



# CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY: BRIDGING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ports-to-Plains Conference



# Rural Transportation System

Texas' Rural Highway System represents the most extensive portion of Texas' transportation network:

- 83% of Total Highway System Mileage with over 66,000 Centerline Miles
- 57% of Total Highway System Truck Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT), with over 35,000,000 Total Rural System Truck VMT
- 61% of Total On-System Bridges with over 21,600 structures
- Since 2009 our rural system has experienced the highest rate of both total and truck traffic growth of our state highway system



# Rural Transportation System

- Over the most recent three years of data, the rate of traffic and truck growth on rural highways has exceeded the growth in urban areas.
  - Total Traffic
    - 4.8% Increase (Rural)
    - 1.9% Increase (Urban)
  - Truck Traffic
    - 7.4% Increase (Rural)
    - 1.5% Increase (Urban)

	Rural On System Highways	Urban On System Highways	Total On System Highways
<b>Total Miles</b>			
2009	66,170	13,734	79,903
2012	66,262	14,006	80,268
% Increase	0.1%	2.0%	0.5%
<b>Total Lane Miles</b>			
2009	147,371	45,996	193,366
2012	148,026	46,995	195,022
% Increase	0.4%	2.2%	0.9%
<b>Total Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel</b>			
2009	167,940,273	297,680,472	465,620,745
2012	176,067,741	303,446,401	479,514,142
% Increase	4.8%	1.9%	3.0%
<b>Truck Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel</b>			
2009	32,612,415	26,412,772	59,025,187
2012	35,028,274	26,798,329	61,826,603
% Increase	7.4%	1.5%	4.7%
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>			
2009	1069	964	2033
2012	1202	1044	2246
% Increase	12.4%	8.3%	10.5%

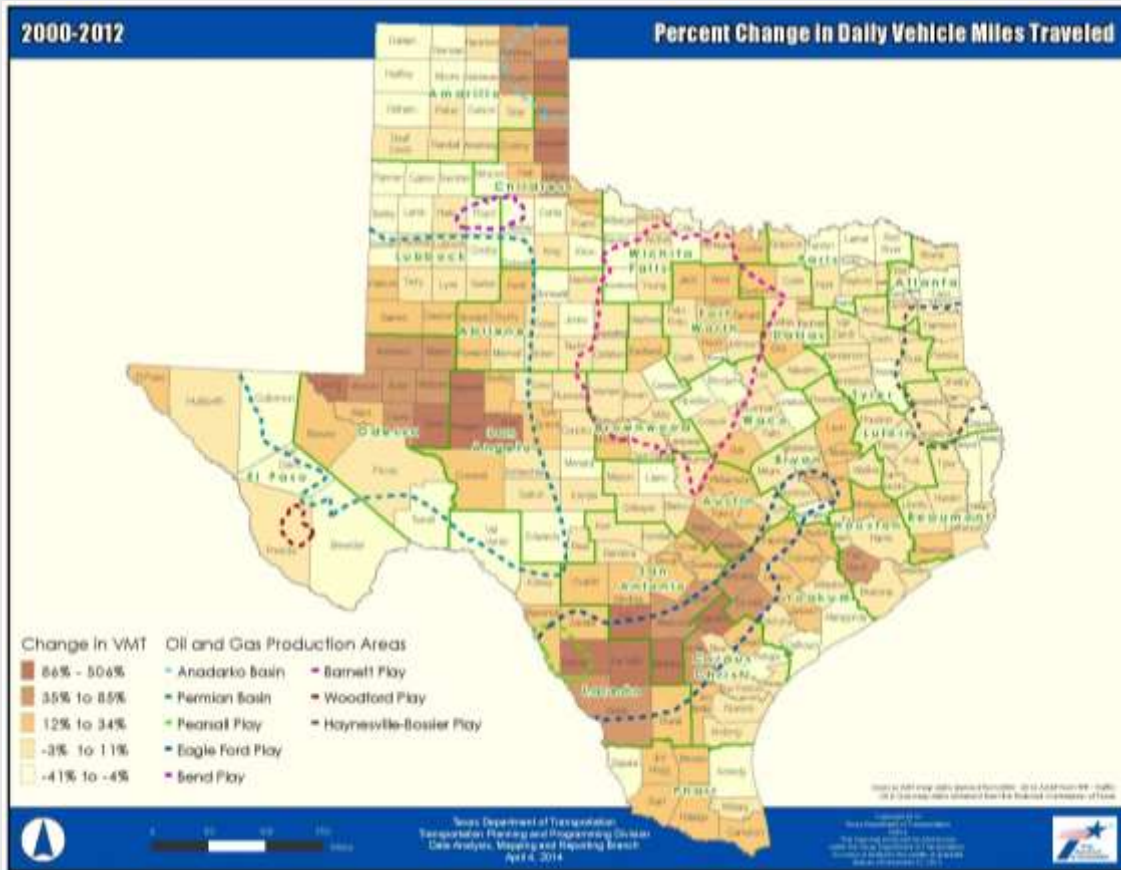
**Notes:**

*OnSystem Routes are designated as Rural and Urban based on Functional Classification*

*Fatal Crash totals do not represent total fatalities*

*Sources: Year-End 2009 and 2012 On-System Roadway Inventory files, TPP; CRIS*

# Rural Transportation System



- Growth in rural highway travel has been driven by increased truck traffic
- Shading on the map illustrates darker counties having the largest increase in rate of traffic growth
- Up to 506% increase in vehicle miles of travel in energy counties of Texas

# Construction Underway – Ports-to-Plains Let Projects



Infusion of Proposition 12 bonds and cooperative partnerships between TxDOT Districts led to significant progress along the Ports to Plains Corridor.

