



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS INFORMATION HIGHWAY

## Inside this Issue

- 1 2007 Northern Tour
- 2 Focus on Nebraska  
McDaniel and Keys  
Resign from PtP Board
- 3 Community Spotlight:  
Tahoka, Texas  
Nebraska continued
- 4 Northern Tour continued
- 5 Northern Tour continued
- 6 GPIC Information
- 7 2007 Investors in  
Progress

**Ports-to-Plains Coalition**  
**Michael Reeves-President**  
5401 N. MLK Blvd.,  
Unit 395  
Lubbock, TX 79403  
Phone: (806) 775-2338  
Fax: (806) 775-3981

## 2007 Northern Tour

4600 miles of driving, seven U.S. States, one Canadian Province, two international border crossings: the 2007 Ports-to-Plains Northern Tour. The Ports-to-Plains mission statement reads: *The Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is a planned, multimodal transportation corridor including a multi-lane divided highway that will facilitate the efficient transportation of goods and services from Mexico, through West Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma, and ultimately on into Canada and the Pacific Northwest.*

For the past three years Ports-to-Plains staff has headed north of Colorado to provide an update on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to our partners north and to encourage the development of a transportation system that extends ultimately on into Canada and the Pacific Northwest. This year the Northern Tour was staffed by vice presidents Duffy Hinkle and Joe Kiely. Duffy left Lubbock,



Figure 1-- US Highway 85 North of Spearfish, SD

Texas on May 14, 2007, and traveled to Colorado where the remainder of the week she and Joe Kiely attended various meetings in Colorado which included a groundbreaking ceremony for the Marketplace Business Park and new Flying J Travel Plaza in Limon, a presentation to the Colorado Motor Carriers Association Board of Directors, the Colorado Transportation Commission meeting which included the initial presentation of the Ports-to-Plains Rest Stop Study and the Action 22 Transportation Committee in Monte Vista, Colorado.

As Duffy traveled from Lubbock to Limon she was stopped for a Ports-to-Plains project on U.S. 287 between Springfield and Lamar, Colorado. This section of highway provides a great snapshot of the growth the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is experiencing. This construction project includes a pilot car system for safely moving traffic through the construction zone.

*-continued on page 4*



## Focus on Nebraska



Figure 1 -- Scottsbluff/Gering Bypass

As the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition fulfills its mission to develop a "planned, multimodal transportation corridor including a multi-lane divided highway that will facilitate the efficient transportation of goods and services from Mexico, through West Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma, and ultimately on into Canada and the Pacific Northwest," the role of the states that are along the Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway are important to understanding that mission. This month the focus is on Nebraska and its role in the economies of the Great Plains region.

The success of developing multi-lane highways is driven in Nebraska by two important items: the Heartland Expressway and the Nebraska Department of Roads' Expressway System.

The Nebraska State Highway Needs Assessment, 2006 states: *"As part of the 1988 Needs Study, Department of Roads' engineers reviewed Nebraska socioeconomic data. This data included population and demographic trends, general economic activity as reflected in sales tax revenue, agricultural production, employment data, and other information relative to economic trends. The initial review precipitated the development of an expanded Expressway System of approximately 600 miles. Factors included in the development of the system were:*

1. *to connect urban centers of 15,000 population or greater to the Interstate System,*
2. *to add those routes which have an average daily traffic of 500 or more heavy commercial vehicles, and*
3. *to add additional segments for continuity.*

*The Expressway System is being constructed as multi-lane divided highways. Interchanges may be built where an expressway intersects with high-volume highways or local roads and streets. Access other than at public roads will be limited. Whether the system will directly serve developed areas or whether bypass routes will be constructed, will be decided on a case-by-case basis."*

*-continued on page 3*

## McDaniel and Keys Resign from Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors



Ports-to-Plains has recently accepted the resignations from two of its board members, Harold McDaniel and Robert Keys, both of Amarillo, Texas. Harold McDaniel has retired after twenty-five years of service to the City of Amarillo and the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization. Harold has served as an advisory member to the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors since August 2003.

