



PORTS-TO-PLAINS INFORMATION HIGHWAY

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TxDOT Commissioner Leads PTP Delegation to Alberta

Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood, Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves and Policy Advisor Scott Flukinger, met with top Alberta transportation officials in November to discuss how the corridor can expand trade opportunities between the province and Ports-to-Plains communities.



Alberta Minister of Transportation Luke Oullette and Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood

"First and foremost, I was humbled and honored by the incredibly warm hospitality provided by the Honorable Len Mitzel and all of the members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta," said Underwood. "I cannot say enough about how much the people of Alberta remind me of West Texans. They are conservative, humble and have a 'can-do' mentality in accomplishing any goal. I am excited by the possibilities that a relationship with Alberta can bring to Texas, our region and especially to Ports-to-Plains."

"It was a distinct pleasure to for me to help host and participate in many of the meetings that were held with Michael Reeves and Commissioner Fred Underwood," said Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly Len Mitzel. "My colleagues commented on what I already knew 'Hey, they're just like us!'"

"Alberta is grateful for the awareness that Ports to Plains brings to our initiative regarding more efficient and safe movement of goods between Alberta and the United States and the help towards our goal of opening another 24 hour commercial Port on the eastern side of our province and making the Mexico - Texas - Alberta Connection a reality with a full Corridor all the way," said Mitzel.

"There is a tendency, especially on the southern end of the corridor, to forget about Canada when discussing NAFTA trade, but Canada and the United States have the world's largest trade partnership," said Reeves.

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Alberta is in the midst of an economic boom, fueled primarily by the oil industry. The province is home to the world's second largest oil reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia, and Canada is the United States' largest foreign oil supplier. The province is already connected to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor by existing interstate highway.

"Alberta is a logical partner for Ports-to-Plains. Like the Ports-to-Plains states, their economy is based on energy and agriculture," said Reeves. "There is so much trade already occurring between Albert and the Ports-to-Plains states, we simply connect the dots."

Trade statistics show that trade with Alberta is increasingly important to Ports-to-Plains states. PTP states' imports from Alberta more than tripled from \$1.4 billion in 2002 to \$4.3 billion in 2006. Exports from PTP states to the province also grew from \$6.8 billion in 2002 to \$13.3 billion in 2006. The Port of Laredo on the southern end of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is also a major port for Canadian trade with Mexico.

"We are excited about building our relationship with Alberta. There is great potential to working together on our common goals of bringing the benefits of trade to our region, improving our energy security and highway safety," said Reeves.



Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly Len Mitzel, Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood, Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly Doug Griffiths and PTP President Michael Reeves



'Downtown' illustrates how the downtown area looked from the top of the windmill in 1922. The mural was created by Ruth Barnett, Dr. Ray Freeman, Glenn Lyles, Betty Bradley, LaNora Wood, Merry Cargill, Claudia West, and Mary Lou Nivens.

Ports-To-Plains Membership Spotlight: Hale Center, Texas: *Painting the Past While Inspiring the Future*

Hale Center, Texas has been a supporting member of Ports-to-Plains for many years. This community has a population of just over 2200 and is located in Hale County along Interstate 27 between Lubbock and Plainview. As with many other rural communities, Hale Center has its own unique charm, tradition, and attractions that make the locals proud and provides many reasons to visit Hale Center if you find the opportunity. When asking locals about their favorite things in Hale Center, you will hear about the friendly caring people, exemplary school system, wonderful churches, beautiful sunsets and small town atmosphere.

Folks in Hale Center are passionate about their town, and have demonstrated it through their actions. From painting 20 murals on buildings in their downtown area to landscaping Main Street and highways with red

autumn sage and Bradford pears, this quaint little town has received quite a facelift over the past few years. The murals painted on the buildings are worth your time to see and provide a hometown feel as you make your way through the downtown area.

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Freeman have played a significant role in the development of the downtown murals and Dr. Freeman's extraordinary artistic talent and knowledge of the past is evident as each painting tells a story about the history of Hale Center. Several other talented residents of all ages from this community have assisted Dr. Freeman in painting these works of art since the project began in 1998. Many tourists and various organizations have visited Hale Center to view these murals, including a group of bus tourists from as far as Michigan who took the time to see the murals before stopping to eat at the local Owl's Cafe located on south Main Street.

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The murals, landscape improvements and other projects in the making all represent the tireless efforts of several people involved in various organizations in Hale Center, which include the Beautification Association, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Organization and many caring volunteers. They all have the common goal of not only wanting to beautify the town for the people who live there, but to make it more attractive to outside visitors, who might understandably be intrigued enough to make Hale Center their home.

