



PORTS-TO-PLAINS

ALLIANCE

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

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WYDOT Recommends Heartland Expressway as Critical to Rural Freight Movement

"US-26 from 1-25 to Nebraska state line (46.382 miles) ... provides access to one of Wyoming's largest agricultural areas, petroleum transfer facilities, and the highest coal shipment rail line exiting the state," was a recommendation by the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

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 Ports-to-Plains Alliance and Wyoming Department of Transportation submitted comments urging USDOT to include the Heartland Expressway, and the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in this Final National Multimodal Freight Network.

Michael Reeves, President of the Ports-to-Plains 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."*

In addition to these comments, the state departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana 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.

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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/>.