**Harold McDaniel** Robert Keys recently retired from the Amarillo City Commission after fourteen years of service being the longest serving commissioner in the history of Amarillo. Robert has served on the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors for the past two years.



**Robert Keys**

Ports-to-Plains appreciates both Harold and Robert for their commitment and dedicated service while serving on the Ports-to-Plains Board and for the knowledge and expertise they each brought forth to advance Ports-to-Plains initiatives.



The Lynn County courthouse, Tahoka, Texas

### Community Spotlight: City of Tahoka, Texas

Located just south of Lubbock in Lynn County, the City of Tahoka, a town of 2,800 residents on the Texas South Plains is another example of the many small cities and towns that can and will benefit from their involvement in the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition.

Like many communities in the region, Tahoka is very valuable to the agriculture of the United States. "Our economy is very much based on the farmers in the region," said Tahoka City Manager Jerry Webster. However, the effects of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor

have not reached Tahoka just yet. "We know that the project is still a few years away from being completed," said Webster, "But we know that [the Corridor] will benefit our economy in the future." Better roads can mean better transportation for the region's cotton-growers to reach their customers.

Better roads and increased traffic is always a positive for a small city such as Tahoka. "More people on the roads could equal a new truck stop or hotel," concluded Webster, "and we have plenty of room out here for development."

### Focus on Nebraska - continued from page 2

Currently Nebraska has completed four-lane divided expressways from Kimball to Scottsbluff on Highway 71, the Scottsbluff/Gering Relief Route and U.S. 26 Morrill to Miniature. Segments currently programmed include the Kimball Bypass in 2009 and U.S. 385 from Box Butte/Morrill County line 12 miles south in 2011.

#### Domestic Trade

Nebraska exports \$5.5 billion and imports \$1.6 billion annually with the eight Great Plains states. On the import side Nebraska's largest trading partners are Colorado (\$722 million), South Dakota (\$409 million) and Oklahoma (\$181 million). Texas (\$1.8 billion), Colorado (\$1.3 billion) and South Dakota (\$720 million) are the largest markets for Nebraska goods.



Figure 2 -- U.S. 385 at Alliance

#### Trade with Canada

Nebraska imported \$831 million of goods (up 17% and 47.1% from 2004) from Canada and exported another \$859 million (up 20.7% and 50.9% since 2004) in 2006. Trucking accounts for \$1.5 billion of these amounts. The inland ports of Raymond (MT), Sweet Grass (MT) and Portal (ND) served, by the Great Plains Corridor, account for 21.8% or \$269 million (up \$92 million or 33.3% and 90.9% since 2004) of this trade volume. Nebraska truck trade through the three ports is valued at \$322 million (22% of the total Nebraska truck trade with Canada and up \$156 million). The largest of the three is Portal which handled \$242 million (up 33.4 and 141.3% since 2004 of Nebraska trade. Trading through Sweet Grass also increased 29.8%.

#### Trade with Mexico

In 2006 Nebraska exported \$787 million (up 52% and 92.5% since 2004) of goods to Mexico and imported another \$271 million (up 14.8% and 58.6% since 2004). Of those amounts, \$607 million (up 30% and 101% since 2004) was by truck and \$452 million 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 62.2% (\$659 million; up 52.9% and 88.2% since 2004) of the total trade between Nebraska and Mexico passes through these three inland ports. Laredo is currently the largest port for Nebraska trade at \$491 million, which is up 49.3% and 100.4% since 2004.

**2007 Northern Tour - continued from page 1**



Figure 1-- US Highway 85 North of Spearfish, SD

Duffy was one of the first vehicles to be stopped and thus waited for 30 minutes while the traffic in the other lane passed through the construction zone. After passing through the twelve-mile construction zone, she counted the number of trucks now waiting to head south. There were 79 trucks in line in the south-bound lane. Estimating that the same number of trucks was also behind her in the north-bound lane after the half-hour wait, that 30-minute pilot car system affected the movement of approximately 158 trucks. It is a story we told all the way north.

