



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

## NEWS RELEASES

### HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!!

Now, move your hand, reecal slow-like and **REGISTER NOW...**

Now it'll only take ya two shakes of a lamb's tail to git registered for the 14th Annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference scheduled for October 19-21, 2011 in [San Angelo, Texas](#). This year's conference is co-hosted by the [Texas Department of Transportation](#) and the [City of San Angelo Development Corporation](#).

We are planning for a real good time ([AGENDA](#)) and you are not gonna wanna miss this event! Go on now and git yurself registered...**before we hafta send the sherrif and his posse after ya!**



**14th Annual  
Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference**  
Oct. 19-21, 2011 - San Angelo, Texas

### [CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#)

### [CONFERENCE SPONSORS](#)

### [Texas Dept. of Transportation to hold Public Meetings](#)

Texas Ports-to-Plains members have an important opportunity to voice their support for the Corridor at a TxDOT public meeting on Thursday, September 1. TxDOT will host a public meeting in each of its 25 districts throughout the state to provide information and solicit input from the public regarding the planning and funding of a variety of transportation projects.

The discussions will center on recommended revisions to the 2012 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and the 2011-2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The plan revisions will include fund transfer requests and Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 carryover balances. They will also address the reconciliation of Category 5 and 7 funds, and the distribution of Proposition 12 funds...

### [TR Expressway to hold annual meeting in Watford](#)

#### Shaping the Future of Rural Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation is developing a rural component to the recently adopted Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035, and wants your input. The department has developed the attached questionnaire to determine the best criteria to use in prioritizing projects. "At a time when transportation funds, especially for rural areas, are so limited it is even more important to properly prioritize projects," said Ports to Plains President Michael Reeves. "I encourage all of our members to comment whether or not these are the proper criteria for selecting projects, and also comment on the importance of Ports to Plains to our region's economy, and to all of Texas."

### [Montana communities consider joining Ports-to-Plains Alliance](#)

Last week, Joe Kiely, Vice President of Operations for the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, hosted by Bob Sivertsen, President of the Highway 2 Association, traveled 950 miles around Montana looking at its transportation infrastructure and meeting with Montanans in Billings, Shelby, Havre and Glasgow. Montana, like the other nine states in the Ports-to-Plains region, has an economy built on natural resources: energy, agriculture and tourism. Montana exports over \$1.7 billion domestically by truck within the PTP region. Montana exports another \$9.1 million along the corridor to Mexico by truck, and increase of 680% since 2004. In 2010 Montana exported \$209 million by truck through Montana border crossings, an increase of 117% since 2004...

### Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- August 29-31 - Canadian Oil Sands Infrastructure Summit, Calgary, AB
- August 30 - Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association Annual Meeting, Watford City, ND
- September 1 - TxDOT Public Meetings from 5 - 6:30 p.m. ([Locations](#))
- September 21-23 - Presentation at 18th Annual Logistics & Manufacturing Symposium, Laredo, TX
- October 19-21 - Ports-to-Plains Annual Meeting, San Angelo, TX



## TRANSPORTATION

### [Why Dropping the Gas Tax Would Be a Disaster](#)

In the wake of last month's game of chicken/debt deal compromise, the country was almost paralyzed again by another fiscal dispute—this time over funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Congress couldn't agree to reauthorize the FAA's operations, thanks to a disagreement between some Republicans and Democrats over a few million dollars in subsidies for small-town airports. As a result, the federal government lost millions in tax collections, thousands of construction workers lost time as airport renovation jobs were stopped and dozens of vital airline safety inspectors were forced to work without pay to keep the air travel system going. (Maybe that's the secret to solving our country's fiscal problems—just stop paying people.) A temporary compromise to fund the FAA through mid-September defused the crisis for the short-term, but it'll be back up for debate when Congress returns to work in September...

### [Gover Norquist: I'm OK with extending gasoline tax](#)

### [Sen. Boxer Plans a Four-month Extension of SAFETEA-LU](#)

### [Bipartisan coalition calls for major investment in U.S. infrastructure](#)

### [WYDOT's 2012 roadway projects list focuses on maintenance](#)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

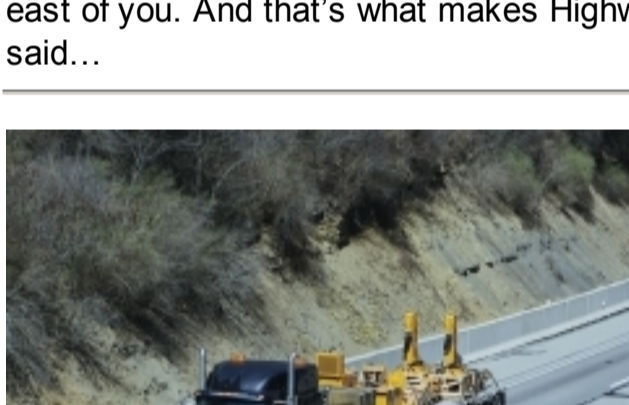
### [Push continues on Hwy. 2: Alliance says improving Highway 2 is key to economic development](#)

A representative of a group trying to improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate trade in a 10-state region including Montana said during a meeting of the Highway 2 Association in Havre Wednesday that a key to improving the economy and sustaining rural communities is investing in highways.

