



PORTS-TO-PLAINS INFORMATION HIGHWAY

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Great Plains International Conference

The Great Plains International Conference is just weeks away. The effort needs your attendance. The Great Plains International Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado on September 19-21, 2007 and is presented by the Texas Department of Transportation and the Colorado Department of Transportation along with the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition. This conference is expanding the Ports-to-Plains Corridor from a critical highway infrastructure project in four states to a critical infrastructure project to the economies and energy opportunities in the Great Plains region, our nation and internationally.

The Conference committee has gathered a powerful set of speakers that will focus on three items: 1) the relationship of infrastructure investment and the economy, 2) the changing trade patterns and the impact upon the economy of Great Plains and 3) the impact of the growing energy corridor extending through the Great Plains.



Lead conference speakers include:

Ron Covais - President, Lockheed Martin Corporation Americas; James Oberstar - U.S. House of Representatives, Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (invited); Juan Jose Erazo Garcia Cano - Director of Intermodal Projects and Border Crossings, Secretariat of Communications and Transportation; Coordinator of the Joint Working Committee for U.S./Mexico Border Transportation Planning; Fred Underwood, Texas Transportation Commissioner; Clay Sell - Deputy Director/COO, U.S. Department of Energy (invited); Len Mitzel - Member of Alberta Legislative Assembly for Cypress-Medicine Hat, Canadian Chair for the Alberta-Montana Bilateral Advisory Council; Pat Woods - Past Chair Federal Energy

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Regulatory Commission and Texas Public Utilities Commission; Jack Schenendorf - Covington & Burling, LLP, Vice-Chairman of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission; Martin Weiss - National Systems & Economic Development Team Leader, Office of Interstate and Border Planning, FHWA; Eduardo Ramón Valdés - Undersecretary of Social Business, Economic Development, State of Coahuila, Mexico and Russ George - Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation.

As Michael Reeves states "The Ports-to-Plains Corridor connects the dots between our communities, but it is the coalition and the business network it serves that makes that road matter, as a driver of economic development." Throughout the Great Plains region, communities are beginning to capitalize upon their natural assets to serve dominant new roles in North America's future prosperity, energy security and economic development. The Great Plains International Conference will offer a glimpse into this exciting future.

This is the chance to show your commitment along with the commitment of your business, organization and community to this exciting vision. REGISTER TODAY. Demonstrate our commitment to this vision.

Registration materials and the latest information are available at www.regonline.com/gpic.

Community Spotlight: Abernathy, Texas

The City of Abernathy, Texas is a great example of how success from one city along the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor can trickle-down and affects another city in a positive light. Last year, the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance announced that a business park would be opening in Lubbock. The new business park, which is preparing to be developed, is a 548-acre site located south of Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport off Interstate 27. Abernathy, which is located less than 10 minutes away, started making plans to benefit from the industrial park soon after its announcement. "We have a great opportunity for growth," said Abernathy City Manager Michael Cypert, "and the city has quickly responded to capitalize off of our proximity to the industrial park."



Abernathy High School, Abernathy, Texas

Abernathy, located in both Hale and Lubbock County along Interstate-27, has a population close to 3,000.

One of the major changes to Abernathy has been a recent boom in housing development, spurred both by the development of the industrial park as well as the growth of Lubbock. "We have been promoting Abernathy as a small town with all the conveniences of a large city," said Cypert. Abernathy advertises its location being less than 15 minutes from downtown Lubbock, while still maintaining the look and feel of a small rural community. New housing can be beneficial for the new industrial park, as residents in the town are closer than those who might live in south Lubbock. Abernathy is also looking into television advertising to promote the city's qualities.

With new job opportunities and residents coming to Abernathy, the city is planning on new businesses springing up to accompany the city's growth. "We are already preparing for the upcoming growth to our city," said Cypert.

Bridge Collapse Draws Attention To Growing Crisis

The tragic collapse of an Interstate 35 bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis focused national attention on our nation's deteriorating infrastructure and the need for massive investment to repair and maintain the system. Then there is the expensive proposition of adding capacity to our highway system to meet the demands of a growing population and increased freight movement.

News of the transportation funding crisis is nothing new to those of us who follow transportation regularly. Unfortunately many Americans simply take our highways for granted.

"It is unfortunate that it took such a tragic event for people to realize that we are facing a true crisis in transportation funding," said Ports to Plains President Michael Reeves. "Hopefully this will spur meaningful discussions and we will see public support grow for much needed investment in our transportation infrastructure."

The current federal transportation authorization bill (SAFETEA-LU) expires in two years. Unfortunately, revenues are not meeting budget projections. The result has been rescissions in federal funding that are forcing state departments of transportation to cut projects that were scheduled for construction.

Over the last year and a half, Congress has enacted four rescissions that have cost TxDOT alone \$666 million. Furthermore, the House of Representatives called for an additional \$3 billion in nationwide rescissions in the transportation appropriations bill passed in July. At the state level that means an additional \$259 million in TxDOT projects will not be built. Some independent revenue projections show that even bigger rescissions will be needed in the next two years.

To put that into perspective, the \$3 billion cut from transportation appropriations this year would be more than enough to complete the Ports to Plains Corridor.

Fortunately transportation leaders have seen the looming transportation crisis building for some time and have been taking steps to remedy the situation and Ports to Plains is actively involved. SAFETEA-LU created a federal commission to examine the best funding options. Ports-to-Plains Washington Consultant Jack Schenendorf is the vice chairman of that committee. At the state level, PTP Vice President Joe Kiely sits on a blue ribbon committee in Colorado that is looking at new transportation funding options for the state.

