

# PRECISION-DRIVEN PROGRESS FOR SEAMLESS & SECURE TRAVEL

Earlier this year, U.S. Travel took on a defining challenge: modernizing a travel system that was outdated, fragmented and no longer meeting the needs of travelers or the economy. [The Commission on Seamless and Secure Travel](#) laid out the roadmap, and in just 10 months, that plan moved from paper to measurable progress. The administration has stepped up as a real partner—working with our industry to build real world solutions. This is the foundation of a modernized travel system—one that meets travelers where they are and delivers the smooth, reliable experience they deserve.

## 1. PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

In the first 100 days of President Trump's second term, the White House established task forces for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and America 250—an unmistakable sign that travel is being prioritized at the highest levels of government. These groups are the engines that put our industry squarely at the decision-making table, positioning us to drive bold, practical solutions built for the future taking shape.

## 2. TRANSFORMING AVIATION SECURITY

The Commission on Seamless and Secure Travel's report highlighted outdated airport screening processes as a major barrier to a smooth travel experience. U.S. Travel took that case directly to policymakers—and today, we're seeing those recommendations turn into real change at TSA checkpoints across the country.

- **Ending routine shoe removal for all travelers**, a long-overdue change that improves throughput and traveler experience without compromising security. This has been a core U.S. Travel priority and a clear example of policy finally catching up with modern technology.
- **One Stop Security with the U.K.**, allowing international travelers to connect in the U.S. without redundant re-screening and strengthening our role as a global gateway.
- **\$1 billion federal commitment to aviation security technology**, accelerating deployment of next-generation screening equipment across U.S. airports.

## 3. MODERNIZING AIRPORT CUSTOMS

As outlined in the Commission on Seamless and Secure Travel's report, modernizing airport arrivals is essential to restoring confidence in the U.S. as a welcoming destination and giving travelers a system they can actually plan around. As a result of our consistent advocacy and realistic recommendations, we have seen measurable progress that makes international arrivals smoother, quicker and far more predictable for the businesses and destinations that depend on them.

- **Historic surge in CBP staffing**, adding thousands of new officers at major airports to drive down customs wait times and improve predictability for international arrivals.
- **Biometric entry technology expansion** to move low-risk travelers through inspection faster while strengthening border security.
- **Federal funding and accelerated implementation for biometric exit screening** at international departure points—a necessary foundation for Visa Waiver Program expansion.
- **Remote baggage screening programs**, improving security while eliminating unnecessary rechecks during international connections.

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## 4. STRENGTHENING VISITOR VISA POLICY

The report also made clear that visa policy is one of the biggest barriers to inbound growth—and one of the fastest ways to unlock it. U.S. Travel pushed that message directly to policymakers, connecting visa reform to real economic impact and major global events ahead. That advocacy is now translating into concrete changes that are modernizing the visa process and reducing friction for international visitors.

- **Consular staffing increases at key U.S. embassies and consulates** to reduce visitor visa wait times in priority international markets.
- **Expedited visa pathway for World Cup ticket holders**, improving efficiency without compromising security.
- **Interview waiver extensions for low-risk visa applicants**, helping reduce processing backlogs.
- **Visa Waiver Program expansion**, including active engagement with countries like Argentina.

**This progress didn't happen by accident—especially in a year filled with real headwinds.** It reflects deliberate, disciplined work to advance the U.S. Travel Seamless and Secure Travel agenda and to align that agenda with the global events ahead: the 2026 FIFA World Cup, America 250 and the 2028 Olympic Games. There is still plenty of work to do, but the industry made substantial strides in 2025. Our focus in the new year is unchanged: delivering a smoother travel experience by scaling biometric and security technology, modernizing an outdated visa system and ensuring the 9/11 security fee is finally invested back into TSA, where it belongs.