

April 30, 2013

TO: Members of the MAG Economic Development Committee

FROM: Mayor Thomas Schoaf, City of Litchfield Park, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR
THE MAG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 7, 2013-11:30 a.m.
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC) has been scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person or by telephone conference. A light lunch will be provided.

Please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting. Parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Denise McClafferty at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions regarding the EDC agenda items, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, or Denise McClafferty, Management Analyst, at (602) 254-6300.

MAG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
MAY 7, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be called to order.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Economic Development Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public will be requested not to exceed a three-minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Economic Development Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items will be given an opportunity at the time the item is heard.

3. Approval of the April 16, 2013 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

4. Impact of Tourism from Mexico on the Arizona Economy

Tourism is one of the largest industries in the Greater Phoenix and Tucson regions. Tourists from Mexico are critically important to the Arizona economy. As part of the Economic Development Committee's efforts to improve relationships with Mexico and increase retail trade, representatives from the Greater Phoenix and Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureaus will discuss the importance of shoppers and visitors from Mexico and the impact on retail trade. A representative from the Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association will also discuss the impact of tourism on the state.

5. Streamlining of Federal Tourism/Visitor Regulations at the Border to Improve Arizona's Economy

Since 1953, Mexico and the United States have agreed to make special accommodations for

2. Information and discussion.

3. Review and approval of the April 16, 2013 Economic Development Committee meeting minutes.

4. Information, discussion and input regarding the importance of tourism for commerce and economic development.

5. Information, discussion and possible action to work with the Arizona Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to extend the current 75-mile limit from the Arizona Ports of

Mexican nationals who cross the border into the immediate border area to promote the economic stability of the region. The Immigration and National Service has helped to promote border commerce by permitting travel within 75 miles of selected Ports of Entry (POE) for Mexican nationals who meet the inspection requirements for legal entry without obtaining an I-94 Form. To change the limit to accommodate trips to the Greater Phoenix area and beyond would require a similar federal regulation change. Garrick Taylor, Director of Policy Development for the Border Trade Alliance, and David Randolph, a consultant for U.S. Mexico Border Issue, will discuss the idea of extending the 75-mile limit.

Entry to promote commerce and economic development.

6. Regional Economic Update

MAG staff will discuss the current status of the region's economy and assess the economic performance since the end of the recession. Staff will also present a report on the macro and regional trends affecting growth.

6. Information and discussion.

7. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Economic Development Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

7. Information and discussion.

8. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity will be provided for the Economic Development Committee (EDC) members to present a brief summary of current events. The EDC is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

8. Information.

Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

April 16, 2013

MAG Offices, Saguaro Room
302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf, Litchfield Park,
Chair

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale,
Vice Chair

Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Steven Betts, GPEC

Dr. Joseph Cavinato, Thunderbird

*Supervisor Steve Chucuri, Maricopa County

Mark Dreher, East Valley Partnership

*Thomas Franz, Greater Phoenix Leadership

Gary Haydon, Haydon Building Corp.

*Michael Hoover, Sundt Construction

Jim Kenny, El Dorado Holdings, Inc.

Mayor W.J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale

Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown

Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert

Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye

*Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe

*Jim Rounds, Elliott D. Pollack & Company

*Floyd Roehrich, Jr., ADOT

*Todd Sanders, Greater Phoenix Chamber
of Commerce

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
Councilmember, Jack Sellers, Chandler

*Bill Sheldon, WESTMARC

Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa

*Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix

*Sandra Watson, Arizona Commerce
Authority

*Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise

* Not present

Participated by video or telephone conference call

OTHERS PRESENT (from sign-in sheet(s)):

Rob Bohr, Goodyear

Scott Butler, Mesa

Angela Creedon, ASU

Miranda Culver, Mesa

Margie Emmerman, Arizona-Mexico
Commission

Jami Garrison, MAG

Janeen Gaskin, Surprise

Walt Gray, Westside Town Hall

Shirley Gunther, Avondale

Lucia Leon, General Consulate of Mexico

Brad Lundahl, Scottsdale

Gary Magrino, AIDA

Denise McClafferty, MAG

Christine McMurdy, Goodyear

Jeff Mihelich, Surprise

Lora Mwaniki-Lyman, MAG

Katie Prendergast, Maricopa County

Linda Priano, MAG

Nathan Pryor, MAG

David Randolph, AIDA

Luis Ramirez, Ramirez Advisors

Michelle Rider, WESTMARC

Debra Roubik, VisionEcon/SBDC

Samantha Santaella Wolfe, MAG

Judie Scalise, ESI Corp.

