
Bringing Visionaries Together

13th Annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Annual Conference

Thursday-Friday, September 8-10, 2010

Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, South Dakota

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 5:00** **Transportation to Mt. Rushmore Leaves Hotel**
- 6:00** **Reception at Mount Rushmore**
- 7:00** **Opening Session and Dinner at Mt. Rushmore**
- Welcome by John Bertsch, Chairman of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance
 - **Opening Keynote: Transportation Reauthorization and Rural Communities**
 - Kathy Ruffalo, Governmental Relations Consultant, Rural Transportation Issues, National Organization of Development Organizations
- 9:00** **Transportation Leaves to Return to Holiday Inn (Following Lighting of Monument)**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 7:30** **Breakfast**
- Welcome by Alan Hanks, Mayor of Rapid City
 - **Day 2 Keynote**
 - Trent Loos, a sixth generation United States farmer with a passion for the rural lifestyle
- 9:30** **Visionaries: Agriculture**
- **Agriculture on the Forefront**
 - Kelsey Pope, Agriculture Promotion Coordinator, Nebraska Corn Board
 - **Agricultural Transportation**
 - Len Mitzel, Member of Legislative Assembly, Alberta, Canada and Board Member, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
- 10:30** **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 11:30** **Visionaries: Trade Opportunities**
- **Alberta, Canada ... Energy But More**
 - Caroline Grover, Executive Director, Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta, Canada
 - **The Mexico Markets**
 - Carlos Roman Cepeda, Representative of the Office of Economic Promotion in Mexico City, State of Coahuila, Mexico
 - Lic. Carlos Vinicio Arredondo Ramos, Strategic Projects, Secretariat of Sustainable Development, State of Querétaro, Mexico

12:30 LUNCH

Keynote Speaker: Professor Moreira Valdés , Governor of the State of Coahuila

Visionaries: Mile by Mile ... Color of Progress

- **Ports-to-Plains Corridor**
 - Duffy Hinkle, Vice President of Membership & Marketing, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
- **Heartland Expressway**
 - John Hoehne, Communications Director, Heartland Expressway Association
- **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway**
 - Cal Klewin, Executive Director, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association
- **Eastern Alberta Corridor**
 - Bud James, Chairman, Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED), Killam, AB

2:00 Visionaries: Cooperation ... Higher Education

- **Texas Tech University**
 - Phil Nash, Director of the Texas Tech Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Transportation (TechMRT), Lubbock, TX
- **Black Hills State University**
 - Dr. Kay Schallenkamp, University President
- **Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University**
 - Alan Dybing, Manager, Administrative Services, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University

3:00 NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 Visionaries: Attracting Visitors

- **Attractions ... The Black Hills**
 - Nort Johnson, Vice President of Marketing, Black Hills Badlands & Lakes Association
- **Branding: the Alberta Experience**
 - Len Mitzel, Member of Legislative Assembly, Alberta, Canada and Board Member, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
- **Selling The Alliance and Your Local Community**
 - Ngy Ea, President, AIT Consulting, Atlanta, Georgia

5:30 Transportation to Deadwood Leaves Holiday Inn

- Sponsor by Deadwood Gulch Resort, Deadwood, SD

Deadwood for Evening

- Bus will drop off at Deadwood Gulch Resort and dinner will be available at a 20% discount.
- Participants are free to move about Deadwood

10:00 Transportation Leaves Deadwood Gulch Resort to return to Holiday Inn in Rapid City

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:30 Breakfast

- **The Bakken**
 - Brad Bekkedahl, City Commissioner of the City of Williston, ND, Past President of the North Dakota Oil and Gas Producing Counties, Ports-to-Plains Alliance Board of Directors

9:00 Visionaries: Energy Panel

- **Energy Outlook for the Ports-to-Plains Region**
 - Beth Jensen, Director of Government Relations for TransCanada Corporation
- **Energy Legislation and the Economy**
 - Michael Whatley, Vice President at Consumer Energy Alliance, Partner at HBW Resources, Partner at Patriot Renewable Energy
- **Renewable Energy Outlook**
 - Mike Fladeland, Manager of Energy Business Development, North Dakota Department of Commerce

10:30 Visionaries: Shaping Transportation Reauthorization

- **From a State Department of Transportation Perspective**
 - Coby Chase, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Texas Department of Transportation
- **Alliance Reauthorization Recommendations ... The Basics**
 - Joe Kiely, Vice President of Operations, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
- **Sharing the Message in your Local Community ... New Tools**
 - Michael Reeves, President, Ports-to-Plains Alliance

12:00 CLOSE

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN IN THE BLACK HILLS FOR WEEKEND
Conference rate to be available for weekend.