexican markets and implement a systematic follow-up process to assure continuity. New Mexico must also integrate its technological expertise with the production capability that exists in Chihuahua and find out how to accomplish high-tech transfer. A web database of industry activity in Chihuahua would be useful to potential suppliers.

High-level relationships between New Mexico and Mexico should also be cultivated. Government efforts should include expanding ports of entry as well as advocating infrastructure and transportation improvements. New Mexico's governmental agencies should also be promoting tourism in New Mexico to Mexican citizens by opening a passenger/pedestrian crossing at Sunland Park, and expanding services at the Antelope Wells port of entry to serve Hidalgo County. The differential application of NAFTA trucking provisions to Mexican trucks and drivers needs to be resolved expeditiously. Other efforts should be made to improve border crossings to promote opportunities to supply maquiladoras and other purchasers in Chihuahua.

DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES OF THE BORDER

Demographic pressures can decrease living standards and increase the demands on public and private services. However, these demographic pressures may also present great potential for the border area because growing populations require services that can provide business opportunities. The demographic pressures also present a unique labor force opportunity needed to attract industry and improve a “value-added” tax base. The Town Hall recognized that whatever happens in southern New Mexico has an impact statewide and places pressures on such things as education, immigration, health care, child care, environment, water, crime, and human and welfare status of the state and region. Population growth in southern New Mexico offers an opportunity to improve the quality of life in the state of New Mexico, a ripple effect of success in the region. Added focus should be placed on finding a method to accomplish these goals; one tool is research into federal and other funding sources. The labor force will require both training and retraining. These workers will also require housing, transportation, educational facilities, health care, and other support services. Jobs and industry attracted to the region will increase the local and state tax base to support the necessary infrastructure for colonias and other border area communities impacted by the population growth.

New Mexico's rural demographics also encourage the creation of economies of scale by forming business-oriented clusters. Policies established by all stakeholders should be beneficial to the present and future impact on the environment and human health and welfare status of the state and region. Listed below are examples of how demographic pressures affect these areas.

Education

Population growth will change the distribution pattern for funding of education and may lower the statewide unit value, per-pupil funding. This may mean more teachers on waivers and lower standardized test scores, which historically occur with an influx of Limited English Proficiency students, which will lower state results overall. With an increase in population, however, we have an opportunity to develop a large, well-trained, readily available workforce to benefit both sides of the border.

Immigration

Immigration increases local costs to New Mexico including detention costs, medical services, housing, and environmental protection and remediation costs. State programs, such as health, are also financially impacted.

On the other hand, the opportunity presented by immigration into New Mexico is a labor force, from which many industries benefit. This labor force also could be developed to meet other needs within the state.

Health Care

The nature of population growth in the New Mexico border region threatens to outstrip health resources. If we do not get balance here, the unfunded burden will be New Mexico's responsibility. The rest of New Mexico will have to pick up the tab, exacerbating the marginalized statewide health system. Providing health care to Mexican nationals and migrant workers is a tremendous economic burden on communities in the U.S. For example, emergency personnel provide emergency treatment without adequate, or any, reimbursement. Lack of funds for early and preventive health care results in an increase in health-care costs and in the severity of tuberculosis; HIV/AIDS; and other communicable diseases, and in chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. Likewise, non-hospital medical services are often provided without reimbursement to persons crossing the border. Doctors on the Mexican side of the border have moved into the interior of Mexico because they have lost patients to U.S. health care providers that offer free care.

The Town Hall suggested the development of a private sector bi-national health care complex. Another proposal is to establish an integrated system of care using more *promotores/promotoras* or lay workers trained to assist the professional staffs with many of the routine functions.

Environment

Increases in population impact the environment on both sides of the border. The biggest challenge for bi-national (U.S./Mexico/New Mexico) officials is to educate and develop a plan oriented to pollution prevention and resource conservation in present and future development. In line with that challenge is the need for an effective regulatory process that also incorporates long-term environmental quality.

Water Supply

Water is the single most limiting factor in sustaining growth in the border region and drives the selection of the types of industries that might be recruited to the region. Statewide, we must take all possible steps to ensure maximum efficiency of water utilization from surface and sub-surface sources from all applications to keep from exceeding water allocations and guard against contamination of the water supply.

Crime

The border counties pay a disproportionate amount of money for incarceration, transportation, and medical costs for prisoners as compared with the rest of the state.

New Mexico's Economic Base

New Mexico ranks high in most social distress statistics, such as unemployment, low educational attainment, and poverty. The border community statistics are among the worst in the state. The challenges identified for New Mexico's economic base on the border include a lack of industry, high unemployment, low educational attainment, lack of work readiness, and low personal income.