Dennis Smith, MAG
Chris Stoller, Arizona-Mexico Commission
Kelly Taft, MAG
Karrin Taylor, DMB

1. Call to Order

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting was called to order by Chair Schoaf at 11:40 a.m. Chair Schoaf noted public comment cards were available for those members of the public who wish to comment. Chair Schoaf stated that transit tickets were available from Valley Metro for those using transit to come to the meeting. Parking validation was available for the MAG parking facilities for those who parked in the garage.

Chair Schoaf welcomed Mayor Lord as a new member of this committee. Chair Schoaf stated additional items for Agenda Item #7 were at each members place.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Schoaf stated according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. He stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Chair Schoaf noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the February 5, 2013 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Schoaf asked if the members had any questions regarding the February 5, 2013 meeting minutes. There were none. Steve Betts moved to approve the February 5, 2013 Economic Development Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Report on the Arizona International Development Authority

Gary Magrino, Chairman of the Arizona International Development Authority (AIDA), thanked the committee for allowing him to speak at this meeting. Mr. Magrino stated AIDA was established in 1994 by legislation and was developed to help finance border transportation infrastructure projects. He added AIDA is one of several agencies identified in the state statute to receive funding from Safety Enforcement and Transportation Infrastructure Fund (SETIF). He noted Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) provides the administrative support.

Mr. Magrino stated the purpose of AIDA is to grow trade, which grows Arizona's economy and creates good jobs. He added AIDA is the official connection between the state and the border regional port authorities. He noted these port authorities have been highly successful

in uniting local public and private sector leaders to promote trade. Mr. Magrino stated AIDA can advise the legislature on trade, develop, finance, and/or operate border transportation infrastructure projects located 62 miles north to six miles south of the Arizona-Mexico border. He added AIDA has the authority to issue tax free revenue bonds to finance projects and it can also finance public-private partnerships.

Mr. Magrino stated in 2008 a study was done by the Arizona Department of Commerce that proposed \$350,000 to fund AIDA start-up costs. This money comes from a special fund derived from fees on Mexican trucks, which would not be a burden on Arizona taxpayers. He added once AIDA becomes fully operational, it would then be self-sustaining. Mr. Magrino stated AIDA can fill the critical gap caused by the steep decline in federal funding for border transportation infrastructure. He added the benefits of AIDA would be felt statewide and would make trade more efficient with the sale of local products to Mexican markets. Mr. Magrino stated he is asking this committee to provide a resolution of support for AIDA to be included in the state budget to receive funding from the Safety Enforcement Transportation Infrastructure Fund (SETIF).

Steve Betts asked whether the revenue streams were off of the infrastructure improvements. Mr. Magrino stated yes, and provided examples of infrastructure improvements, such as building a toll bridge, or a parking lot infrastructure that provides air conditioning for the truckers. He explained that the truckers would then pay an air conditioning fee so they could plug their trucks into the air conditioning units without running their engines. These fees would reimburse the bonds.

Mayor Lord asked if a business plan has been set up or if a specific project has been identified. Mr. Magrino stated the \$350,000 that was proposed as start up costs to AIDA would allow them to set up an office, hire a director, and identify potential projects. He added SETIF receives approximately \$3 million a year from these fees and ADOT estimates that there will be a surplus of more than \$1 million in the fund this year.

Chair Schoaf asked who makes the decision on dispersing the funds. David Randolph, consultant for AIDA, stated SETIF has not met in many years and has not produced any resolution to allocate the money to AIDA and currently it is being done by the Joint Legislation Budget Committee, from the House and Senate. Mr. Randolph stated each year the committee produces a budget and they allocate the money.

Mr. Magrino stated the fund was designed to be self funding, however, currently there is no revenue coming in. Mayor Lewis asked if the office would be in Yuma, Arizona. Mr. Magrino stated the office would be in the Phoenix area. Mayor Lewis stated he sees no drawback in making a recommendation. Mr. Smith added ADOT has to be in agreement for funding to go to AIDA. Mayor Lane asked if this is supposed to be a self sustaining program, but the projects have not been determined, it does not seem very well defined. Mr. Magrino stated this is the first step to ask for a recommendation to have the Senate look at AIDA to see if they still want to move forward with the organization. Mayor Lane stated he believes everyone in the room is in support for improving infrastructure at the border and

asked if this is an effort to replace what seems to be a drying up, on a Federal level, to give AIDA greater independence.

