



PORTS-TO-PLAINS INFORMATION HIGHWAY

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Governor Richardson Proposes \$200 Million for GRIP Projects as Part of the Special Session Legislative Package

Monies will help reconstruct 30 miles of U.S. 64 between Raton and Clayton

Governor Bill Richardson has recently proposed a legislative package for the special session that calls for \$200 million in new money to improve several GRIP (Governor Richardson's Investment Partnership) projects in rural New Mexico. The new funding will go to improving 13 highway projects in rural communities, including two projects in Transportation District Four that includes Harding, Union, San Miguel, Guadalupe, Colfax, Mora and Quay counties.

"When I took office, I made a commitment to improve the state's highways, but inflation and federal funding issues forced us to put many projects on hold," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Right now, we have the resources to finish what we started and improve highways that are the life-line for thousands of New Mexicans."

Governor Richardson said this new funding will be able to complete nearly 90 percent of the GRIP program that was started in 2004, and includes 40 major highway corridor reconstruction projects and the commuter train service between Belen and Santa Fe.

This highway package will be part of a special legislative session that also includes Governor Richardson's Cash Assistance Relief Effort, or CARE package. About \$100 million in severance tax bonds and \$100 million in surplus monies will provide the necessary funds to start 13 road projects throughout the state under the governor's proposal.

"The cost of inflation has hit the Transportation Department hard over the last several years. In the last five years, the price of asphalt alone has increased by nearly 300 percent," said Secretary Rhonda Faught. "With the money the Governor has provided, we can complete several projects around the state, especially those in rural communities where public transportation is not always readily available."

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Grip Projects - continued from page 1

Projects proposed through the initiative include: "U.S. 64 Raton to Clayton from mile post 360-390 (to be completed in two segments)

In 2003, the Legislature passed Governor Richardson's Investment Partnership, or GRIP, a \$1.6 billion initiative aimed at expanding and improving New Mexico highways, while creating thousands of local jobs. Since it began, 32 projects have been completed at a cost of \$525 million. Today, 33 projects are under construction, providing jobs for 3,900 New Mexicans.

Ports-to-Plains Welcomes New Board Members



Justin Bennett

Ports-to-Plains recently appointed two new members to its Board of Directors.

Justin Bennett was appointed to represent Clayton and Union County, New Mexico. Bennett received an Agri-Business degree from West Texas A&M in 1998. He currently serves as Union County Commissioner and ranches near Des Moines, New Mexico.



Gilbert Cisneros

Gilbert (Gil) Cisneros was appointed to represent Denver and Adams County. Cisneros is president and CEO of the Chamber of the Americas in Denver, Colorado. Gil received his BA from Adams State College in 1970 and his MA from the University of Colorado in 1972. Gil is a Vietnam veteran having served in the U.S. Navy from 1962-1966.

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation Making an Impact on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor

The value of the Amarillo EDC (Amarillo Economic Development Corporation) is evident as two organizations are the most recent beneficiaries of its commitment and support. Richard "Buzz" David, President and CEO of the Amarillo EDC and the rest of this organization are working hard to carry out its mission and the results are exciting as businesses in the Amarillo area and also on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor grow and expand.

Expansion of West Texas A&M University

The Amarillo EDC has approved an expansion grant for West Texas A&M University to support its new extension campus in downtown Amarillo. The grant will pay over \$2 million over the next five years for rent and the first year of operation expenses. The 31-story Chase Tower at 600 S. Taylor St. will house the new campus which will be located on the 10th and 11th floor. "We're extremely pleased with the support we've received from the Amarillo community for this project," WT president Dr. J. Patrick O'Brien said. "This grant allows us to provide a first-class operation with comparable services to what is offered at our main campus."



Chase Tower

"This is an ideal situation for Amarillo," said Buzz David, president and CEO of Amarillo EDC. "The activity this center will bring dovetails nicely with our redevelopment efforts in downtown."

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Amarillo Economic Development Corporation - continued from page 2

The campus will have 10 classrooms, a computer lab, a student study, lounge area and nine offices within the Chase Tower. 31 graduate and upper-level undergraduate courses will be offered this fall from the center. The courses are business and education-related classes, geared toward working professionals.

The University currently has 400 students enrolled and expects to enroll 460 students by this fall. Staff will move in on August 1st and classes will begin on August 25th. For more information on the West Texas A&M University Campus, go to <http://www.wtamu.edu/admissions/amarillo-center.aspx>.

Amarillo Company Expanding

The Amarillo EDC also recently approved a \$226,000 lease project to assist SciCron Technologies with a new storage facility that will allow the company to cut costs and expand its work force. Since 1996 the company has leased a 15,000-square-foot facility on West Amarillo Boulevard. Recently they started renting storage space offsite to meet the needs of their growing business. The new lease project will allow them to build a 5,000-square-foot storage building

onsite and lower operation costs.

