



**PNWER Cross-Border Supply Chain Resilience and  
FIFA World Cup Transportation and Emergency Planning Workshop  
Location: Port of Bellingham Cruise Terminal  
June 3-4, 2025**

**Day 1 - Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**Cross Border Supply Chain Resilience**

This meeting will bring together key stakeholders from the federal, state/provincial, and local governments and the private sector to better respond to supply chain disruptions. Recent disruptions at the U.S.-Canada border have underscored the criticality of considering supply chains as a function of emergency response. The Seattle/Vancouver, BC Corridor in particular is both highly important to the U.S. and Canada as well as vulnerable to various disruptions including weather, malicious actors, accidents and crashes, unrest, trade disruptions or other incidents. This meeting will set the stage for continued discussions to reduce the duration and impact of cross-border supply chain disruptions and improve our understanding of the impacts.

8:30am Check In and Networking

**9:00am Introductions and Opening Remarks**

- *Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund*
- *Whatcom County Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu*

**10:00am The Seattle/Vancouver Corridor Supply Chain Transportation Network** - Overview of specific goods and services crossing the border that our region depends on (major industries, major commodities, key partners, overview of transportation providers, etc.).

- *Jennifer Bettis, Research Manager, Border Policy Research Institute at WWU*

10:20am Break

**10:30am High Performance Rail in the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor** - Making the case for improving rail infrastructure. Case Studies: the Bell Rd. Overpass project and Port of Bellingham Shipping Terminal project.

- *Port of Bellingham Commissioner Michael Shepard*
- *Mike Harmon, City Manager, City of Blaine, WA*
- *Moderator: Andrew Johnsen, Columbia Strategic Consulting Group*

**11:30am Nooksack Flood Impact Briefing** - Overview of transportation and supply chain disruptions caused by the atmospheric river flooding in November 2021.

- *Julie Morse, Nooksack Transboundary Flood Initiative for the Washington State Department of Ecology*

12:00pm

**Networking Lunch**

1:00pm

**Cross-Border Supply Chain Transportation** - Looking back, what impacts did the Nooksack Flood have on cross-border freight and the flow of cargo? Looking at today, what is the state of cross-border freight movement (recovery since the flood, impact of tariffs, etc.)? Looking toward the future, how do we plan for future supply chain disruptions at the border?

- *Minister Mike Farnworth, BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit (virtual)*
- *Daman Grewal, CEO, Centurion Trucking*
- *Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director, Marine Exchange of Puget Sound*
- *Lisa Mah, Transport Canada*
- *Shivonne van Wesseem, Assistant Area Port Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Area Port of Blaine*
- *Rahul Coelho, Director, Metro Vancouver, Canada Border Services Agency*
- *Bryce Bengco, Director, Pacific Highway District, Canada Border Services Agency*
- *Moderator: Bruce Agnew, Director, PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator*

2:30pm

Break

2:45pm

**Build NW Council Legislative Roundtable on Cascades Rail Corridor & Supply Chains** - Updates on legislative bills focused on Amtrak Cascades service goals and supply chain competitiveness that were introduced in the Washington State Legislature this session.

- *Washington State Senator Matt Boehnke*
- *Washington State Representative David Hackney*

3:30pm

**Wrap-up and Through-Line to Annual Summit and Rail Summit**

- *Bruce Agnew, Director, PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator*

3:45pm

Walking Tour of the Port of Bellingham Shipping Terminal - See firsthand the \$27 million modernization project that will fortify the main dock to allow heavy cargo and equipment and facilitate the port's reconnection to the BNSF rail mainline.

