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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visuals Available:

- Time-lapse video of lift and insertion into TIJ
- Still photos of bridge lift on U.S. side of border
- Location map

New U.S./Mexico Border Crossing Completes Skybridge Structure
“Cross Border Xpress™” to Provide Direct, Streamlined Access
Between San Diego and Tijuana International Airport

San Diego, CA (April 2, 2015) – The Cross Border Xpress™ (CBX™) pedestrian skybridge, an unprecedented bi-national project that spans the U.S./Mexico border and directly connects San Diego to the Tijuana International Airport (TIJ), completed the lift and placement of the final section of bridge structure today. The facility, which is slated to open by year end, will exclusively serve TIJ passengers who cross the border as a part of their travels, enabling them to avoid existing congested ports of entry in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa where travelers endure unpredictable border wait times and often lengthy delays.

“CBX™ will cater to the growing population of cross-border travelers who travel via Tijuana International Airport to access a broader selection of flights – in both frequency and destination – within Mexico, often at lower prices, compared to Southern California airports,” commented Enrique Valle, Project Director for Cross Border Xpress™. “There are approximately over two million of these travelers on an annual basis.”

The skybridge is 390 feet long, weighs approximately 420 tons, and is 18 feet above the ground. The structure, which rests on four 18 foot-tall concrete support posts, will be clad with steel purple panels and glass within the next several months.

CBX™ will include a terminal-like building in San Diego County’s Otay Mesa, which will feature more than 65,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor patio waiting areas for passengers and guests, along with retail, Duty Free, food and beverage venues, fully bilingual customer service and information, short- to long-term parking, and various types of ground transportation to major Southern California destinations.

The \$120 million CBX™ project, which is being developed in close coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), represents a strong example of public/private partnership facilitating regional economic growth.

“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. “Partnerships such as this will help grow our economies on both sides of the border, and is a win-win for all involved and the traveling public.”

“The added capacity utilization at TIJ will also bring very palpable benefits to the City of Tijuana, improving its connectivity to Mexico and the rest of the World, further improving its vocation as a destination,” added Valle.

SkyBridge Lift Construction

The skybridge structure was erected in six sections over a six-week period, beginning in Mexico. The sections weigh an average of 70 tons each.

- In Mexico (February 14&15): Two 150 foot-long skybridge sections weighing a total of 150 tons were crane-lifted over the six-lane Via de la Juventud Ote. Highway in Mexico. Authorities shut down the highway for the process. The delicate positioning of the massive structures included fitted entry into an opening of the newly renovated TIJ terminal with only a 9" diameter clearing around the bridge. The 10-hour process included a team of more than 70 experienced professionals to successfully complete the maneuvers.
- In the U.S. (February 27 & March 10): Two additional 75-ton skybridge sections were crane-lifted into position on the US side of the border, attaching to the upper level of the new two-story Cross Border Xpress™ facility currently under construction. After hours of preparation and careful calibration, the steel structures were hoisted into place in approximately 30 minutes.
- Completion (April 2): The final skybridge section was lifted into place, aligning with the Mexico and U.S. installations and effectively creating the infrastructure for a new binational pedestrian border crossing. This final lift was completed in eight hours.

The CBX™ Project

CBX™ broke ground in May 2014 after a seven-year process of approvals and design, including a Presidential Permit in the U.S. and the corresponding reciprocation from Mexico's Exterior Ministry.

"The Cross Border Xpress™ has been discussed as a potential travel solution throughout the region for decades, and this very tangible progress is exciting and rewarding for the many government and community officials and agencies on both sides of the border who have supported the project," added Valle.

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, China, and Oakland, CA, and has ample capacity to expand for regional and international flights. 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.

CBX™ is being developed and will be operated by Otay Tijuana Venture, LLC, a private investment group with U.S. and Mexican shareholders. Lending for the project is provided by Invex and Bancomext. Project architectgs are Legoretta y Legoretta and Stantec. In Mexico, the contractors are: Grumesa (general contractor), Espazio (construction works supervision), Corey (steel contractor), and Fercon Qualitas (quality assurance manager). The U.S. contractors include: The Harrison Company (quality assurance), Turner Construction and Hazard Construction.

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