



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland

News Release - For Immediate Release

October 26, 2015

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Interstate 27 Support Letter Sent to Texas Transportation Commission

Interstate 27 extension should be studied further, nearly 800 Texans said in a letter the Ports-to-Plains Alliance submitted to the Texas Transportation Commission. The letter comes after the Texas Department of Transportation held a series of public meetings earlier this year to gauge public support for a feasibility study for extending the Interstate that runs between Lubbock and Amarillo.

"We asked our members if the I-27 extension feasibility study should proceed and they overwhelmingly said yes," said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance composed the letter and asked supporters throughout Texas to sign on if they agreed. A total of 774 people asked to be signatories on the letter.

"As we all know very well, Texas is a rapidly growing state and the demands on our transportation system is growing exponentially," the letter states. "We see the I-27 feasibility study as an important piece of Texas' planning for future freight movement throughout the state."

The recently released draft of the Texas Freight Mobility Plan noted that by the year 2040 over 73 percent of Texas' population, and over 82 percent of the state's employment is projected to be located within five miles of an interstate. The plan also said TxDOT should give additional consideration to the extension or designation of other interstate routes including Interstate 27.

The letter also pointed out the extending I-27 will not happen overnight.

"This is a long term proposition and the feasibility study is the first step. Interstate 27 was originally designated in federal legislation in 1968 but it was not completed until 1991," the letter says. "If the extension of I-27 is found to be feasible, construction for upgrades to interstate standards will not begin for years, and the entire corridor will take decades to complete. That is why it is so important to take that first step and begin the process today."

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at <http://www.portstoplains.com/>.