



PORTS-TO-PLAINS TRADE CORRIDOR

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



Click on picture for larger view. (l-r): Ron Nicholas, Ray & Berndtson, S. A. de C. V.; Gil Cisneros, President of the Chamber of the Americas and Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors; Charlotte Farmer, City Council, San Angelo, TX; Johnny Silvas, City Council, San Angelo, TX; and Brittany Brown, Executive Director of the Chamber of the Americas Foundation

Mission: Doing Business in Mexico

"The Trade Mission meeting I recently attended in Mexico City had to be the most educational and informative meeting I have ever attended," said Charlotte Farmer, City Council member from San Angelo, TX. "My 25 years in banking, 16 years of Private Property Management and 6 years in City Government have been loaded with its share of meetings and education, however, none have compared with this power speaker and information packed conference. Great job to all those who made this happen."

The trade mission, hosted by the Chamber of the Americas (COTA) and Ports-to-Plains Alliance, held in Mexico City on November 10-12 was an intense, focused time to learn about Mexico and its economic and business relationships and opportunities. [Read more»](#)



Click on picture for larger view. (l-r): Ports-to-Plains Board Member and Union County Commissioner Justin Bennet; U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey (CO) and Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves discuss reauthorization and the effect it has on the future of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance

Focused on Success in Reauthorization

2010 will be an important year in the arena of transportation funding. The next Transportation Reauthorization bill will be the most important since ISTEA in 1991. It could change transportation policy and funding for many years ... Change that could greatly help or hinder our efforts into the future. The Alliance partners from Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor and Heartland Expressway have, since ISTEA passage, had reasonable success in obtaining federal funding for projects through both TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU as well as through the appropriation process. Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and the needs of Alberta are new to this process.

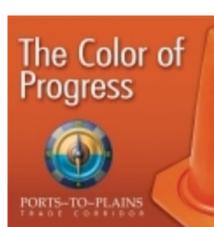
The Board of Directors has made it clear that both freight and rural supportive policies and funding are going to be important to success into the future. As a result of these overall goals, the Board of Directors has provided staff with the funding and charge to enter into the national discussion at a level far exceeding past reauthorization efforts. [Read more»](#)



Click on picture for larger view. Canadian Ambassador Gary Doer, Conoco-Phillips' Dana Sigalos, and Lockheed Martin's Ron Covais, at Ports-to-Plains/Alberta mixer at Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Nov. 3, 2009

Canadian Ambassador to U.S., former Manitoba Premier, Gary Doer hosts social hour for Ports-to-Plains Alliance at Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday evening, November 3rd, the then-Ambassador-Designate to the Embassy of Canada to the United States, Gary Doer, and Gary Mar, Minister, Alberta Office of the Embassy of Canada, welcomed a small group of Ports-to-Plains Alliance leaders and friends to the Canadian Embassy at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C., near the U.S. Capitol, for an informal reception. Mr. Doer, one of Canada's longest serving premiers and most popular politicians, was appointed Ambassador by Canadian Prime Minister Harper in September. On November 4th, the day after the Ports-to-Plains reception, President Obama accepted Mr. Doer's credentials at a ceremony at the White House, also attended by the Ambassador's family. [Read more»](#)



Ports-to-Plains Alliance is making progress!

Current Projects on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor

While staff continues to work in areas that expand the influence of the Alliance and advocate on behalf of good transportation and economic policy, it is important to note that there is a great deal on improvements to our highway infrastructure taking place. In fact, right now there are \$192.2 million in construction projects taking place in seven of our states and another \$890,000 of planning projects underway in two of our Alliance states for a total of \$193.1 million benefiting the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor.

That is worth celebrating. Also, in addition to these expansion projects, there are several more maintenance projects currently underway on the corridor. [Click here to see projects currently under construction.](#)



Best Western Lamesa Inn & Suites
Lamesa is a long-time supporter of Ports-to-Plains.

New hotel opens in Lamesa, Texas 'Location, Location, Lamesa'

"On Friday evening, October 23rd, a couple from Monahans, Texas pulled into the driveway of the new Best Western Lamesa Inn and Suites. Without any signs installed to identify the facility, the couple debated before deciding to check to see if the hotel was open.

It was, and they became the first customers of the new Best Western Lamesa Inn and Suites. Six guests stayed in the facility that first night." (Lamesa Press-Reporter, October 28, 2009)

The facility had just completed its final inspection only a few hours earlier and had received Best Western's approval to install its Best Western signage that afternoon. Today all signs have been installed and the new 56-room facility is fully operational.

The hotel offers forth-five standard rooms, eleven suites with seating areas, and six suites include a kitchenette equipped with refrigerator, sink, two-burner cooktop with hood, microwave and even a dishwasher. All of the other rooms come equipped with a mini-fridge with microwave.

An indoor pool and spa is available, with an adjacent fenced patio with tables and lounge chairs. A well-equipped fitness and business center is also available.

Located at 506 North Dallas Ave. (intersection of Business US 87 and US 180), the hotel provides a 21-person meeting room. The Bethel Room (named in honor of former Mayor Don Bethel) has internet service and will include integrated projector and display for modern and effective meetings.

Dave Bhakta, a partner with Lamesa Hospitality, LLC, expressed his gratitude to the City of Lamesa and the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation, "You couldn't ask for a better city than this," he said. "The support of the whole town had been great."

Mike Duran, Executive Director of the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation stated, "One of the biggest 'selling' points in the location of the new Best Western Lamesa Inn & Suites in Lamesa was our location and involvement with Ports-to-Plains. The Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor was one of the most important factors in Lamesa's site selection effort. In Lamesa, our mantra has always been, 'Location, Location, Lamesa' and Ports-to-Plains makes that possible."

On November 10th the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation presented its incentive payment to Lamesa Hospitality LLC in the amount of \$81,200. The incentive payment, and incentive agreement, provides a refund of \$75,000 for the land purchase and \$6,200 for easement relocation and site preparation expenses. The payment to Lamesa Hospitality was contingent on construction completion and beginning normal business operations. The City of Lamesa and the Grow Lamesa Alliance welcome this fine facility to our community.

Lamesa Hospitality, LLC is planning a Grand Opening of the Best Western Lamesa Inn and Suites on December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information you can go to the Best Western website – <http://www.bestwestern.com/>. [Click here to see article with pictures»](#)

Ports-to-Plains Staff

Michael Reeves
President
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-2338
F: 806-775-3981
michael.reeves@portstoplains.com

Joe Kiely
Vice President of Operations
PO Box 9
Limon, CO 80828
P: 303-586-1787
F: 7119-775-9073
joe.kiely@portstoplains.com

Duffy Hinkle
Vice President of Membership & Marketing
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-3373
F: 806-775-3981
duffy.hinkle@portstoplains.com

Scott Flukinger
Policy Advisor, Cross Border Affairs
Austin, TX
P: 202-550-2955
F: 202-330-5318
scott.flukinger@portstoplains.com

Debbie Stevenson
Executive Assistant
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-3369
F: 806-775-3981
debbie.stevenson@portstoplains.com

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