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From: Tim Henkel
To: Selness, Cecil
CC:
Date: 8/21/2007 6:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: NASCO Bulletin: U.S. to Proceed with Mexico Trucks Test

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>>> Frank Conde <rachel@nascocorridor.com> 8/20/2007 5:46:36 PM >>>

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Monday, August 20, 2007  
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NASCO staff monitors major developments affecting the future of the freight transportation system in North America, highlighting their significance to the NASCO SuperCorridor and NASCO Coalition members, partners and supporters.

Below, a top world trade news source reports the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), a division of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation has given notice in the Federal Register of its notice to proceed with permitting qualified some Mexico trucks to begin entry into the U.S. territory due to all Congress-mandates safety preparations and concerns having been met and addressed.

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## U.S. DOT TO PROCEED WITH TEST OF EXPANDED MEXICAN TRUCK ACCESS TO U.S. TERRITORY

World Trade\INTERACTIVE(TM) is an online international trade information service, published electronically by WorldTrade Interactive, Inc. It is prepared by the law firm of Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

### DOT to Proceed with Test of Expanded Mexican Truck Access

The Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has announced its intent to proceed with a project to demonstrate the ability of Mexico-domiciled motor carriers to operate safely in the U.S. beyond the commercial zones along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The FMCSA states that it has reviewed, assessed and evaluated the required safety measures, as mandated by Congress, and considered all comments received as of July 31. Once the DOT's inspector general completes his report to Congress and the FMCSA completes any follow-up actions needed to address any issues that may be raised in that report, the FMCSA will proceed with this demonstration project.

According to the FMCSA, the purpose of this project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the safety programs adopted by Mexico-domiciled motor carriers and the monitoring and enforcement systems developed by the DOT, which together will ensure that Mexican motor carriers operating in the U.S. can maintain the same level of highway safety as U.S.-based motor carriers.

The project will allow up to 100 Mexico-domiciled motor carriers to operate throughout the U.S. for one year; up to 100 U.S.-domiciled motor carriers will be granted reciprocal rights to operate in Mexico for the same period.

Participating Mexican carriers and drivers will have to comply with all motor carrier safety laws and regulations and all other applicable U.S. laws and regulations, including those concerned with customs, immigration, vehicle emissions, employment, vehicle registration and taxation, and fuel taxation.

The project has aroused substantial opposition in some quarters, but the FMCSA states in its notice that it believes it has addressed the major concerns that have been raised.

The agency notes that as of July 31 it had received 2,359 comments, most of which were no more than a few sentences and consisted of conclusory statements indicating that Mexico-domiciled carriers are unsafe and that the demonstration project should be abandoned.

According to the FMCSA, these comments did not include information concerning technical (e.g., specific safety oversight procedures or processes) or legal aspects of the demonstration project or economic issues, nor did they include any other information supporting the assertions made therein.

The notice does  
[ Message Truncated ]