

MID-CONTINENT TRADE CORRIDOR STRATEGY

The goal of Manitoba's Mid-Continent Trade Corridor Strategy is to facilitate Manitoba's trade requirements and investments within the NAFTA countries through the development and maintenance of efficient and safe transportation systems.

Manitoba's strategy views the Mid-Continent Trade Corridor as a trade and transportation system, integral to the economic development of the entire Mid-North American region. Investments that reduce travel time, transport costs, or trade processing costs anywhere along the corridor, benefit the system as a whole. Manitoba also views that in order to be competitive in the new global economy borders must not restrict a region's economic efficiency and growth.

Manitoba views the Mid-Continent Trade Corridor as more than a route from Winnipeg to Mexico City and more than just highway pavement or railway track. The corridor is a multimodal geographic path, a ribbon of economic influence running through the centre of the continent from the Arctic to Mexico, cutting a wide path through the US heartland.

Economic movement between Manitoba, US states and Mexico accounted for \$5.9 billion worth of export trade in 2008. Trade from Manitoba to Minnesota accounts for 24.9 per cent of the total trade or \$1.4 billion. About 38 per cent of the imports came from Illinois and Minnesota for a total amount of \$3.0 billion.

The City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba are working on various projects that deal with issues important to corridor development including regulatory harmonization, border facilitation, and technological innovation. Of primary importance to all these activities is the focus on partnerships. The City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba have been working cooperatively with the Canadian government, other provinces, US state governments and corridor associations to take timely advantage of opportunities such as the Canada/US Border Accord and those related to the US Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, now TEA 21.