



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

NEWS RELEASES

[Congress Passes Clean 90-day SAFETEA-LU Extension](#)

The House and Senate on Thursday approved HR 4281, a clean 90-day extension of the current surface transportation authorization, known as SAFETEA-LU, averting a potential shutdown of the federal surface transportation program. The measure, which passed the House 266-158, was the 9th extension of the current authorization. The Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent...

[States to retake road funding???](#)

The concept that the federal government should get out of the transportation business is dangerous to the future of United States infrastructure. First, there would be a negative effect upon the national transportation system. Resources, including energy and agricultural products, must move from the source to the market. People must move across state lines.

Perhaps more importantly devolution to the states does not guarantee that any state will be able to replace the current federal funding with state funding. State legislatures are not standing in line to increase state taxes and, in some states like Colorado, voters would be required to approve any fuel tax increase. Both the approved Senate transportation bill and the House bill under consideration make important steps to consolidate the number of programs, streamline regulation and give states more flexibility in expending federal funds.

These are important steps, but a further reduction across the country in transportation funding would be a step backward for business and commerce and ultimately will come out of the pocket of the consumer.

[NAFTA Trade Value Hit Record High in 2011](#)

NAFTA imports rose 13.8 percent last year, while exports increased 14.8 percent. U.S. surface trade with Canada increased 14 percent to \$537 billion. Surface trade with Mexico rose 14.6 percent to \$367.1 billion. 2011 saw third largest year-to-year percentage increase since NAFTA took effect.

The value of surface transportation trade between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement partners Canada and Mexico increased by 14.3 percent to a record \$904 billion in 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation said.

[What's Up With Gasoline Prices?](#)

America's Energy Forum held a 30 minute webinar on March 29 titled "What's Up with Gas Prices?" API Chief Economist, John Felmy, presented a beneficial presentation in simplifying the complex topic of gas prices.

Below are links that you may find beneficial:

Slides from the webinar: <http://bit.ly/Hrras2>

Video recording of the webinar: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/852170433>

Website explaining gas prices: <http://gaspricesexplained.org/>

[Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities](#)

- April 2 - Northern Ports-to-Plains Alliance Task Force, Billings, MT
- April 16-19 - Washington DC Fly-in, Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 20 - [Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Mini-Summit](#), Washington, DC
- June 4-6 - [Transportation Logistics for the Oil & Gas Industry: Houston, TX](#)
- July 12 - Colorado Regional Ports-to-Plains Meeting, Byers, CO
- July 12-13 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, Limon, CO **CHANGED DATE**
- October 2-4 - Ports-to-Plains Alliance Annual Conference, Medicine Hat, AB



TRANSPORTATION

[Texas Panhandle: TxDOT prepares for \\$20-million highway project](#)

The Texas Department of Transportation is preparing to begin a \$20-million highway project in the Texas Panhandle. The project will add passing lanes along U.S. Highway 87 between Dumas and Hartley, TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson said. The agency will begin taking bids on the two-year project in July, he said during a meeting Tuesday with the Amarillo Globe-News...

[North Dakota: Construction full speed ahead in oil patch](#)

[Roads Killed: Texas Adds Up Damages from Drilling](#)



Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Summit

Friday, April 20, 2012
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Gold Room - 2168 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C.

Energy is a major issue affecting every American, whether it is gas prices at the pump or utility bills. The energy industry is also a major employer throughout the Ports-to-Plains region. Our communities produce a diverse portfolio of energy sources from traditional sources such as oil and gas to renewable sources such as wind. Learn directly from those in the industry how energy issues affect our local jobs and economies.

INVITED AUDIENCE:
CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS
CONGRESSIONAL STAFF
PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

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AGENDA TOPICS:
OIL & GAS PRICES AND THE CONSUMER
ELECTRICITY AND THE ECONOMY
ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

ENERGY

[Texas Tops Finds From Brazil to Bakken as](#)

[Best Prospect: Energy](#)

From Alberta to Bakken to Niobrara to Eagle Ford ... the Ports-to-Plains Alliance region is popping with energy!

[North Dakota Becomes Third Largest Oil-Producing State](#)

The state of North Dakota recently surpassed California in oil production, becoming the third biggest oil producer in the country. In the production totals that were released, North Dakota produced a total of 16.9 million barrels of oil in January while California produced only 15.8 million barrels. Because of this, North Dakota already has a daily average of 546,000 barrels, surpassing California by 36,000 barrels. However, the oil production data usually lags for at least two months. According to Industrial Commission, North Dakota was able to produce a record of 152.9 million barrels of crude last year. This is approximately 40 million more than the previous year...

[U.S. Economic Impact Oil Sands Calculator](#)

The interactive map of the U.S. will let you calculate the economic impact generated in each state from new oil sands projects in Alberta, Canada.

[Beyond the Gas Price Blame Game, a Thorny Case of Supply vs. Demand](#)

[Bennet and Udall Call for Passage of Senate Energy Bill to Extend Wind Energy Tax Credit](#)



U.S. Representative
[Rick Berg](#)
(ND)
Ports-to-Plains Alliance Caucus Member

THANK YOU VISIONARIES

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

[Current Members](#)

[Membership Opportunities](#)

[Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus Support Rural Transportation and Economic Development](#)

Co-Chairs:

- Rep. Randy Neugebauer R-TX
- Rep. Adrian Smith R-NE
- Senator Ben Nelson D-NE
- Senator John Cornyn R-TX

Members:

- Rep. Mike Conaway R-TX
- Rep. Bob Filner D-CA
- Rep. Quico Canseco R-TX
- Rep. Pete Olson R-TX
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- Senator Kent Conrad D-ND
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- Senator John Hoeven R-ND
- Rep. Rick Berg R-ND

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