But, Joe Kiely of Limon, Colo., vice president of operations for the Ports-to-Plains Alliance said, that will take effort and money from local groups as well as state and federal leaders.

He said Montana needs to remember that U. S. Highway 2 — along with north-south routes and the U. S.-Canadian border — is a key to successful Montana trade and economic development.

"Please understand that your second-largest trading partner along this corridor is not south of you, it is east of you. And that's what makes Highway 2 something that is important to you in the future," Kiely said...



## ENERGY

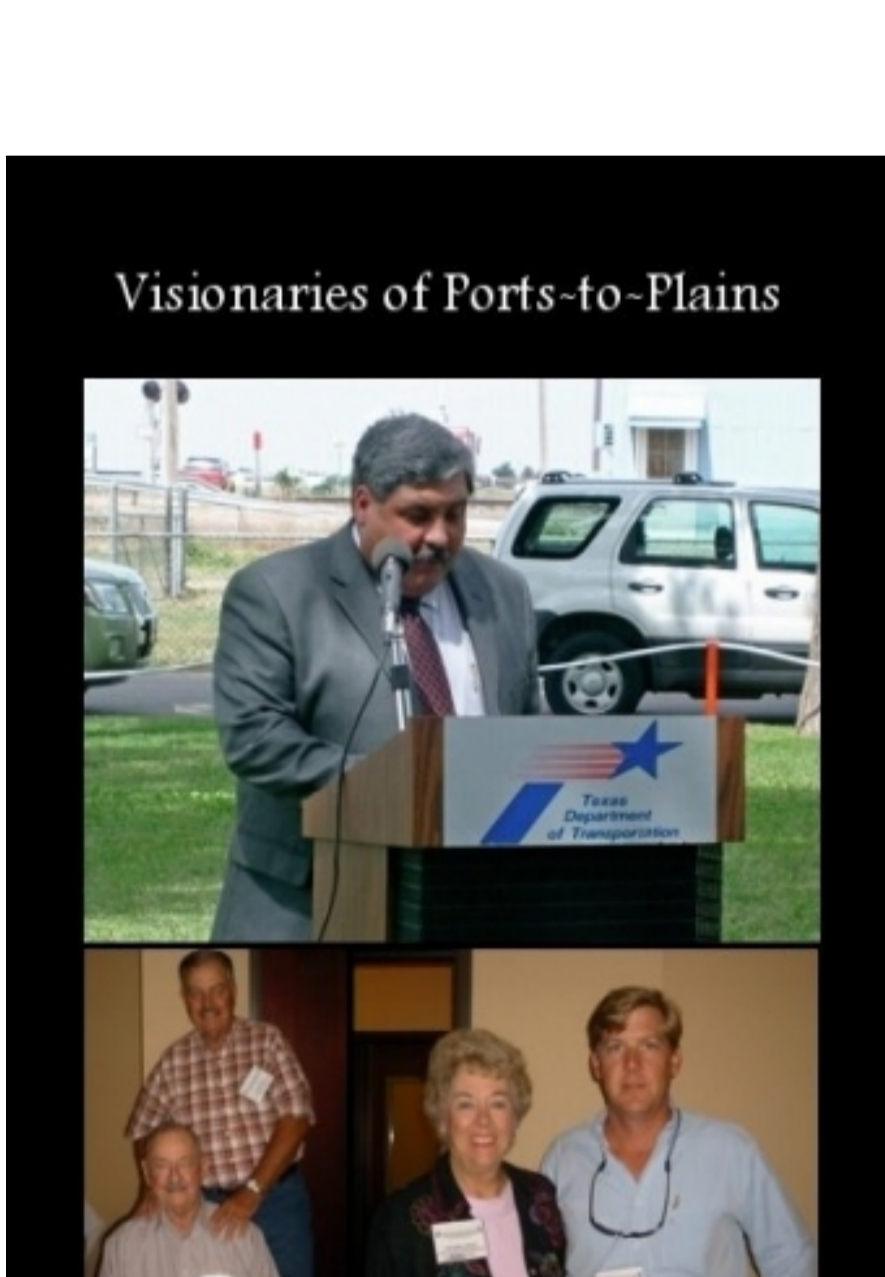
### [The U.S. Department of State has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project.](#)

The U.S. Department of State has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project. Below are the link to the U.S. Department of State website, the Executive Summary of the Final EIS, Notice of Public Meetings and a link to comments on the Final EIS by the Consumer Energy Alliance.

### [JAY AMBROSE: Don't be alarmed, fracking isn't a public health threat](#)

### [Judge Nixes Tighter U.S. Oversight of Oil and Gas Operations](#)

### [Opinion: Fracking and the road to energy independence](#)



### Visionaries of Ports-to-Plains

## THANK YOU VISIONARIES

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

### [Current Members](#)

### [Membership Opportunities](#)

### [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

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