Mr. Magrino added that there is no additional money coming from Washington and he believes AIDA is very valuable to this state. Mark Dreher asked if the \$350,000 is enough funding to accomplish a project, to open an office, hire attorneys, get the bonding, etc. Mr. Magrino stated this money is just to get the ball moving to open the office and then be able to identify the projects. He added there is a lot of private money that is available in lieu of federal money. Mr. Magrino stated this money will not be a burden to taxpayers, this money is collected from Mexican trucks, which are paying for their own inspections and infrastructure development on the Arizona side. Mr. Smith suggested this committee could propose a recommendation to Regional Council saying this committee supports enhanced border infrastructure and to urge SETIF to examine funding for AIDA to ensure that AIDA is self sustaining. He added this way the committee can examine AIDA to see whether or not they want to move forward.

Steve Betts made the motion to recommend to the Regional Council to support enhanced border infrastructure and urge SETIF to examine funding for AIDA to ensure that AIDA is self sustaining. Mark Dreher seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lewis stated some of the comments Mr. Magrino made showed that Mr. Magrino put his own reputation on the line and this concept is one that MAG member agencies want to pursue. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Magrino for taking the initiative.

5. Improving Arizona's National Competitiveness in Grant Making for Economic Development

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, stated on January 8, 2013 this committee heard from representatives from ASU that discussed the dilemmas that the universities are faced with when competing for grants. Representatives from ASU had explained that in order to be nationally competitive, there is a need for quick response time for grant making and the importance to secure local government support for certain grants was imperative. Mr. Smith stated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Agreement was developed and is supported by Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the Maricopa Community Colleges. Mr. Smith then introduced Angela Creedon, Assistant Vice President of ASU Office of Public Affairs. Ms. Creedon thanked the committee for their leadership and support of the MOU. Ms. Creedon stated the ASU team was very excited to discuss upcoming grant proposals involving research and innovation.

Dr. Sethuramna "Panch" Panchanathan, Senior Vice President of Knowledge Enterprise Development, stated ASU is grateful for the collaboration of all the cities and provided the committee with an outline of grant proposals currently being considered. He added that he was very excited to show the committee some of the work ASU has been doing. He indicated that these initiatives would bring together the blending of research, entrepreneurship, innovation and economic development, while working with industry and

building robust jobs. Dr. Panchanathan stated the National Network of Advanced Manufacturing Initiative was set up by the Obama administration to create a new private-public partnership program aimed at commercializing and manufacturing U.S. developed technologies. Dr. Panchanathan stated the goal is to revitalize U.S. manufacturing through a network of institutes where researchers, companies and entrepreneurs can come together to develop new manufacturing technologies with broad applications. He indicated ASU's Flexible Technology is one idea concept for this initiative.

Dr. Panchanathan introduced Professor Gregory Raupp, Director of Macro Technology Works Initiative (MTW), who is the Founding Director of the Flexible Display Center at ASU and Dr. Nick Colaneri, who is the Director of the Flexible Display Center. Dr. Colaneri provided information and samples of a flexible display. He stated that the flexible display conversation started in Arizona at ASU through a joint venture project between the U.S. Army and ASU. Over the years, ASU has been in partnership with approximately fifty companies in the Valley, the United States, and worldwide, to advance flat screen technology that is mechanically flexible. He explained that the screen would be flat, thin, lightweight and unbreakable.

Dr. Colaneri stated this product requires manufacturing infrastructures, academic engineering capabilities, and a number of innovative materials and manufacturing tools and that new start-up companies have been formed from this research. Dr. Colaneri added this ten year project will be ending at the end of this year. He indicated that ASU has been in aggressive conversations with the Department of Defense and other agencies in the Federal Government so they can continue to utilize the infrastructure that has been put in place and continue to create other new technologies and economic activities in Maricopa County.

