

# Ports-To-Plains Or Bust

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The official designation by the Texas Transportation Committee last week of the southern corridor of a Ports-to-Plains route from Mexico to Denver through Lubbock was a long-awaited day for West Texas.

The seal of approval was a good decision for all of Texas but particularly for our part of the state. We hope that the trade corridor, which will be a four-lane divided highway, will boost economic development in our area.

The designation is good, but now we need to push forward for funding. The project needs big money — an estimated \$1.2 billion over many years — to be completed.

For highway projects such as Ports-to-Plains, the federal government generally pays about 80 percent of the costs, and the state handles the other 20 percent. Both of the governmental entities have many worthy places to spend a limited amount of money, so securing funding will be tricky.

Our state and federal elected officials must continue the hard work they have begun. The local officials who have successfully pushed the project through to the state designation must also continue to shepherd Ports-to-Plains.

A very significant part of the struggle has been accomplished, but we are still far from the final victory. We hope the success that has been achieved will help cause everyone involved to drive forward and work hard to achieve the funding necessary to make the Ports-to-Plains corridor a reality.