



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: McKenna Dowdle, 806-723-8232

US Representatives Arrington and Cuellar File HR 7151 to Designate Future Extension of I-27 adding \$55.6B to the Texas GDP

(LUBBOCK) – As a result of the Interstate Feasibility Study conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), U.S. Representatives Jodey Arrington and Henry Cuellar filed HR 7151 to designate the future extension of Interstate-27.

“I’m very proud to be working across the aisle with my good friend and colleague, Rep. Henry Cuellar, on this important legislation,” said U.S. Representative Jodey Arrington (TX-19). “With a stronger farm bill, a new and improved trade deal with Canada and Mexico, and one of the largest energy basins’ in the world - establishing a four-lane, federal highway from West Texas through the Heartland is critical to enhancing America’s agriculture and energy dominance. However you want to measure it - new jobs, economic growth, reductions in traffic and accidents - the return on investment for the Ports-to-Plains highway project is tremendous, not only for Texas, but for the entire country.”

The findings of the study concluded the extension could increase Texas’ gross domestic product (GDP) by \$55.6 billion, add 17,710 new jobs, decrease crash rate by 21% and save \$450 million in safety improvements. Using the GDP increase, the estimated return on investment for the extension is 76%.

Within the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, the travel cost savings are estimated by TxDOT to be \$3.4 billion annually. Travel cost savings include vehicle operation, personal time and reliability, shipper logistics, and business time and reliability. Additionally, the interstate upgrade reduces average end-to-end travel times across the corridor, saving 89 minutes. These savings provide businesses along the corridor improved access to the international markets and a wider range of customers within one day by truck distance.

“As the representative for the country’s busiest port of entry, I understand the importance of federal investments in transportation infrastructure, which support cross-border trade,” said U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28). “The I-27 corridor extension will benefit South Texas businesses and strengthen the U.S. economy by establishing new trade routes for agriculture and energy industries. I am committed to investing in our country’s infrastructure to better facilitate international trade and reap the full economic benefits of the USMCA. I want to thank Representatives Arrington, Lujan, Granger, and Thornberry for their support on this initiative.”

Ports-to-Plains Alliance

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 200 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at <http://www.portstoplains.com/>.

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TXDOT IMPACT FINDINGS FOR INTERSTATE 27 DESIGNATION

76% RETURN ON INVESTMENT

BENEFITS IN THE FIRST 20 YEARS

\$55.6 BILLION
GAINED IN TEXAS GDP

\$690 MILLION PER YEAR IN TEXAS TRAVEL COST SAVINGS OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR

\$3.4 BILLION ANNUAL CORRIDOR TRAVEL COST SAVINGS

Savings include personal and business travel time and reliability, costs to logistics/shipping companies, and reduction in vehicle operating costs.

2.4 BENEFIT-COST RATIO → ANYTHING OVER 1 IS CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT, WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT.

21% DECREASE IN CRASH RATE = **\$450 MILLION** IN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

17,710 JOB INCREASE IN THE CORRIDOR

EXPANSION OF REGIONAL TRUCK DELIVERY MARKET
REDUCTION IN TRAVEL TIME
+ EXPANDED MARKET =
EFFICIENT EXCHANGE OF GOODS

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

178,600 CONSTRUCTION JOBS **\$17.2 BILLION** GAINED IN TEXAS GDP

72 ENTITIES REPRESENTING NEARLY ONE MILLION TEXANS ENDORSE THE INTERSTATE DESIGNATION.



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Press Release Quotes | The Ports-to-Plains Highway Act of 2020

Members of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington:

“I’m very proud to be working across the aisle with my good friend and colleague, Rep. Henry Cuellar, on this important legislation,” said U.S. Representative Jodey Arrington (TX-19). “With a stronger farm bill, a new and improved trade deal with Canada and Mexico, and one of the largest energy basins’ in the world - establishing a four-lane, federal highway from West Texas through the Heartland is critical to enhancing America’s agriculture and energy dominance. However you want to measure it - new jobs, economic growth, reductions in traffic and accidents - the return on investment for the Ports-to-Plains highway project is tremendous, not only for Texas, but for the entire country.”

Mac Thornberry

“Texas is a primary hub of transportation for the country, and the continued development of the Ports to Plains Corridor will provide more critical infrastructure in our community. By extending I-27, we will boost our economy, improve supply chains, and bring more Americans safely across the state. This important infrastructure will play a great role in supporting district 13, and our nation.”

Henry Cuellar

“As the representative for the country’s busiest port of entry, I understand the importance of federal investments in transportation infrastructure, which support cross-border trade,” said U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28). “The I-27 corridor extension will benefit South Texas businesses and strengthen the U.S. economy by establishing new trade routes for agriculture and energy industries. I am committed to investing in our country’s infrastructure to better facilitate international trade and reap the full economic benefits of the USMCA. I want to thank Representatives Arrington, Lujan, Granger, and Thornberry for their support on this initiative.”

