



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

NEWS RELEASES

Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference Coverage

The 14th Annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference is in the books. There was a great turnout with over 170 registrants. Local and regional press coverage was excellent. Below are links to the presentations, conference photos and the media coverage. If you missed San Angelo, you missed a great time and lots of great material. Here is your way to enjoy the conference minus the food and networking that took place.

[Presentations from Conference](#)

[Conference Photos](#)

Conference Media Coverage (see articles below):

[Ports-to-Plains project focus of talks: Conference aims to plan infrastructure](#)

Construction crews are starting to beat the ground as the development of a major artery through America's heartland takes shape with progress on the Ports-to-Plains project.

To ensure everyone involved with the international project is on the same page, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance will hold its 14th annual conference at the McNease Convention Center today through Friday.

Updates from the Ports-to-Plains Alliance partners across the nation and even into Mexico and Canada will be discussed, along with economic opportunities for communities that lie along the 2,300-plus-mile corridor that stretches from Canada to Mexico.

[MICHAEL REEVES: Ports-to-Plains vital for rural commerce](#)

Transportation projects are long-term propositions. Between environmental and engineering studies, right-of-way acquisition and then waiting for funding to become available, it takes several years from the idea of a highway project until you are actually driving down that road.

Over the next two years however, we will soon see several projects under construction on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, including many in the San Angelo area.

[Ports-to-Plains: New TxDOT leader: Corridor a priority](#)

On day four of his tenure as executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation, Phil Wilson hailed the Ports-to-Plains Corridor as a "tremendous opportunity" for the state and said he's looking forward to working on the project as leader of one of the state's largest agencies.

In a short speech on the first full day of the 14th annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference, the former secretary of state and aide to Gov. Rick Perry who became head of TxDOT officially on Monday, described the burgeoning project as an innovative economic boon...

[Ports-to-Plains commitment boosts city's trade hub hopes](#)

City leaders and economic development officials who visualize San Angelo as a key hub along a burgeoning transportation corridor are beginning to see the fruits of an endeavor they took on about 15 years ago.

As the largest U.S. municipality on the southernmost portion of the still-developing 2,300-mile Ports-to-Plains corridor, which stretches from Alberta, Canada, through Texas and into Mexico, San Angelo officials envision the city eventually becoming a so-called "multimodal" trade hub, a point of interception for goods coming from Mexico, the Gulf Coast ports or Canada that need to be transferred to or from truck or rail...

[Ports-to-Plains plan could benefit communities on route, such as Big Spring: Abilene area sits on list of projects](#)

West Texas could become a prime spot for businesses to relocate and a center of economic activity as the long-planned Ports-to-Plains corridor gains traction and funding.

The Lubbock-based Ports-to-Plains Alliance held its annual conference in San Angelo last week, bringing together Canadian, Mexican and U.S. representatives from nine states to discuss the proposed 2,300-mile U.S. thoroughfare that would extend from Mexico to Canada.

The plan for the corridor is a continuous four-lane divided highway the entire route, said Blair Haynie, transportation planning and development director for the Texas Department of Transportation Abilene division...



Cactus Jack and the entire Ports-to-Plains gang sends a big THANK YOU to all the folks who attended the 14th Annual Ports-to-Plains Conference!

WHAT A GREAT TIME!!!

A big thanks to the following who made this year's conference one of the best in Ports-to-Plains history!

- [Texas Dept. of Transportation](#)
- [San Angelo Dev. Corp.](#)
- [San Angelo Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- [City of San Angelo](#)
- [Fort Concho](#)
- [The Concho Cowboy Co.](#)

AND ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

CALL TO ACTION: Senate Set to Markup Transportation Reauthorization Bill

The Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee is scheduled to markup the surface transportation bill being referred to as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Below is the message that the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is sending to these Senators representing the region through the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Caucus.

Below is a **CALL FOR ACTION** that is simple yet **effective if you take the few minutes it takes to message your Senators**.

As you know, the new surface transportation legislation is moving forward in the Senate and House. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is scheduled to mark up its version of the legislation on November 9th. The Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has indicated that he is preparing his version of the legislation for mark up and wants Congress to complete action on the legislation before the current extension expires. This means that the surface transportation reauthorization process has now entered a new and critical stage.

Given these developments, those of us representing Rural America must redouble our efforts to ensure that the new legislation is balanced and fair to our region of the country. The maintenance and improvement of our nation's rural transportation network is crucial to countless sectors of our economy.

