

Good news for bus and tour operators: Queenston-Lewiston (U.S. side) inspection plaza to get \$50 million facility upgrade

The 4th busiest land border crossing between Canada and the U.S. will be getting a \$50 million modernization to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection plaza on the U.S. side. Plans include construction of a new administration and secondary processing building that will be six times larger, replacement of the six existing car lanes with nine new lanes, replacement of the existing truck lanes with six new lanes, and the creation of a dedicated bus processing lane.

As bus and tour operators know, the existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection plaza on the U.S. side (built back in 1962) has long been in need of improvement in terms of capacity and traffic flow. Except on weekends, buses have to queue up with car traffic in the left lane to reach primary inspection. Wait times for buses can be long and this forces a lot of bus traffic onto the other two bridges at Rainbow and the Peace Bridge. Wait times at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge can reach three hours and regularly exceed one hour during the busiest days of the year.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017, with completion by 2020.