

Joe Kiely Honored as Road Hand by the Texas Department of Transportation

Lubbock, Texas — October 2, 2025. Joe Kiely of Limon, Colorado, was honored as a **Road Hand** by the **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)** during the 2025 Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference held in Lubbock.

Created in 1973 by then-State Highway Engineer **Luther DeBerry**, the Road Hand Award recognizes individuals who have **“freely given their time, energy, support, and vision”** toward improving transportation in Texas. It is one of the highest honors TxDOT can bestow upon a non-employee—citizens, community leaders, public officials, and advocates whose efforts have made a lasting difference in Texas transportation.

Kiely joins roughly **280 recipients over the past 52 years** and is notably the **first non-Texan ever to receive the award**. The recognition was presented by **Brian Barth**, TxDOT’s Deputy Executive Director for Program Delivery, who praised Kiely’s **27 years of service** advancing Texas transportation.

Barth highlighted Kiely’s key contributions to major statewide and regional initiatives, including the **Texas Freight Plan**, the **Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan**, the **Ports-to-Plains Corridor Development and Management Plan**, the **Ports-to-Plains Interstate Feasibility Study**, and the **I-27 System in Texas Implementation Plan**. Kiely also played an instrumental role in the **Congressional designation of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor as a High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System** and its subsequent **designation as Future Interstate 27**.

While serving the **Town of Limon** and **minister at the Limon Church of Christ**, Kiely represented **Lincoln County and its municipalities** on the inaugural **Ports-to-Plains Alliance Board of Directors** beginning in 1997. In 2020, he transitioned from the board to become the **Vice President of Operations**, a role he continues today. Under his leadership, the Alliance has grown from a **four-state initiative to a nine-state corridor** spanning from **Mexico to Canada**.

The official certificate presented to Kiely read:

“Joseph Kiely is a certified member of the Texas Road Gang, having proven ability and displayed stamina to toil long, strenuous hours for Texas transportation. And be it known that in recognition and appreciation of proven labor, the **Texas Department of Transportation** shall post your name on the indelible roll of honored and distinguished Road Hands.”

The certificate was signed by the **Executive Director of TxDOT** and the **Texas Transportation Commission**.



TxDOT.Deputy.Executive.Director.Brian.Barth.presents.
the.Road.Hand.Award.to.Joe.Kiely.during.the.868①.
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