



PORTS-TO-PLAINS INFORMATION HIGHWAY

Inside this Issue

- 1 Protecting Our Borders
- 2 Protecting Our Borders
-continued
- 3 Have You Considered
the Great Plains
International
Conference?
- 4 Community Spotlight:
Lamesa, Texas

GPIC continued
- 5 Acuña, Coahuila to
Invest into New Park

ProLogis to Invest in
Mexico
- 6 GPIC Information and
Registration
- 7 2007 Investors in
Progress

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Protecting Our Borders

Some of the most common questions asked about the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor are in regards to southern border security. Just how safe is the United States' borders from drugs, contraband, and terrorist weapons? Is the United States doing enough to check cargo coming into the U.S.? After speaking with Richard Pauza and Felix Garza of U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) in researching for this article, it was found that trucks go through a heavy screening process and one has to do more than just flash an ID and a smile to enter the United States.



Cargo processing facilities check drivers and cargo entering the U.S.

It is quite amazing how little most Americans know about the screening process for trucks entering the U.S. from Mexico. First, a company must submit to U.S. CBP detailed information for each truck that is to enter the country. A company sends a picture ID and information about the driver, the truck and trailer, what and how much cargo is being carried, as well as its destination. Once the truck arrives at a Port of Entry, it goes through several screening processes. The driver is checked to the matching records sent by their company. The cargo goes through X-ray scanners, as well as radiation detectors. Canine units also assist in searching trucks for drugs and other illegal contraband.

No matter what the cargo is, it is inspected upon reaching a Port of Entry. Laredo is the 2nd largest cargo processing facility in the United States, averaging around seven to eight thousand trucks during a 24-hour period. And those servicing incoming cargo take their job very seriously. "We are protecting our boarders," said Felix Garza, Supervisory Field Liaison Officer for both the Rio Grande and Pharr Ports of Entry, "Our mission is to prevent

-continued on page 2



Protecting Our Borders - *continued from page page 1*



Recently unloaded hot peppers from trucks crossing into the U.S. await inspection by CBP Agriculture Specialists.

terrorist weapons of mass destruction, drugs, contaminated agriculture, and other illegal contraband from entering the United States."

Even programs such as Free and Secure Trade (FAST) and Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), which allow companies that frequently import goods to the U.S. quicker inspection, require freight to go through a screening process that can be subject to all of the previously mentioned screening techniques at any time. FAST is a harmonized clearance process for shipments of known compliant importer, and any truck using FAST lane processing must be a C-TPAT approved carrier, carrying qualifying goods from a C-TPAT approved manufacturer, importer, and the driver must possess a valid FAST-Commercial Driver Card.

Upon further conversation with Garza, it quickly becomes clear that there is more to border security than illegal drugs. In a post-9/11 era, terrorist threat is indeed a very large fear, and border screenings make sure that no "dirty bomb" or any nuclear/radioactive materials are even entering the country.

One usually does not think of protecting agriculture as a high priority to U.S. CBP, however, protecting our crops and consumers from contaminated fruits and vegetables make up a large part of border security. "Some fruits are hosts to diseases that could infect people and other crops," said Richard Pauza, Press Officer with the Laredo South Texas Field Office of CBP, "and we have a system in place that inspects cargo and protects our country's agricultural business."



Recently unloaded hot peppers from trucks crossing into the U.S. await inspection by CBP Agriculture Specialists.

Everything from prescription drugs to finished goods are inspected at border crossings. "We have a system in place to prevent drugs, contraband, and weapons of mass destruction," said Pauza, "through our security databases and inspections we know what cargo is coming in, who's carrying it, and where it's going." For more information, visit CBP's web site at: <http://www.cbp.gov/>

This topic will be looked at more in-depth during two sessions of the 2007 Great Plains International Conference, which will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado September 19-21:

Freight Movements Across International Borders.

Everyone has opinion about the security of international borders, but few can describe the process for moving goods across an international border. What are the technologies and regulations that are in place? Panelists will leave the participants with a clear description of the current border process related to freight.

The Future of Border Security: Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Speakers discuss what is on the horizon in the way of new technologies for Intelligent Transportation Systems and how these will enhance security and efficiency, decrease pollution and improve traffic flow.