RESPONSIBILITY OWED TO THE MEXICAN LABOR FORCE IN THE U.S.

We must value the role of Mexican laborers in our society. To achieve this end, we all have the responsibility to understand Mexican culture and values. The Mexican workers in the U.S. are owed decent, humane treatment and legal access to jobs in an effort to avoid labor exploitation. Employers have a responsibility for fair and safe labor practices. Mexican laborers also have a right to basic human benefits, including wage parity, shelter, education, health care, and the right to travel freely. A long-term approach to the labor issue is to reduce the economic disparity between the U.S. and Mexico by helping to grow the Mexican economy. Labor issues should be addressed through a collaborative effort.

The Town Hall expressed two different approaches to the responsibility owed to the Mexican laborer in the United States. One approach focused on human rights. Human rights suggestions included granting amnesty to Mexican laborers, considering the reinstatement of a guest worker program in order to legalize the workforce, appointing advocates to assist the Mexican laborer regarding legal employment opportunities and obtaining legal status in the U.S. This group suggested that revenues from taxes paid by Mexican laborers should be funneled back to the entities that provide them services.

Another approach centered on immigration reform. Because of the lack of enforcement of current immigration laws and failure to reform these laws, current taxpayers have been burdened with the economic impact of providing medical, social, and educational services to undocumented workers and their families. This current economic system has also encouraged the unfair treatment of both documented and undocumented workers alike. The Town Hall recommends that immediate action be taken to reform the current immigration laws, to encourage legal immigration and afford the documented workers and their families dignity and the appropriate rights, privileges, and responsibilities granted under the law.

A list of specific services to Mexican laborers to be considered includes health care, unemployment, social security, workman's compensation, child care, education, a safe environment, housing, and social services. Parties who could be made responsible for services are the U.S. and Mexican federal governments, the state and local governments, and employers, as well as the workers themselves. The Town Hall expressed a need for appropriate funding and effective oversight. Funding for these issues is available on local, state, federal and international levels and should be accessed. Accountability is also imperative. Mexico and the United States should achieve a bi-national agreement to allow Mexican labor to work legally here, with all basic human benefits paid equally by employers, employees, and the government.

CRITICAL AREAS RELATED TO NEW MEXICO'S BORDER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

While there are multiple issues that need to be addressed simultaneously, the Town Hall identified the following as the most critical issues to New Mexico's border development:

- job creation
- job training
- education
- infrastructure
- value-added economic targets
- total NAFTA implementation
- business-friendly environment
- water resource issues
- access to services
- housing
- transportation
- environmental issues

The Town Hall also recognized the need to raise the per-capita income level along both sides of the border by means of aggressive community-based economic and workforce development efforts including those related to the infrastructure, and education with the goal of improving the economic health, education and social and environment status of the area and its residents. The goal of all of these issues is to improve quality of life for New Mexicans. An asset is our unique opportunity as a clear landscape to “do it right” and avoid the mistakes of other states. The Town Hall also identified the need for a comprehensive, cost-effective transportation system that would allow the region to promote its logistics so that businesses could save time and money with efficient transport. New Mexico should also capitalize on the relationship between Presidents Bush and Fox to address border issues and conduct a study on the impact of population growth close to the border to avoid past mistakes and to take a 21st century approach.

The Town Hall also recognized that after the events of September 11, 2001, security is an additional concern and actions should also be taken to integrate New Mexico's technology with Chihuahua's production capability to produce new security techniques. We can also sell this region as a technology center, combining the capabilities of our technology centers with the logistics, manufacturing, and distribution capabilities of the border region.

State-of-the-art secure ports of entry, to include future ports of entry that may be so designated, can be placed on the New Mexico – Mexico border. Despite current concerns, developing the border needs to be a priority for New Mexico. The Town Hall participants must educate decision-makers and policy-makers that development at the New Mexico border will benefit the entire state.

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

New Mexico needs a clearly articulated vision and goals with action plans and timetable for measurable results. To accomplish this task, a process shall be developed by a task force formed by the Economic Development Commission and the New Mexico Border Authority. The process shall include stakeholders not only in the border area but also throughout New Mexico and will be responsible for producing a comprehensive, strategic, community-based plan with action items and measurable outcomes within one year of task force formation. Outcomes must provide positive benefits for New Mexico, the environment and citizens of the border communities. The task force shall consist of no more than 15 members who shall:

- 1) be appointed on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of subjects important to border economics and community development; and
- 2) represent the public and private sectors and include representatives from a cross section of non-profit and non-governmental organizations with a majority of private sector representation.

