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NASCO would like to thank those of you who participated in the NASCO Conference 2007: Moving North America Forward! Held in Fort Worth, Texas, and attended by nearly 400 delegates from Canada, the United States and Mexico, this year's conference was a huge success by all accounts.

The event brought together senior political public sector and business leaders to focus on key trade and transportation issues and opportunities for improved cooperation and economic partnership among the three North American countries along the NASCO Corridor.

The conference focused on critical issues related to logistics and supply chain management, transportation security and efficiency, technology innovations, the environment, inland ports, sustainable corridors, global economic trends, and many other issues - all of which will greatly enhance the trade competitiveness and quality of life in the three North American nations.

Key partnerships were formed throughout the conference, and a clear mandate was issued by the participants for NASCO to continue our objectives and to further our mission

to boost economic development activity and technology/security innovations, while stimulating the dialogue between the public and private sectors about critical, corridor-wide trade and transportation challenges.

## DAY 1

The conference had an impressive start at the opening day luncheon and panels at Texas Motor Speedway, part of the Alliance Global Logistics Hub.

Co-hosts Fort Worth, Texas, Mayor Mike Moncrief and Tarrant County, Texas, Judge Glen Whitley welcomed the guests to the conference, followed by remarks from United States Congressmen Pete Sessions and Kenny Marchant from North Texas, Pete Rickershauser, Vice President of Network Development for BNSF Railway Company, and Ross Perot, Jr., Chairman of Hillwood Development Company. The opening day panels focused on maritime and inland ports and their impact on economic development, as well as the current and future challenges and opportunities related to the rail and trucking industries.

We had a fantastic evening in Weatherford, Texas, at the private ranch of Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams, who invited the entire conference delegation to celebrate the opening night of the conference with a barbeque dinner and country music from the Gatlin Brothers. It was a beautiful night with a spectacular view, and certainly one of the highlights of the conference.

## Day 2

On Day 2 of the conference, we opened with a fantastic presentation by Mary Margaret Graham, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Collection, with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who focused on national intelligence topics as they relate to protecting critical infrastructure. That session was followed by a panel on

Securing the Supply Chain, which highlighted NASCO's initiatives in this area, as well as a discussion on ACE - the Automated Commercial Environment - by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Customs & Border Protection.

Manitoba Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, Ron Lemieux, followed with a discussion of Manitoba's strategic initiatives related to trade and transportation. Another conference highlight was a presentation by Michael Gallis, who spoke on North American Competitiveness in the Global Network. We wrapped up the morning of Day 2 with the annual Mayor's Global Business Awards Luncheon.

On the afternoon of Day 2, conference discussions were centered on environmental initiatives along the NASCO Corridor, followed by presentations on Mexico's transportation infrastructure, security and logistics development initiatives. The day closed with a presentation on NASCO's "Knowledge Corridor" initiative coordinating universities in the areas of life sciences, environment and transportation. A concurrent session, Building North America's Biosecurity Corridors, ran on Thursday afternoon

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