



PORTS-TO-PLAINS

ALLIANCE

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

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TXDOT Recommends Ports-to-Plains as Critical to Rural Freight Movement

Texas Department of Transportation wrote *"US 87, from I-27 in Lubbock to I-20 at Big Spring is part of the "Ports-to-Plains Corridor" from Mexico to Canada and is essential for providing additional connectivity between interstates serving the energy sector in West Texas, in accordance with the federal register consideration of (6) "access to energy exploration, development, installation, and production areas."*

Additionally, TXDOT states: *"In addition, we request USDOT utilize the discretion provided in 49 USC 70103(b)(2)(G) and consider including any remaining highway segments of the Ports to Plains Corridor and the I-69 Texas Corridor to the NMFN in accordance with the federal register considerations (3) "access to border crossings, airports, seaports and pipelines;" (4) "economic factors, including balance of trade;" (5) "access to major areas for manufacturing, agriculture or natural resources;" (6) "access to energy exploration, development, installation and production areas;" (10) "facilities and transportation corridors identified by a multi-State coalition as having critical freight importance to the region;" and (12) "the significance of goods movement, including consideration of global and domestic supply chains" [49 USC 70103(c)(2)(C),(D),(E),(F),(J), and (L)]. Both routes serve as major freight corridors, connecting rural and urban regions of both Texas and the US; serve various industries including manufacturing, agriculture and livestock, forestry, and energy development and production; and facilitate international trade with Mexico."*

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.

Both the Ports-to-Plains Alliance and Texas Department of Transportation submitted comments urging USDOT to include the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in this Final National Multimodal Freight Network.

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 Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana also recommended the entire corridor for inclusion in 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/>.