



**GSA Public Buildings Service**



land ports of entry



# Developing solutions at our borders that enhance national security, safety and trade

The principles of our American democracy and the legacy of our nation's history mandate that our frontier be open and welcoming while at the same time secure. Our Land Ports of Entry (LPOE) are responsible for a broad range of security priorities including monitoring trade, assuring the safety of agricultural and farm products, the interdiction of the flow of illegal goods and processing the entry of citizens, visitors and immigrants. Added to this is the intense vigilance related to threats posed by terrorists.

The Center for Border Programs, within the GSA's Office of the Chief Architect, is charged with the overall administration of GSA's LPOE national design and construction program and supports GSA regional offices in the successful planning, design and delivery of these facilities.

On an average day, over 350,000 vehicles, 135,000 pedestrians and 30,000 trucks pass through the nation's 163 border crossings. Protecting the 7,525 miles of border with Canada and Mexico are 123 GSA owned and leased facilities that must allow the safe and efficient flow of lawful traffic and commerce while at the same time preventing the entry of terrorists or weapons into our country.

## Our Goals

The Center for Border Programs supports GSA project offices with planning, design and construction of LPOE projects.

### **Develop, Maintain and Communicate Standard Processes and Policies.**

LPOE construction projects routinely involve a large number of participants, including customer agencies and other stakeholders. It is vital to the successful delivery of a project that consistent processes are implemented and understood by all parties. The Center employs several tools that aid in the standardization of processes and policies, including the Land Port of Entry Construction Cost Benchmarking Tool, the *(Land Port of Entry Design Guide)* and the Security Requirements Tool and the BorderWizard traffic scope and design program.

### **Provide Expedient and Reliable Program Information**

The Center responds to a variety of inquiries regarding our overall program as well as specific projects. For this reason, an expedient and reliable data source is necessary for the credible collection of project and program information. Currently, the Center uses the Project Information Portal (PIP) and the Border Information Tracking System (BITS). These web-based systems generate reports that meet the format requirements of requesting individuals and offices.

### **Provide Individual Project Guidance and Support**

To ensure that each project is following the necessary project standards and directives, each major project is assigned a Center Program Coordinator. These specialists review project scopes and design, interface with customers about their particular design requirements, organize the Center's independent cost estimate and provide overall program expertise.

### **Provide High Quality Design**

GSA's Design Excellence Program has resulted in LPOE designs that respond to customers' operational needs while reflecting the stability, security and authority of the United States. GSA meets civilian federal agencies' facility and workplace needs by developing projects in partnership with the best qualified architects, designers and artists throughout the United States. The Design Excellence Program has resulted in a portfolio of high quality facilities that, beyond being functional, contribute to the nation's architectural and cultural legacy of an open and welcoming national frontier.

### **Provide Leadership**

In response to the ever expanding and evolving requirements of the border program, GSA and DHS/Customs and Border Protection have begun the development of the "Port of the Future" Program that addresses these increased demands. Port of the Future is developing design guidelines and a design and delivery process that can address changing technologies, expedite project delivery, provide consistent solutions to common problems, support projects in remote locations and maintain the quality of design that GSA's Design Excellence Program promotes.

Visit our website at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov) to learn more about GSA's Border Program.



*Smarter Solutions*

 Office of Program Management

Office of Chief Architect

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**Credits:**

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