SciCron has 13 employees and will add three full-time workers as more manufacturing space becomes available. They have already moved their marketing and accounting functions to Amarillo from Denver.

SciCron specializes in applying high quality, high performance coatings to plastics. They are the leader in static control coating with over 15 years of experience. Identified primarily with the semiconductor and electronics industries, these products control static electricity during the manufacture of charge sensitive devices.



SciCron Technologies in Amarillo, Texas

SciCron also manufactures the highest quality mar resistant and chemical resistant hard-coated plastics. Offering a unique anti-fog coating chemistry has a greater degree of adaptability than traditional anti-fog chemistry.

For more information regarding SciCron, go to <http://www.sctech.com/>.

Texas Ranks #1 in Business Climate Survey

According to a new survey of U.S. corporate executives, Texas has recently been ranked as having the best business climate among the 50 states. This was the fourth consecutive time Texas has ranked #1 in the survey.

The study is conducted by Development Counsellors International (DCI) every three years, and the "Winning Strategies in Economic Development Marketing" survey has monitored trends in economic development since its inception in 1996.

Texas was superior among the respondents to the survey, with 40.8% identifying the state as having the most favorable business climate. The basis for their opinion most often included "tax climate" (31%), "workforce cost and availability" (29%) and "pro-business climate" (26%).

"With the battle for business more intense than ever, states and their economic development organizations need to pay close attention to the results of this survey," said DCI President Andrew T. Levine. "Whether accurate or misguided, perceptions about a location's business climate often play a crucial role in site selection decisions and where companies invest money and create jobs."

For a free copy of the full "Winning Strategies" survey report or an executive summary, visit www.aboutdci.com/winningstrategies.aspx.

SPOTLIGHT: Dumas, Texas - Growing, growing, growing



Dumas is the fastest growing city in the Texas Panhandle, and one of the fastest growing in the Great Plains region of the U.S. Dumas sits at the crossroads of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, linking US 287, 87 Interstates 27, 40 and 25. No better distribution point exists for reaching the interior of the US, or for going from the Mexican border in Texas to Canada and the West.

Dumas is the county seat of Moore County, Texas. The estimated population of the city is approximately 15,000 while the estimated county population is approximately 22,000. The surrounding communities of Sunray and Cactus are populated by 2,300 and 2,000 respectively.

Dumas Business Park is a 165-acre property that can be home to your industrial venture; relocation or expansion project. Underground infrastructure is already available for your business needs. (Generous incentive packages are available for qualifying businesses.)

Agriculture

Moore County and the surrounding area in the Texas Panhandle have long been a major producer of agricultural products. From the formation of the XIT Ranch back in the late 19th Century, to the discovery of the Ogallala Aquifer in the early part of the 20th Century, this part of Texas has long led the world in agricultural production. A mild climate combined with high-tech approaches to high-yield agriculture mean that crops and livestock will always be an important part of our regional economy. Modern agricultural operations include grain production, as well as feed yards for cattle, tanneries, and processing plants for livestock.

Dairies

Moore County is now the home to our first dairy. The facility is located 6 miles west of Dumas on U.S. Highway 87. When fully operating, the dairy will have 25 employees, 5 free stall barns and permitted for 3000 milk cows and 1000 head of growing stock. They will also have 640 acres of tillable farmland to produce forage for the needs of the dairy and growing stock. The owners have been in the dairy business since 1987 and is family owned. They will be raising jersey cows. The same family will be establishing another dairy two miles west of Etter on FM 281. This dairy, at capacity, will also be a free stall dairy with 3,500 milk cows and have 25 employees. We currently have four operational dairies and two additional ones in the planning stages.

Ethanol

Ethanol plants are still in the planning stages in Moore County. Permitting is being completed at this time. The funding process for the plants is still ongoing. Funding is nearly complete for the installation of two plants on County Road E. One plant, located on County Road E and Fisher is a 50 million gallon plant that will produce ethanol from corn. It will provide approximately 46 employees. Another plant, located just north of the Sunray city limits, will produce 60-million gallons of ethanol and will employ approximately 50 employees.

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SPOTLIGHT: Dumas, Texas - continued from page 4

Wind Energy

Being built at this time in Moore County, are five sites for wind energy development. You will be able to see wind turbines from; U.S. Highway 152 from Dumas to Borger; U.S. Highway 287 from Dumas; and FM 281 from Etter to Sunray. Wind Energy is part of the Panhandle of Texas and the Panhandle of Texas is one of the prime spots in Texas for Wind Energy. Dumas and Amarillo Community College are currently working on providing wind energy curriculum to meet the workforce demands of this rapidly growing industry.

