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## **Commercial Traffic Record Set at Santa Teresa Border Crossing** *Northbound commercial crossings in October highest in port history*

SANTA FE, NM – Jaime Campos, Executive Director of the New Mexico Border Authority announced today that northbound commercial crossings at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry during the month of October 2007 were the highest in the 15-year history of the port. According to Customs and Border Protection reports, 4,149 commercial vehicles crossed at Santa Teresa during October, a 32 percent increase over the previous October .

The increase in commercial crossings is attributed to the extension of commercial hours at the port, which began on September 3, 2007. Mexican and U.S. officials extended commercial hours by four hours per day, opening the port for commercial traffic until 10 p.m. The extension of hours at the port was instituted to ease traffic congestion and crossing delays that have become prevalent at most U.S.-Mexico crossings, particularly at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

The Santa Teresa port of entry is now recognized as a rapid port for commercial crossings.

“We are seeing more and more traffic from transportation companies and Mexican-based manufacturers that are seeking faster, more efficient crossings,” said New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Designate Fred Mondragón. “The extension of port hours at Santa Teresa is directly responsible for the increase in our commercial traffic numbers, and has made crossings easier throughout the day, including those times in the afternoons that were previously gridlocked.”

Oscar Kuri, Director General of the Business Coalition for Free Trade, a Juarez-based trade and security organization, said, “The increase in commercial traffic at Santa Teresa is an example of the fruits of labor that has been sown by cross-border cooperation. With the increase of the industrial base in south Juarez and as far down as the state of Durango, we see Santa Teresa becoming more and more important as a border crossing for commercial traffic in the entire region.”

The Santa Teresa Port of Entry is located on the western edge of the El Paso/Juarez metroplex. Established in 1993, it is New Mexico’s newest and busiest port of entry with Mexico.

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