U.S. General Services Administration

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Office of Public Affairs

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Contact: Bryce Koether
CBP Public Affairs
(701) 775-6259 ext. 258

David Wilkinson
GSA Public Affairs
(312) 353-5663

News Release

International Falls Border Patrol to Get a Boost in Accomplishing its Mission

U.S Border Patrol Station receiving a new 33,000-square-foot facility in International Falls

International Falls, MN (October 6, 2009) - The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and West Second Street Associates are pleased to announce that a groundbreaking ceremony for the future home of the International Falls U.S. Border Patrol Station took place Tuesday, October 6, 1:00 p.m. The event was held at 312 Highway 11 East. Guest speakers included Rosa Nelly Hernandez, Chief Patrol Agent, Grand Forks Sector, Peter Makowski, Staff Assistant for U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar, Shawn Mason, Mayor International Falls, Jill Lindquist, General Services Administration, and John Beno, Project Manager for West Second Street Associates.

GSA and the Customs and Border Protection are partnering to provide a 33,000 square foot facility capable of housing up to 50 Border Patrol agents. Construction is expected to be complete during the summer of 2010. The new facility will enable Border Patrol agents to effectively prevent the entry of terrorists and their weapons of terrorism into the United States, while maintaining their traditional mission to detect, apprehend and prevent illegal aliens, narcotics and other contraband from crossing the border, as well as assisting local law enforcement agencies in the communities that they serve.

This ground breaking ceremony serves as an example of the positive inter-agency partnership between GSA, the Department of Homeland Security, and CBP, where each one collectively is working for a common goal—to give America's men and women who serve on the frontline on our nation's borders, the best resources and support to accomplish their mission.

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GSA, the federal government's real estate manager, conducted the solicitation and awarding of a lease-construction contract with West Second Street Associates to develop the new Border Patrol facility. As a privately owned facility, the building will be leased by the federal government and remain on local property tax rolls.

-GSA-

Founded in 1949, GSA manages more than 11 percent of the government's total procurement dollars and $24 billion in federal assets, including 8,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 213,000 vehicles. GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 480 historic properties, and as manager of USA.gov, the official portal to federal government information and services. GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and E-Gov travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions. For more information visit www.gsa.gov.

-CBP-

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.