

## 2024 Ports-to-Plains Alliance Progress Report

Throughout 2024, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance has worked towards answers to three questions. This report will provide progress on those questions.



### Why Join?

This question addresses Marketing Successes.

- Website: portstoplains.com
  - 16,334 Active Users in 2024, an increase of 126% over 2023
  - 51,286 Page Views in 2024, an increase of 79.5% from 2023
- Newsletter Database: 173 added in 2024
- Ports-to-Plains Alliance Publishes Corridor Status Maps
  - The Ports-to-Plains Alliance created and shared Corridor Status for each segment of the North American Corridor: Ports-to-Plains, Heartland Expressway, and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.
  - These maps are layered to show Status of the Corridor Highways, Ports-to-Plains Alliance Members, Congressional Comments, Construction, Ports of Entry, National Park Services, Cattle Feedyards, Military Bases, and in Texas: Future Interstate Sections, City Location Studies
  - [CLICK HERE](#) to View the Ports-to-Plains Corridor Status Map
  - [CLICK HERE](#) to View the Heartland Expressway Corridor Status Map
  - [CLICK HERE](#) to View the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Corridor Status Map
  - The Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Corridor Status Maps are also available on [heartlandexpressway.com](http://heartlandexpressway.com) and [trexpressway.com](http://trexpressway.com), respectively
- I-27 Advisory Committee met twice in 2024
  - The I-27 Advisory Committee created by SB 1474 in 2021, met on April 11, 2024 in Lubbock Texas.
    - During the April 11th committee meeting were two agenda items: Ports-to-Plains System in Texas - Interstate Implementation Plan Recommendations and Committee Workshop presented by Wendy Travis, Southwest Region Director, Transportation, Garver; and TxDOT District Updates.
      - Committee has released Fact Sheets to help understand the value of the Corridor to Texas
      - [About the Committee](#)
      - [Energy Fact Sheet](#)
      - [Agriculture Fact Sheet](#)
      - [Roadway Connectivity](#)
      - [Economic Impact](#)
      - [Freight](#)
      - [International Trade](#)

- Job Creation
- Multimodal Connectivity
- National Defense
- The I-27 Advisory Committee, created by SB 1474, met on September 19, 2024 in Del Rio, TX for its second meeting in 2024.
  - The 4-mile section of U.S. 87 from existing I-27 to south of 130th Street in Lubbock has been designated I-27
  - Lauren Garduno President and CEO, Ports-to-Plains Alliance provided Update from Ports-to-Plains Alliance
  - TxDOT Districts provided updates on the 2025 Unified Transportation Program
  - Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Updates from Laredo and Webb County MPO, San Angelo MPO and Eagle Pass MPO
  - Update on Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan



## Why Support?

This question addresses Legislative Successes.

- **FY24 Mini-Appropriations Bill Brings \$29.165 Million to Ports-to-Plains Alliance Projects.** This legislation, which cleared the U.S. Senate on Friday, March 8, 2024, and the U.S. House on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, was signed into law by President Biden on Saturday, March 9, 2024.
  - Among the notable provisions of the bill are allocations totaling \$29.165 million for four community projects benefitting the Ports-to-Plains Alliance corridor. These projects were championed by various U.S. House members and Senators, reflecting a bipartisan commitment to infrastructure development.
  - **Congressman Ronny Jackson (TX-13)** secured funding for two critical projects:
    - U.S. 287 Interstate Design, Amarillo to Dumas: \$2 million
    - State Loop 335 Widen Non-Freeway, Amarillo, Texas: \$2.2 million
  - **Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19) successfully advocated for:**
    - Interstate Planning: U.S. 87 from Lubbock to Tahoka: \$8 million
  - **Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11) secured funding for:**
    - U.S. 277 – Operational Improvements in San Angelo: \$2.5 million
  - Additionally, two projects received funding through the U.S. Senate:
    - Ports-to-Plains Corridor Interstate Planning (New Mexico): \$1.6 million, championed by Senators Martin Heinrich (NM) and Ben Ray Luján (NM)
    - Heartland Expressway Improvements: \$12.865 million, secured by Senator Deb Fischer (NE)
    - Funding for these projects is now available allowing projects to move forward
- **FY 2025 Appropriations in Current Legislation**
  - These 2025 Congressional Requests are awaiting final action by Congress
    - U.S. House Community Planning Projects
      - **Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19)** has \$10.000 million for Operational Improvements Lamesa One-Way
      - **Congressman Ronny Jackson (TX13)** has two projects still in play:
        - SL 335 - Upgrade to Freeway- Amarillo from West of FM 2590 to (South) to FM 2186 (TxDOT Project ID 2494-02-011) at \$1.0 million
        - Funds for City Location Study at Dumas at \$1.0 million

- U.S. Senate Congressionally Designated Projects
  - **Senators Martin Heinrich (NM) and Ben Ray Luján (NM)** along with **Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM-3)** have \$1.6 million in play for Interstate Planning Funds for City Location Study at Raton
  - **Senator Deb Fischer (NE)** has included \$5.0 million for Chadron North to Nebraska/ South Dakota state line



- **FY 2025 Texas UTP**

- On August 22, 2024, the Texas Transportation Commission approved the FY 25 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP). The UTP is TxDOT’s annual 10-year plan that guides the funding development of transportation projects across the state, identifies how much transportation funding the state expects to have over the next decade and how to distribute it to address TxDOT’s strategic goals, and includes all transportation projects that TxDOT is developing for construction over the next 10 years.