The task force should be non-partisan and geographically diverse.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ The New Mexico State Legislature should adopt a resolution or memorial urging the NAFTA Trade Commission, the Border Trade Alliance, the Border Governors' Conference, and the Presidential Inter-agency Task Force for Economic Development of the Southwest Border to take steps to resolve any remaining trade issues within five years.
- ✓ Relevant state and federal agencies should build state-of-the art federal and state ports of entry on the New Mexico border capable of meeting current and future demands.
- ✓ The Town Hall will request the New Mexico Congressional delegation to work to fully implement NAFTA, including adequate funding for truck inspections.
- ✓ An annual border trade conference should be held in New Mexico organized by the Centro Internacional de la Economía Mexicalia – Wharton Econometric Forecasting Association (WEFA-CIEMEX) and the Border Trade Alliance and should be specifically focused on “value-added” border trade opportunities with a vision toward involvement by North American leaders.
- ✓ The Town Hall Implementation Team should urge passage of a memorial by the New Mexico Legislature, to be forwarded to the New Mexico Congressional delegation, supporting full implementation of NAFTA.
- ✓ Town Hall participants should encourage New Mexico business groups and advocates to approach the New Mexico Border Authority to produce an annual report identifying New Mexico and federal statutes and regulations that impede trade and competition between businesses. The New Mexico Border Authority should then provide an annual report to Municipal League, Association of Counties, Legislative Finance Committee, Association of Commerce and Industry and the Governor's office to follow through on legislative agenda.

- ✓ Dona Ana County Fire Marshall and local fire chiefs should put together state-allocated matching funds for the border counties to develop a hazardous materials response program for the border cargo routes.
- ✓ Southwest Council of Governments, with the assistance of the New Mexico Congressional delegation, should champion and encourage the State Highway Department to apply for federal “Borders and Corridors” funds to initiate transportation projects within the border counties.
- ✓ New Mexico First Town Hall Implementation Team should encourage Southwest Councils of Governments to present a highway improvement project for a Demonstration Funds Project starting in 2003.
- ✓ New Mexico First Implementation Team will encourage border county school boards to promote a competency-based education model that assures baseline measurable educational attainment for New Mexico high school graduates.
- ✓ New Mexico First Implementation Team will encourage New Mexico’s Congressional delegation to support impact funding for border communities to compensate for extra health care and law enforcement expenses arising from border demographic pressures.
- ✓ New Mexico Economic Development Department and local Chambers of Commerce will approach the Work Force Development Board to create a “custom-fitted” workforce program that prepares a number of persons with specific skill sets required to meet the needs of value-added targeted industry to be funded by Work Force Development Board.
- ✓ New Mexico public universities and national labs are encouraged to research, gather, analyze, and trend demographic and economic data from the border.
- ✓ The New Mexico First Implementation Team shall urge the New Mexico Border Authority to set numeric targets and implement a plan to increase commercial use of the New Mexico border crossings and seek a state appropriation of \$100,000 to implement this plan.
- ✓ New Mexico First Implementation Team will encourage a New Mexico research institution to study energy ties with Mexico to create a mutual, economically beneficial utility infrastructure.
- ✓ NAFTA benefits that are currently available to retailers and manufacturers should be extended to all consumers. New Mexico First Town Halls should request the President to negotiate an elimination of national limits on consumer purchases of products originating in NAFTA member nations.
- ✓ New Mexico Department of Tourism should develop an active bilingual marketing campaign for tourism attractions in New Mexico and for Chihuahua including the communities of *Mimbres and Paquime*.
- ✓ New Mexico First Town Hall participants should urge officials to create the opening of and support of the passenger/pedestrian crossing at Sunland Park to enhance tourism and also expand Antelope Wells services to enhance tourism.
- ✓ Each community should conduct a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) to better respond to bi-national trade opportunities and should develop a community tourism marketing plan, such as the Sunland Park Casino, Pancho Villa Museum or Deming Duck Races.
- ✓ The private sector should establish a regional network of resources, knowledge, and partnership.

