Jorge Goytortua, CEO of Cross Tijuana airport to celebrate the grand opening facility "is the latest milestone as part of a national region across the globe," stated Rubio. "The savings can range from 30% to 50% compared to other airports in Southern California, CBX officials say.

The building expansion was funded by Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacífico, operator of 12 airports in Mexico.

Hasan Ikhrata said the region depends on one another, and that will continue moving forward. "Tijuana, Baja California and the San Diego region cannot survive without each other economically speaking," Ikhrata said.

Five Big Moves

CBX and the improvements at the site also align with Ikhrata’s "Five Big Moves," a plan he has been pushing since 2019.

Its overall concept is to connect major destinations and employment centers with where people live through technological advancements latching onto current and future infrastructure.

The Five Big Moves vision includes the “Next Operating System,” which Ikhrata likens to a transportation “brain” that will provide an integrated, connected transportation network for maximum efficiency, capacity and speed. Ikhrata said the Next OS will give commuters choices in their travel and allow the transportation system to react in real time.

Five Big Moves also builds upon existing infrastructure and strategies — Complete Corridors, Flexible Fleets, Transit Leap and Mobility Hubs — which will operate in an interdependent fashion.

Ikhrata said that connecting the San Diego-Tijuana region with high-speed rail, and specifically connecting the San Diego Airport to the Tijuana airport, would be “moving in the right direction.”

"About 150,000 people cross the border every day and work here and live there, or vice versa,” Ikhrata said.

San Diego Trolley’s Purple Line in the Pipeline

He said there has been talk between SANDAG officials and Mexico officials about reserving plans for a subway station. A proposed San Diego Trolley Purple Line is slated to go from the San Ysidro Transit Center to National City and Chula Vista and into downtown San Diego.

“More collaboration is good news for our binational region,” Ikhrata said. “The two cities, San Diego and Tijuana, and the regions, are one. Mexico has become our largest trading partner, which points to more collaboration and more exciting moments for future transportation.”

According to CBX officials, in 2019, CBX generated a total economic impact of $855 million throughout the region and supported 7,613 full-time jobs.

In 2021, CBX had more than 2.7 million travelers and expects to reach 4 million this year. By 2034, it is estimated that more than 17 million passengers will transfer through Tijuana.

The long-term goal for Tijuana International Airport is to pursue international flights, and that, too, will be good for San Diego,” Coker said. "I do see them as a partner, complementing the travel experience in San Diego. We promote ourselves as binational, a two-nation vacation. People can spend a couple of nights in Tijuana or the Baja California region and then spend three or four nights in San Diego, experiencing two countries in one visit.”