FY 2025 UTP Project Totals					
TxDOT District	FY 25 Amounts	FY 24 Amounts	Change	% Change	Construction Begun
Abilene	\$19,824,000	\$16,240,000	\$3,584,000	22.07%	\$0
Amarillo	\$424,998,682	\$683,775,781	(\$258,777,099)	-37.85%	\$269,063,384
Laredo	\$1,079,129,705	\$626,460,989	\$452,668,716	72.26%	\$0
Lubbock	\$324,603,483	\$409,365,558	(\$84,762,075)	-20.71%	\$13,080,442
Odessa	\$299,538,627	\$415,452,332	(\$115,913,705)	-27.90%	\$202,949,834
San Angelo	\$18,584,232	\$3,584,000	\$15,000,232	418.53%	\$0
<b>Total 10-Year Amount</b>	<b>\$2,166,678,729</b>	<b>\$2,154,878,660</b>	<b>\$11,800,069</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>\$485,093,660</b>

- That is progress! But there is more to the story about investment in projects benefiting the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas. Annually, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance reviews projects in the UTP. In 2024, projects benefitting the Ports-to-Plains Corridor totaled about \$2.17 billion. In the approved FY 2025 UTP, projects totaled to \$2.15 billion. \$485.1 million of projects in the FY24 UTP are not in the 2025 UTP because those projects began construction. Exciting increase in investment in the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas.



## Why Build?

This question addresses Development Successes.

- **New Interstate Highway in Texas on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor:**
  - On September 5, 2024, TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams received a letter from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approving the first I-27 expansion, to add a 4.2-mile segment from the existing terminus in Lubbock, Texas, to the new limits of U.S.

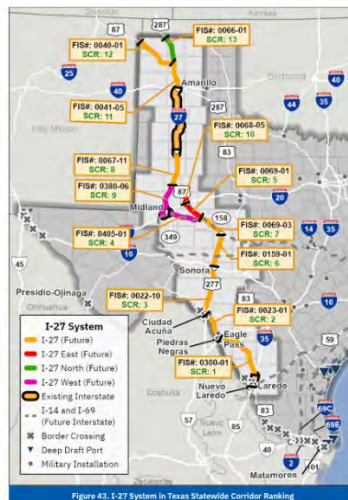
Highway 87 (U.S. 87) access control located 0.1 mile north of County Road 7500, south of Lubbock. FHWA Administrator Shailen P. Bhatt wrote: “I find the requirements of Section 1105(e)(5)(A) have been satisfied and hereby approve the 4.2-mile addition to the Interstate System as I-27. ”

- The Texas Transportation Commission approved a minute order designating a segment of the state highway system as I-27, concurrent with U.S. 87 at its regular meeting of September 26, 2024.
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Additional 12 Miles of TRE (U.S. 85)**
  - On October 25, 2024, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) celebrated the Ribbon Cutting for an additional 12 mile four-lane expansion of U.S. 85 from Watford City along with Shared Use Path alongside on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.
  - The project cost around \$100 million, which was funded through federal, state, and county funds. It was a two-year construction project and is the largest construction project every completed by the NDDOT.
- **I-27 System in Texas Implementation Plan Released on October 28, 2024**
  - The I-27 Implementation Plan provides a strategic approach for TxDOT to develop the I-27 System in Texas. TxDOT will develop the system through a series of incremental upgrades over near-term (0 to 4 years), mid-term (5 to 10 years) and long-term (10+ years) planning timeframes

**Table 7. Future Interstate Section Statewide Corridor Ranking and Implementation Timeframes**

PROJECT PHASE	NEAR-TERM BEGINS WITHIN 4 YEARS	MID-TERM BEGINS IN 5 TO 10 YEARS	LONG-TERM BEGINS IN 10+ YEARS
Schematic (SCH)/Environmental (ENV)	5	7	3
PS&E	3	5	7
ROW/Utilities (UTL)	1	9	5
Construction (CST)	1	5	9
CLS	7	7	-
Total <sup>[1]</sup>	17	33	24

[1] FIS 0300-1 (Laredo District) is broken into 3 segments; one near-term, one mid-term, and one long-term (all phases performed in that term)