- *Bus to Shipping Terminal (transportation provided)*
- *1.1 mile walk and flat*
- *Walk to reception venue*

5:30pm

Evening reception - Structures Brewing (601 W Holly St, Bellingham)

- *Remarks from Whatcom County Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu*
- *Hosted bar and appetizers*
- *Return transportation to Fairhaven Marine Terminal at 7:30pm*

## Day 2 - Wednesday, June 4, 2025

### **Cross-Border Planning for FIFA World Cup Transportation and Emergency Management**

With the FIFA Men's World Cup coming to our region in 2026, we need to be prepared for the challenges and potential disruptions that might occur during the largest event our region has seen to date. If an emergency incident were to take place during the World Cup, how will we respond? This workshop will examine plans for intercity transportation capacity between Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC and emergency management coordination in the event of an incident. We will explore potential gaps in policy and communications between levels of government and industry with the goal of developing a cross-border planning team to address key concerns that emerge from the discussion. Once established, this group will continue these discussions as we move toward the World Cup and beyond.

8:30am Check In and Networking

#### **9:00am Introductions and Opening Remarks**

- *U.S. Consul General Jim DeHart, U.S. Consulate General Vancouver*
- *Matt Morrison, Executive Director, PNWER*

**9:30am FIFA World Cup Cross-Border Transportation Briefing** - Projected traffic, tourists, etc. and challenges to increasing Amtrak Cascades service between Seattle and Vancouver.

- *Lora Foster, WSDOT Rail Operations Coordinator*
- *David Hoff, Ledcor / Cascadia Innovation Corridor*

**9:45am Expanding Intercity Transportation and Border Crossing Initiatives** - With tens of thousands of visitors expected to be moving through the region and across the border, we need creative transportation solutions that span all modes of travel. Discussion will include opportunities for increased flow of buses at the border (pre-screening pilot), temporary transit routes, additional rail, ferries, airplanes, etc.

- *Dr. Laurie Trautman, Director, Border Policy Research Institute at WWU*
- *Les Reardanz, General Manager, Whatcom Transportation Authority*
- *Dorit Mason, Director of Safety, Environment, Emergency Management & Enterprise Security, TransLink (virtual)*
- *Richard Johnson, CEO, Bellair Charter*
- *Harmit Gill, Area Port Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Area Port of Blaine*
- *Moderator: Solomon Wong, President & CEO, InterVISTAS*

11:05am Break

**11:15am Briefing On Cross-Border Emergency Management Planning** - Existing agreements and MOUs that could impact response to an incident; Overview of PNEMA and some considerations for discussion; Limitations to this agreement, policy issues, strengths and gaps.

- *Stacey McClain, Assistant Director of Operations, Washington State Emergency Management Division*
- *Ian Cunnings, Senior Director, Regional Operations, BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (virtual)*
- *Matt Klein, Deputy Director, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management*
- *Moderator: Brandon Hardenbrook, Deputy Director, PNWER*

**12:00pm Keynote lunch - Looking Ahead to FIFA in the Northwest**

- *Dylan Deane-Boyle, CEO, Visit Bellingham*
- *U.S. Representative Rick Larsen (virtual)*

1:00pm Break

**1:10pm Cross-Border Emergency Communication and Interoperability Between Local, State/Provincial and Federal Agencies** - How do agencies communicate and share information? How do we communicate with the public? Who decides on messaging?

- *Adam Wasserman, Washington State Emergency Management Division*

1:50pm Break

**2:00pm Tabletop Exercise - A Critical Incident Closes the Border...**

*\*We encourage attendees to review the tabletop scenario and discussion questions and engage in the discussion.*

- *Facilitator: Casey Broom, Preparedness Section Manager, Washington State Emergency Management Division*
- *Stacey McClain, Assistant Director for Operations, Washington State Emergency Management Division*
- *Bryce Bengco, Director, Pacific Highway District, Canada Border Services Agency*
- *Ian Cunnings, Senior Director, Regional Operations, BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (virtual)*
- *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

**3:30pm Key policy questions that need to be addressed:** Is PNEMA adequate to address this Scenario? Are there communications issues that need to be addressed?

**4:00pm Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

4:00pm Media Availability Hour

4:30pm Happy Hour at the Bellingham Fan Zone - Kulshan Brewing Co Trackage Beer Garden (298 W Laurel St, Bellingham)