



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

Update on Texas Transportation Funding... SJR 2

While the Texas Legislature was unable to come up with a plan to provide new revenues for transportation during the session that closed May 27, there is hope that lawmakers could provide the desperately needed funds during a special session that Governor Rick Perry called to address redistricting. Senate Joint Resolution 2 filed by state Sen. Robert Nichols, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, could provide at least \$1 billion annually in revenue that would go to the state's Rainy Day Fund. Money for the Rainy Day Fund comes primarily from oil and gas royalties. With the Texas oil boom, revenues are coming into the fund at a dramatic rate, and the fund is projected to have a balance of nearly \$12 billion by the end of the current biennium.

Interested in our future? See <http://e2.ma/click/w/cae/43uhkbc/2u2hb>

During a special session, the legislature can only vote on items that the governor lists on the call. So far only redistricting is included. Thus, it is important to contact the governor's office and let them know that transportation funding should be included, and contact your state legislators, especially in the House, and let them know you support SJR 2.

Click the link above for more information.

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Upcoming Activities of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance

- June 6 -- *Let's Talk Freight, Lubbock, TX*
- June 19 -- *Let's Talk Freight, Laredo, TX*
- 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*

TxDOT Listening Sessions: Let's Talk Freight

Plan to attend one of these sessions to provide input on moving goods and enhancing the Texas economy.

City	Date
Dallas	June 4
Fort Worth	June 5
Lubbock	June 6
Tyler	June 7
Beaumont	June 11
Houston	June 12
Corpus Christi	June 13
San Antonio	June 18
Laredo	June 19
Brownsville	June 20

To register go to: www.MoveTexasFreight.com and click on "Register" Meeting Times and Location details are on the registration website

Here's a great opportunity for Texas Ports-to-Plains Alliance members to participate in upcoming listening sessions regarding Freight Mobility in your state. **Your involvement is important because input from these listening sessions will be used in developing statewide freight transportation priorities and investment strategies.** See invitation and schedule below for the sessions. Please feel free to forward this invitation to others who may be interested in attending any of these sessions.

[REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Heartland Expressway: Highway 385 work near Oelrichs, SD begins May 22

The S.D. Department of Transportation is advising motorists that crews will begin paving operations on the final phase of the Heartland Expressway Project on Highway 385 in Fall River County on Wednesday, May 22.

Paving operations will begin one-half mile north of Oelrichs on the new northbound two-lane highway and move south for four miles...

Pay to Fix America's Crumbling Infrastructure Now, or Pay More Later

The people on the Interstate 5 bridge that abruptly collapsed Thursday evening north of Seattle got lucky. They survived because their vehicles were entangled in the heartless embrace of twisted steel girders, which saved them from drowning in the cold waters of the Skagit River.

We all drive on bridges, overpasses, and viaducts that we assume must be safe because, surely, somebody inspected them and determined that they are safe. We pay taxes so somebody makes sure the bridges and roads are safe, right?...

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

North Dakota: Helms says pipeline would reduce traffic deaths

The Keystone XL Pipeline could mean three to six fewer traffic deaths per year in North Dakota as a result of reduced truck traffic, the state's top oil and gas regulator says.

Lynn Helms, director of the Department of Mineral Resources, said Wednesday that he spent two days last week testifying in Washington, D.C., and meeting with federal legislators about the Keystone XL Pipeline and other issues...

Ports-to-Plains Alliance Northern Working Group Meeting

Premier Alison Redford CONFIRMED for Ports-to-Plains Alliance Northern Work Group Meeting in Wainwright, AB

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW

June 20-21, 2013, Wainwright, AB

This will be the third meeting of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Working Group. Click on the image above for a downloadable version. After an introductory meeting last spring in Billings, MT and the development of a strategic plan in Regina, SK last fall, this meeting will focus on one of the Strategic Goals identified: Building a Business Case for the Northern Ports-to-Plains Corridor. While in eastern Alberta, the morning presentations will highlight specific data developed by the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor, Community Futures of western Saskatchewan, new Border Crossing Data gathered by Ports-to-Plains and an overview of other studies completed in the Ports-to-Plains region. The afternoon will be a roll-up-your-sleeves working session directed to begin the development of a framework that addresses the Ports-to-Plains corridors connecting the United States to Alberta and Saskatchewan.

We hope you can attend as we continue to strengthen the case for investment in the Ports-to-Plains region and in the communities it serves.

Please make your **HOTEL** reservation as soon as possible. This is **Wainwright Stampede week** and the **ROOM BLOCK WILL BE RELEASED on June 5, 2013**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pipelines, LNG plants linked to higher job forecast: Alberta HUB region's economy is being driven by Oil Sands development

Solving the oil and gas industry's market access woes would add 20,000 extra direct jobs over the next 10 years, according to a report by an industry group.

The annual forecast by the Calgary-based Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada released Thursday estimates direct industry employment in 2012 was 195,200, up 10 per cent from 2009.

Under two industry activity scenarios, direct employment over the next decade will increase by either nine or 20 per cent, with employment levels reaching from 213,500 to as high as 233,900 by 2022...

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
- Senator Heidi Heitkamp D-ND

Members

- Rep. Michael Conaway TX-R
- Rep. Kevin Cramer ND-R
- Rep. Jeff Fortenberry NE-R
- Rep. Cory Gardner CO-R
- Senator John Hoeven ND-R
- Senator Mike Johanns NE-R
- Rep. Ben Lujan N-M-D
- Rep. Pete Olson TX-R
- Senator Mark Udall CO-D

Current Ports-to-Plains Alliance Members

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