Annual events in Hale Center include the Fourth of July celebration complete with horses, clowns, and parade and the Festival of Lights held each December. Mrs. Wilton Armstrong heads up the December festival along with several other local volunteers. Since it first began in 2003, the number of decorations for the festival has continued to expand with an impressive 75,000 clear lights displayed this year throughout the downtown area. The local elementary school, high school band, area churches and Santa Claus participate in this festival which attracts locals and visitors from all around.

While visiting Hale Center, one will also not want to miss the beautiful Bell Park Cacti Garden which was started in 1974 by the late Hershel Bell and is now under the care of Arden and Sandra Davis of Lubbock, former high school graduates of Hale Center. The park contains over 20 varieties of cacti with over 350 plants located along a walking path throughout the park. The park is located on the western outskirts of Hale Center and is one of only 2 cacti gardens featured in the State Tour Magazine.

Other local attractions include the Veteran's Memorial Wall at the north entrance to the city and the Hale County Farm and Ranch Museum which features interesting displays of antique farm machinery, windmills, the Hale Center Santa Fe Depot, a Santa Fe caboose, and many other items of interest.

Agriculture is the economic driver for this small community with bumper crops of cotton, milo, soybeans, corn and sunflowers grown each year in the area. While other commodities are produced in Hale County, cotton has been a mainstay for the area for many years. Hale Center ships its cotton all over the world and contributes to the fact that the state of Texas grows more cotton than any other state.

Corn is America's #1 crop and is also a vital commodity to Hale Center and the surrounding county. Because of the high quality of corn grown in the area, Azteca Milling, a corn production facility just north of Hale Center, is expanding to become the largest facility of its type in the world.

Fields of sunflowers grown in the area each summer add not only beauty to the roadside, but provide a commodity that adds to the local economy. Sunflowers are used to produce light cooking oil as well as for a product used in the confection industry.

When asking Mayor Sheryl Canales about Hale Center's involvement with Ports-to-Plains, she replied, "I believe anything that will increase traffic will also increase economic development." Citizens of Hale Center believe the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is essential to their future and indisputably support the project.

With plans currently underway for building a brand new high school within the next year and other projects on the horizon, it is evident that the people who live in this town are unwavering to do everything they can to keep their community alive and well. Citizens of Hale Center 'paint the past while inspiring the future' through their murals, local attractions, annual events and community involvement. Hale Center is a warm, friendly and inviting community with a lot to offer and Ports-to-Plains wishes them the best in their future endeavors.



Community leaders pictured left to right: Wilton Armstrong, VP of Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture; Dr. and Mrs. Ray Freeman; Bob Brown, President of HC Economic Development Board; Tany Brown, Sec-Treas, HC Beautification Association; Dick Shaver, President, HC Beautification Association; Gene Carter, Past Mayor Pro Tem; Joe Armstrong, Chamber of Commerce Board Member

Texas Voters Approve Proposition 12

On Nov. 6, 62.6 percent of voting Texans approved Proposition 12 for the issuance of general obligation bonds not to exceed \$5 billion for highway improvements.

"While \$5 billion is a lot of money, it is about a year and a half worth of lettings," Commissioner Ned Holmes said during the commission's November meeting.

The new funding will supplement federal and state revenue sources. The Texas Transportation Commission now waits for the 2009 Texas Legislative session for enabling legislation.

"At that time, we will know how much they (legislators) will allow you to issue and specifically, how the money can be spent," TxDOT Deputy Executive Director Steve Simmons told commissioners.

"The passage of Prop 12 shows that Texans realize the value of transportation infrastructure. While it is not a long term solution to the funding issues we face, it will certainly be beneficial," said Ports to Plains President Michael Reeves.

Ports-to-Plains Membership Spotlight: Lubbock Christian University



Lubbock Christian University is the most recent school to join the Ports-to-Plains Coalition. Mr. John King, Vice President for University Relations has been appointed by LCU's president, Dr. Ken Jones,

to act as delegate for LCU and Ports-to-Plains and both of these leaders realize the enormous value in the Ports-to-Plains project.

