2026 Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference Agenda
Del Rio, Texas, and Acuña, Coahuila
September 8-10, 2026

Tuesday, September 8, 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**Speaker(s)**
5:30 – 7:00 PM	**Registration** Ramada by Wyndham, 2101 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio, TX *Sponsored by Del Rio Chamber of Commerce & Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*	
7:00 PM	**Transportation to Gin House Jazz Club** Leaving from Ramada by Wyndham By Transportation Van or Private Vehicles *Transportation Sponsored by: Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority & City of Williston, ND*	

7:30 – 9:30 PM	**Kickoff Mixer** Gin House Jazz Club, 900 Pecan St, Del Rio, TX Live Jazz • Hors d'oeuvres *Sponsored by: Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association & Hance Scarborough, LLP*	• **Alvaro "Al" Arreola**, Mayor, City of Del Rio • **Lewis Owens**, County Judge, Val Verde County • **Emilio Alejandro de Hoyos Montemayor**, Mayor, Ciudad Acuña • **Lauren Garduño,** President/CEO, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
9:30 PM	**Transportation to Ramada by Wyndham** Return Transportation available from 8:00 – 9:30 PM *Sponsored by: Hunter Industries, LTD & Kimley-Horn*	
Wednesday, September 9, 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**Speaker(s)**
7:00 – 8:00 AM	**Breakfast** Ramada by Wyndham, 2101 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio, TX *Sponsored by: Cameron County International Bridge Association & STV, Inc.*	
9:00 AM	**Departure to Acuña, Mexico – Passport, Passport Card, Global Entry or SENTRI Card Required** Transportation from Ramada by Wyndham Lobby *Sponsored by: International Bank of Commerce & Lubbock Economic Development Alliance*	
	Translation Services will be available	

10:30 AM	**Attendee Registration Opens** Grand Real Hall (Salón Grand Real) Hotel Villa Real Calle Nicolás Bravo 645, Zona Centro, 26200 Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico	
11:05 - 11:25 AM	**Welcome and Remarks**	• **Emilio Alejandro De Hoyos Montemayor**, Mayor, Ciudad Acuña
11:25 - 11:45 AM	**Welcome and Remarks**	• **Lauren Garduño,** President/CEO, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
11:45 AM - 12:05 PM	**Update from Del Rio Port**	• **Liliana Flores**, Port Director, Port of Del Rio
12:05 – 12:25 PM	**Remarks from Governor of Coahuila**	• **Ing. Manolo Jiménez Salinas**, Governor of the State of Coahuila of Zaragoza
12:25 – 1:00 PM	**Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Governor of the State and Mayors of Coahuila**	
1:00 – 1:30 PM	**Media Availability and Official Photograph**	
1:30 - 1:50 PM	**Remarks by the National President of CANACINTRA**	• **Dra. María de Lourdes Medina Ortega**, National President, National Chamber of the Transformation Industry (CANACINTRA)
1:50 – 2:10 PM	**Remarks by State of Coahuila Attorney General**	• **Mtro. Federico Fernández Montañez**, State of Coahuila Attorney General
2:10-2:30 PM	**Remarks by State of Coahuila Secretary of the Economy**	• **Lic. Luis Eduardo Olivares Martínez,** Secretary of Economy of the State

2:30 -2:50 PM	**Nearshoring Vs Reshoring: Mexico's New Challenge**	• **Samuel Peña Guzmán**, Professor, Tecnológico de Monterrey; International Business and Foreign Investment Specialist
2:50 – 4:20 PM	**Lunch**	
4:20 – 4:40 PM	**Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing**	• **Kenneth Smith**, General Manager, Howmet Aerospace – Acuña Operations
4:40 - 5:00 PM	**Industrial Development**	• **Jorge Ortiz**, Sales Executive, Grupo Amistad
5:00 - 5:20 PM	**Livestock Industry Presentation**	• **Eng. Sergio Siller**, Technical Advisor, Coahuila Regional Livestock Union
5:20 - 5:40 PM	**The Right Way: "Commerce, Services, and Tourism"**	• **José Santos Gómez**, President, CANACO SERVYTUR Ciudad Acuña; National Council Member, CONCANACO SERVYTUR México
5:40 - 6:00 PM	**The Right Way: "The Industrial and Business Sector"**	• **Keila Dariela García Altamirano**, President, CANACINTRA Ciudad Acuña
6:00 - 6:20 PM	**The Right Way: "Investment Attraction and Regional Competitive Advantages"**	• **Luis Ángel Urraza Dugay**, Director of Municipal Economic Development Ciudad Acuña
6:45 PM	**Transportation to Dinner** From Grand Real Hall (Salón Grand Real)	
7:00 - 9:00 PM	**Dinner** Old Military Fort Museum Museo del Antiguo Cuartel Militar Pino Suárez 1. Col. 28 de Junio CP 26350. Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila	

