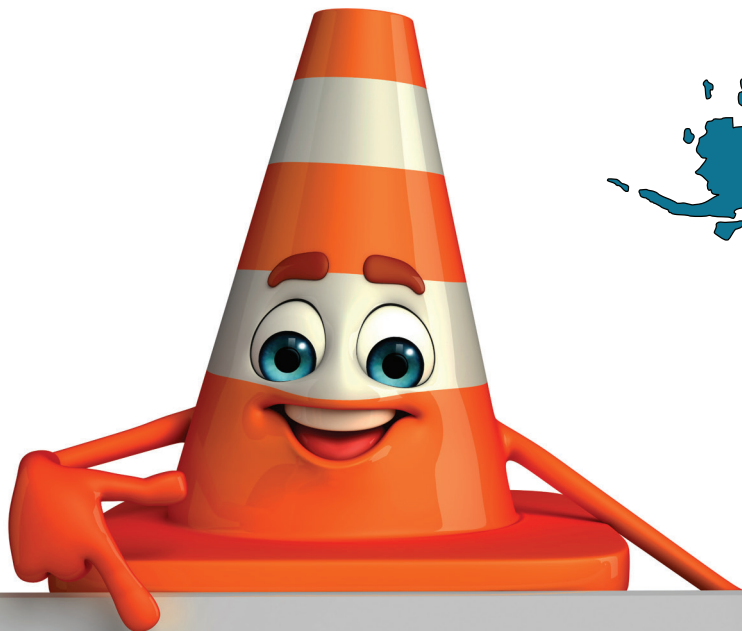




# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

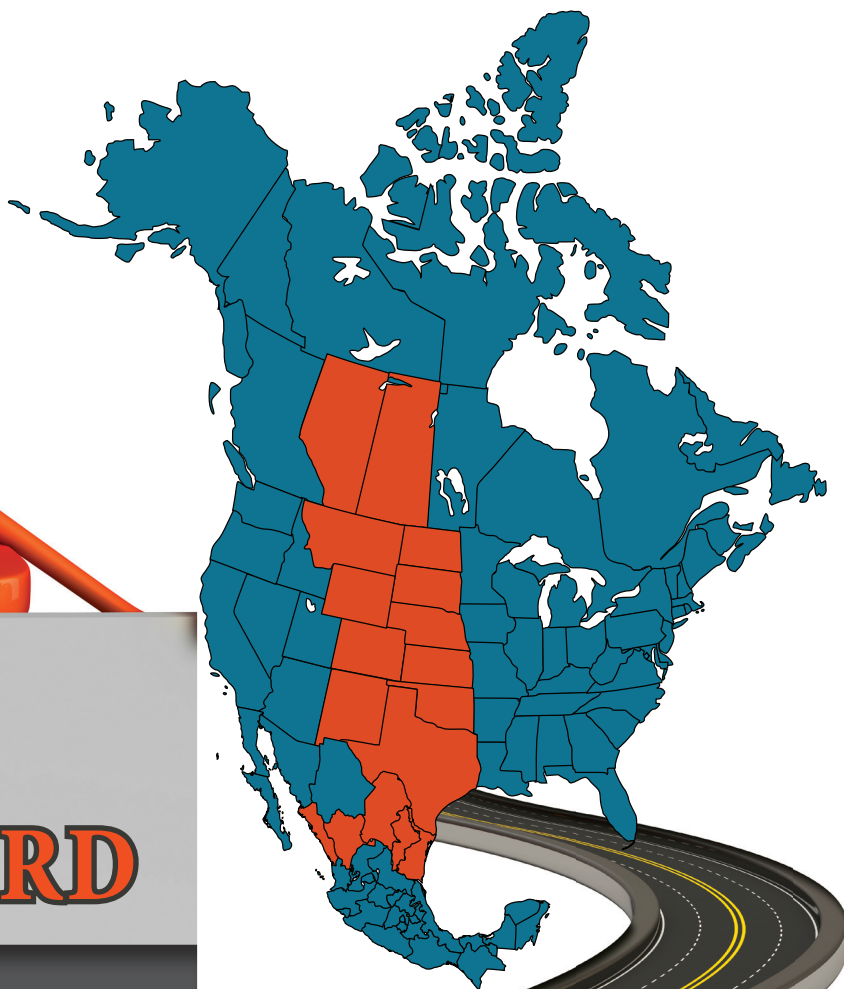


## 2016 REPORT CARD

**W**e are a voice for our small town, grassroots members who may otherwise not have access to the right audiences, as well as a conduit for industry to come together in support and promotion of transportation improvements.