Dumas was a recent Community Spotlight during Amarillo's Channel 10 News.



Channel 10 News in action



Onlookers from the Dumas Community enjoyed watching the Channel 10 News broadcast on the courthouse square.



Community Leaders: Mayor Mike Milligan; County Commissioner and PTP Board Member, Milton Pax; Dumas EDC Executive Director Mike Running and Lowe's Grocery Store Manager Don Holliman

For more information about Dumas, contact the [City of Dumas](#) and the [Dumas Economic Development Corporation](#).

Spotlight: Chamber of the Americas

The Chamber of the Americas is a not-for-profit organization with a simple, profoundly important goal: To help you make the most of your business opportunity in the Americas. Stated more formally, the Chamber's mission is to facilitate commerce and understanding between the businesses and governments of the Western Hemisphere.

Through trade missions, educational classes and other initiatives, the Chamber of the Americas facilitates your business contacts, promotes international networking and encourages cultural understanding. We connect you to the people, governments and companies that drive current and emerging cross-border opportunities in the Americas.

A few years from now, the world will be wondering how certain firms were poised to seize the opportunity in the Americas so quickly and easily. Will you be one of those companies/communities? The answer is yes if you have the foresight to become a member of the Chamber of the Americas today.

The Chamber of the Americas evolved from their participation in the U. S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce from 1992 until 2000. We worked on spearheading political efforts to ensure the passage of NAFTA. In the year of 2000, our board voted to become an independent Chamber of Commerce and organized the Chamber of the Americas to promote passage of other trade agreements, and thus become multi-lateral in our approach to international trade.

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Spotlight: Chamber of the Americas - continued from page 5

COTA is growing at a fast pace with over 330 members, in 34 states, in the USA and 27 foreign country.

Chamber of the Americas' membership consists of businesses in the following categories: Education, Environmental, Financial Services, Information Technology, Mining, Energy and Petroleum, Real Estate, Transportation, Immigration/Labor, Security, Water, and Infrastructure.

COTA promotes at least four trade missions annually to Western Hemispheric countries and several other commercial visits to Latin American countries. In addition, we hold monthly executive forum or seminars on topical issues having impact on trade

within Latin America.

Gil Cisneros, the President/CEO of the Chamber of the Americas, was recently added to the Board of Directors of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition. Mr. Cisneros' international experience will be an important addition to the Ports-to-Plains team.

If your community is interested in strengthening its international ties, give Mr. Cisneros a call and discuss your needs with him.



CHAMBER OF THE AMERICAS

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TEXAS TRADE BY TRUCK AND RAIL IN 2007

2007 Trade with Canada

Texas imported \$9.8 billion of goods (up 52.5% from 2004) from Canada and exported another \$13.6 billion (up 3.9% and 38.9% since 2004) in 2007. Trucking accounts for \$17.3 billion of these amounts. The inland ports of Raymond (MT), Sweet Grass (MT) and Portal (ND) served, by the Great Plains Corridor, account for 17.6% or \$4.1 billion (up \$46.2 million or 1.2% and 69.4% since 2004) of this trade volume. Texas truck trade through the three ports is valued at \$3.3 billion (19.3% of the total Texas truck trade with Canada and up \$314 million). The largest of the three is Sweet Grass which handled \$2.9 billion (up 12.6% in 2007 and 80.5% since 2004) of Texas trade. Trading through Portal also increased over 46% since 2004.

The nine states of the Great Plains International Trade Corridor move \$9.7 billion of goods through these three ports into and out of Canada including \$7.4 billion moved by truck. This accounts for 25.7% of the nine states' truck and rail trade with Canada and 25.7% of the truck trade. These amounts for truck and rail combined are an increase of \$4.6 billion over 2004.



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TEXAS TRADE BY TRUCK AND RAIL IN 2007 - *continued from page 6*

Total International Trade between Texas and Canada

		2004	2007	2006-2007 Difference	2006-2007 % Change	2004-2007 Difference
TOTAL	Exports	\$9,613,843,054.00	\$13,351,252,390	\$503,663,106	3.9%	\$3,737,409,336
	Imports	\$6,398,406,096.00	\$9,755,962,655	\$845,034,808	9.5%	\$3,357,556,559
	Total Trade with Canada	\$16,012,249,150.00	\$23,107,215,045	\$1,348,697,914	6.2%	\$7,094,965,895

International Trade between Texas and Canada through the In-land Ports of Sweet Grass (MT), Raymond (MT) and Portal (ND)

