



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

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## February Washington DC Meetings

Despite some winter weather issues in the Ports-to-Plains region, Duffy Hinkle, Joe Kiely, Cal Klewin and Marlin Johnson were able to get to Washington DC and participated in 12 meetings in Offices of the House of Representatives and in U.S. Senate offices, respectively. The Ports-to-Plains Delegation was joined at many of the meetings by Jack Schenendorf of Covington & Burling and David Manning, Alberta's Representative in Washington DC. Click on the link above for a complete report.

## Upcoming Activities of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance

- March 26-29 -- Colorado Energy Mission to Alberta
- April 10-12 -- Economic Developers Alberta Conference and Annual General Meeting
- April 11 -- Southern Heartland Expressway Work Group
- April 17 -- Heartland Expressway Annual Meeting, Alliance, NE
- April 22-26 -- Ports-to-Plains Alliance D.C. Fly-In
- April 23 -- Ports-to-Plains Board Meeting at 9 a.m. in office of Jack Schenendorf
- April 26 -- Ports-to-Plains Energy Conference on the Hill
- July 18-19 -- Ports-to-Plains Regional Meeting and Board Meeting in Sonora, TX
- October 1-3 -- 16th Annual Ports-to-Plains Conference in Amarillo, TX

## TRANSPORTATION



### [Transportation links to Mexico key for Texas trade](#)

The importance of transportation links to Texas' ports was highlighted at the inaugural meeting of the House Committee on International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Legislators this session are considering a number of bills to improve Texas' infrastructure and transportation systems, including tapping the Rainy Day Fund to finance projects...

### [Coahuila to invest \\$ 300 million pesos in road Laguna-Norte States / Invertirán 300 mdp en carretera Laguna-Norte](#)

...This project integrates seven Highway beltways will make the connection more efficiently by ensuring connectivity in transit long journey, especially to reduce operating costs for carriers.

Interconnection of the U.S. with Coahuila

Meanwhile, Michael Reeves, President of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, said that for the United States, the interconnection of Coahuila is of utmost importance, especially at the level of trade that exists.

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...A este proyecto lo integran siete libramientos carreteros, los que según el mandatario, permitirán hacer más eficiente la conexión mediante la garantía de la conectividad, en el tránsito del largo itinerario, sobre todo reducir los costos de operación de los transportistas.

Interconexión de EUA con Coahuila

Por su parte, Michael Reeve, presidente del proyecto Ports to Plain, manifestó que para los Estados Unidos, la interconexión de Coahuila es de suma importancia, sobre todo por el nivel de tránsito de mercancía que se tiene.

### [Durango to Mazatlán highway in Mexico](#)

These are recent videos from the new Durango to Mazatlán highway in Mexico. It is almost finished. The impressive reduction of time from 5 hours to 2.5 hours from Durango to Mazatlan will impact the regional economy tremendously. This highway connects the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to the Port of Mazatlán.

### [Governor signs Wyoming fuel tax increase into law](#)

Gov. Matt Mead has signed a bill into law that will hike the state's fuel tax by a dime a gallon.

Mead has been pushing for a new source of funding for the Wyoming Department of Transportation since he took office two years ago. He says the state can no longer afford to subsidize the transportation department from general funds...

### [Virginia Passes Measure to Eliminate State Gas Tax, Fund Transportation through Sales Tax](#)

The Virginia General Assembly last week approved a transportation funding package that is expected to raise more than \$860 million per year for transportation?.

Under the new law, that state gas tax will be replaced by a 3.5 percent wholesale tax on fuel and a 6 percent tax on diesel fuel. The deal also includes an increase in the registration fee for electric cars (now up to \$100), while also making that fee mandatory for alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles. Additionally, the plan will increase the sales tax from 5 percent to 5.3 percent on nonfood merchandise and rely on some state general fund revenues.

Gov. Bob McDonnell, who originally proposed a similar transportation package on Jan. 8, hailed the passage of the bill...

## ENERGY

### [Briefing on U.S. State Department's Release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact State for Keystone XL](#)

...But with this preliminary analysis, we find in this draft that the approval or denial of any one crude oil transport project, including this proposed project, really remains unlikely to significantly impact the rate of development of the oil sands, or the continued demand for heavy crude oil in the U.S....

Includes link to Complete Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)



Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall meeting with North Dakota Democratic Senator Heidi Heitkamp about Keystone XL Pipeline.

### [Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall In Washington DC supporting important economic projects](#)

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is very pleased with the support of Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall for his efforts this week in Washington DC discussing topics of importance to the economy of the Ports-to-Plains Region including the Keystone XL Pipeline.

### [Keystone XL and Jobs, Energy Security](#)

President Obama went to Cushing, Okla., nearly one year ago. He stood in front of neat rows of pipe and promised Americans his administration would pursue an all-of-the-above approach to energy. Approving the Keystone XL pipeline would be a sizable down payment on that pledge while sending global markets a message the United States is serious about securing its energy future. In terms of energy, the Keystone XL would bring more than 800,000 barrels of oil per day to U.S. refineries. That's oil from Canada, but also U.S. oil from North Dakota – because the pipeline would pick up about 25 percent of its capacity from the Bakken region. This is oil our country needs to run our economy and support our modern way of life, and every drop we can get from Canada and produce domestically is oil we don't have to import from elsewhere...



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### [Five myths about manufacturing jobs](#)

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, President Obama said that creating manufacturing jobs is the nation's "first priority." To some, this may sound like a throwback to a long-lost era; after all, such jobs are being eliminated, outsourced or automated, right? Not really. The United States remains a world leader in manufacturing, and that sector remains essential to our economic and technological future. Here are the five biggest misconceptions about U.S. manufacturing — and why the sector still matters...

## THANK YOU VISIONARIES

*Without your leadership and support, our continued success would not be possible.*

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