Mayors from Canada and the United States met in Windsor, Ontario on July 19-20, 2006 to make recommendations for a more effective implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), including a call for the delay in WHTI implementation to allow for enough time to get all elements of the process right.

The Summit concluded by adopting the following principles:

- Allow uninhibited legitimate flow of people
- Provide readily available, accessible and low cost documents
- Improve capacity and accessibility of FAST/NEXUS
- Acceptance of a combination of documents, driver’s license with birth certificates and/or another secondary document
- Short term passes available for discretionary/spontaneous travelers
- WHTI option for Canadian citizens
- Special consideration for minors
- Extend implementation of WHTI
- Set voluntary pilot project
- U.S. government undertake a cost/benefit analysis
- Engage Canadian Government
- Engage the public – Communications/Marketing plan

The Canadian Consulate General in Detroit hosted the Mayors to a baseball game at Comerica Park in Detroit the evening of the 19th featuring the Detroit Tigers and the Chicago White Sox. Colleagues from Consulates General in Buffalo and Chicago also participated and assisted in recruiting Mayors from their states of accreditation.

This Meet Me at the Border event was designed to bring together Mayors from both sides of the border to discuss the potential impact of WHTI on their communities and to visually demonstrate the daily flow of people across the Windsor-Detroit border. Under WHTI, the July 19 event at Comerica Park may not have been possible since a number of the Mayors did not possess a passport. Similarly, a significant number of Canadians who attended the game that night may have opted to stay home since WHTI would require them to possess a passport or a passport-like document to cross the border. Mayors who attended the game and Summit concluded they want a "sensible solution" that does not harm the more then $1.2 billion per day in trade and tourism between the two nations.

Oh yes... The Tigers won that night on their way to the World Series!

G. Costaris/Detroit
Day Two – Mayors’ Summit – Cleary Centre, Windsor, Ontario

Left: Mayor David Miller of Toronto addresses the attendees while Mayor Eddie Francis (City of Windsor) and Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick (City of Detroit) look on. Right: Gloria Kovac, President, FCM (Federalation of Canadian Municipalities) addresses the media while the mayors look on. Below: Mayor Eddie Francis (City of Windsor) gives the opening remarks at the Mayors’ Summit.

Above: Hon. Dwight Duncan, Ontario Minister of Energy & Member of Provincial Parliament (Windsor-West, Ontario) addresses the mayors’ and attendees at the summit. Right: Mayor Eddie Francis (Windsor) addresses the media with the border mayors and Minister Duncan (MPP-Windsor-West) looks on. Below: the Mayors and Joseph Deal, Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of Chicago (far right) listen as the guest speakers talk about WHTI (Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative).

Above: Luke Rich, Buffalo/Niagara Partnership, Sergio Fornasiero, City of Buffalo, and Mayor Richard Soluri (Lewiston, NY) engage in WHTI discussions. Left: Derrick Miller, CIO, Mayor’s Office (City of Detroit) addresses the media.