



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

News Release - For Immediate Release

August 21, 2017

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Lubbock Economic Development Alliance Co-hosts 2017 Ports-to-Plains Annual Conference and 20th Anniversary Celebration Sept. 12-14, 2017 in Lubbock, TX

A group of civic leaders from communities along the 120 miles of Interstate 27 gathered in Amarillo in 1998 to discuss the concept of developing an international trade corridor through the region. Led by former Congressman Randy Neugebauer, who was then a Lubbock City Councilman, the group held the first summit of what would grow into an alliance of more than 275 members stretching along a 3,000 mile corridor spanning from Alberta, Canada through nine U.S. states and on to Mazatlan, Mexico. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance will celebrate its 20th Annual Conference September 12 – 14 at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center in Lubbock, Texas.

“Over the past two decades the Ports-to-Plains Alliance has accomplished a great deal for the region, starting with Congressional High Priority Designation for the corridor, expanding our partnership throughout North America’s energy and agricultural heartland and securing \$2 billion in investments to the highway,” said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves. “At this conference we want to celebrate those achievements while we look forward to future progress such as extending Interstate 27.”

The conference will reflect upon its original vision with a panel featuring Neugebauer, Texas Tech Chancellor Robert Duncan who was a Texas State Senator for the region at the time and El Paso City Manager Tommy Gonzalez who was an Assistant City Manager at the City of Lubbock who was the project’s staff person. Former Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin who was a Lubbock Chamber of Commerce committee chairman when Ports-to-Plains was founded and went on to serve as the vice chairman of the PTP board of directors will moderate the panel.

The conference will also include a panel of area state legislators including Sen. Charles Perry (R), Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) and Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock). Lubbock Mayor Dan Pope will lead a panel with fellow West Texas mayors including Amarillo Mayor Ginger Nelson, Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan and San Angelo Mayor Brenda Gunter.

Featured keynote speakers are economist Dr. Ray Perryman, author of the best-seller “13 Ways to Kill Your Community” Doug Griffiths and Texas Department of Transportation Deputy Executive Director Marc Williams. Other topics to be addressed are the importance of NAFTA trade to the region’s economy and the Texas Freight Mobility Plan.

The event is open to the public but registration, which costs \$150, is required. The full conference agenda and registration details are available online at portstoplains.com.

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/>.