		2004	2007	2006-2007 Difference	2006-2007 % Change	2004-2007 Difference
TOTAL	Exports	\$1,451,922,882	\$2,112,076,154	-\$367,743,903	-14.8%	\$660,153,272
	% of Total Exports to Canada	15.1%	15.8%	-3.5%		
	Imports	\$946,273,424	\$1,950,413,460	\$413,985,880	26.9%	\$1,004,140,036
	% of Total Imports to Canada	14.8%	20.0%	2.7%		
	Total Trade Thru GPITC	\$2,398,196,306	\$4,062,489,614	\$46,241,977	1.2%	\$1,664,293,308
	% Total Trade with Canada	15.0%	17.6%	-0.9%		

2007 Trade with Mexico

In 2007 Texas exported \$47.9 billion (up 1.8% in 2007 and 17.6% since 2004) of goods to Mexico and imported another \$38.7 billion (up 5.6% and 16.5% since 2004). Of those amounts, \$78.4 billion (up 4.0% and 16.9% since 2004) was by truck and \$8.1 billion was by rail. Three inland ports serve the Ports-to-Plains Corridor: Laredo (Truck and Rail), Eagle Pass (Truck and Rail) and Del Rio (Truck). The value of the connection between Ports-to-Plains and Mexico is demonstrated in that 39% (\$33.7 billion; up 30% since 2004) of the total trade between Texas and Mexico passes through these three inland ports. Laredo is currently the largest port for Texas trade at \$27.8 billion, which is up 7.9% in 2007 and 32.4% since 2004.

In 2007 the nine Great Plains states trade by truck and rail through Laredo, Eagle Pass and Del Rio reached \$36.5 billion (39.9 %) of their total Mexico trade of \$91.6 billion. This is an increase of \$14.2 billion over 2004.

Total International Trade between Texas and Mexico

		2004	2007	2006-2007 Difference	2006-2007 % Change	2004-2007 Difference	2004-2007 % Change
TOTAL	Exports	\$40,685,188,344	\$47,865,199,782	\$864,329,162	1.8%	\$7,180,011,438	17.6%
	Imports	\$33,238,178,816	\$38,711,720,074	\$2,049,310,698	5.6%	\$5,473,541,258	16.5%
	Total Trade with Mexico	\$73,923,367,160	\$86,576,919,856	\$2,913,639,860	3.5%	\$12,653,552,696	17.1%

International Trade between Texas and Mexico through the In-land Ports of Laredo (TX), Eagle Pass (TX) and Del Rio (TX)

		2004	2007	2006-2007 Difference	2006-2007 % Change	2004-2007 Difference	2004-2007 % Change
TOTAL	Exports	\$14,732,180,372	\$18,694,907,583	\$1,315,705,614	7.6%	\$3,962,727,211	26.9%
	% of Total Exports to Mexico	36.2%	39.1%	2.1%			2.8%
	Imports	\$11,232,732,263	\$15,050,691,952	\$906,180,039	6.4%	\$3,817,959,689	34.0%
	% of Total Imports to Mexico	33.8%	38.9%	0.3%			5.1%
	Total Trade Thru GPITC	\$25,964,912,635	\$33,745,599,535	\$2,221,885,653	7.0%	\$7,780,686,900	30.0%
	% Total Trade with Mexico	35.1%	39.0%	1.3%			3.9%



PORTS-TO-PLAINS
TRADE CORRIDOR

11th ANNUAL PORTS-TO-PLAINS CONFERENCE
Del Rio, Texas & Cd. Acuña, Coah. México
October 1-3, 2008

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"Learn how to grow your business along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor...the possibilities are endless."

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor Coalition is excited about our 2008 Annual Meeting in Del Rio, Texas October 1 - 3. This year's conference will focus more on the business impact the corridor can have on the region. Our aim is to let the business people know how their bottom line will benefit from the completion of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

The conference will feature a trade show for businesses to display their goods and services and to network with other business people along the corridor. Speakers and panels will focus on how businesses can capitalize on their location upon the corridor and how communities can use the corridor to attract new business. We will also offer tours of maquiladora factories in Acuña and presentations on opportunities for trade with Mexico.

Register now for this exciting event!

Online Registration is available at:
www.regonline.com/ports-to-plains

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 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>Cimarron County - OK Colfax County - NM Elbert County - CO Hale County - TX Howard County - TX Kiowa County - CO Lincoln County - CO Lubbock 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 Panhandle Area Development District - NE Plainview/Hale County Industrial Foundation Inc. - TX Sonora Industrial Development - TX</p>	<p>Chamber of the Americas – CO Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce – TX 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>Central 57 Importers & Exporters, Inc. - TX Colorado Motor Carriers Association – CO Ehler & Hettler, LLP – TX Howard College - TX Lubbock Christian University - TX Panhandle Regional Planning Commission – TX Plainview Convention & Visitors Bureau – TX Prairie to Ports Gateway and Inland Port – SK, CANADA South Plains Association of Governments – TX Texas Tech University - TX TransPort - CO Wayland Baptist 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>