When asked what expectations LCU has as a result of their involvement with Ports-to-Plains, Mr. King responded, "I think better accessibility and ease in transportation definitely benefits LCU as well as other universities. The more [traffic] we pull off of Interstate 35 onto Ports-to-Plains, the more our region and local universities will gain from it." As far as Ports-to-Plains stimulating LCU's enrollment, Mr. King definitely thinks that it will. "Lubbock developed in its earlier years because of the railroad going through it and Ports-to-Plains will initiate commerce just as the railroads did in the earlier days. This is a long term project, but I think in time, people will look back 50 years from now and think what a great thing Ports-to-Plains did for our region."

When asked about the safety aspect of expanding the entire Ports-to-Plains highway from 2 to 4-lane, Mr. King responded, "This is huge. We have students attending LCU from Colorado, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, and the safer and wider the roads are the better."

With LCU celebrating its 50th anniversary beginning in August 2006 and concluding in November 2007 after hosting a benefit dinner with Colin Powell, former U.S. secretary of state, there are plenty of reasons for this university to be proud. Congratulations to LCU on this milestone anniversary, and Ports-to-Plains looks forward to a long working relationship with this insightful university. To learn more about the history of LCU you will find an excerpt below taken from LCU's commemorative 50th history book - Celebrating Our Heritage. You can also access Lubbock Christian University's website at www.lcu.edu.

Celebrating Our Heritage - Lubbock Christian University

They call Lubbock Christian University "the dream that started in a cotton field." On an unusually cold Saturday, May 4, in 1957, several thousand people gathered in a large, flat empty field in West Texas to

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witness the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the first permanent building of Lubbock Christian College. A late-season norther had blown in and freezing clouds blurred the horizon and hardened the clods in the barren cotton field.

Old black and white photographs capture the moment--college president Dr. Fount William Mattox and minister-founder Dr. Matthew Norvel Young of the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock wield shovels while the coat-clad crowd smiles happily, despite the cold. This is a moment that's become legendary to alumni, students and friends of LCU, an example of the community's perseverance and the joyful fortitude it took to establish this school on the South Plains. It is symbolic of the cooperative effort required that everyone was invited to bring their own shovel to the groundbreaking and use it. Founded without guaranteed financial resources or permanent buildings, LCU's primary resource was--and is-- an abundance of faith.

Over the years, Lubbock Christian University has had several milestones in its 50 year history. The college opened its doors for classes on September 24, 1957 as a junior college with 116 students and a handful of dedicated faculty and staff.

On December 13, 1972, Lubbock Christian College received its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a four-year degree-granting institution.

Dr. F.W. Mattox led the school forward into the early 1970's and after his retirement in 1974 Dr. Joe Hacker became president. He resigned the presidency in 1976 and the Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Harvie Pruitt would become the school's third president. Pruitt was serving the school as Academic Dean at the time.

Perhaps the most important development during the decade of the 1970s was the Waste Water Research Project granted to LCC in 1978. School benefactors Gene and Eileen Hancock teamed with Congressman

George Mahon, President Harvie Pruitt and the city of Lubbock to land the largest Environmental Protection Agency grant ever awarded one project.

The school gained worldwide recognition for hosting the largest research project in the history of the Environmental Protection Agency and one of the three largest agriculture and health experiments in the world but the process of acquiring it took several years and a literal act of Congress.

Dr. Steven Lemley had been named the school's president in 1982. In April, 1987, the bimonthly student newspaper, the Duster, came out with a banner headline: LCC to become LCU. In October of the previous year, the Board of Trustees had decided that with over 1,000 students enrolled and 22 degrees offered, it was time for the college to become a university in the fall of 1987. Dr. Lemley and a committee studied the proposal and made recommendations to the Board about long term goals for a Masters program and on how many schools should be part of the university.

September 7, 1987 was designated "University Day" and over 1,500 people gathered for the official ceremonies that marked the beginning of Lubbock Christian University. LCC officially became LCU, a university with two colleges, the College of Liberal Arts and Education and the College of Professional Studies, with Dr. Don Williams and Dr. Gary Estep as Deans of the respective colleges.

The school was growing and changing. In the spring of 1993, the school's president, Dr. Steven Lemley announced his resignation. He and his wife, Emily, had been part of LCU for 15 years. He had served as president for 11 years, while Emily was a professor of English.

In June of 1993, Dr. L. Ken Jones became LCU's fifth president. He had served as pulpit minister of the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock for five years but his PhD was in engineering and he began his career in that field before beginning work as a minister in Oklahoma.

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At the beginning of this millennium, LCU was growing steadily, setting new enrollment records every year. By 2003, the school had 1860 students; 300 of them were freshmen and students had almost come to expect the "Coke and Candy" party President Jones gave in the fall to celebrate the large numbers.