**W**e are committed to working as an alliance to improve transportation infrastructure and business networks opportunities, by advocating for appropriate funding levels, so business and industry can thrive.

**W**e are focused on the economic and business interests that are the lifeblood of the region.



[www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com)

# A Message from the Chairman



The Ports-to-Plains Alliance continues to bring together communities across North America in support of a robust transportation system providing opportunities for economic growth in our communities. 2016 was built on past successes and certainly created new opportunities.

The corridor saw \$480 million in expansion construction projects across the United States.

Our President, Michael Reeves, is focused on the potential expansion of Interstate 27 in Texas. Developing strong support at community, state legislature, transportation commission, and TXDOT levels will be critical to this important designation moving forward. The Texas Freight Mobility Plan states: "In terms of the Primary Freight Network - Interstate Corridors implementation priorities include the development and completion of new corridors by giving additional consideration to the extension or

designation of other interstate routes to interstate standards. Examples include I-27." There is a growing recognition that an integrated freight system using I-35 and Ports-to-Plains/I-27 is not only viable but economically necessary.

Implementation of the FAST Act saw a significant milestone in the recognition of the value of the entire corridor. The departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana each made recommendations that the corridor through their respective state needs to be included in the Final National Multimodal Freight Network as critical rural freight corridors. This may be the strongest evidence yet that the full corridor is increasing value in the eyes of the DOTs.

More exciting news in 2016 is that the Alliance is moving to expand its business memberships. With a strong base of local governments, economic development interests and chambers of commerce, involving business and industry in the Alliance can only improve our voice at local, state and national levels. Businesses, be they Builders, Users or Travelers of the expanded transportation system, benefit. You will see the tagline: TOGETHER DRIVING CHANGE. Nothing is truer. The broader the Alliance is, the stronger the voice is about the economic opportunities presented by expansion of the corridor.

Yes, 2016 was a bright year... and the future is getting brighter for the communities and businesses throughout the Ports-to-Plains region.

We thank you for your past and future support as we look forward to the coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John N. Bertsch".

John N. Bertsch, CFP  
Chairman



# Accomplishments

## Infrastructure

- Total investment in Expansion Construction Projects to date is almost \$2 Billion since 1997
- Continued efforts to extend Interstate 27 in Texas
  - Appointed committee to focus on designation of future I-27
  - Working with elected officials, business leaders, civic groups and department of transportation representatives to build support for efforts
- Departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana submitted recommendations that the Ports-to-Plains Corridor through their state should be added to the Final National Multimodal Freight Network as critical corridors in each state
- 47.47 percent (47.47%) of original Ports-to-Plains Corridor (four states) of 1,361 miles are now four-lane or better
- 54.38 percent (54.38%) of entire Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor (nine states) of 3,088 miles now four-lane or better
- In addition to millions of dollars in maintenance to the existing corridor, there was \$479.8 million in expansion projects under construction including \$94.4 million of new projects in 2016
- Big Spring William B. Crooker Relief Route Ribbon Cutting for the southern portion of the route
- Continued Environmental Impact Statement Study for the Proposed U.S. Highway 85 Project from the I-94 Interchange to the Watford City Bypass (McKenzie County Road 30) (62 miles) in North Dakota on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway
- Highway signage installed in New Mexico and a significant portion of Colorado identifying the corridor based on High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System designations by Congress
- Construction initiated on four-lane expansion project for ten (10) miles south of Alliance on the Heartland Expressway. Funding is in place for the next fourteen (14) miles to Junction L62A
- The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) and Governor Ricketts announced transportation construction investments, including U.S. 26 from Minatare to U.S. 385, as a 4-lane divided highway, as well as the design U.S. 385 from Alliance to Chadron, as a Super 2

