

## **U.S./Mexico Cross-Border Pedestrian Skybridge Completed on Mexico Side**

### ***“Cross Border Xpress” to Provide Safe, Direct Access Between San Diego and Tijuana International Airport***

San Diego, CA (February 16, 2015) – The Cross Border Xpress (CBX) pedestrian skybridge, an unprecedented bi-national project that will span the U.S./Mexico border and connect directly into the Tijuana International Airport (TIJ), achieved a significant milestone over the weekend with the lift and placement of the bridge in Mexico.

The two-day event featured the placement of two 150 foot-long skybridge sections weighing a total of 150 tons, which were crane-lifted over the six-lane Via de la Juventud Ote Highway in Mexico. The delicate positioning of the massive structure included fitted entry into an opening of the newly renovated TIJ terminal with only a 9” diameter clearing around the bridge. The process, which was conducted on Saturday and Sunday, included a team of more than 70 experienced professionals to successfully complete the maneuvers. The remaining portions of the bridge, located on the U.S. side of the border, are slated to be put into place in the next several weeks. The purple reflective glass bridge will rest upon four 18-foot tall concrete support structures. The glass façade is slated to be installed over the next few months. In total, the bridge will be 390 feet long. The project broke ground in May 2014, and is expected to open for passenger crossings in late 2015.

The CBX is being privately developed solely for the use of ticketed TIJ passengers who cross the U.S./Mexico border as part of their travels. There are currently more than two million TIJ passengers per year who cross the border at the congested ports of entry in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa, enduring unpredictable border wait times and often lengthy delays.

“It is exciting to see these major sections of bridge put in to place,” said Enrique Valle, Project Director for the Cross Border Xpress. “This represents is the most visible advancement of the project, which regional officials, agencies and consumers have anticipated for many years.”

Users of the bridge will be able to access TIJ flights to Mexico, many of which travel with greater frequency or at lower costs than those offered by Southern California airports. TIJ also has direct flights to Shanghai, and has ample capacity to expand for regional and international flights.

In the U.S., the CBX will feature more than 65,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor patio waiting areas for passengers and guests, along with retail, food and beverage venues, fully bilingual customer service and information, short- to long-term parking, and various types of ground transportation.

The CBX is being designed to U.S. and international security standards, and will include U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations in the U. S., and Mexican Immigration and Customs at the south end of the bridge.

“This partnership is an innovative way to optimize resources and help mitigate peak wait times,” said Director of the CBP San Diego Field Office, Pete Flores. “Together with our private sector partners, we can better facilitate travel to continue to grow our economies on both sides of the border.”

The \$120 million private project is being developed and operated by Otay Tijuana Venture, LLC, a private investment group with U.S. and Mexican shareholders. Lending for the project is provided by Inxev and Bancomext. In Mexico, the contractors are: Grumesa (construction manager), Espazio (construction works supervision), Corey (steel contractor), and Fercon Qualitas (development manager). The U.S. contractors include: The Harrison Company (quality assurance), Turner Construction and Hazard Construction. # # #

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