

2025 Ports-to-Plains Alliance Progress Report

Throughout 2025, 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.

- New Members:
 - **Business - Chairman's Circle:** J Lee Milligan, Inc.; Texas Tech University - College of Engineering
 - **Business - President's Circle:** RRP Consulting Engineers, LLP; Terracon; Half
 - **Business - Other Associate:** BGE, Inc.; MV Engineering, Inc.; Tom's Tree Place; RS&H; Park Construction Co.
 - **Business - Small - Associate:** ALL-Ways Engineering, LLC
 - **County:** Schleicher County
 - **Municipality:** City of Midland, Texas; City of Odessa Texas
- Website: portstoplains.com
 - 25,112 Active Users in 2025, an increase of 53.7% over 2024
 - 51,088 Page Views in 2025
- Newsletter Database: 263 added in 2025
- Total Members: 108 Organizations



Why Support?

This question addresses Legislative Successes.

- **Federal Proposals**
 - **Multi-state Future Interstate Formula Funding**
 - Initially working with the I-69 Alliance and I-14 Coalition, this effort has expanded into the Congressionally Authorized Future Interstate (CAFI) Coalition hoping to involve the additional ten Multi-state Future Interstate Corridors.
 - The call is for a return to a National Vision like the original Interstate System.
 - The Solution:
 - Congress should make a Multi-State Future Interstate Highways Formula Funding program part of the next federal surface transportation reauthorization bill with dedicated funding.

- Funding would be distributed to State DOTs based on the number of unconstructed, multi-state authorized Future Interstate miles in each state.
- States would be required to use the formula funding to plan and construct multi-state interstates.
- Guaranteed federal funds for the program would be in addition to each state's Highway Trust Fund rate of return calculation.
- States would have the flexibility to determine annual priorities for corridor development.
- 10% of funding for planning High Priority Corridors for Future Interstate Status. 90% for Development and construction on existing Multi-state Future Interstate Highways.
- Support: Currently we have ninety-one supporting organizations.
- **Interstate Feasibility Study**
 - Make the Future Measurable
 - What are the Safety Benefits for Upgrading the Corridor to an Interstate?
 - What is the Travel Time Benefit of Upgrading the Corridor to an Interstate?
 - How will the Interstate Improve Freight Movement?
 - How will the Interstate Help the Energy Industry Get Products to Market?
 - How will the Interstate Help the Tourism Industry?
 - How will the Interstate Improve Congestion and Reliability?
 - What is the Cost to Upgrade the Corridor to an Interstate?
 - What are the Economic Impacts and Return on Investment of an Interstate Upgrade?
 - Long-term Economic Returns for Upgrading the Corridor to an Interstate
 - Determination of Areas Preferable and Suitable for Interstate Designation
 - What are the Potential Funding Sources for an Interstate Upgrade?
 - This study would cover the remaining seven Corridor States.
 - Support: Currently we have sixty-six supporting organizations.
- **Designation and Route Numbering**
 - This action would make the remaining seven Corridor States eligible for Multi-state Future Interstate Formula Funding.
 - Support: Currently we have eight-two supporting organizations.
- **Washington DC Fly-in**
 - Participation was very good: Colorado (1), Nebraska (3), New Mexico (2), North Dakota (5), South Dakota (1), Texas (8) and our state and federal consultants (3). Meetings were held with every U.S. House Office along the corridor (17) and all but one U.S. Senate Office (17).
 - Key Talking Points: Why Build? Food, Fuel and Fiber
 - Federal Reauthorization
 - Congressional Funding Requests
 - Use for Planning
 - Coordinate with State DOTs
 - Relevance to the Area (Agriculture, Energy, International Trade, Military/Defense)
 - Progress Update
 - I-27 Signage Ceremony (April 14th Lubbock)

- At each meeting the participants left behind the Ports-to-Plains Alliance 2025 Federal Policy Priorities. [CLICK HERE to Download.](#)
- **FY 2026 Appropriations in Current Legislation**
 - These 2026 Congressional Requests are awaiting final action by Congress
 - U.S. House Community Planning Funding
 - **Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19)** has:
 - ✓ \$640 thousand for Study of Operational Improvements Lamesa One-Way
 - ✓ \$5.0 million for Operational Improvements Lamesa One-Way
 - **Congressman Ronny Jackson (TX-13)** has two projects:
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ City Location Study at Dumas at \$1.0 million
 - **Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11)**
 - ✓ Future Interstate Planning between San Angelo and Sonora for \$1.0 million
 - **Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM-3)**
 - ✓ \$1.0 million for Interstate Planning Funds for City Location Study at Raton
 - **Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-4)**
 - ✓ \$2.0 million for SH 71 Corridor Improvements Project (Heartland Expressway)
 - U.S. Senate Congressionally Designated Projects
 - **Senators Martin Heinrich (NM) and Ben Ray Luján (NM)**
 - ✓ \$1.6 million in play for Interstate Planning Funds for City Location Study at Raton
 - **Senator Deb Fischer (NE)**
 - ✓ \$5.0 million for Chadron North to Nebraska/ South Dakota state line



Why Build?

This question addresses Development Successes.