Duffy and Joe left Colorado and headed north on Monday, May 21, 2007 and held meetings in Kimball and Alliance, Nebraska on Monday. In Kimball, Ports-to-Plains honored Deb Crago, a long-time advocate of Ports-to-Plains and Heartland Expressway, who is leaving her position as the City of Kimball Economic Developer. Tuesday was a travel day and also was used to visit some of South Dakota's tourist sites including Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial. On Wednesday, the team left Spearfish, South Dakota and traveled on a newly completed piece of four-lane divided highway, the first of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway

Duffy and Joe left Colorado and headed north on Monday, May 21, 2007 and held meetings in Kimball and Alliance, Nebraska on Monday. In Kimball, Ports-to-Plains honored Deb Crago, a long-time advocate of Ports-to-Plains and Heartland Expressway, who is leaving her position as the City of Kimball Economic Developer. Tuesday was a travel day and also was used to visit some of South Dakota's tourist sites including Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial. On Wednesday, the team left Spearfish, South Dakota and traveled on a newly completed piece of four-lane divided highway, the first of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway

At lunch a presentation was made in Dickinson, ND and then late that afternoon, the Northern Plains Center in Bismarck, North Dakota was toured. The inter-modal facility that is managed by Mallory Alexander is under development with truck, rail and air cargo. Mallory Alexander also has facilities in Lubbock, TX.

Thursday was the longest day of the tour as staff traveled to Williston, North Dakota and gave a presentation to a large luncheon hosted by the Williston Chamber of Commerce including both the Lions and Rotary Clubs. The tour passed through the international border crossing at North Portal, Saskatchewan and ended up in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Key points at each presentation included: Participation and Sponsorship of Great Plains International Conference, Value of a Corridor Development and Management Plan in Measuring the Economic Impact and Importance of Developing Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Organizations.

Friday, in Regina, meetings were held with the Regina Area Economic Development Authority and a Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation. Tom Rolfstad and T.C. Rolfstad of Williston Economic Development and Brad Bekkadahl, a City Commissioner from Williston joined Ports-to-Plains staff in Regina. The entire group toured a pulse crop (peas, lentils, etc) facility outside Regina operated by Saskcan Pulse Trading that recently expanded into the United State in Williston.



Figure 3 -- Canada Highway 11

On Saturday, Duffy and Joe continued their tour on to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where the busiest day of their tour was held on Memorial Day in the U.S. Meetings was held with Saskatoon Area Chamber of Commerce; Saskatchewan AgriVision Corporation; Inc.; Yanke Trucking; Siemens Transportation Group; Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority; and International Road Dynamics, Inc.

*-continued on page 5*

## 2007 Northern Tour - continued from page 4



Figure 4 -- US Highway 79 Under Construction in South Dakota

Tuesday the day began with the long drive from Saskatoon through the international border crossing at Raymond, Montana to Plentywood, Montana for an afternoon community meeting. That evening they returned to Williston and had dinner with several of the Williston City Commissioners. Williston was challenged at the Chamber Luncheon and at this dinner meeting to step up and emulate the City of Lubbock's role in financially providing a strong base in the development of the Ports-to-Plains. The Williston Herald later wrote: "We want to thank the Ports-to-Plains organization for sending a team up North to re-energize our troops and get the TR Expressway off of dead center. As a result of their trip, the local TR Expressway board was reorganized, and even hired a summer intern to get the organization started. It is their plan to hire someone to take this responsibility on full-time sometime later this summer. TR

Expressway is now on the move. We are convinced that it would not have happened had the Northern Tour not taken place."

Wednesday included travel from Williston to Rapid City, South Dakota where the final meeting of the tour was held. Thursday included travel from Rapid City back to Limon and Duffy continued toward Lubbock, three weeks after leaving home on Friday.

Other highlights of the trip included:

- Seeing the Canadian four lane divided highways including Trans-Canada Highway 1 and Highway 11 the major highway between Regina and Saskatoon.
- Learning more about the opportunities with Canada including energy development, AgriVision's Inland Port Project and Saskatchewan's additional \$5 billion commitment to transportation infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- Seeing newly completed portions of four-lane divided highway on Theodore Roosevelt Expressway on US 85 between Spearfish and Belle Fourche, South Dakota.
- Seeing newly completed portions of four-lane divided highway on the Heartland Expressway south of Rapid City and a new segment that was beginning construction.