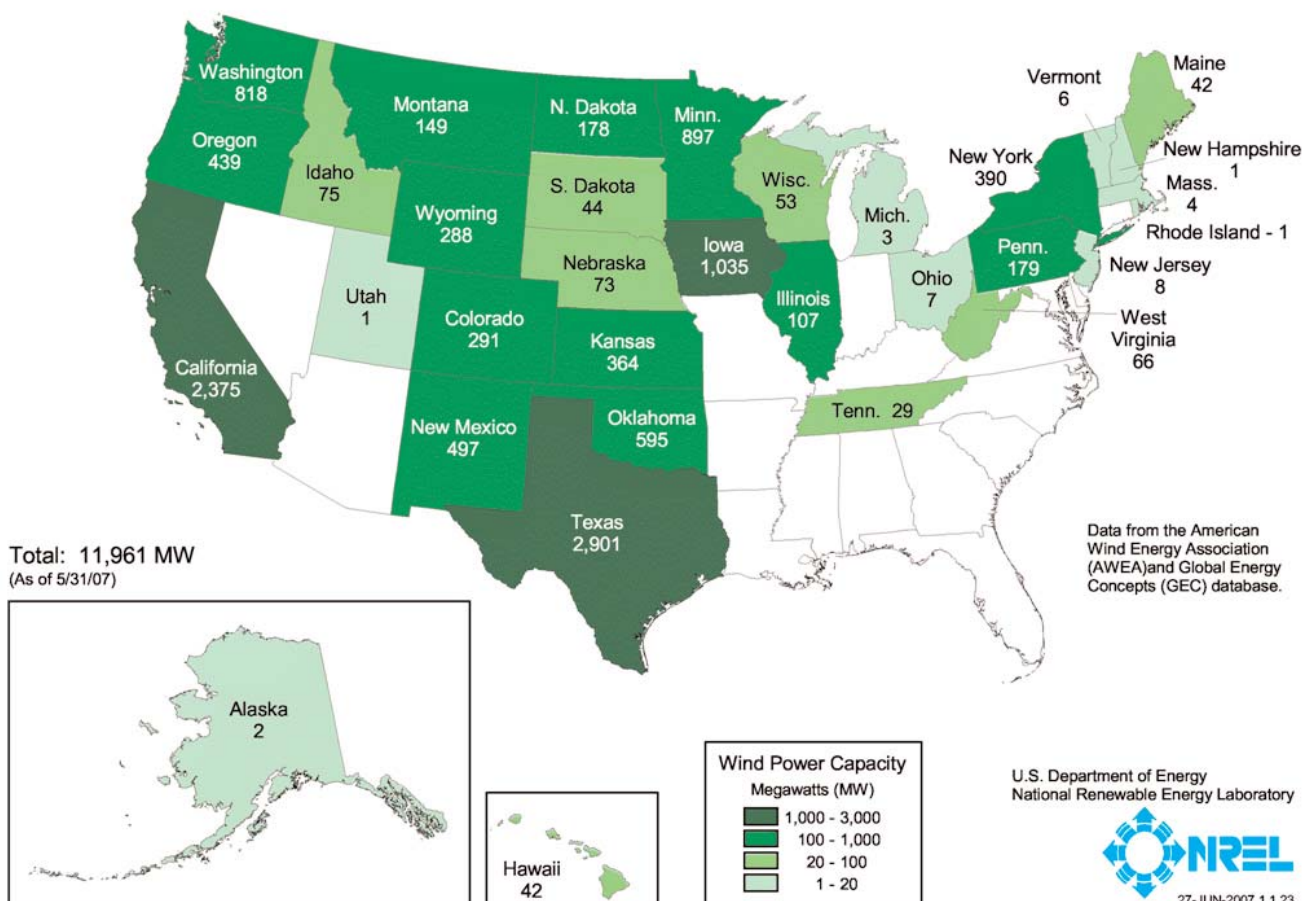
Have You Considered the Great Plains International Conference?

In partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Transportation, the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition is presenting the first annual Great Plains International Conference on September 19-21, 2007 in Denver, CO. Many of you have attended a Ports-to-Plains Summit in the past ten years, but this is clearly a larger event that is raising the awareness and impact of Ports-to-Plains domestically and internationally.