Professor Raupp stated key advances have been made to create a high quality, high yield transistor on floppy materials. Professor Raupp then showed the committee samples of a series of transmitter rays fabricated on extremely thin material that could be rolled and were flexible. He added the significance of this advancement is that this enables electronics to become unbreakable and give them the ability to bend.

Professor Raupp stated some types of flexible technology concepts included improvements of airport security sensors and handheld displays, flexible x-ray detectors that could be wrapped around containers so inspectors could see what was inside, a medical "smart" bandage that could monitor your condition and send the information to your physician and an electronic patch that would allow a person with a spinal cord injury to walk again. He added that there are a wide variety of flexible technology applications. He stated ASU believes that this advanced research technology needs to stay in Arizona and indicated that with the support of the local governments, it can.

Professor Raupp added the National Network Manufacturing Innovation awards are anticipated to be in the amounts of \$70-\$120 million and believes ASU is well positioned and should be the one to lead this effort.

Professor Raupp also stated that ASU has had conversations with The Fraunhofer Institute, which is an applied research institute. He added there are approximately six centers around the United States and ASU is currently in conversation with Fraunhofer to see what it would take to have them locate a center in Arizona.

Dr. Panchanathan provided the committee members with materials that outlines some of the overall concepts of flexible technology, along with other projects that have been successfully funded at ASU.

Chair Schoaf thanked the speakers for the information and asked if there were any comments or questions from the committee. He added this MOU can help drive economic development in the region by partnering with the educational institutions in ways that will bring in funding for these grants, which will generate research that will support applications that can then be put to use in the Valley in the formation of new businesses. Chair Schoaf asked the committee if they had any comments or questions.

Mayor Lane stated in reviewing the provisions in the MOU, he believes it is appropriate to support this to facilitate economic development through technology. Chair Schoaf stated this is a win-win for the Valley. Mayor Lane moved to recommend to Regional Council approval of adopting the MOU to support research, innovation and entrepreneurial grant proposals. Mayor Lewis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Regional Economic Update

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Update on the Bi-National Economic Forum

Ms. Santaella Wolfe stated The Binational Economic Forum took place in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, on Friday, March 22, 2013 and eleven Mayors from Arizona along with members of the business community from both sides of the border attended this event. She added the event included a tour of a the Continental Manufacturing maquila in Nogales for elected officials. The plant tour showed how sophisticated electronic parts for the auto industry including, Chrysler, GM, Ford, Nissan, Kia, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai and BMW are manufactured.

Ms. Santaella Wolfe stated the focus of the forum was developing strategies for regional economic development and to continue to build relationships with Mexico. She added some of the guest speakers at the forum included Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor Greg Stanton, and Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. The forum also included presentations from Jorge Eduardo Valencia Juillerat, who represented Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto; Moises Gomez Reyna, Secretary of Economy for the State of Sonora; Rigoberto Valenzuela, Mexican Customs Administrator; Consul of Mexico, Jaime Paz y Puente; and Nogales, Sonora Mayor Guzman. Ms. Santaella Wolfe then showed a short video clip of the event.

Chair Schoaf thanked Ms. Santaella Wolfe for the update and asked if there were any comments or questions from the committee. Vice Mayor Sellers stated he wanted to thank MAG staff for arranging and coordinating this groundbreaking event. He added the event was flawless and that there was a tremendous amount of interchange.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Schoaf asked if there were any requests for future agenda items. There were none.

9. Comments from the Committee

Mayor Schoaf stated that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Economic Development Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

\\fr\Federal Register Publications (CIS, ICE, CBP)\Federal Register Publications (Legacy INS) - 1999\F
INTERIM REGULATIONS - 1999\ Extension of 25-Mile Limit at Select Arizona Ports-of-Entry [64 FR 68616] [FR65-99]
[Previous Document](#) [Next Document](#)

Extension of 25-Mile Limit at Select Arizona Ports-of-Entry [64 FR 68616] [FR65-99]

DOCUMENT NUMBER: FR65-99

FEDERAL REGISTER CITE: 64 FR 68616

DATE OF PUBLICATION: December 8, 1999

BILLING CODE: 4410-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

8 CFR Part 235

[INS No. 2026-99]

RIN 1115-AF60

Extension of 25-Mile Limit at Select Arizona Ports-of-Entry

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Immigration and Naturalization Service (Service) regulations to extend the distance Mexican nationals may travel into the United States without obtaining additional immigration documentation at selected ports-of-entry (POEs) along the United States and Mexico border. The selected POEs are located in the State of Arizona at Sasabe, Nogales, Mariposa, Douglas, and Naco. Once visitors to Arizona meet the inspection requirements of legal entry to the United States, they will be able to travel within the 75-mile border region of Arizona. This rule is intended to promote commerce in the southern Arizona border area while still ensuring that sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent illegal entry to the United States.

