THE PROJECT
The overall purpose of the study is to assess the mobility of commerce at the California – Baja California border, and to develop freight planning strategies that would address long term trade and transportation infrastructure needs in the border region. Major steps will include the comprehensive study of binational trade and emerging business decisions and logistics strategies that affect the border region, transportation data collection (drayage and true origin - destination data by truck, rail, and intermodal transfers), and conceptualization and analysis of transportation infrastructure needs for regional Ports of Entry (POEs) based on potential future trade flow scenarios. Since border crossing issues in Imperial and San Diego Counties are interconnected, this project will study commercial vehicle and rail crossings in Imperial County while incorporating findings from border-crossing studies completed or underway in San Diego County (i.e., the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Comprehensive Freight Gateway Study Update), and also assess the nexus between the most critical commercial POEs (i.e., Otay Mesa, Calexico East-Mexicali II), seaports (e.g., San Pedro Bay Ports), and areas of high freight concentrations such as warehouse and distribution clusters in the Inland Empire.

FUNDING AND SCHEDULES
The funds are provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in the amount of $300,000. This project is expected to be complete by June 2016.

STATUS
A review of two technical memos, the Summary of Origination & Destination Survey and Drayage Data/Economic Impacts, is currently underway. The spreadsheet based forecasting model is expected shortly for review. Further outreach to stakeholders will be conducted following the initial reviews which will seek input on the next steps.

PROJECT PARTNERS
SCAG, Caltrans, SANDAG, and the Imperial County Transportation Commission, as well as industry experts in the movement of freight across the international border, logistics teams, shippers, and brokers are partners in this highly specialized study.