Texas has been very proactive in seeking new innovative solutions to meet our growing transportation demands. TxDOT has sought new streams of revenue, including public private partnerships and new bonding programs that have infused new money into the system. The new financing plans created some controversy, including some rather contentious debate in the last state legislative session this year.

"I believe the debate on transportation finance that we saw in the Texas legislature this year is a preview of a bigger debate that we will have at the federal level in two years when SAFETEA-LU is up for reauthorization," said Reeves.



Simmons Named TxDOT Interim Executive Director

Steve Simmons was named interim executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation by the Texas Transportation Commission. Simmons has served as TxDOT's deputy executive director since 2001.

Commissioners interviewed candidates for the position during their August 29th meeting and will likely name the new executive director in the coming weeks.



Featuring members & friends of:



Securing the Benefits of Trade to North America's Heartland

Register Now

GREAT PLAINS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado , September 19-21, 2007

WHO WE ARE

Hundreds of elected and government officials, business leaders, communities and citizens from nine Midwestern states, acting together to bring the benefits of trade home to the Great Plains region, North America's energy and agricultural heartland.

LEARN - PARTICIPATE - JOIN

The Great Plains International Conference

The first annual meeting gathering supporters and friends of the three corridors that make up the Great Plains Trade Corridor: Ports -to-Plains; Heartland Expressway; and Theodore Roosevelt Ex pressway.

Join us and join in our success

OUR ASSETS

- **Three Congressionally-designated, north-south High Priority Corridors**, comprising 2333 miles of highway, 14% of total U.S. GDP (\$1.7 trillion), and 38.5 million citizens.
- **A major U.S. trading region** generating \$166.7 billion in trade with Canada and Mexico, nearly 20% of total U.S.-NAFTA trade.
- **A powerful and effective U.S. Congressional Caucus**; together, we have secured over \$270 million to develop, build and improve the Corridor in all 9 Coalition states.
- **6 major cross-border ports** to Canada & Mexico, including NAFTA's #2 and #15 busiest crossings (Laredo-Nuevo Laredo & Sweetgrass -Coutts).
- **7 of the top 10 U.S. states for installed and potential wind energy**, generating over 5185MW, nearly 45% of the U.S. total.
- **North America's agricultural heartland**, producing \$44.3 billion of agricultural goods, or 22.1% of the U.S. total; 6 of the top 10 farm states.
- **Nearly 25% of U.S. ethanol refining capacity**, with 33 existing refineries and more underway.



LEARN MORE @ www.portstoplains.com

REGISTER @ www.regonline.com/gpic

Ports-to-Plains Investors in Progress

Municipal Investors	County Government Investors
<p>City of Abernathy - TX City of Amarillo - TX City of Big Spring - TX City of Boise City - OK Town of Clayton - NM City of Del Rio - TX City of Dumas - TX Town of Eads - CO City of Hale Center - TX City of Happy - TX City of Lamar - CO City of Lamesa - TX Town of Limon - CO City of Lubbock - TX City of New Deal - TX City of Plainview - TX City of Raton - NM City of San Angelo - TX Town of Springfield - CO City of Stratford - TX City of Sonora - TX City of Tahoka - TX City of Tulia - TX</p>	<p>Cheyenne County - CO Cimarron County - OK Colfax County - NM Elbert County - CO Hale County - TX Howard County - TX Kiowa County - CO Lincoln County - CO Lubbock County - TX Maverick County - TX Moore County - TX Prowers County - CO Sherman County - TX Sterling County - TX Sutton County - TX Tom Green County - TX Union County - NM Val Verde County - TX</p>
Economic Development Corp. Investors	Chamber of Commerce Investors
<p>Amarillo Economic Development Corporation - TX Adams County Economic Development - CO Canyon Economic Development Corp. - TX Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. - CO Dumas Economic Development Corporation - TX Lamesa Economic Development Corporation - TX Laredo Development Foundation - TX Lincoln County Economic Development - CO Lubbock Economic Development Alliance - TX Maverick County Development Corporation - TX Moore Development for Big Spring - TX Plainview/Hale County Industrial Foundation Inc - TX Sonora Industrial Development - TX I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership - CO</p>	<p>Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce - TX Chamber of the Americas Cimarron County Chamber of Commerce - OK Dalhart Chamber of Commerce - TX Dumas/Moore County Chamber of Commerce - TX Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce - TX Lamesa Chamber of Commerce - TX Lubbock Chamber of Commerce - TX San Angelo Chamber of Commerce - TX Stratford Chamber of Commerce - TX Sonora Chamber of Commerce - TX</p>
Other Investors	Conference Investors
<p>Amarillo College - TX Central 57 Importers & Exporters, Inc - TX Colorado Motor Carriers Association - CO Ehler & Hettler, LLP - TX Lubbock Christian University - TX Panhandle Regional Planning Commission - TX Plainview Convention & Visitors Bureau - TX South Plains Association of Governments - TX Texas Tech University - TX TransPort - CO Wayland Baptist University - TX West Texas A&M University - TX</p>	<p>Del Rio Economic Dev. Corp. and City of Acuña Além International Management, Inc. Aquila The Bank & Trust City and County of Denver Colorado Asphalt Paving Association Colorado Contractors Association Colorado Office of Economic Development/Eastern Colorado Colorado Motor Carriers Association DMJM+HARRIS Dumas Economic Development Corporation Hugo Reed & Associates, Inc. Laredo Development Foundation Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. Panhandle Area Development District Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. Pate Engineers, Inc./Pate Transportation Partners Peoples Bank Reece Albert, Inc. State National Bank Stratford Grain Company Texas Good Roads Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Turner Collie & Braden Valero Energy Xcel Energy - Colorado Region Xcel Energy - Texas Region</p>