



PORTS-TO-PLAINS

ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland

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MDT Recommends Theodore Roosevelt Expressway as Critical to Rural Freight Movement

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) closed a comment period on September 6, 2016 allowing state departments of transportation (DOTs) to make recommendations to the Undersecretary of Transportation for Policy on critical rural freight facilities and corridors that should be included in the National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN). The NMFN looks to the future with the purpose of assisting states in directing resources, informing freight transportation planning, and assisting in prioritization of Federal investment.

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association, Ports-to-Plains Alliance and Montana Department of Transportation submitted comments urging USDOT to include the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in this Final National Multimodal Freight Network.

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association provided comment asking USDOT to *“Consider inclusion of U.S. Highway 2 from the Montana/North Dakota state line to Culbertson, Montana, and Montana State Highway 16 from Culbertson, Montana to the U.S./Canada border at the Port of Raymond, Montana, a portion of the multistate Theodore Roosevelt Expressway corridor as a CRFFC.*

Michael Reeves, President of the Ports-Alliance, submitted the following request: *“The Alliance respectfully requests the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy to include in the Final National Multimodal Freight Network the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor, which is made up of congressionally-designated high priority corridors and is critical to international freight movements.”* Reeves also stated *“The Alliance requests the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy to give special consideration to comments made by states that identify portions of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor that meet the criteria for Critical Rural Freight Facilities and Corridors for inclusion in the National Multimodal Freight Network.”*

Montana DOT identified the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway as Priority #1 stating *“Congressionally named high priority corridors: Theodore Roosevelt Corridor (TRC): This route, including portions of US 2 and MT 16, is a congressionally named high priority corridor and part of the Ports to Plains passageway connecting Mexico, the United States and Canada. The 85.38 length of highway provides important connectivity to the Williston basin energy corridor as well as agricultural regions in Montana and North Dakota. As of 2014, North Dakota is the second largest oil-producing state, behind only Texas in volume. In addition, this route has direct connectivity to Canada at the Port of Raymond.*

In addition to these comments, the state departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota also recommended the entire corridor for inclusion the Final

National Multimodal Freight Network. The USDOT has until December 4, 2016 to make the final designations for the NMFN.

-30-

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at <http://www.portstoplains.com/>.