In the early years, the LCU campus was described as bleak, at best. Over the years, landscaping and lighting have changed the look of the campus, especially the central mall. In 2005, the crowning touch was added: "The Chap," a bronze sculpture of a giant chaparral by Houston artist Ed Hankey, was donated by Dolly and Tony Gullo in honor of their grandchildren, LCU alumni: Delena Waldrum (class of 2000), Anthony Rodriguez (class of 2002) and Brett Rodriguez (class of 2004).

Through all the growth and the changes, the school's administration, faculty and trustees have tried to be true to the school's original mission, "to teach students the spiritual dimension of life, provide a quality education and impart a system of values for living and for service to family, community and church."

LCU has grown to include 25 permanent buildings on a 120-acre campus valued at \$20 million; with its current facilities, it can accommodate up to 3000 students. It offers 35 bachelor's degrees and 10 masters degrees; the most popular majors are Social Work, Pre-med, Bible, Education and Nursing. Altogether, 28,000 alumni, former students, former faculty, staff and benefactors have been part of LCU.

In the fall of 2005, the student population passed the two thousand mark. There were 2,079 students enrolled and LCU had reached a benchmark: the school was no longer considered small, but had joined the ranks of mid-sized universities.



Happy Holidays from the Ports-to-Plains Staff

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Ports-to-Plains Investors in Progress

Municipal Investors	County Government Investors
<p>City of Abernathy - TX City of Amarillo - TX City of Big Spring - TX City of Boise City - OK Town of Clayton - NM City of Del Rio - TX City of Dumas - TX Town of Eads - CO City of Hale Center - TX City of Happy - TX City of Lamar - CO City of Lamesa - TX Town of Limon - CO City of Lubbock - TX City of New Deal - TX City of Plainview - TX City of Raton - NM City of San Angelo - TX Town of Springfield - CO City of Stratford - TX City of Sonora - TX City of Tahoka - TX City of Tulia - TX</p>	<p>Cheyenne County - CO Cimarron County - OK Colfax County - NM Elbert County - CO Hale County - TX Howard County - TX Kiowa County - CO Lincoln County - CO Lubbock County - TX Maverick County - TX Moore County - TX Prowers County - CO Sherman County - TX Sterling County - TX Sutton County - TX Tom Green County - TX Union County - NM Val Verde County - TX</p>
Economic Development Corp. Investors	Chamber of Commerce Investors
<p>Amarillo Economic Development Corporation - TX Adams County Economic Development - CO Canyon Economic Development Corp. - TX Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. - CO Dumas Economic Development Corporation - TX Lamesa Economic Development Corporation - TX Laredo Development Foundation - TX Lincoln County Economic Development - CO Lubbock Economic Development Alliance - TX Maverick County Development Corporation - TX Moore Development for Big Spring - TX Plainview/Hale County Industrial Foundation Inc. - TX Sonora Industrial Development - TX I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership - CO</p>	<p>Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce - TX Chamber of the Americas Cimarron County Chamber of Commerce - OK Dalhart Chamber of Commerce - TX Dumas/Moore County Chamber of Commerce - TX Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce - TX Lamesa Chamber of Commerce - TX Lubbock Chamber of Commerce - TX San Angelo Chamber of Commerce - TX Stratford Chamber of Commerce - TX Sonora Chamber of Commerce - TX</p>
Other Investors	Conference Investors
<p>Amarillo College - TX Central 57 Importers & Exporters, Inc. - TX Colorado Motor Carriers Association - CO Ehler & Hettler, LLP - TX Lubbock Christian University - TX Panhandle Regional Planning Commission - TX Plainview Convention & Visitors Bureau - TX South Plains Association of Governments - TX Texas Tech University - TX TransPort - CO Wayland Baptist University - TX West Texas A&M University - TX</p>	<p>Del Rio Economic Dev. Corp. and City of Acuña Além International Management, Inc. Aquila The Bank & Trust City and County of Denver Colorado Asphalt Paving Association Colorado Contractors Association Colorado Office of Economic Development/Eastern Colorado Colorado Motor Carriers Association DMJM+HARRIS Dumas Economic Development Corporation Hugo Reed & Associates, Inc. Laredo Development Foundation Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. Panhandle Area Development District Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. Pate Engineers, Inc./Pate Transportation Partners Peoples Bank Reece Albert, Inc. State National Bank Stratford Grain Company Texas Good Roads Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Turner Collie & Braden Valero Energy Xcel Energy - Colorado Region Xcel Energy - Texas Region</p>