## Advocacy

- Federal
  - Continued the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Caucus supporting rural transportation and economic development in the 114th Congress
  - Passage of the FAST Act, a long-term transportation reauthorization bill for the first time since 2005
  - Significant FAST Act Provisions
    - National Highway Freight Program
    - Provides Formula Funding to each state for eligible projects on the National Highway Freight Network
    - Provides funding for a national discretionary freight funding program called FASTLANE
      - Ports-to-Plains projects in Colorado and North Dakota were submitted by state DOTs but not selected by USDOT
- National Highway Freight Network
  - Critical Rural Freight Corridors
  - Advocated for the need for FHWA to provide guidance on Critical Rural Freight Corridors to FHWA Administrator in Denver and to Congress during Washington DC Fly-in
- National Multimodal Freight Network
  - Departments of Transportation in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana submitted recommendations that the Ports-to-Plains Corridor through their states should be added to the Final National Multimodal Freight Network as critical corridors in each state
- In February, PTP Staff visited USDOT/FHWA, Committee Staff, AASHTO and NADO
  - Meeting with USDOT/FHWA hosted by Congressional Liaison, FHWA, Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy Communication including Operations Deployment Team Leader, FHWA, Office of Transportation Management, Office of Freight Management and Operations and Transportation Planner, FHWA, Office of Planning, Environment and Realty
  - Meeting with Transportation & Infrastructure Majority Surface Transportation Staff
  - Meeting with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
  - Meeting with National Association of Development Associations

# Accomplishments

- Hosted Caucus event, Building Rural Economies Together through the FAST Act, which highlighted an Overview of the Ports-to-Plains Regional Assets: GDP, Energy and Agriculture, the Growing Trade Corridor: Domestic and International, Accessing Ports-to-Plains Alliance Online Tools, the FAST Act and Rural America and Reaching Our Community Network
- April Fly-In had fifteen participants from five states. Visits were made to seventeen Senate Offices and eighteen House Offices
- In May the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a field hearing entitled “Keeping Goods Moving in America’s Heartland” in Scottsbluff, NE. Provided testimony and statements
- Opposed the reduction of hours at the Port of Raymond, MT by U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Michael Reeves served as Chairman-elect of Transportation Advocates of Texas
- Joe Kiely served on Board of Directors of Move Colorado
- Network and Involvement with other Advocacy Organizations
  - Attended Western States Transportation Alliance Summer and Issue Summits
  - Participated in National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America
  - Participated in USDOT/FHWA Scenario Planning of Future Freight and Passenger Traffic Flows Across the U.S./Mexico and U.S./Canada Borders Workshop
  - Participated in committees and events with North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)
  - Attended Texas Freight Advisory Committee Meetings
  - Attended Texas Border Trade Advisory Committee Meetings
  - Served on George W. Bush Center North American Development Bank Working Group
  - Attended Colorado Oil and Gas Association’s Rocky Mountain Energy Summit
  - Attended Voices of Rural Colorado Joint Legislative Trip
  - Attended Laredo Development Foundation Logistics and Manufacturing Symposium

## Membership and Marketing

- Developed New Mascot, Peetie P
- Richard “Buzz” David joined the Ports-to-Plains team with a scope of work supporting the Economic Development Assistance and Business Membership Development
- Launched an updated website designed to be more responsive on a variety of electronic platforms
- Completed fourteen-week Media Outreach Program to communicate with our communities
- Approved National Marketing Program for Ports-to-Plains
  - This includes an advertising presence in national publications such as Equipment Today, WDI Wholesale and Distribution Magazine, Oil and Gas Journal, AWEA Directory and Guide, and American City and County
  - The Alliance will also expand its presence at trade shows allowing our members to join in cooperative marketing at national and international events
- Converted to a new membership and communication platform to better serve our members

## Promotions / Events

- 175 attendees at 19th Annual Conference held in San Angelo, TX
- Over 135 attendees at first combined Energy/Ag Summit held in Lubbock, TX

## Alberta

- Can Am Border Trade Alliance Conference
  - Ottawa, Ontario Spring Meeting in May
  - Washington, DC Fall Meeting in October
- Local to Global Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Forum, Medicine Hat, AB
- Reviewed RFP for Wild Horse Feasibility Study
- Ports-to-Plains presentation at Economic Developers of Alberta Annual General Meeting in Kanakaskis, AB
- Alberta Office in Washington, DC staff participated in Ports-to-Plains Spring Washington DC Fly-In activities





# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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## 2016 Projects on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor

Projects in BLUE are carried over from previous year.

| State        | Corridor                      | Type         | Description  | Total Funding | Comments  |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|-----------|
| Colorado     | Ports-to-Plains               | Construction | I-70 -- Tower Road to Colfax Avenue  | \$25,000,000  | COMPLETED |
| Colorado     | Ports-to-Plains               | Planning     | I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement   | \$37,000,000  | 13th Year |
| Nebraska     | Heartland Expressway          | Construction | Highway 385 -- Four Lane Expansion- Alliance South Phase 1 -- 12 miles                         | \$26,700,000  |           |
| North Dakota | Theodore Roosevelt Expressway | Planning     | EIS - U.S. 85 -- I-94 to Watford City Bypass - Environmental for potential expansion           | \$14,500,000  | 2nd Year  |
| North Dakota | Theodore Roosevelt Expressway | Construction | U.S. 85 -- 3 miles South of JCT U.S. 2 to U.S. 2   | \$80,800,000  | 3rd Year  |
| North Dakota | Theodore Roosevelt Expressway | Construction | U.S. 85 -- CO RD 16 to 3 miles South of JCT U.S. 2   | \$44,100,000  | COMPLETED |
| North Dakota | Theodore Roosevelt Expressway | Construction | U.S. 85 - JCT US 2 TO JCT ND 50 - Widening and Surfacing                                       | \$25,000,000  | COMPLETED |
| Texas        | Ports-to-Plains               | Construction | Big Spring Reliever Route -- 8.5 mi -- Howard County   | \$62,583,943  | COMPLETED |
| Texas        | Ports-to-Plains               | Construction | Big Spring Reliever Route Phase II -- 6.693 mi -- Howard County                                | \$67,744,816  |           |
| Texas        | Ports-to-Plains               | Construction | S.H. 158 -- Glasscock County Line to U.S. 87 Widen to Four Lanes -- 14.4 mi -- Sterling County | \$24,211,400  | COMPLETED |



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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## 2016 Projects on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor

Projects in BLUE are carried over from previous year.

| State | Corridor        | Type         | Description  | Total Funding | Comments  |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|--|---------------|-----------|
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | S.H. 158 --Widen to 4-Lanes -- RM 33 to Midland County Line -- 13.7 mi -- Glasscock County     | \$35,104,217  | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | S.H. 158 --Widen to 4-Lanes -- RM 33 to Sterling County Line -- 17.8 mi -- Glasscock County    | \$20,662,731  | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | S.H. 349 -- Widen to 4-Lanes -- S.H. 186 to Dawson County Line -- 16.1 mi -- Martin County     | \$6,788,801   | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | U.S. 277 -- Widen & Rehab Roadway -- U.S. 57 East -- 10.2 mi -- Maverick County                | \$14,389,063  | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | U.S. 87 -- Bridge Replacement at Canadian River -- Potter County                               | \$3,326,900   | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | U.S. 87 -- Bridge Replacement at LP 335 (St Francis Ave) -- Potter County                      | \$7,195,486   | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | U.S. 87 -- Construct Interchange -- 700' N to 330' S of LP 493 -- Lubbock County               | \$11,877,468  | COMPLETED |
| Texas | Ports-to-Plains | Construction | U.S. 87 -- Widen & Rehab -- East of U.S. 385 to Moore County Line -- 12.5 mi -- Hartley County | \$24,285,068  | COMPLETED |
|       |                 |              | TOTAL  | \$531,269,893 |           |
|       |                 |              | PLANNING   | \$51,500,000  |           |
|       |                 |              | CONSTRUCTION   | \$479,769,893 |           |

# Ports-to-Plains Alliance Members

## Municipalities

City of Abernathy - TX  
City of Amarillo - TX  
City of Big Spring - TX  
City of Boise City - OK  
Village of Cadillac - SK  
Town of Clayton - NM  
City of Dalhart - TX  
City of Del Rio - TX  
City of Dumas - TX  
City of Eldorado - TX  
City of Eagle Pass - TX  
Town of Genoa - CO  
City of Hale Center - TX  
City of Happy - TX  
City of Lamar - CO  
City of Lamesa - TX  
Town of Limon - CO  
City of Lubbock - TX  
City of New Deal - TX  
City of O'Donnell - TX  
City of Plainview - TX  
City of San Angelo - TX  
City of Sonora - TX  
City of Tahoka - TX  
City of Tulia - TX

