

# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition ■ Heartland Expressway Association ■ Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association

## **Ports-to-Plains Alliance Quarterly Report to Membership October, 2018**

### **Accomplishments in 3rd Quarter 2018**

- **Welcome Hance Scarborough LLP**
  - Hance Scarborough LLP is providing public policy consulting and governmental relations representation to Ports-to-Plains on policy issues and regulatory matters before the Texas Legislature, state administrative and regulatory agencies. Hance Scarborough's team is led by Cheri Huddleston.
  
- **Interstate 27 Expansion**
  - Covington & Burling LLP, Jack Schenendorf, created a memo on Designations of Future Interstate Corridors which provided an overview of the federal process, including an Administrative Path and a Congressional Path.
  - Ports-to-Plains staff, Covington & Burling LLP and Hance Scarborough LLP participated in a conference call to discuss a strategy to move forward on a designation of Interstate 27 between Lubbock and Laredo. All parties agreed to coordinate together on developing a strategy for presentation to the Board of Directors at their October 30th meeting. Jack Schenendorf agreed to provide a draft strategy for review for this group by October 17, 2018 to provide adequate time to finalize before the October 30th Board of Directors Meeting.
  
- **Colorado Opportunities**
  - The Ports-to-Plains Corridor (U.S. 287 between the Oklahoma/Colorado state line and Limon) was awarded by the Colorado Transportation Commission \$9 million in National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) to add additional passing lanes at two locations along the concrete, Super-2 Corridor. Colorado receives about \$17 million annually from the NHFP
  - Proposition 110 was successfully initiated on the November 6, Colorado Statewide election
    - State Sales Tax Rate would be raised 0.62% or 6 cents on 10 dollars of retail sales with an estimated New Revenue of \$767 million
    - This isn't a permanent tax - there is a 20-year sunset. It would require another vote to continue or to do something different in terms of taxes
    - Enables CDOT to bond \$6 billion for completion of 107 projects statewide

- Ports-to-Plains and Heartland Expressway benefits:
    - US 287: Lamar Reliever Route (Ports-to-Plains) -- \$211 million
    - Colorado Highway 71 Expansion (Heartland Expressway) -- \$40 million
    - I-76: Fort Morgan to Brush: Phase 4 (Heartland Expressway) -- \$41.2 million
    - I-76: Fort Morgan to Brush Phase 5 (Heartland Expressway) -- \$65 million
- **Heartland Expressway**
  - The Association hosted its annual meeting in Scottsbluff, NE on August 16. Association members heard from guest speakers Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Nebraska Department of Transportation Director Kyle Schneweis.
  - The U.S. 385 -Four Lane Expansion, Alliance South Phase I Project is nearing completion with an expected ribbon cutting in October, 2018. The project is expanding the existing two-lane segment of the Heartland Expressway for 12-miles at a cost of \$35.7 million.
- **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Improvements**
  - U.S. 85 from Watford City N.D. to I-94 at Belfield N.D. for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
    - The EIS covers a 62-mile segment of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway with an estimated cost of \$500 million
    - The public meetings and comment period have ended and it is expected that the EIS will be completed in November/December 2018.
  - Long X Bridge
    - This project is a portion of the segment being addressed by the EIS.
    - The North Dakota Department of Transportation included \$50 million in its 2018-2021 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for this project.
  - Oversize/Overweight Permitted Loads

Year	U.S. 2 4-lane	U.S. 83 4-lane	I-29 4-lane	I-94 4-lane	U.S. 52 4-lane	U.S. 85 2-lane
2014		22,128	32,300			78,367
2015		15,438	25,460			57,637
2016		13,378	25,068			44,484
2017		11,452	25,332		15,664	45,540
2018 (Sept)	41,463	9,795	19,245	36,214	12,663	38,095

For the latest information on Ports-to-Plains Alliance see:

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