- **FY 2026 Texas UTP**
 - The Texas FY 2026 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) was adopted in August 2025. 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 2026 UTP Project Totals					
TxDOT District	FY 26 Amounts	FY 25 Amounts	Change	% Change	Construction Begun
Abilene	\$21,600,000	\$19,824,000	\$1,776,000	8.96%	\$0
Amarillo	\$942,086,087	\$424,998,682	\$517,087,405	121.67%	\$424,705,697
Laredo	\$866,804,401	\$1,079,129,705	(\$212,325,304)	-19.68%	\$0
Lubbock	\$342,107,838	\$324,603,483	\$17,504,355	5.39%	\$0
Odessa	\$303,713,028	\$299,538,627	\$4,174,401	1.39%	\$378,821,782
San Angelo	\$38,157,248	\$18,584,232	\$19,573,016	105.32%	\$0
Total 10-Year Amount	\$2,514,468,602	\$2,166,678,729	\$347,789,873	16.05%	\$803,527,479

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- 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 2025, projects benefitting the Ports-to-Plains Corridor totaled about \$2.17 billion. In the approved FY 2026 UTP, projects totaled \$2.51 billion. \$803.5 million of projects in the FY25 UTP are not in the 2026 UTP because those projects began construction. Exciting increase in investment in the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas.
- **I-27 Advisory Committee met twice in 2025**
 - The I-27 Advisory Committee created by SB 1474 in 2021, met on April 10, 2025 in Austin, Texas.
 - TxDOT is currently seeking dual designation for 18.25 miles of I-27/I-35 in Laredo.
 - High-level summary of the current TxDOT investment on the future I-27 corridor, including those on the 2025 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) or under planning stages outside of the UTP. She summarized the totals assigned for I-27 development including planning funding (\$7.6B) meant for preliminary studies; engineering funding (\$2.7B) meant for development of schematic designs and other requirements needed to secure construction funding; and programmed construction funding (\$3.3B).
 - I-27 Dashboard was introduced, emphasizing its role in dynamically showcasing progress on the I-27 Implementation Plan. The dashboard will provide detailed metrics to track each project's status against the Implementation Plan and offer insights into each district's performance in securing funding.
 - Link to Presentation: <https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/division/tpp/i-27-advisory-committee/i-27-ac-mtg9-presentation.pdf>
 - The I-27 Advisory Committee, created by SB 1474, met on I-27 Advisory Committee Meeting on September 4, 2025 in Del Rio, TX for its second meeting in 2024.
 - I-27 Added Capacity Projects
 - **Projects Under Construction:** \$792.8 million
 - **Funded Projects in the 2025 UTP:** \$1.2 billion
 - **Future Projects (Partially Funded):** \$233.4 million
 - **Funding Gap:** \$616.8 million
 - **Total I-27 Potential Investment:** \$2.9B
 - Link to Presentation: <https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/division/tpp/i-27-advisory-committee/i-27-ac-mtg8-presentation.pdf>
- **Development of U.S. 85 in North Dakota**
 - North Dakota Funding Approval
 - 6.5 mile stretch from the Long X Bridge to RP120 (the top of the breaks).
 - ✓ NDDOT received 5 bids ranging between \$83.8 million and \$102 million. The apparent low bid of \$83.8 million was from Park Construction Company headquartered out of Minneapolis, MN.
 - 3 miles of U.S. 85 from a point six miles south of the Long X Bridge to the junction with Highway 200 (Jct. ND 200 to RP120)
 - ✓ NDDOT received 3 bids ranging from \$61.8 million and \$73.8 million. The apparent low bidder was STRATA Corporation headquartered out of Grand Forks, ND

- **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Celebrates First New Segment of Interstate 27**
 - I-27 signage ceremony in Lubbock on April 14th, 2025 celebrating AASHTO's approval of 4.2 miles of new I-27 interstate completed south of the City of Lubbock.
- **US 64/87 Ports-to-Plains Feasibility Study (NM)**
 - "The New Mexico Department of Transportation is in the process of finalizing a contract with Parametrix to prepare the Phase I-A/B report for the US 87/US 64 sections of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor (Proposed I-27). The study will kick off in Spring 2026 and is expected to take 18 months to complete. The team is enthusiastic about partnering with the P2P Alliance and engaging stakeholders throughout the corridor." -- From Parametrix
 - Technical Description of Project: This is a study regarding the Future Interstate Highway along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor (US 87/64) between the New Mexico-Texas state border and Raton. The Future Interstate Highway has potential to provide positive economic development impacts for northeast New Mexico.
- **TxDOT Completes IH-27 Feasibility Study from Amarillo to Dumas**
 - The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Amarillo District completed the study in July 2025. As a result of the concept development process and stakeholder and public engagement, alternatives were recommended for the three segments of the I-27 Feasibility Study area. For the SL 335 segment in Amarillo, interstate upgrades are recommended on the west side of the loop as well as a direct I-27 Feasibility Study Report | 1 connector interchange at SL 335 and I-27. For the US 87/US 287 segment between Amarillo and Dumas, ten proposed interchange locations were identified as well as frontage roads in addition to interstate upgrades. For the Dumas Area, a new location was identified for the future I-27 corridor. A Full Loop Alternative was recommended for interstate upgrades to avoid and minimize impacts to resources as well as provide access to the Dumas urban core in alignment with community needs. Following this study, the SL 335 segment will undergo the interstate designation process upon completion of ongoing construction. Following the completion of this feasibility study, the next phase in the implementation plan will be preliminary design.
 - Link to Study Report: <https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot/get-involved/ama/i-27/072925-final-study-report.pdf>

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