9:00 PM	**Departure to Del Rio, Texas** Transportation will be available from 7-9 PM to Ramada by Wyndham	
Thursday, September 10, 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**Speaker(s)**
	Translation Services will be available	
7:00 – 8:00 AM	**Breakfast** Ramada by Wyndham, 2101 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio, TX *Sponsored by: Jones Bros. & Pape-Dawson*	
8:00 AM	**Transportation to Civic Center** 1915 Veterans Blvd, Del Rio, TX 78840 Enter through Back Parking Lot Entrance *Sponsored by: Reece Albert, Inc. & The Bank and Trust*	
8:30 - 9:15 AM	**From Designation to Delivery: A Federal Funding Pathway for Future Interstates**	• **Jennifer Shepard**, Managing Director & Senior Policy Advisor, Hance Scarborough LLP
9:15 - 9:45 AM	**From Trade Route to Strategic Asset: I-27, Border Security, and Emergency Response**	• **Fabian E. Mendoza Jr.**, COL, F.SAME, USA, (RET), Army Program Manager, SVP • **George Cavazos,** Division Chief – Law Enforcement Operations, U.S. Border Patrol, Del Rio Sector • **Francisco Gardea**, Executive Officer – Law Enforcement Operations, U.S. Border Patrol Del Rio Sector • **Alfonso Riera,** PhD, Regional Market Lead – Army, Michael Baker International

9:45 – 10:15 AM	**Break No. 1** Snacks / Water / Coffee / Aguas Frescas *Sponsored by: Val Verde County*	
10:15 – 11:00 AM	**Impact of the Del Rio Port: A Strategic Border Gateway for Trade, Jobs, and Regional Growth**	• **Liliana Flores**, Port Director, Port of Del Rio
11:00 – 11:45 AM	**ASREC Ports: Advancing Secure, Redundant, and Economic Corridors from Designation to Delivery**	• **Lauren Garduño,** President/CEO, Ports-to-Plains Alliance • **Shane Getson**, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary of Economic Corridors, Legislative Assembly of Alberta
12:00 – 1:30 PM	**Lunch & Keynote** Del Rio Civic Center – Red Oak Room *Sponsored by: Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge & City of Del Rio*	• **Marc Williams**, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
2:00 – 2:30 PM	**Bridging Growth: The Economic Case for Extending I-27 Toward the Rio Grande Valley**	• **Billy Leung,** Senior Vice President, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI)
2:30 – 3:00 PM	**Planning the Case for Investment: Future I-27, Port Access, and the Border Master Plan**	• **Lorena Echeverria de Misi**, Corridor Planning Branch Manager, Planning and Programming Division, Texas Department of Transportation • **Andrew Canon**, Freight, Trade, and Connectivity, Section Leader, Texas Department of Transportation • **Sergio Vasquez**, Border Program Manager, International Trade and Border Planning, Texas Department of Transportation

3:00 – 3:30 PM	**Break** Snacks / Water / Coffee / Aguas Frescas *Sponsored by: Del Rio Area Development Foundation*	
3:30 – 4:15 PM	**Bridging Ports and Corridors: Advancing Cross-Border Trade Infrastructure**	• Del Rio – **Alvaro "Al" Arreola**, Mayor, City of Del Rio • Eagle Pass – **Homero Balderas**, City Manager, City of Eagle Pass • Brownsville – **Eric Davila, PE,** Chief Development Engineer, Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority
4:15 – 4:45 PM	**USMCA and the Corridor Economy: Moving Trade from Border to Market**	• **Daniel Covarrubias,** PhD, Director, Texas A&M International University's (TAMIU) A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development
4:45 – 5:05 PM	**Technology-Driven Corridors: Lessons for Moving from Designation to Delivery**	• **Tracy Forester,** ITS Practice Leader, Halff
5:05 – 5:15 PM	**Comments from Texas Office of the Governor**	• **David Zapata,** Senior International Business Representative, Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office, Office of the Governor
5:15 – 5:30 PM	**Building Momentum: Key Takeaways and Action Items**	• **Lauren Garduño,** President/CEO, Ports-to-Plains Alliance
5:30 PM	**Depart from Civic Center to Ramada by Wyndham** By Transportation Van or Private Vehicles	

6:00 PM	**Depart from Ramada by Wyndham to Evening Event** By Transportation Van or Private Vehicles *Sponsored by: Texas Tech University, College of Engineering & Wright Asphalt Products Company*	
6:30 – 9:30 PM	**Evening Event | Main Street Social & Food Truck Fest** Mesquite Creek Outfitters, 800 S. Main Downtown Del Rio • Music • Food Trucks • Border Culture *Sponsored by: RK&K & Ryan*	
9:30 PM	**Transportation Returns to Ramada by Wyndham** *Transportation available from 7:00–9:30 PM*	