Focusing on Trade, Travel and Transportation, the goal of the conference is to connect the relationship of the transportation system and related investments with a return on investment economically. Whether agricultural, manufacturing or energy production or the traveling public, our economies rely upon the transportation system to prosper. Great Plains surface trade with Mexico along the corridor is increasing an average of over 11% annually and by over 30% with Canada.

The Great Plains International Corridor is rapidly becoming such a force in energy production that it is being identified as the new "Middle West" with the potential to replace the reliance upon the traditional "Middle East". Whether traditional energy sources including oil, gas and coal, or renewable energy sources such as wind and ethanol, from Canada south through the Great Plains, the transportation system will affect the future growth on this important sector. According to the U.S. Department of Energy Wind & Hydropower Technologies Program, the nine states comprising the Great Plains International Trade Corridor include seven of top ten U.S. States for installed wind power generation capacity (5185MW), nearly 45% of the US total. According to American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Great Plains Corridor states also have massive wind power potential for wind power generation: nine of the top twelve states.

United States - Current Installed Wind Power Capacity (MW)



Community Spotlight: Lamesa, Texas

Like many of the other cities along the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor, the city of Lamesa, Texas is on the upswing. The county seat of Dawson County has the unique advantage of being on both the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor and the La Entrada al Pacifico. After talking with people in Lamesa, one thing is clear: Big things are on the way for the city.

Lamesa was founded in 1903. The city boasts a population of close to 10,000 and most of the economy is based on farming and oil. Both the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor and the La Entrada al Pacifico run through the city. The La Entrada al Pacifico is an international trade corridor that begins in Topolobampo, Mexico, runs through Midland-Odessa and ends in Lamesa. "The two trade routes are key to the City of Lamesa," said Ports-to-Plains Board Member Dave Nix. TXDOT is currently researching a reliever route to connect the two trade corridors.



Dawson County Courthouse in Lamesa, Texas

Lamesa is using its location along both routes to attract new businesses to the area. "We have a great export route," said Heather Martinez of the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation, "and we're really advertising the city as the middle of everywhere to interested companies." The Lamesa Economic Development Corporation and the Lamesa Chamber of Commerce are currently working together to help attract new businesses, as well as help current businesses expand. "Our location is a great opportunity to grow," said Carrie Hawkins of the Lamesa Chamber of Commerce.

Besides being located on two major corridors, what makes Lamesa so unique is that the city has several major projects already underway to anticipate a growth that is still 4-5 years away. "We know traffic will pick up," said Lamesa City Manager Fred Vera, "We are building a new hospital, we have a new hotel being built, and recently completed a new athletic field house for our high school." These projects, as well as others currently being planned, show that Lamesa is definitely planning on big things happening to the city.

Great Plains International Conference -continued from page 3

Currently invited to speak on the Future of Federal Transportation Funding is U.S. Representative Jim Oberstar, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Invited on the energy side is Clay Sell, Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Energy to discuss Building Infrastructure for the New Energy Economy.

Other topics will highlight changing north-south trading patterns, border security associated with the movement of goods currently and in the future, opportunities to benefit from the traveling public and the untapped opportunity presented by rural corridors. The entire agenda and registration information is available at www.regonline.com/GPIC.

If your business or organization wants to make a bigger impact at the conference, opportunities for investment in the Conference range from an exhibit space for \$500 to a gold sponsorship that includes many benefits and an invitation to a special reception for speakers and the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors. Further investment information is available at the website above or any questions about the Conference can be directed to Duffy Hinkle at 806-775-3373.

Acuña, Coahuila to Invest \$5 Million into New Industrial Park

Investments for around \$5 million will be used for the construction of a new industrial park in Acuña, Mexico where metal-mechanics assembly plants will be built, and generating 400 jobs. The Municipal Director for Economic Foster, Armando Amezcua, states that the project will last two years. The project will be developed by U.S. businessmen, and considers the construction of five industrial buildings for the establishment of companies that will manufacture products such as tools, ladders and racks, among others. Amezcua considers this is one of the most important investments that have been secured in 2007. The new park will be located south of Acuña, by the Piedras Negras Highway. This park will be the sixth in Acuña.