- ✓ New Mexico should augment education programs and services such as additional ESL/GED and job skills training, childcare, transportation, and more flexible hours for community education services, and the development of distance education programs, particularly for persons of Limited English Proficiency.
- ✓ New Mexico's Congressional delegation needs to create a federal/state/local/private-sector body, with liaison to Mexico, to create a border transportation improvement plan. The same body should coordinate efforts to continue developing a cost-effective and competitive regional transportation system based at the Santa Teresa border crossing and create an intermodal transport center that includes east-west rail service from Santa Teresa, an expanded connection from the border crossing to the Santa Teresa airport, and improved highway connections to Interstate 10 and Interstate 25. The Santa Teresa border crossing should operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and it should have additional facilities, such as truck stops.
- ✓ As a result of the Border Transportation Improvement Plan, the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department in cooperation with the New Mexico Border Authority and appropriate planning organizations shall develop a comprehensive list of specific transportation projects to be completed in the border area; and, through our Congressional delegation, ensure adequate funding in the next federal transportation authorization bill.
- ✓ The New Mexico Border Authority and the Chihuahua trade office should promote the use of the ports of entry on both sides of the border.
- ✓ The New Mexico Department of Education needs to continue to improve education standards in New Mexico at all educational levels, continue to reduce the New Mexico dropout rate, underscore bilingual education, and provide money to retain and recruit teachers. The New Mexico State Department of Education (NMSDE) must address the issues of Limited English Proficiency (LEP), the high rate of poverty, and high mobility rates which greatly affect schools in border communities. NMSDE should also rigorously pursue teacher exchange programs with Mexico similar to those established with Spain. Such a program would address New Mexico's shortages of both certified teachers and bilingual teachers.
- ✓ The New Mexico Department of Education shall create a coordinated effort for curriculum development and implementation among New Mexico post-secondary schools for effective workforce training through utilizing local area workforce development boards.
- ✓ Public schools should develop a pilot program to implement student mentorship programs in border community schools to help younger children succeed in school.
- ✓ More Department of Labor funding for workforce training should be obtained.
- ✓ The next Town Hall on water should be charged to examine border region water issues and to include hydrology experts from Mexico and Texas as participants.
- ✓ The United States Department of Agriculture must continue to encourage Mexico to harmonize use and labeling of pesticides and herbicides restricted in the U.S. that are used on fruit and vegetables produced for export to the United States.
- ✓ The New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, as well as the Economic Development Department and trade associations, shall encourage building of infrastructure to enable energy consumers in Juarez to burn New Mexico natural gas as a means to reduce pollution.

- ✓ New Mexico laboratories and universities are encouraged to introduce alternative energy technologies to Juarez and other Mexican markets.
- ✓ Border communities in Mexico and New Mexico are encouraged to take steps to reduce emissions.
- ✓ The federal Director of Homeland Security and the Governor or his designee (currently Public Safety), as part of homeland security, to utilize the latest security technology available from New Mexico national labs to ensure the secure and efficient crossing of people and products along the New Mexico – Mexico border.
- ✓ Tax incentives should be offered for technology developments including usable security technology to protect our borders.
- ✓ Private venture capital firms should be encouraged to invest in New Mexico businesses to develop new, commercially-usable security technology to protect our borders while allowing unfettered transit at the border. Existing legislation should be used or new legislation should be sought from the legislature to encourage the state investment officer to invest in these venture capital funds.
- ✓ The Border Patrol should be asked to bring staffing up to approved levels and to use new technologies to create efficiencies and to effectively monitor border activities along the entire border.
- ✓ The federal government, through our congressional delegation, is asked to improve programs to make it easier for Mexican workers to enter the United States legally.

APPENDIX OF RESOURCES:

A small private sector (few individual landowners) which makes communication and coordination easier.

ACCION New Mexico

Air and ground transportation

Annual Border Energy Conference

Arts and culture organizations

Border Environmental Cooperation Commission

Border groups (New Mexico Border Authority, Border Governors' Conference, U.S. Border Commission)

Business groups such as chambers of commerce

Corporations on both sides of the border

Economic development agencies (Camino Real Economic Alliance, Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, Border Environmental Cooperation Commission, NADB, SBDCs, others)

Educational institutions (not only NMSU (including Cooperative Extension Service), DACCC and WNMU but also UNM School of Medicine rural health care and Mexican institutions)

Electric transmission lines

Enchantment Land Certified Development Corporation (ELCDC)

Existing border crossings

Export Import Bank

Federal agencies

Federal government agencies (Small Business Administration, EPA, Forest Service, BLM, National Park Service, Defense Department).

Gas pipelines

Government agencies

Industrial parks

APPENDIX OF RESOURCES (Cont'd.):

Inter-governmental groups (Rio Grande Council of Governments, SCOG and others)
Local government agencies

Luna County Economic Development Board

Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance

Mexican Border Czar

Mexican Consulate

NADBank

NAFTA Institute

National Border Technology Partnership Program

National laboratories and technology transfer firms

New Mexico Border Authority

New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund (NMCDLF)

New Mexico State University Physical Sciences Lab

New Mexico's Congressional delegation

Nonprofit organizations

Other existing trade laws and agreements.

