Long Beach, CA. | 14 de agosto, 2023 Cap. Alt. Ana Laura López Bautista

CARRETERAS MARÍTIMAS

SLIDE 1 - COVER



Good afternoon to everyone.

I will strive to be concise in this presentation to emphasize the significant opportunities that "maritime highways," which are navigation routes for the trade of goods, as well as for passenger transportation, tourism activities, and many other maritime-related endeavors, bring to Mexico.

SLIDE 2 - STRATEGIC PORT CONNECTIVITY



Our remarkable connectivity and the conditions that have emerged post-pandemic, where global firms—especially those from Asia—have been seeking an alternative gateway to the world's largest market, the United States, have positioned Mexico strategically.

Undoubtedly, Mexico is the ideal destination for nearshoring—an industrial model that promises to reshape the economy by generating employment, foreign investment, infrastructure, and development. The Pacific route directly links us with Asia, the US West Coast, and Canada. The Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico routes connect our country with the United States, Europe, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.

As I will elaborate further, the infrastructure projects in the realm of port facilities and capacity enhancement for strengthening maritime transportation that Mexico is driving are pivotal aspects to ensure efficient and beneficial connectivity for the Mexican economy and its relationship with the rest of the world.

SLIDE 3 - SHORT-SEA SHIPPING WITH THE US



Particularly concerning maritime routes of connectivity with the United States, I'd like to underscore that we are engaged in two significant projects that will provide us with new routes to facilitate the movement of people and the distribution of goods.

Through a passenger ferry between Ensenada, Baja California, and San Diego, California, we can offer an alternative route for the world's most traversed border crossing. Thanks to the efforts of the Port of Ensenada, this project not only serves as an option to alleviate our border congestion but also presents a tourism opportunity.

Furthermore, I want to highlight that both Mexico and the ports of Alabama (Mobile) and Florida (Miami) have found common ground to boost goods mobility. On one hand, the ports of Tuxpan, Veracruz, and Mobile, Alabama, will soon initiate a maritime route as part of an integrated maritime and rail service that will connect Mexico with the US Midwest and Canada.

Additionally, commercial opportunities have been identified with Florida due to its population growth, making it the fastest-growing state in the United States. With a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$1.4 trillion, 22 million residents with an average household income of \$80,000, it's the third most populous state in the US, coupled with the 137 million annual visits it receives. Let's not forget that it also serves as the entry point for the distribution of goods to the United States via the Mississippi River.

SLIDE 4 – COASTAL AND SHORT-SEA SHIPPING AS A TRIGGER FOR THE INTEROCEANIC CORRIDOR



The opportunity to solidify Mexican ports as generators of high added value for our trade partners hinges on infrastructure offerings, administrative simplification, security, and logistical certainty.

In this context, I'd like to briefly address one of the most crucial projects for the current administration in Mexico. The Interoceanic Corridor presents an immense potential to boost trade, economic development, and connectivity at both national and international levels.

Key reasons for its relevance include:

- A strategic connection that will link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, providing the most efficient trade route while offering an alternative to the Panama Canal.
- Cost and time reduction by enabling the use of different transportation modes (rail, road, and maritime) for more efficient cargo management.
- Fostering foreign trade through enhanced efficiency and connectivity, increasing exports and imports, facilitating access to new markets, and strengthening Mexico's engagement in global supply chains.
- Regional economic development by promoting job creation, as well as the construction and fortification of transportation infrastructure, including roads, railways, ports, and other logistics facilities that impact new industries and economic sectors.

Through projects like this, the integration of our country's road, port, and railway networks is poised to address the necessary development of Southern Mexico, the demands of nearshoring, and the new challenges of international trade.