An additional 106 miles of 4-lane and 192 miles of Super 2 are complete or under construction and include the following:

- ✓ Super 2 between Hartley and Dumas on US 87 is nearing completion
- ✓ Southeast portion of Loop 335 in Amarillo is under construction
- ✓ Frontage road conversion project on I-27 in Plainview is nearing completion
- ✓ Woodrow Road interchange on US 87 south of Lubbock is under construction
- ✓ All of SH 349 between Midland and Lamesa is under construction as 4-lane undivided
- ✓ SH 158 from Sterling City to Midland county line is under construction as 4-lane undivided
- ✓ The southwest portion of the US 87 Big Spring Relief Route is under construction
- ✓ US 277 has been upgraded to Super 2 from San Angelo to Sonora
- ✓ US 277 and US 83 has been upgraded to Super 2 from Eagle Pass to Laredo

# Construction Underway – Ports-to-Plains Planned Projects



Continue to move projects forward through use of State and Federal funds on several projects to address safety issues and maintain the system.

The Texas Transportation Commission recently funded three significant projects:

- ✓ US 87 underpass upgrade in Dalhart – Will lower the roadway to improve bridge clearance (\$10.5M)
- ✓ Lamesa Southern Cross Connector – Will relieve downtown congestion and provide improved corridor connectivity (\$22M)
- ✓ US 87 Big Spring Northwest Bypass – Will relieve downtown congestion and provide improved corridor connectivity (\$68.3M)

# Construction Underway – Ports-to-Plains Energy Sector Needs



- ✓ Since 2012, TxDOT has undertaken multiple initiatives to address energy sector safety, maintenance and operations needs within energy impacted districts along the Ports to Plains corridor.
- ✓ In 2014, TxDOT advanced approximately \$200M of energy sector related projects in the Abilene, Amarillo, Laredo, Lubbock, Odessa and San Angelo districts.
- ✓ Through the OneDOT initiatives, surrounding TxDOT districts are supporting the Odessa and San Angelo districts in critical energy related maintenance activities.

# Construction Underway – Ports-to-Plains Future Projects/Activities



Significant progress has been made, but there are some gaps to be filled:

- ✓ The only rural portion of the Ports to Plains corridor remaining as 2-lane gap is US 277 from Sonora to Eagle Pass
- ✓ Future work will include local relief routes in Amarillo, Lamesa, Midland, and San Angelo
- ✓ The total estimated cost to complete all of these projects is approximately \$425.9 million as shown below:

Super 2 from Sonora to Eagle Pass (LRD)	\$89.4 million
Southwest portion Loop 335 in Amarillo (AMA)	\$138 million
Lamesa Relief Route (LBB)	\$68 million
Midland Relief Route (ODA)	\$100 million
Remainder of Loop 306 in San Angelo (SJT)	\$30 million



# Transportation Funding Ballot Proposition

- Texas voters will vote on a proposed amendment on Nov. 4, 2014. The ballot proposition will read:

The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads.
- Current estimates by the Texas Comptroller indicates that approximately \$1.7 billion could be allocated through Proposition 1 in FY 15.
- If Proposition 1 is passed, the funds when appropriated “must be used and allocated throughout the state by the Texas Department of Transportation consistent with existing formulas adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission.”
  - HB1, Third Called Session, 83rd Legislature

# Proposition 1 Stakeholder Committee

*Committee members include a cross-section of stakeholders from various regions of the state who could consider the legislative direction, local and regional needs, and opportunities for effective use of potential funding through Proposition 1.*

- Judge Mike Bradford, Midland County
- Judge Carlos Cascos, Cameron County
- Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County
- Mr. John Esparza, Texas Trucking Association
- Judge Woody Gossom, Wichita County
- Commissioner Judy Hawley, I-69/Port of Corpus Christi
- Mr. John W. Johnson, Former Transportation Commissioner and Chair of Committee
- Councilmember Jungus Jordan, Fort Worth
- Mr. Michael Morris, NCTCOG
- Judge Keith Self, Collin County

# Key Recommendations

The Proposition 1 Stakeholder Committee recognizes that the Texas Transportation Commission is best able to adequately determine the suitability of specific funding distributions. Therefore, the committee has focused on overall strategic guidance:

- Ensure that program administration of Proposition 1 funding aligns with legislative direction and guiding principles.
- Respond to previously identified additional need of \$5 billion per year for transportation statewide.
- Address transportation needs related to growing production activity in Texas' energy sector.
- Focus investments on transportation system needs strategically, being responsive to growth and supportive of the state's current and future economic activities.
- Provide flexibility to allow for TxDOT to leverage cooperation and partnerships with MPOs and local communities to address both congestion and connectivity objectives.

# Planning for Future Opportunities – Ports-to-Plains



TxDOT recognizes the need to continue and actually increase our planning efforts for the corridor. This will include:

- ✓ Engaging consultant to assist TxDOT in:
  - Refining and updating previous corridor implementation plans based on needs and community priorities
  - Serve as a program manager to keep track of activities in the corridor
- ✓ Investigating the extension of I-27 to the north of Amarillo and to the south of Lubbock through a citizen led process.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# THANK YOU

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