



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

NEWS RELEASES

[Expansion of Ports-to-Plains: U.S. 287: Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas Projects Continue](#)



It was a great encouragement to see the progress of expanding the Ports-to-Plains Corridor continues as I traveled from Limon, CO to Amarillo, TX along U.S. Highway 287. In Colorado the Hugo Phase II project was nearing completion as was the portion of U.S. 287 just north of Kit Carson. Both sections are concrete Super 2 and currently carry over 50% of its traffic as trucks with an increasing amount of energy related freight. When the in-town project at Kit Carson, Colorado is complete next spring, the entire U.S. 287 corridor in Colorado from Limon to the Colorado/Oklahoma border will have been reconstructed in concrete.

U.S. Highway 287 in Colorado is used by between 2,500 and 3,000 vehicles a day including 1,350 trucks a day resulting on more than 50% trucks on much of the corridor.

Once into Oklahoma, the expansion of U.S. Highway 287 continued north of Boise City. Oklahoma DOT is also reconstructing in concrete, but it is also acquiring the right-of-way and moving utilities for the ultimate four-lane divided section.

From the Oklahoma/Texas border to Stratford, TX work is reconstruction and widening of U.S. Highway 287 is nearing completion.

[Expansion of Ports-to-Plains: TxDOT lays out plans for local work next year: U.S. Highway 277](#)

[Expansion of Ports-to-Plains: TxDOT announces 349 widening project](#)

[Missed the November 30th Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar???](#)

Still available on video featuring Jack Schenendorf, Covington & Burling and Cal Klewin, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.

The following information was sent out last week in an e-blast. **BTW, have you contacted your Senator? You are the strength of the Alliance.** Without your individual participation, be assured that our elected officials will look elsewhere for guidance. We received a question about what this effort had to do with transportation. We sent the following response as a reminder to all

Ports-to-Plains Alliance advocates for transportation infrastructure along with Energy and Agriculture because those two sectors are the major economic drivers in the ten state region.

"Securing the Benefits of Commerce to North America's Energy and Agricultural Heartland."

The Alliance opposes efforts to regulate or tax fossil fuels in such a way as to create winners and losers. At the same time renewable production has joined traditional energy as an economic driver in many areas of the region.

The PTP website shows that production at <http://e2ma.net/go/10993201552/4091264/112222745/25394/goto:http://www.portstoplains.com/Energy/Wind.aspx>. The wind industry is a significant user of our rural highway infrastructure.

Call to Action: Senator: Extension of the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit is Important to Our Local Economy

The US Senate is currently working on tax legislation intended to pass before the end of this year, so we are asking you to contact your Senators right away to urge them to include the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC) extension in any tax bill that moves forward this month.

With the uncertainty of the future of the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC), businesses are hesitant to plan future US wind projects, American manufacturers have seen a drop in orders, and layoffs have already started. For the purposes of the American wind industry manufacturing sector, the PTC effectively expires at the end of this year. To preserve tens of thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs, we need to come together immediately to make our message crystal clear to the US Senate: we urgently need Congress to take action to extend the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC) before the end of this calendar year.

Just copy this message into the form that the link below will provide for your Senators.

Senator, Renewable wind energy is critical to an energy secure future in North America. Please support the extension of the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit.

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

- Feb. 15, 2012 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- Feb. 15-17, 2012 - [Texas Transportation Forum](#) - San Antonio, TX
- Apr. 16-20, 2012 - Washington DC Flyin, Energy Mini-Summit, Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- July 19-20, 2012 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, Limon, CO



TRANSPORTATION

[House Pushes Highway & Transit Reauthorization Bill Back to 2012](#)

House Republican leadership has postponed introduction and consideration of a surface transportation reauthorization bill until next year, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica told industry leaders this week. Federal highway and transit programs are currently authorized until March 31.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, spoke last month of his intent to introduce a five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill "in the weeks ahead." The speaker posted a blog entry Nov. 3 stating his desire to move the combined highway and transit reauthorization as well as expanded domestic energy production legislation "through the House before the end of the year."...

[Senate Republicans Outline How to Pay for Transportation Bill](#)

[Highway Bill moves U.S. life blood, should pass \(Opinion\)](#)

[Experts struggle to express direness of infrastructure problem to a wary public](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[The New North Dakota: Shale Oil Takes Off in Colorado](#)

The shale oil and shale gas revolution is coming to Colorado, which already ranks tenth among the states in oil production. Thanks to new shale production in the Wattenberg Field, the Centennial State could almost triple its output and climb to fifth among the states, right behind North Dakota. And with that increase in oil production would be the additional benefits of more jobs, more state revenues, more housing demand, and economic prosperity to the citizens of Colorado...



[U.S. and Canadian Chambers Applaud New Vision for Border, Regulatory Cooperation](#)

[2012 Colorado Business Economic Outlook](#)



ENERGY

[Sen. Lugar Introduces Bill to Require Decision on Keystone XL](#)

Yesterday Senator Lugar (R-IN) introduced S. 1932, North American Energy Security Act, which would require the President to issue a permit for the Keystone XL project within 60 days and at the same time give the State of Nebraska the ability to move the route of the pipeline without delaying other parts of the project. Finally, the bill would deem the current environmental impact statement as having met all the requirements under federal law...

[Oil and Gas Boom: Obama keeps trying to kill it, but it just won't stay dead](#)



THANK YOU VISIONARIES

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

[Current Members](#)

[Membership Opportunities](#)

U.S. Senator
[Mark Udall](#)
(CO)

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Caucus Member

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