DATES: Effective date: This interim rule is effective December 8, 1999.

Comment date : Written comments must be submitted on or before February 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments, in triplicate, to the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW., Room 5307, Washington, DC 20536. To ensure proper handling, please reference INS No. 2026-99 on your correspondence. Comments are available for public inspection at the above address by calling (202) 514-3048 to arrange for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul M. Morris, Assistant Chief Inspector, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW., Room 4064, Washington, DC 20536, telephone (202) 305-2970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Change Is Being Made by This Rule?

This interim rule amends 8 CFR 235.1(f)(1) by extending from 25 to 75 miles the distance Mexican nationals who meet the inspection requirements for legal entry at selected POEs in Arizona along the United States and Mexico border may travel into the United States without obtaining additional immigration documentation. The selected POEs are located in the State of Arizona at Sasabe, Nogales, Mariposa, Douglas, and Naco. Mexican nationals admitted at these POEs may travel in Arizona within 75 miles of the border without obtaining Form I-94, Arrival and Departure Record, and may remain in the United States for a period not to exceed 72 hours. Mexican nationals admitted as nonimmigrant visitors at the Mexican border POEs in the State of Arizona at Sasabe, Nogales, Mariposa, Naco or Douglas for a period not to exceed 72 hours, may also travel within 25 miles of the border in the State of California, New Mexico and Texas as long as they remain within 25 miles of the border while in those states.

What Are the Current Requirements for Mexican Nationals Entering the United States?

Since 1953, Mexico and the United States have agreed to make special accommodations for Mexican nationals who cross the border into the immediate border area to promote the economic stability of the region. The Service has helped promote border commerce by permitting travel within 25 miles of the boundary for less than 72 hours without additional documentation other than that needed to be admitted to the United States. Frequent Mexican visitors may obtain and use border crossing identification cards (BCCs) such as the Service-issued Forms I-186 or I-586, Mexican Nonresident Alien Border Crossing Card, and Form DSP-150, B1/B2 Visa and Border Crossing Card, issued by the Department of State and commonly called the "Laser Visa" (see 8 CFR part 212.6). BCCs allow qualified persons who frequently cross the United States and Mexico border to be admitted to the United States more quickly and without further documentation while still preserving the integrity and security of the admissions process. Current regulations also require Mexican nationals who seek to enter the United States for more than 72 hours, and/or to travel farther than 25 miles from the United States and Mexico border to obtain Form I-94.

Why Is the Service Making This Change?

With passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, commerce, travel, and tourism across the United States and Mexico border into neighboring communities have increased the economic interdependence of cities located in the border area.

Currently Sonora, Mexico, and the State of Arizona form one of the fastest growing cross-

border regions. However, unlike the other border States, Arizona has no large city within the Service-defined zone of 25 miles. The first large city from the border in central/southeastern Arizona is Tucson which is about 55 air miles from the United States/Mexico border and from 60 to 75 miles away from the five nearest POEs. According to the current regulations at 8 CFR 235.1(f)(1) a Tucson-bound Mexican businessperson, tourist, or shopper must acquire additional documentation just to engage in the same routine activities that occur daily at every other major crossing point along the border. These routine legal border crossers have to spend additional time at the POE to obtain a Form I-94 and must pay a fee of \$6.

To address concerns from city officials in Tucson, surrounding communities, travelers in southern Arizona, and trade organizations such as the Border Trade Alliance, by this rule the Service will extend the distance limit to 75 miles within Arizona. A businessperson, tourist, or shopper will still be required to meet all the requirements for legal entry into the United States. The city of Tucson estimates that this change in the distance limit will greatly expand commercial activity in the city and in smaller towns between Tucson and the border. The city of Tucson conducted a study indicating that, after implementation of this rule, the commercial gain from Mexican visitors is estimated to reach \$56.3

million a year.

