

PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

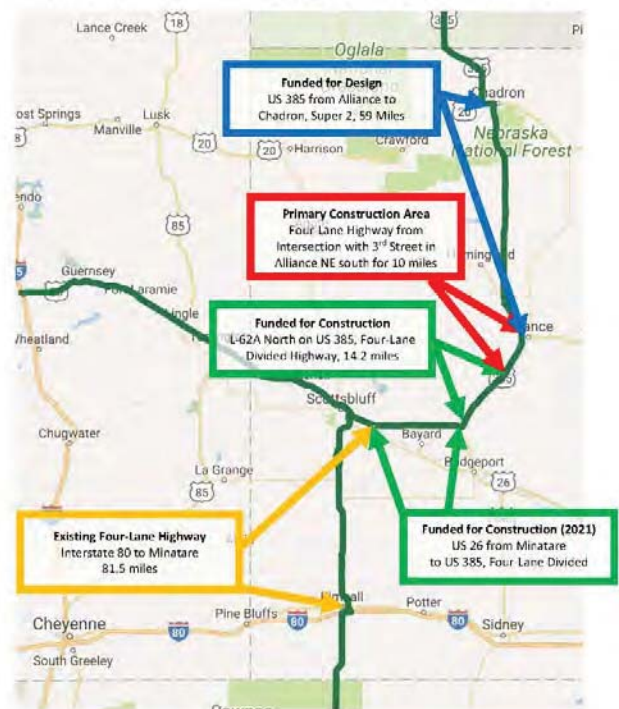
Ports-to-Plains Alliance Quarterly Report to Membership July, 2018

Accomplishments in 2nd Quarter 2018

- **Federal INFRA Grant Awarded to Heartland Expressway Expansion Project**

- The Nebraska Department of Transportation has been selected as the recipient for an \$18.3 million federal grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA).
- Currently, the first ten miles south of Alliance of the four-lane expansion project on U.S. 385 between Alliance and L-62A is nearing completion and this grant funding will be dedicated to the next segment south to L-62A. That leg of the project is expected to be completed by 2020. Following the completion of that leg, the next step will be construction on the stretch between Minatare and Angora Hill, which is projected to begin in 2024.
- In the Alliance's meeting with USDOT staff in April during the Washington DC Fly-in, this project was an example that while not having the ability to attract private financing, it was still a critical rural project. The Alliance is pleased that the Administration chose this project for funding and thanks the Nebraska Congressional Delegation for supporting this project. Senator Deb Fischer specifically mentioned the Heartland Expressway in several meetings that included Secretary Chao. Finally, the Alliance thanks the Nebraska Department of Transportation for submitting it.

Nebraska Heartland Expressway Corridor Status



- **Interstate 27 Expansion**

- An initial draft of Talking Points was developed addressing estimated costs; conclusions of the Initial Assessment Report: Extension of I-27/Ports to Plains Corridor, TXDOT, November 2015 and the Texas Freight Mobility Plan, TxDOT, November 2, 2017; rural fatality rates; cost of traffic congestion along Interstate 35; and truck border crossings.
 - This will be considered a living document that will be continually updated with the latest available information. The current Talking Points for the Extension of I-27/Ports to Plains Corridor are available at:
https://portstoplains.com/images/talking_points_expansion_of_i27_ptp_v1.pdf

- **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Improvements**

- U.S. 85 from Watford City N.D. to I-94 at Belfield N.D. for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - The Draft 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 this fall.
- 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.

- **Historical Construction Expansion Projects Mapping**

Staff created maps showing the historical progress of the construction expansion projects across the entire Alliance Corridor. Texas mapping is divided by TXDOT Districts. These maps are available at: https://portstoplains.com/images/2018_historical_construction_expansion_projects_complete.pdf

The total federal and state investment across the nine-state corridor is \$3.6 billion.

Upcoming Activities

- **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

- Fall, 2018 – Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association Update and Annual Meeting, TBD
- October 30 - November 1, 2018 - Ports-to-Plains Annual Conference, Del Rio, TX / Acuña, Coah.



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

Ports-to-Plains News Lane (bi-weekly email) • www.portstoplains.com • www.ptpblog.com • *Facebook*