Local Stakeholders & Officials

Charles Perry, Texas State Senator (District 28)

"I want to thank Congressman Jodey Arrington for being a great federal partner to help further the expansion of the I-27 corridor. The legislation he is filling to federally designate the corridor is the next step in the process to expand markets for the Texas energy and agriculture industries. When built, the corridor will bring thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity to our state. The United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement makes this corridor an even more necessary part of an overall trade policy plan for generations to come."

Four Price, Texas State Representative (District 87)

"Texas' agricultural and energy commodities producing food, fiber and fuel products are vital to our country's economy and national security. That is why I applaud Congressman Arrington on his introducing federal legislation to expand I-27 from Laredo through the Panhandle to Canada. Currently, stakeholders throughout these regions of Texas are meeting and voicing support for making the Ports-to-Plains Corridor a reality," stated State Representative Four Price.

Ginger Nelson, Mayor, City of Amarillo

"Building our infrastructure to provide stable supply routes for American's needs and products is very important. Amarillo has invested in the expansion of I-27 for over 20 years. The need is more important than ever."

Coby Beckner, Mayor Pro-tem, Town of Clayton, NM

"The designation of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as a Future Addition to the Interstate System is a big deal! It's a big deal for all those impacted by such a monumental decision at the national, state and local levels. The designation would open new routes to free up travel from areas of urban congestion and provide safer routes into the more rural communities expanding potential economic development.

The designation would open new doors of opportunity. It would provide options. It would allow for a more fluid flow of commerce. At the state and local level, the designation could contribute to another motel, another restaurant, another truck stop, another retail store... all of which impact GRT's, Lodger's Tax, jobs, morale, safety, and community expansion. It's exciting!

Big thanks to all those who are making this happen. It would be a game changer for Clayton, Union County and the entire state of New Mexico."

Bruno Lozano, Mayor, City of Del Rio, TX:

“Del Rio and Eagle Pass, Texas are the only two southern border crossings that are not connected to an interstate. The interstate designation is important as interstate systems facilitate economic growth. This legislation will provide more efficient international trade between the U.S. and Mexico.”

Pete Saenz, Mayor, City of Laredo

“Laredo is the largest inland port, and the second largest port in the country overall. International trade is what keeps everyday goods like food, clothing, appliances, cars and technology affordable for American families. The Ports-to-Plains Corridor will open up new trade routes along with new business opportunities for many communities. This will be a blessing for Texas and our trading partners. I especially want to thank Reps. Jodey Arrington (TX), Henry Cuellar (TX), Ben Lujan (NM) and Mac Thornberry (TX) for their help to push this bill forward.”

Dan Pope, Mayor, City of Lubbock, TX:

“Interstate 27 is a critical part of the future of West and South Texas. I-27 will connect Mexico and Laredo, North America’s busiest inland port, with the oil and gas, agriculture and food production centers in the Permian Basin, South Plains and Panhandle of Texas. I-27 will connect Texas with the Midwest and Western US allowing for better movement of goods and resources while also leveraging USMCA.

Texas is poised to nearly double in population by 2050, I-27 will provide a critically-needed second north-south interstate to help fund a Texas economy that is the 10th largest economy in the world.”

Brenda Gunter, Mayor, City of San Angelo:

“The west Texas economy is a driving force behind the Texas economy. It is also a major driver of our nation’s economy and impacts international economies as well.

The west Texas economy, driven by the food, fuel and fiber that it produces must have the ability to get to market products efficiently and economically as possible. Transportation options are key. Connectivity to Mexico and Canada is important due to the Laredo port bringing one of the nation’s largest ports. We cannot maximize the existing and potential new economic opportunities without strong transportation options.

Transportation is economic development and is key to our national security.”

Steve Smith, County Judge, Sutton County:

"The designation of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor as a future interstate will bring not only safety to Sonora and Sutton County, but will enable the new development of much needed commerce to all of West Texas. I also believe that the eventual interstate will provide a form of security for our Nation's businesses."

Tano Tijerina, County Judge, Webb County:

"Given Webb County's strategic location it is extremely important to Webb County to see Segment 3 fully developed so that there is safety, redundancy in the highway system and the ever-expanding transportation needs of international trade, the oil and gas industry and agriculture are met."

Kent Hance, Former U.S. Congressman and Chancellor Emeritus of Texas Tech University System:

"This is good for West Texas, but it's just as good for the entire state."

John Osborne, Chairman, Ports-to-Plains Alliance, President/CEO, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance:

"The findings from TxDOT's feasibility study further solidify the need for this extension," said John Osborne, chairman for the Ports-to-Plains Alliance. "The enormous benefits for Texas' economy and the safety of our travelers leave no question as to whether or not the extension is needed."

Cathy Shull, Member of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, Board of Directors & Executive Director, Pro 15, Colorado:

"This legislation is the first step in long-range planning to benefit the economy of rural eastern Colorado and provide an alternative to the congestion on I-25."



Figure 1.1: Ports-to-Plains Corridor