

## **ATR INSTITUTE – UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO**

### **BORDER COMMODITIES COMMERCIAL VEHICLE STUDY**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The ATR Institute (ATRI) just began work with the NMDOT/Research Bureau on a research project related to freight corridors in New Mexico. The question being whether certain highways in and through the State should be designated as “freight corridors.” This question is particularly relevant to not only the corridors of freight traffic but also the commodities that are transported from Mexico in and through the State. The Freight Corridor study was a project priority from members of the Research Quality Initiative for State FY 2003-2004 and was reaffirmed as a priority for the FY 2005-2006 at the November 2004 Research Quality Initiative.

#### **VISUALIZATION OF BORDER COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DATA**

ATRI has collected commercial vehicle data on commodities transported from Mexico through the four US/Mexico Border States to US destinations. The data was collected for the period 1993 through 2003. ATRI will update the data to the end of 2004 (current data available) and compile it into a sequel server format for ease of analysis. ATRI will prepare GIS mapping of the data with time components, commodity, destination, and port of entry information. ATRI will ensure that all GIS data comports to NMDOT’s user requirements. The GIS location maps will then be used to produce a three-dimensional visualization software product that the State of New Mexico can utilize for trends in freight and commodity descriptions over time. ATRI has found throughout its research work that visual tools aide the State’s research product and informs policymakers for ease of decision-making.

Additionally, this visualization data is not currently available for use by the State nor is a historical perspective of freight movement from 1993 to 2003 compiled in a user-friendly format.

ATRI will compile Border States maps and a visualization product for comparative analysis on freight and commodities transported to US destinations.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES FOR “DELAY TRAVEL TIME”**

FHWA NM Division has certain National Performance Objectives and Unit Performance Objectives to meet including such objectives as “travel time” in significant freight corridors and “delay time” for vehicles at NHS border crossings. Although it is beyond the scope of this research to conduct a time and delay study, ATRI will look at other state studies and research that has been conducted and provide an outline on possible methodologies that the FHWA NM Division, along with partners such as the NMDOT and local governments, can do to collect data on assessing “delay time” and possible “travel time” in significant freight corridors.

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