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

**Visit us Online at:  
[www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com)**

# GREAT PLAINS 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



PRESENTED BY:  
PORTS-TO-PLAINS  
TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



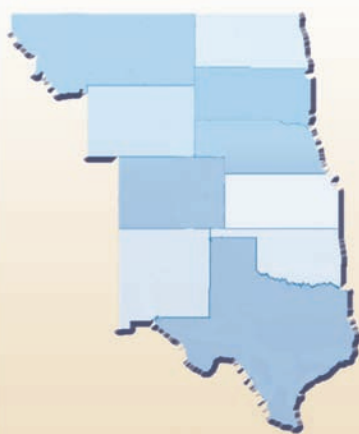
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRADE

TRAVEL

TRANSPORTATION

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



GREAT PLAINS  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE CORRIDOR

## GREAT PLAINS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Great Plains International Trade Corridor is strategically located to increase economic efficiency by connecting regional trade centers through the Great Plains from Canada to Mexico.

Ports-to-Plains, Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, designated United States High Priority Transportation Corridors, form the infrastructure of growing domestic and international trade, energy and travel opportunities.

These connections are taking advantage of new opportunities created by the expanding significance of north/south trade in relation to the historical east/west patterns. The Great Plains International Conference is bringing together both the business and government sectors to increase awareness of the corridor and increase economic activity.

PRESENTED BY:  
PORTS-TO-PLAINS TRADE  
CORRIDOR COALITION  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

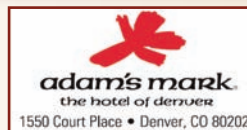
### CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE:

Adams County Economic  
Development  
City and County of Denver  
Consulate General of Canada  
Consulate General of Mexico  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
Colorado Office of Economic  
Development & International Trade  
Metro Denver Economic Development  
Corporation  
World Trade Center Denver

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Logistics Professionals  
Shipping Professionals  
Real Estate Developers  
Small Business Executives  
Manufacturing Professionals  
Transportation Professionals  
Trucking Industry Professionals  
Transportation Support Business  
Executives  
Highway Services Business Executives

Economic Development Professionals  
Chambers of Commerce  
Federal Level Officials & Staff  
State Officials & Staff  
County Officials & Staff  
Municipal Officials & Staff  
Lobbying and Legislative Professionals  
Travel/Tourism Professionals  
International Trade Professionals  
Others



The Great Plains International Conference fee is \$295 per person.

### THE FEE INCLUDES:

Welcome Reception: Wednesday, Sept. 19  
Conference Sessions: Thursday & Friday, Sept. 20 & 21  
Lunch: Thursday & Friday, Sept. 20 & 21

Updates on agenda, guest speakers, conference sessions & hotel reservations will be forthcoming.

● SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE ●  
PLEASE CALL 303.666.4019 FOR MORE INFORMATION

## 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                      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	Corporate Partners
<p>Amarillo College - TX                      Central 57 Importers &amp; Exporters, Inc. - TX                      Colorado Motor Carriers Association - CO                      Ehler &amp; Hettler, LLP - TX                      Lubbock Christian University - TX                      Panhandle Regional Planning Commission - TX                      Plainview Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau - TX                      South Plains Association of Governments - TX                      Texas Tech University - TX                      TransPort - CO                      Wayland Baptist University - TX                      West Texas A&amp;M University - TX</p>	<p>Além International Management, Inc.                      Aquila                      Atmos Energy                      The Bank &amp; Trust                      DMJM+HARRIS                      First Southwest Company                      HNTB Corporation                      Hugo Reed &amp; Associates, Inc.                      Industrial Molding Corp.                      Parkhill, Smith &amp; Cooper, Inc.                      Pate Engineers, Inc./Pate Transportation Partners                      Peoples Bank                      Reece Albert, Inc.                      State National Bank                      Stratford Grain Company                      Texas Good Roads                      Turner Collie &amp; Braden                      Xcel Energy</p>