How Can Mexican Nationals Travel Beyond the 75-Mile Limit or Stay in the United States for Longer Than 72 Hours?

The change announced in this rule does not apply to a Mexican national who intends to go beyond the 75-mile limit in Arizona or who wishes to stay in the United States for more than 72 hours. In such a case, the Mexican national must obtain a Form I-94 and pay the \$6 fee, in accordance with existing requirements.

Does the Service Intend To Expand the 25-Mile Limit at Other United States and Mexico Border POEs?

The Service believes that this regulatory change responds to the unique circumstances of central/southeastern Arizona. There is currently no plan to test this approach elsewhere along the Southwest Border where cross-border commerce appears to occur routinely within the existing 25-mile regulatory limit.

How Will This Rule Affect the Border Patrol and Other Enforcement Operations?

Once this interim rule takes effect, the Service will monitor and evaluate any changes in the patterns of violations of terms of admission that may occur. In addition, the Service shall monitor data on apprehensions of those Mexican BCC holders who do not have an approved Form I-94 and who violate their terms of admission by remaining in the United States for more than 72 hours or who travel beyond the 75 mile limit set by this rule.

What Fiscal Impact Will This Rule Have on the Service?

The Service estimates that this rule will eliminate the need for Mexican nationals to obtain approximately 50,000 Forms I-94 annually, at a cost to them of \$6.00 per form. The annual loss of approximately \$300,000 in revenue to the Service will be partially offset by the reduction in traffic congestion at the affected POEs, the facilitated entry of a greater percentage of travelers, and the elimination of Service staff time required to issue those Forms I-94.

[\ fr \ Federal Register Publications \(CIS, ICE, CBP\) \ Federal Register Publications \(Legacy INS\) - 1999 \ FEDERAL REGISTER INTERIM REGULATIONS - 1999 \ Extension of 25-Mile Limit at Select Arizona Ports-of-Entry \[64 FR 68616\] \[FR65-99\]](#)
[Previous Document](#) [Next Document](#)



Photo taken by Gerald L. Nino from CBP.gov

Expanded border travel zone right move for New Mexico

The Issue

Under existing rules, Mexican nationals possessing a Border Crossing Card are required to obtain form I-94 before traveling north into New Mexico beyond 25 miles. Obtaining the card requires secondary screening by Customs and Border Protection officers at the port of entry, resulting in costs and delays to Mexican travelers while diverting CBP resources away from more pressing inspections.¹

A Needed Rule Change

Due to their geographic proximity to the border and because of current regulations governing cross-border travel, the southern New Mexico communities of Deming, Lordsburg and Las Cruces are at a competitive disadvantage versus their fellow border region communities in their ability to attract border-crossing travelers from Mexico. In Arizona, travelers entering that state via certain ports of entry can travel as far north as Tucson without obtaining the I-94, while in Texas and California, there are numerous population centers adjacent to the border.

A New Rule on the Horizon

The Department of Homeland Security in August 2012 issued a proposed rule for public comment that would extend from 25 miles to 55 miles the zone in New Mexico that Mexican Border Crossing Card holders can enter without having to obtain form I-94.

The rule change would bring southern New Mexico into parity with Arizona. In 1999, the federal government allowed Mexican nationals with a Border Crossing Card entering at certain ports of entry to travel as far north as Tucson without obtaining the I-94.

Maintaining Border Security

Biometrically enabled Border Crossing Cards are issued to Mexican nationals who have undergone background, fingerprint and security checks at their nearest U.S. consulate in Mexico, and cardholders are always subject to primary and, if necessary, secondary screening at the port of entry.

Proposed Extension Enjoys Wide Support

The Border Trade Alliance strongly supports the proposed rule and is joined by Deming/Luna County Main Street Program; Deming Public Schools; Hidalgo Board of County Commissioners; City of Las Cruces; City of Deming; Luna County; City of Lordsburg; and the New Mexico Association of Counties.

Where are we now?

A final rule has yet to be published, so New Mexico's southern communities remain at a competitive disadvantage. The BTA urges final adoption of an expanded travel zone. A New Mexico travel zone extension could serve as a case study for extending California and Texas' travel zone.

Contact

BTA President: Nelson Balido
nelson@thebta.org | (210) 912-3212

Policy Director: Garrick Taylor
garrick@thebta.org | (602) 615-1657

¹<https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-19458>