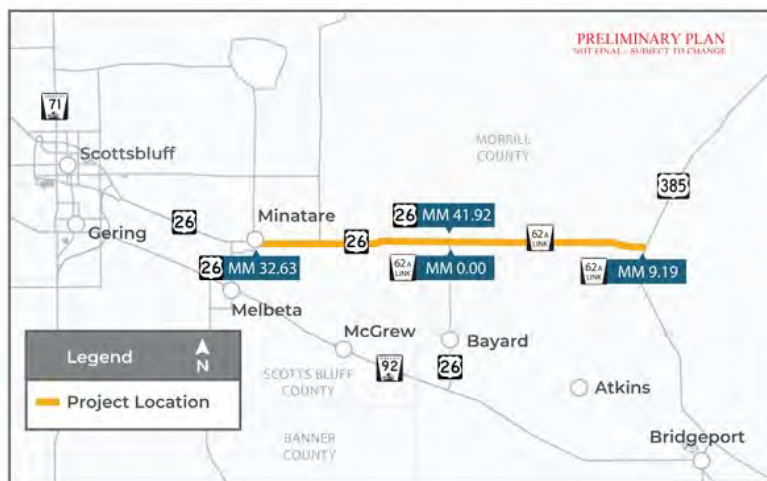
- [View/Download Complete I-27 System in Texas Implementation Plan](#)
- **TxDOT Initiates IH-27 Feasibility Study from Amarillo to Dumas**
  - The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Amarillo District is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate the potential upgrade of U.S. 87/U.S. 287 to interstate standards (I-27) from Amarillo to Dumas, covering U.S. 87/U.S. 287 in Randall, Potter, and Moore counties from State Loop (SL) 335 in Amarillo to a logical terminus north of Dumas at U.S. 287.
  - In order to assure that citizens along the study corridor have adequate input to the study, a stakeholder working group of local public and private leaders and public meetings will be held. See Schedule below.

Key Tasks	2024			2025	
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Introductory Meetings, Evaluate Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment		★ ◆			
Develop Strategies and Evaluation Considerations			★ ● ●		
Analyze Alternatives				★ ■ ◆	
Develop Feasibility Study					★ 🗳️

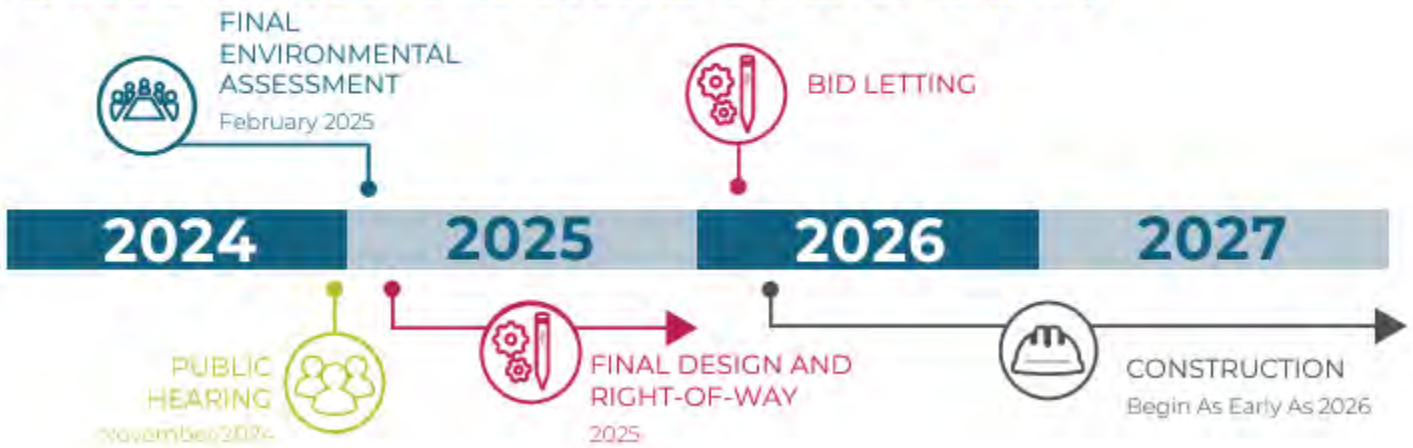
★ Stakeholder Working Group    ◆ Public Meeting    ● Technical Working Group    ■ Survey    🗳️ Feasibility Study Report

*Schedule is subject to change.*

- **Public Hearing on the HEA - Minatare to U.S. 385 Route and Environmental Assessment Information**
  - Nebraska Department of Transportation held a Public Hearing, on the DRAFT Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design, seeking input on proposed improvements to approximately 18.5 miles located on U.S. Highway 26 (U.S.-26) and Nebraska Link 62A (L-62A) in Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties in Nebraska on Thursday, November 21, 2024 in Minatare, NE.
  - The proposed project would expand the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway. The project would start on U.S.-26 just west of Minatare’s Main Street and extend east to the junction of U.S.-26 and L-62A. The project would continue east on L-62A to the junction with U.S. Highway 385.



# ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE & COST



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