



PORTS-TO-PLAINS TRADE CORRIDOR

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



Lubbock Mayor
Tom Martin

Dear Ports-to-Plains leaders, friends and family:
As Mayor of Lubbock, it is gratifying to be able to add my own warm welcome to this first meeting of the 9-state Ports-to-Plains Alliance. We are proud to host this historic gathering in the hometown of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition. In 1998, when we formed the coalition, our ambitions for it were grand. But we never imagined we would one day join hands with Alberta Premier Stelmach, and with fellow rural groups in Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming, to jointly promote North America's energy and agricultural heartland. I fully expect our meeting to be unprecedented in Ports-to-Plains history, both for its attendance, the caliber of our speakers, and the substantive impact of what we achieve after the event. And on behalf of the citizens of Lubbock, Texas, you have

our commitment to welcome you with the warmest hospitality the Texas Panhandle has to offer. Please join us to celebrate together our new alliance with our partner corridor groups and with the Province of Alberta. We welcome your ideas, your leadership and your effort. Join us in our effort to promote policies that enable our rural heartland to do what it does best: Find, produce, process, transport, store and deliver the food and fuel upon which the quality of life in America's cities depends. We look forward to welcoming you to Lubbock in September!

Warm regards,
Tom Martin
Mayor, City of Lubbock, Texas
Vice Chair, the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition

Conference Information & Online Registration

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Contact Duffy Hinkle at (806) 775-3373 or duffy.hinkle@portstoplains.com if your organization is interested in a sponsorship.

Texas Legislature passes Sunset bill

The Texas Legislature needed just two days to address transportation issues in special session that were unfinished after the 140-day regular session. Most importantly the legislature passed a Sunset bill for TxDOT and four other state agencies that would have been forced to shut down in 2010 had it not been passed. The legislature also passed enabling legislation for \$1 billion in bonding authority for highway projects that were previously approved by voters. No action was taken on a bill that would allow further comprehensive development agreements that allow public – private development of toll roads.

The sunset bill was a "safety net" bill that simply extends the agencies until 2011, and those agencies including TxDOT, will go through the sunset process again during the next legislative session. It is possible that the sunset process could be less contentious for TxDOT next time around as the department can implement many changes that have been recommended throughout the process this session. In fact, TxDOT has already begun implementing several changes such as consolidating functions into regional centers and placing a new project update feature on their website.

The Prop 12 bond bill designates \$1 billion to the State Infrastructure Bank to loan to local transportation entities to complete financing for large projects, with an amendment that prevents those funds to be used on projects that convert non-tolled highways to tolled lanes. This is unlikely to have significant immediate impact on PTP projects.

The final item on Gov. Perry's call was to authorize new CDA's, and had support of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Transportation Committee Chairman Joe Pickett (D-El Paso). The bill was discussed at length in committees in both houses, but failed to pass out of committee. Gov. Perry is not expected to call another special session to address this issue. Only a small number of potential projects are impacted, none on the PTP Corridor.

House Committee unveils transportation bill

Seeking to about double federal transportation funding, House Transportation Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) and ranking member John Mica (R-FL) unveiled their six-year, \$500 billion transportation bill last month. By comparison, the current transportation bill SAFETEA-LU authorization level is \$244 billion.

"We certainly would like to see Congress address transportation as soon as possible. We have put a band-aid on the problem for too long, and it is too important to our economy to ignore any longer," said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves. "We are going to be working hard with our Ports-to-Plains Congressional Caucus, and it is important that our members let their congressmen and senators know that transportation and Ports-to-Plains are a top priority." [Click here for complete article»](#)

Groundbreaking ceremonies held in Dumas for new overpass and airport runway improvement

A project 10 years in the making is finally becoming a reality for Dumas. A groundbreaking ceremony was conducted on Thursday, June 18 at Texoma Park to celebrate the upcoming overpass construction project at the U.S. 87-rail intersection just west of the park. Representatives of Texas Department of Transportation as well as several community leaders and citizens were present for the ceremony, which included comments and the traditional shoveling of dirt.

"Safety is the primary driver in getting the 4-lane overpass completed over the railroad tracks on US Hwy 87 in Dumas," stated Milton Pax, Moore County Commissioner and Ports-to-Plains Board Member. "This is also a part of a much larger two-state project being conducted by Texas and New Mexico Transportation Department which will result in future 4-lane access to Denver, Colorado from our area. Upcoming construction will generate jobs and revenue, causing a positive impact to our community. We will see a safer community, one that is able to move local, tourist, and commercial traffic more efficiently, while relieving downtown congestion. It can't happen to soon."

"It's always exciting to break ground and see us making progress on the corridor," stated Michael Reeves, President of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. "This will obviously have a great impact on safety and create new business opportunities for not only Dumas, but the entire corridor as well. Dumas has tremendous leadership with people such as David Swinford, Milton Pax, Sam Cartwright and Mike Running who understand the value of transportation and see how Ports-to-Plains benefits the community and the region." [Click here for complete article»](#)



Moore County Commissioner and PTP Board Member Milton Pax and TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz address the crowd.

Dumas EDC welcomes first permanent wind industry business

Dumas looks to land its first wind related business. Anemometry Specialists, Inc., an Iowa based company has announced plans to locate a new office in Dumas, Texas. Rob Hach, Founder and President of Anemometry Specialists, has indicated growth plans that include as many as 16 new technical wind energy jobs for the community. Citing a vibrant wind industry and extensive activity in the region, the expanding business looks to staff its new office in Dumas during July.

A formal announcement about the company's business plans is being held Friday, July 10, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Business Growth & Development Center at the Dumas Economic Development Corporation where they will be located in Suite 110, 1015 North Maddox. [Click here for complete article»](#)



Breaking ground for construction of wind turbine tower fabrication plant

Construction begins in San Angelo; partnership announced

A celebratory groundbreaking ceremony was recently held in San Angelo, Texas for the construction of a wind turbine tower fabrication plant, along with an announcement that Hirschfeld Industries, a long established structural steel company in San Angelo has partnered with Martifer Energy Systems on the \$40 million investment. The joint venture company, which is now called Martifer-Hirschfeld Energy Systems LLC, will manufacture 100 wind towers a year, employing about 125 people with future long-range plans to double the capacity of the plant and possibly add other plants.

"The partnership of Hirschfeld Steel and Martifer Industries is great news for San Angelo and the entire Concho Valley," stated San Angelo City Councilman and Ports-to-Plains Board Member Dwain Morrison. "This partnership will result in creating many major manufacturing jobs and will provide tremendous economic benefits to our citizens. Thanks also to The City of San Angelo Development Corporation and the Governor's Economic Development Fund for providing incentives that were instrumental in this partnership. As good highways and railroad service are necessary for a plant of this magnitude, we appreciate the contributions of the Ports-to-Plains Coalition for their continued efforts to improve highway access to San Angelo, and the State of Texas for providing the necessary dollars for railroad repairs. This is a wonderful opportunity for San Angelo." [Click here for complete article»](#)

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Ports-to-Plains Press Room

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