



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

Ports-to-Plains Webinar - Beyond the Elections: Looking Forward - November 30, 2012

Please join us for the next free Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar when Jack Schenendorf, Ports-to-Plains Alliance Transportation Consultant, in Washington will address the following topics:

- The 2012 elections, the politics of 113th Congress, and the new leaders handling transportation.
- Fiscal cliff: how bad is it and what is likely to happen?
- Transportation's fiscal cliff: what are we going to do about it?
- MAP-21 implementation and reauthorization in 113th Congress.

Jack Schenendorf's practice concentrates on transportation and legislation with a particular focus on legislative strategy, legislative procedure, and the federal budget process.

For nearly 25 years, Mr. Schenendorf served on the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was Chief of Staff from 1995 to 2001.

Jack represents the Ports-to-Plains Alliance in Washington, DC. In addition he has represented Associated General Contractors, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, United Airlines and others.

Date: Friday, November 30, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CST
Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/910258046>

Texas and Colorado Transportation Facts and Funding

Ports-to-Plains Alliance has launched an effort to provide citizens with facts about the transportation systems and funding in the states of Texas and Colorado. Both states are exploring the possibility of increasing transportation revenue to address maintaining and expanding their systems. Look for daily transportation facts and share them with your network. The effort will cross multiple social media networks including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Search for hashtags #portstoplains, #infrastructuretx and #MoveColorado and share the posts with your personal network. Help people understand the value and importance of the statewide and local transportation system and how that system is funded. Connect with Ports-to-Plains [Facebook Page](#), [Twitter Feed](#) and/or [LinkedIn Group](#). If the transportation system is important to your business, employment or quality of life, you can help keep the system working. Takes just a moment to share or retweet to your network.

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

- November 29 -- [International Unmanned Vehicle Systems Virtual Conference](#), Online
- November 30 -- [Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar: Beyond the Elections: Looking Forward](#) featuring Jack Schenendorf
- December 4 -- [Keystone XL Pipeline Draft Evaluation Report Public Hearing](#), Albion, NE
- February 17 -- Ports-to-Plains Alliance Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, TX
- February 17-19 -- [8th Annual Texas Transportation Forum](#), Austin, TX



TRANSPORTATION

[Ports-to-Plains Alliance comments on USDOT Interim Guidance on state freight plans and state advisory committees](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) requested comments related to the interim guidance on state freight plans and state advisory committees on October 15, 2012. In response to the Notice, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance submitted comments addressing eight principles that should be addressed in the final guidance. MAP-21 provided greatly increased flexibility and decision making in where federal funding is to be used. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance supported that change. At the same time, it is critical that states keep an eye to the greater transportation system that moves people and the economy throughout the United States and North America. As passed by Congress, implementation of state freight plans and state advisory committees are encouraged, not required. The guidance provides information to states that decide to implement these planning efforts.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance hopes that each of the states in the Ports-to-Plains region chooses to implement these planning efforts and also recognizes the importance of the principles provided by the Alliance to USDOT. Along with state flexibility in use of federal funding must come a recognition of the importance of maintaining a national system of transportation.

Both the interim guidance from USDOT and the Comments by the Ports-to-Plains Alliance are available and downloadable below. The eight principles are:

- Rural transportation corridors are an important part of the national freight transportation system.
- Interstate connectivity is critical.
- There must not be a bias against new capacity, especially in rural areas.
- Safety must be a priority.
- Energy-related improvements are essential.
- The ability of rural corridors to relieve congestion on parallel, heavily-congested corridors should be recognized.
- Adequate border infrastructure is critical to an efficient national freight transportation network.
- Multi-state organizations should be represented on state advisory committees.

[Interim Guidance on State Freight Plans and State Freight Advisory Committees](#)

[Comments on Interim Guidance on State Freight Plans and State Advisory Committees](#)

[Statement on TBD Colorado Recommendations on Transportation](#)

[TBD Colorado releases recommendations on Transportation](#)

[Obama's Next Transportation Chief Faces Highway-Funding Quandary](#)

[More gridlock for transportation?](#)

[Redford offers congrats to Obama-now it's time to move forward on border policies & transportation with renewed vigor](#)

[National Transportation Research Group Selects Texas Area NASBP Bond Producer as Board Member](#)

ENERGY

[Editorial: President Obama, it's time to approve the Keystone pipeline](#)



Last January, President Barack Obama rejected TransCanada Corp.'s proposal to build a pipeline carrying Canadian bitumen from the Alberta oil sands to refineries in the United States, including some in Texas on the Gulf of Mexico coast. The rejection was a calculated election-year move aimed at appeasing Mr. Obama's supporters in the powerful environmental movement. With his re-election, the President should now move quickly to approve the Keystone XL pipeline on its merits alone...

[Bipartisan group of senators requests meeting with Obama on Keystone XL pipeline](#)

"Setting politics aside: Nothing has changed about the thousands of jobs that Keystone XL will create," the letter stated. "Nothing has changed about the energy security to be gained through an important addition to the existing pipeline network built with sound environmental stewardship and the best modern technology. Nothing has changed about the security to be gained from using more fuel produced at home and by a close and stable ally. And nothing has changed about the need for America to remain a place where businesses can still build things."

Well stated! Letter signed by 18 Senators including seven from the Ports-to-Plains Alliance region including John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Max Baucus (D-Mont.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), and Jon Tester (D-Mont.)

[Hickenlooper joins push for extending wind tax credit](#)

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is one of a bipartisan group of governors urging Congress Tuesday to swiftly pass an extension of the federal production tax credit for wind energy.

Hickenlooper, a Democrat, joined Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, both Republicans, along with Democrat Gov. John Kitzhaber of Oregon on a conference call supporting the tax's extension.

The four are members of the Governor's Wind Energy Coalition, representing 28 governors of wind-energy states...

[On Point: One Size Doesn't Fit All — The Real Impacts of Increased Oil and Gas Setbacks](#)



**U.S. Senator
Kent Conrad
(ND)
Ports-to-Plains
Alliance Caucus**

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*

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