ProLogis to Invest \$600 Million Over Three Years in Mexico



ProLogis, the industrial parks developer, is planning to invest \$600 million in Mexico over the next three years, according to Silvano Solis, Vice-president and Regional Director for Mexico. This investment will be applied to the construction of new industrial parks, infrastructure development, and buildings for manufacturing companies. Development plans include the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Chihuahua, and Jalisco. ProLogis has already developed industrial parks in these states. Solis said that his company also has plans to develop other projects for distribution and manufacturing centers in the states of Queretaro, Toluca and San Luis Potosí. ProLogis is the world's largest owner, manager and developer of distribution facilities, with more than 446 million square feet of industrial space in 105 markets across North America, Asia and Europe.

Keys to Continue Serving on Ports-to-Plains Board



Robert Keys

Ports-to-Plains is pleased to announce the City of Amarillo has reappointed Robert Keys to continue to serve on the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors. Keys recently resigned from the Ports-to-Plains Board in conjunction with his retirement from the Amarillo City Commission. However, because of the invaluable expertise and knowledge that Keys has contributed over the past two years to Ports-to-Plains, he has been asked by the City of Amarillo to continue his service on the Board.

The City of Amarillo is one of the founding members of Ports-to-Plains and is a vital part of the organization. Connecting with both I-40 and the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor, Amarillo is strategically located in a position to take full advantage of the economic opportunities transportation brings to the city.

Richard "Buzz" David, Executive Director for the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation serves as an advisory member to the Ports-to-Plains Board. The Amarillo Economic Development Corporation is also a vital member and supporter of Ports-to-Plains as well as Amarillo College.

**For Additional Information
and Access to Previous Newsletters**

**Visit us Online at:
www.portstoplains.com**

GREAT PLAINS 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



PRESENTED BY:
PORTS-TO-PLAINS
TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRADE

TRAVEL

TRANSPORTATION

SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 2007 • ADAM'S MARK HOTEL • DENVER, COLORADO

REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND

www.regonline.com/GPIC

Attend the
Great Plains International Conference,
the most important conference on
Trade, Transportation and Travel of 2007.

CO-HOSTED BY:

Colorado Governor **Bill Ritter**

US Senator **Wayne Allard**

US Senator **Ken Salazar**

US Representative, CO, **Dianna DeGette**

US Representative, CO, **Marilyn Musgrave**

US Representative, TX, **Randy Neugebauer**

US Representative, CO, **Ed Perlmutter**

US Representative, CO, **John Salazar**

Denver Mayor **John Hickenlooper**

and the Consulate General of Mexico.

The agenda includes panels and presentations by experts on trade, travel, transportation, business, government and economic development. Visit www.regonline.com/GPIC (*Event Details*) for a complete Agenda and Event information.

A GREAT DESTINATION



The event takes place at the centrally located Downtown **Adam's Mark Hotel.**



877.642.9213

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/portspla>

The Great Plains International Conference fee is \$295 per person if registered on or before **July 31, 2007.**

The registration fee after this date is \$325.



One day registration is available

THE FEE INCLUDES:

Welcome Reception:

Conference Sessions:

Lunch:

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Thursday & Friday, Sept. 20 & 21

Thursday & Friday, Sept. 20 & 21



COLORADO IN SEPT. IS A TREAT!

Enjoy the wonderful late summer weather of Denver and the spectacular golden leaves of the changing Aspen trees in the mountains just a few minutes away!

Ports-to-Plains Investors in Progress

Municipal Investors	County Government Investors
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	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
Economic Development Corp. Investors	Chamber of Commerce Investors
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	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
Other Investors	Conference Investors
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	Cities of Acuna, Mexico / Del Rio, TX Além International Management, Inc. Aquila Atmos Energy The Bank & Trust City and County of Denver Colorado Office of Economic Development/Eastern Colorado DMJM+HARRIS Dumas Economic Development Corporation First Southwest Company HNTB Corporation Hugo Reed & Associates, Inc. Industrial Molding Corp. 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 Xcel Energy