Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Recommendations

July 15, 2020

COAC

COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REMOTE AND AUTONOMOUS CARGO PROCESSING WORKING GROUP:

1. COAC recommends that CBP establish a multi-tiered FAST program/process that allows for FAST eligible drivers to take advantage of the FAST infrastructure when driving for a C-TPAT approved carrier. Through the tiered approach, using a FAST card and a FAST manifest, the driver will be able to take advantage of the FAST lanes, automating a portion of the data and thereby expediting the cargo release process and avoiding longer wait times associated with non-FAST freight.

2. COAC recommends CBP continue efforts to enhance existing Decal & Transponder Online Procurement System (DTOPS) and the new Gen-2 RFID transponders and infrastructure which supports Non-Invasive Inspection (NII), FAST manifest data and additional efficiencies in remote and autonomous cargo processing.

3. COAC recommends CBP support expanding the use of vetted International Crews crossing land borders on the rail. Such International Crews eliminate the need to switch crews at midbridge at the border allowing for autonomous movement of goods, increasing security, saving time and therefore increasing capacity. This crew would need to be allowed to turn around at the US rail yard, inside the port, within a limited distance (20 miles) from the land border.   Successful Pilot Programs at the port of Laredo should be expanded to other ports.

4. COAC recommends CBP support the expansion of image technology for trains crossing land borders, e.g. Non-intrusive Image (NII) technology, and leveraging partnerships through the Donation Acceptance Program (DAP). This technology has proved to reduce time by remote and autonomous processing of cargo.

5. COAC recommends CBP continue to look to the future by supporting additional bridge expansions that allow for autonomous cargo processing, whether rail or truck, at land borders. E.g. #1 expands the rail bridge at the port of Laredo to allow North and South bound international rail traffic. Retaining this rail connection along the secure rail corridor between the rail yards is essential to international rail operations in and around Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. E.g. #1 Additional bridge being constructed near Detroit to relieve congestion.