Other non-profit alternative housing, business and non-profit lenders serving the state of New Mexico

Pete Domenici Highway

Physical infrastructure (three border crossings and related industrial parks and services, two rail lines, one with good electric services; two interstate highways and an airport at Santa Teresa served by package carriers; utilities)

Rail lines

Recreational areas

Religious organizations

APPENDIX OF RESOURCES (Cont'd.):

Research and development entities

Santa Teresa Development Corporation

Silver City-Grant County Economic Development Corporation (SIGRED)

Sister Cities International (www.sister-cities.org for ICRC, International Community Resource Center)

State and local governments (including New Mexico Environment Department, State Land Office, Highway & Transportation Department)

Sunland Park, New Mexico, is included in El Paso metropolitan planning organization

Technological institutions

The Joint Working Committee, a bi-national (U.S.-Mexico) technology working group focusing on transportation and trade

The Workforce Investment Act

Trade offices (Mexico is represented in Santa Fe, New Mexico has three offices in Mexico)
United States/Mexico Border Health Commission
UTEP

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

WERC, a consortium for environmental education and technology development

White Sands Missile Range

Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST Corp.)

www.inegi.org.mx (Mexican census)

www.smartgrowthamerica.net (growth resource page). Smart Growth America's website contains 65 government programs with billions of dollars to potentially support infrastructure, finance, project development and other needs.

The Matrix

Immigration reform is an overriding concern. These responsibilities listed below are presented in a matrix form. The matrix cross-references each particular concern with parties or entities. The Town Hall believes that these entities should be primarily involved in addressing and ultimately meeting these responsibilities.

Kiowa Group – Matrix that addresses question #7:

What responsibility is owed to Mexican labor that crosses the border to work in the U.S.? Who has that responsibility?

Responsibility of whom? → Category of Responsibility	Employers / Employees	<u>Government</u>	Business Community	<u>Citizens</u>	<u>Immigration</u>
Dignity / Respect	1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 21, 22	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 27	2, 10, 11, 13, 16, 22	2, 11, 16, 22, 27	14, 22, 21
Immigration	10, 18	3, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 25, 27	10, 19	27	
Rights	1, 4, 5, 6, 18	3, 4, 5, 6, 15	4, 6	6	6, 15
Laws	1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24	3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27	4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 19, 22, 24	6, 22, 27	6, 14, 21, 22

Above, rows are broad categories / groupings of responsibilities owed to Mexican labor that crosses the border. Columns denote who has that particular responsibility.

The numbered items below describe specific responsibilities that fall within the broad categories spelled out in the matrix.

1. Supervisors, employers, and employees are adequately trained to better understand the culture of Mexican workers.
2. An international program is established that informs workers of their rights, responsibilities, and resources prior to entering the workforce in the USA.

3. Make crossing the border easier: less time-consuming, less bureaucratic paperwork, more respectful.
4. Workers are owed fair wages.
5. Workers are owed a safe and secure working environment.
6. Workers are owed the same rights, responsibilities, and protections that US citizens who perform the same or similar work enjoy.
7. Deleted at Plenary Session by consensus.
8. Deleted at Plenary Session by consensus.
9. Deleted at Plenary Session by consensus.
10. Worker family issues, such as separation of family members and child labor, are considered. Family integrity needs to be supported.
11. Mexican laborers should not be made to feel like criminals nor to be afraid of possible incarceration.
12. Employers are aware of and understand pertinent laws and regulations.
13. Decent living conditions, such as adequate housing, are provided and maintained.
14. Use the laws that are in place to ensure that Mexican labor is always offered legal employment. This would ensure that all crossings are legal, that laborers always work within the system, and that laborers pay taxes.
15. Establish an international program that informs workers of their rights before they enter the United States.
16. Promote an awareness of immigration issues.
17. United States resources are used to aid documented laborers.
18. Deleted at Kiowa Panel Session by consensus.
19. Businesses are held responsible for hiring only documented workers.
20. Perform a case-by-case amnesty review of undocumented workers and other immigrants who are currently residing in the United States.
21. Offer incentives for those employers who hire Mexican labor legally.

22. Social justice.
23. Establish an international program, through cooperation of governments, which would establish a legal system for laborers' recourse.
24. Ethics and morals, not economics, is the reason that businesses comply with the law.
25. The US Department of Labor is responsible for and is held accountable for, regulation and enforcement of pertinent laws.
26. Immigration reform is accomplished with the end goal of making laws more realistic.
27. Do not use the terrorist events of September 11, 2001 as a reason to close the border.