



PORTS-TO-PLAINS

ALLIANCE

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

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NDOR Recommends Heartland Expressway as Critical to Rural Freight Movement

The Heartland Expressway Association, Ports-to-Plains Alliance and Nebraska Department of Roads submitted comments urging USDOT to include the Heartland Expressway and the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in this Final National Multimodal Freight Network.

Kyle Schneweis, P.E., Executive Director of the Nebraska Department of Roads stated *"Unfortunately, the interim network does not give consideration for any major north-south highway corridors in the state. This seems like an oversight since many of these north-south highway corridors service industry, agricultural and other vital freight related activities. I respectfully request that the USDOT consider the addition of critical north-south highway corridors in Nebraska such as: The Heartland Expressway, which is comprised of the following highways: Nebraska Highway 71 between the Colorado border and Scottsbluff, U.S. Highway 26 between Scottsbluff and Nebraska Link 62A (L-62A), L-62A, U.S. Highway 385 between L-62A and the South Dakota border."*

Lane Danielzuk, President of the Heartland Expressway Association, provided comment asking USDOT to *"Consider inclusion of the congressionally designated High Priority Corridors already listed on the National Highway System in the Final National Multimodal Freight Network including the Heartland Expressway through Nebraska."*

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) closed a comment period on September 6, 2016 allowing state departments of transportation (DOTs) to make recommendations to the Undersecretary of Transportation for Policy on critical rural freight facilities and corridors that should be included in the National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN). The NMFN looks to the future with the purpose of assisting states in directing resources, informing freight transportation planning, and assisting in prioritization of Federal investment.

Michael Reeves, President of the Ports-Alliance, submitted the following request: *"The Alliance respectfully requests the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy to include in the Final National Multimodal Freight Network the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor, which is made up of congressionally-designated high priority corridors and is critical to international freight movements."* Reeves also stated *"The Alliance requests the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy to give special consideration to comments made by states that identify portions of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor that meet the criteria for Critical Rural Freight Facilities and Corridors for inclusion in the National Multimodal Freight Network."*

In addition to these comments, the state departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana also recommended the entire corridor for inclusion the Final National Multimodal Freight Network. The US DOT has until December 4, 2016 to make the final designations for the NMFN.

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Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, 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/>.