



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

## [Old tax, new fees among options for highway funding](#)

Highly recommend this article as it outlines the pros and cons of various transportation revenue options including: raise the gasoline tax, charge drivers based on how much they drive, tap oil and natural gas drilling royalties and more transfers from the general fund.

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 "The debate in Washington about the next bill is not going to be about what America needs," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said at this week's Transportation Construction Coalition fly-in, an annual event that draws many of the country's top infrastructure advocates. "How do we pay for it? That's what the debate will be."

The next highway and transit bill might be more than a year away, but a string of major infrastructure failures has lawmakers and advocates already thinking about how to boost funding.

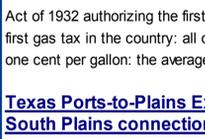
The Highway Trust Fund is set to dive deep into the red in the coming years, a problem that has gained extra attention with last month's collapse of an Interstate 5 bridge in Washington state, the Metro-North rail crash in Connecticut and several other major recent failures...

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## Upcoming Activities of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance

- June 20-21 -- [Northern Ports-to-Plains Alliance Working Group](#), Wainwright, AB
- July 17-18 -- [Ports-to-Plains Regional Meeting and Board Meeting in Sonora, TX](#)
- October 1-3 -- [16th Annual Ports-to-Plains Conference in Amarillo, TX](#)



## TRANSPORTATION

### Great historical perspective on the Highway User Fee...

#### [Federal Gas Tax Passes Another Milestone: What Is The Future?](#)

Happy birthday, federal gas tax!

Yes, on this day in 1932, President Herbert Hoover signed the Revenue Act of 1932 authorizing the first federal gasoline tax. It was the first gas tax on a federal level but not the first gas tax in the country: all of the states at the time had their own gas tax. The tax was a whopping one cent per gallon: the average cost of gas in 1932 was ten cents per gallon...

### [Texas Ports-to-Plains Expansion Project: Dawson County road work to improve South Plains connections to Permian Basin](#)

Road crews have their work cut out for them this fall and in 2014 on Dawson County highways connecting the South Plains with the Permian Basin.

The Texas Department of Transportation last week earmarked \$11.2 million for roadway improvements and repairs to nearly 20 miles of US 87 south of Lamesa — just months after the department allocated up to \$17 million to a project to widen a portion of Texas 349 between Lamesa and Midland...

### [North Dakota Ports-to-Plains Expansion Project: Caution urged during North Dakota's largest road construction season ever](#)

I seriously considered phoning this assignment in.

I feared that driving from Williston to Watford City in heavy rain Thursday on a deadly stretch of Oil Patch highway to a press conference on road safety might make me another statistic.

But with 48 traffic fatalities so far this year — 12 of those in McKenzie County — there is no topic that deserves more news coverage in western North Dakota than highway safety.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation unveiled Thursday its \$878 million construction program for 2013, the largest in the state's history...

## 16th Annual Ports-to-Plains Conference Sponsorship Opportunities



Click the graphic above to explore [Sponsorship Opportunities](#) for the 16th Annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference.

## ENERGY

### [Build, Baby, Build: Why Keystone XL Makes Economic and Environmental Sense](#)

For those of us old enough to remember the 1973 oil crisis, the current North American oil-and-gas boom has a slightly surreal quality: The familiar problem of high energy demand and low supply is being flipped on its head.

Forty years ago, oil was so scarce that the U.S. government was forced to turn to rationing and price controls. In 1974, the 24 Hours of Daytona race was canceled and newspapers carried public-service announcements with taglines such as "Last Out, Lights Out: Don't Be Fuelish." Some futurists predicted that the world oil supply would be exhausted within our lifetimes, and so we had better start building backyard windmills.

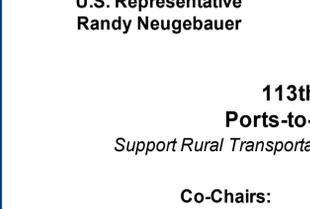
Those fears seem antiquated. In North America, new oil and gas discoveries -- coupled with the development of technologies for extracting hydrocarbons from rock formations and Canadian oil sands deposits -- have created a surge in fossil-fuel extraction. Natural gas is now so plentiful that prices have dropped, and import terminals of liquefied natural gas are being refitted for export. The United States is on track to attain oil self-sufficiency within the next 15 years, even as some coal plants are shut down to make way for cleaner fuels...

### [Long awaited guidance on the Production Tax Credit](#)

The United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released the fine print details of what constitutes meeting the new requirements incorporated into the latest one year extension of the always precarious Production Tax Credit (PTC), in the United States. The tax credit is now worth 2.2 cents per kilowatt hour generated during a wind farm's initial ten years.

Siemens spokeswoman Monika Woods said earlier this year that Siemens would not be able to evaluate the potential impact on their 2013 business until the IRS issued guidance on what constitutes "begin construction."...

## Click on image below for a pdf of the Northern Ports-to-Plains Alliance Work Group Agenda for June 20-21, 2013 in Wainwright, AB. It is an honor to be joined by The Honorable Alberta Premier Alison Redford.



**U.S. Representative**  
**Randy Neugebauer**

## THANK YOU VISIONARIES

Without your leadership and support, our continued success would not be possible.

### 113th Congress Ports-to-Plains Caucus Support Rural Transportation and Economic Development

- Co-Chairs:**
- |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Rep. Randy Neugebauer  | R-TX |
| Rep. Adrian Smith      | R-NE |
| Rep. Pete Gallego      | D-TX |
| Senator John Cornyn    | R-TX |
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| Senator John Hoeven   | ND-R |
| Senator Mike Johanns  | NE-R |
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| Rep. Pete Olson       | TX-R |
| Senator Mark Udall    | CO-D |

## Current Ports-to-Plains Alliance Members

### [Membership Opportunities](#)

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