Rural highways connect urban centers, offer opportunities to transport goods to our coastlines and borders for export, and allow our agricultural producers to feed the country and the world. The new surface transportation legislation must provide improved connectivity and mobility for Rural America. More specifically, the legislation must--

- Meet the needs of small communities and rural areas as well as major metropolitan areas; Recognize the need for additional highway capacity in rural areas;
- Recognize that many of the alternative and innovative financing mechanisms likely to be included in the new legislation are not viable options in rural areas and that it will, therefore, be important to ensure adequate resources are targeted to rural transportation programs to compensate for this reality;
- Focus on upgrading and modernizing the portion of the national transportation network that provides connectivity and mobility for America's small communities and rural areas;
- Focus on freight movement, including freight movement in rural corridors on the national network; and
- Focus on rural safety, especially narrow, overburdened, two-lane rural roads which are carrying much of the food and fuel destined for our nation's major metropolitan areas and often have fatality rates well above four-lane, divided urban highways.

*In other words, as we modernize our transportation system to meet the needs of the 21st Century, we must recognize the critical and unique role of the rural portion of our national transportation network. It is important that House and Senate leaders and committees hear from us at this critical time. The message is simple: **Do not forget Rural America.***

We hope you will join in this effort.

CALL TO ACTION

Please take the few minutes it takes to send a message by the links below for your state's Senator with the following:

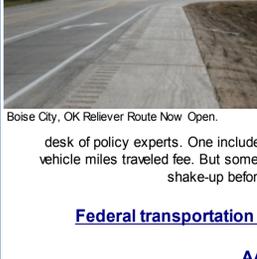
Does the Transportation Reauthorization Bill (MAP-21) **Remember Rural America** and its importance in moving our economy and for developing energy resources in our state and the Ports-to-Plains Region?

Just paste the above into the webforms by following the links below. Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works committee are marked with an asterisk.

- Colorado
 - [Mark Udall](#)
 - [Michael Bennet](#)
- Kansas
 - [Jerry Moran](#)
 - [Pat Roberts](#)
- Montana
 - [*Max Baucus](#)
 - [Jon Tester](#)
- Nebraska
 - [Ben Nelson](#)
 - [*Mike Johanns](#)
- New Mexico
 - [Jeff Bingaman](#)
 - [*Tom Udall](#)
- North Dakota
 - [Kent Conrad](#)
 - [John Hoeven](#)
- Oklahoma
 - [*James Inhofe](#)
 - [Tom Colburn](#)
- South Dakota
 - [Tim Johnson](#)
 - [John Thune](#)
- Texas
 - [John Cornyn](#)
 - [Kay Bailey Hutchison](#)
- Wyoming
 - [Michael Enzi](#)
 - [* John Barrasso](#)

Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- November 1 - Ports-to-Plains Webinar, Online
- November 1 - [Palliser Economic Partnership \(P.E.P.\) Seminar](#) in Medicine Hat, Alberta, CA
- November 2 - [Battle River Alliance for Economic Development \(BRAED\) Seminar](#) in Wainwright, Alberta, CA
- November 3 - [Alberta HUB Seminar](#), St. Paul, Alberta, CA



Boise City, OK Reliever Route Now Open.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation's future a rocky road

Transportation experts said the federal highway and transit program needs two big changes — major systemic reforms and a large increase in funding. Problem is, you can't have one without the other.

As Congress looks at nontransportation revenue to maintain current spending levels, two ambitious reports sit on the desk of policy experts. One includes a radical idea — that the country should eventually shift to a vehicle miles traveled fee. But some transportation experts said the federal program needs a major shake-up before lawmakers revamp how motorists are charged for road use...

[Federal transportation funding mandates the coming Capitol Hill battle](#)

[AAA Report Explores the Hidden Costs of Driving](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Competitive Renewable Energy Zones: Major panhandle wind project underway

Construction has started on 2,300 miles of Competitive Renewable Energy Zones transmission lines that would help carry wind power across the Texas Panhandle and to the southern parts of the state. "Texas is already a leader in renewable energy in the country and this project is going to help Texas stay at the top for decades to come," said Cameron Fredkin of Cross Texas Transmission. "The reason behind the lines is additional wind power for the state. To be exact, about 18,500 megawatts of additional wind power statewide," added A.J. Swope of Class 4 Winds...



[GE to build solar panel factory in Colorado](#)

[Trains Going Up in Speed and Numbers in San Angelo: Oil field development spurs change](#)

[WE WON ON DUST!](#)

[Milk production is growing in the Ports-to-Plains Alliance region.](#)



ENERGY

Keystone XL Receives Support from More than 450,000 Americans

Today Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the American Trucking Associations (ATA) and the Ports-to-Plains Alliance announced that they have submitted more than 450,000 public comments calling on the U.S. Department of State to allow construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. The comments, which come from residents in states all across the country, demonstrate strong support for the project among Americans from numerous backgrounds...

[Hard Facts Compel Keystone Approval](#)

Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar

The next Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar is scheduled for **November 1, 2011 at 10 a.m. (CDT)**.

[Register for Webinar](#)



THANK YOU VISIONARIES

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

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[Membership Opportunities](#)

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