



PORTS-TO-PLAINS TRADE CORRIDOR

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

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Ports-to-Plains 2009 Priorities

[\(Click here to view\)](#)

Ports-to-Plains Events

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If you have an event of interest to the membership that you would like posted on the Ports-to-Plains website, please send a link or documents to Joe Kiely joe.kiely@portstoplains.com

Ports-to-Plains Press Room

See the Ports-to-Plains press room for the latest media coverage of news affecting our membership. Read an article written by Patricia Vice, Director of Lincoln County Economic Development Corp. in Colorado on the impact of Ports-to-Plains as well as success stories and economic data available. [To access the press room click here.](#)

If you have a local item that needs to be shared with the membership please send a link or documents to joe.kiely@portstoplains.com

Links to Important Issues

[Colorado FASTER Bill](#)

[Texas 2030 Commission](#)

[TxDOT Sunset Review](#)

[Federal Stimulus Package](#)

[Federal Transportation Reauthorization](#)

Economic Recovery Bill Moving Through Congress

House and Senate Democratic Leaders are working hard to move an economic recovery bill (also known as the "economic stimulus" bill) through both chambers in time to meet their goal of having a finished bill on President Obama's desk by the President's Day Recess, which is scheduled for the week of February 16, 2009. [Read complete article»](#)

A Proposal for Colorado Transportation Funding (FASTER)

Sponsored by Senator Dan Gibbs and Representative Joe Rice
On January 14, 2009, Colorado introduced S.B. 108, a multi-year infrastructure program expected to generate approximately \$214 million in its first year for transportation infrastructure, and tens of thousands of jobs for Coloradans, while keeping the impact to the average driver at about \$2.50 a month.

The proposed measure reflects substantive recommendations made by the Colorado Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Implementation Panel, a 2-year work group consisting of Colorado transportation leaders appointed by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, including Ports-to-Plains coalition Vice President Joe Kiely. [Read complete article»](#)

Texas State Transportation Legislation

Transportation is expected to be a hot topic in the 81st session of the Texas Legislature that opened January 13 in Austin. The Texas Department of Transportation is undergoing Sunset Review this session, and lawmakers are also looking at ways to improve the states transportation infrastructure to meet a growing population. [Read complete article»](#)

2030 Committee Proposes \$313 Billion for Transportation

Texas needs to invest \$313 billion in transportation between 2009 and 2030 according to a report from a blue ribbon committee studying the states transportation needs, including \$17 billion for rural Texas.

Texas Transportation Commission Chair Deirdre Delisi created the 2030 Committee last May to independently determine the fiscal requirements for the state's future transportation needs. Twelve Texas civic and business leaders served on the committee. The committee held six public hearings across the state, including one in Amarillo, which was the best attended.

The 2030 Committee recommended spending \$17 billion, or \$800 million annually, to address transportation needs in rural Texas. That would include completing the Texas Trunk System to facilitate rural connectivity, competitiveness and safety.

"We are very supportive of the recommendation to complete the Texas Trunk System as that would essentially complete the construction of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas," said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves.

"It also shows how cost effective Ports-to-Plains is, as we can complete our entire corridor for only a fraction of the cost of the transportation needs in the state's metropolitan areas," added Reeves.

[Click here for full 2030 Committee Report.](#)



Ports-to-Plains and Partner Coalitions Announce 9-State Alliance, Solidify Partnership to Press Common Interests in D.C., and Member's States

On January 5, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition formally approved an advocacy strategy to promote the infrastructure and trade priorities of the 9-state Ports-to-Plains region, including those served by partner coalitions serving adjoining high priority corridors, the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and the Heartland Expressway.

The action followed on separate 2008 agreements between Ports-to-Plains and the two partner groups to pool staff and other resources, enhance members services, and boost the groups' combined advocacy impact, both in Washington, D.C., and in each member state. [Read complete article»](#)



Ports-to-Plains Membership Spotlight Big Spring, Texas

[Click here](#)

Thank you
Ports-to-Plains
members for your
support!

[Click here to view members.](#)



Ports-to-Plains Staff Information

ATTENTION!

Please note new email addresses for
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