Ports to Plains
Progress in Texas
Update to the 15th Annual Ports to Plains Alliance Conference
Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada

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Texas’ Ports-to-Plains Corridor

The Ports to Plains Corridor links the resources of the Central Plains to market and transportation opportunities within Texas, Mexico and the Gulf Coast.

• Designated a High Priority Corridor by Congress in 1998 to address NAFTA trade
• 750 miles of the 2300-mile corridor in Texas
• 448 miles in Texas are currently 4-lane divided
Texas’ Ports-to-Plains Corridor

Consistent with the Corridor Development and Management Plan for Ports to Plains, Texas is working to create a modern trade corridor that provides enhanced freight movement and promotes economic development.

• Investment in corridor improvements
• Strategic coordination with safety and trade related initiatives
  • Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group
  • Energy Sector Task Force
## Overview of Current Programs

### Total Funding Programmed

- **$145.9 million**

#### Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TxDOT (Public Funds)</td>
<td>$50.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposition 12 Bonds</td>
<td>$73.4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposition 14 Bonds</td>
<td>$9.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</td>
<td>$10.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Earmarks</td>
<td>$2.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$145.9 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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[Map of Texas showing major cities and highways]
Planned/Let Projects
Amarillo District
Planned/Let Projects
Lubbock/Odessa/San Angelo Districts
Planned/Let Projects
Laredo District
Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group

• The 2014 completion of the $5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal will double its capacity by allowing more and larger ships.

• TxDOT has convened the Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group (PCSWG) to address this issue and help ensure Texas is well-positioned to maximize this opportunity.

• The charge is to recommend short, mid, and long-term TxDOT transportation improvements that will better position the state to take advantage of the expansion and enhance Texas' role in global trade.
Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group (cont.)

• Convened in June of 2012, the PCSWG is comprised of public and private sector leaders representing ports, industry, shipping and governmental interests.

• Throughout the summer, the PCSWG conducted six public meetings throughout the state in which they heard from dozens of local leaders and industry experts who discussed how the Panama Canal expansion is anticipated to influence shipping patterns that may impact Texas deep water ports, as well as landside intermodal, rail, roadway, and other infrastructure needs.

• The PCSWG will conclude their efforts with a final two-day meeting in Austin on November 12-13 and present their report to the Texas Transportation Commission in December of 2012.
Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group (cont.)

- Key Testimony Offered to the PCSWG:
  - Emerging opportunities for Texas are primarily export-based:
    - Dry bulk commodities (agricultural/natural resources)
    - Liquid bulk commodities (energy products)
  - Some growth in container shipments could be realized, but not at the level that is often touted.
  - Offering significant import and export markets, Texas is strategically positioned to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Panama Canal and the strengths/attributes of our gulf coast ports.
  - Ports need a mechanism to better address infrastructure funding needs.
  - Strategic investment should continue on land-side transportation needs (local congestion, state/national corridors).
Highway/Port Connections

Trade Corridors Serving Texas Ports

Legend:
- Port
- Intermodal Facility
- Class One Railroad

Map details include various highways, ports, and intermodal facilities.
Energy Sector Task Force

• Texas' energy sector is of tremendous value to the Texas economy and quality of life. Increasing demand for energy resources and evolving exploration techniques have resulted in a surge in the energy industry.

• Over the next 30 to 50 years, oil, gas and wind production will infuse billions of dollars into the Texas economy.

• A multi-jurisdictional Task Force on Texas' Energy Sector Roadway Needs has been formed to study the impact of these activities on our state's roadways. The task force priorities are:
  • Safety
  • Innovation and Prevention
  • Public Awareness
  • Funding
Energy Sector Activities

- Oil
- Natural Gas
- Wind
- Coal
- Bio-Fuel
- Biomass
- Geothermal
- Solar

Nearly 1,200 loaded trucks are needed to bring just one gas well into production – the traffic equivalent of roughly 8 million cars.
Energy Sector Task Force

The task force is challenged with identifying long-term funding strategies and plans to address infrastructure concerns.

• Key areas of focus will include the following:
  • Coordination of efforts
  • Support of agency activities
  • Sharing of information
  • Identification of opportunities for innovation
  • Identification of opportunities for partnerships
  • Identification of potential solutions to common issues

The task force will report its findings to TxDOT later this year to be used to support the work of the Legislature on interim charges focused on oversize/overweight vehicles and the energy industry.
Texas’ Ports-to-Plains Corridor

Texas will continue Ports to Plains progress with corridor improvements that:

• Enhances freight movement
• Promotes economic development
• Improves safety
• Links communities
• Aligns with other strategic priorities of the State
  • Ports/Panama Canal
  • Energy Sector
  • Connections with Other Strategic Corridors