News Release

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New southbound pedestrian crossing opens at San Ysidro Port of Entry
Crossing relocates in preparation for traffic pattern change into El Chaparral

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Today, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced upcoming changes to the southbound pedestrian crossing into Mexico at the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry. On September 24, a new southbound pedestrian crossing will open to the public on the east side of the port. This new walkway will guide pedestrians from just south of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) trolley station along the east side of the historic Customs House building into Mexico.

In addition, the existing southbound pedestrian crossing west of Interstate 5 (I-5) south will close permanently on September 27 to facilitate lane reconfiguration into Mexico's new inspection station, El Chaparral, when it opens later this year. Pedestrians crossing into Tijuana will be required to use the new pedestrian crossing on the east side of the port as of this date.

"The governments of Mexico and the U.S. have made the expansion and reconfiguration of the Tijuana – San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE), one of the top priorities in this area," said Ruth Cox, GSA Regional Administrator. "Relocating the southbound pedestrian crossing will provide easy access for pedestrians returning to Mexico and will facilitate lane modifications to I-5 south."

The United States and Mexico have worked closely together to devise a temporary plan to connect I-5 to El Chaparral, until the General Services Administration receives funding appropriations to construct the southbound vehicle inspection booths and the permanent connection to El Chaparral on the U.S. side. This interim plan requires the closure of the current pedestrian crossing point.

The San Ysidro Land Port of Entry (LPOE) is the busiest land border crossing in the Western Hemisphere; currently processing an average of 50,000 northbound vehicles and 25,000 northbound pedestrians per day. The land port is currently undergoing a major expansion project to expand northbound and southbound capacity which will significantly reduce wait times and strengthening the region's economy.

For more information about the southbound pedestrian crossing and upcoming transition to El Chaparral, please see the El Chaparral Transition Fact Sheet at www.gsa.gov/sanysidrolpoe.

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