## Counties

Flagstaff County - AB  
Hale County - TX  
Howard County - TX  
Kiowa County - CO  
Lincoln County - CO  
Lubbock County - TX  
Moore County - TX  
County of Paintearth - AB  
Sherman County - TX  
Sterling County - TX  
Sutton County - TX  
Swisher County - TX  
Tom Green County - TX  
Union County - NM  
R.M. of Val Marie No. 17 - SK  
Val Verde County - TX

## Economic Development Agencies

Adams County Economic Development - CO  
Amarillo Economic Development Corp. - TX  
Big Spring Economic Development - TX  
Canyon Economic Development Corp. - TX  
Community Futures Southwest - SK  
Del Rio Area Development Foundation - TX  
Dumas Economic Development Corp. - TX  
High Ground of Texas - TX  
I-70 Corridor Regional Economic  
Advancement Partnership - CO  
Lamesa Economic Development Corp. - TX  
Laredo Development Foundation - TX  
Leduc-Nisku EDA- AB

Levelland EDC- TX  
Lincoln County ED - CO  
Lloydminster EDC- AB/SK  
Lubbock EDA - TX  
Maverick CDC- TX  
Metro Denver EDC - CO  
Midland EDC- TX  
Paintearth Economic Partnership Society - AB  
Plainview/Hale County EDC- TX  
Prairie Development Corporation - CO  
Prowers County Economic Development - CO  
City of San Angelo Development Corp. - TX  
Saskatchewan EDA - SK  
Sonora Economic Development - TX  
Veterans Memorial Highway Association - AB

## Chambers of Commerce

Amarillo Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Chamber of the Americas - CO  
Dalhart Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Dumas/Moore County Chamber - TX  
Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Lamesa Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Medicine Hat and District Chamber  
of Commerce - AB  
Plainview Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Plainview Convention & Visitors Bureau - TX  
San Angelo Chamber of Commerce - TX  
Sonora Chamber of Commerce - TX

## Business Investors

The Bank & Trust - TX  
Hettler & Associates - TX  
Reece Albert Inc. - TX  
Republic Services - TX  
Texas-Pacific Railroad - TX

## Other Investors:

Amarillo College - TX  
Canadian Natural Resource Alliance - AB  
Central 57 Importers and Exporters - TX  
Colorado Motor Carriers Association - CO  
Howard College - TX  
Lubbock Christian University - TX  
Panhandle Regional Planning  
Commission - TX  
Progressive 15 - CO  
South Plains Association of Governments - TX  
Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and  
Interstate Transportation (S.P.I.R.I.T 54)  
TechMRT - Texas Tech University - TX  
Wayland Baptist University - TX

## Mexico Investors

Cuidad Acuña - COAH  
City of Torreon - COAH

## State and Provincial

Province of Alberta, Canada

## 2016 Conference Sponsors

AEP Texas  
Alon USA  
Amarillo EDC  
Big Spring EDC  
Bleyl & Associates  
Can-Doo Budget Rentals  
Cisco Ford Equipment  
City of San Angelo  
City of San Angelo Development Corp.  
City of Del Rio  
City of Plainview  
Concho Valley Council of Governments  
ConocoPhillips  
Del Rio Area Development Foundation  
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce  
Dustin Burrows, Texas State Rep. District 83  
Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor  
Heartland Expressway Association  
Hirschfeld Industries  
Hugo Reed - Lubbock, Texas  
Kelly Grimsley Auto Group  
Kimley Horn  
Laredo Development Foundation  
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc.  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
Lubbock Economic Development Alliance  
Monsanto  
Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc.  
Plainview/Hale County EDC  
Peoples Bank  
Reece Albert, Inc.  
Republic Services  
San Angelo Association of Realtors  
San Angelo Chamber of Commerce & ED  
San Angelo ISD  
Sonora Bank  
TechMRT - Texas Tech University  
Texas Bank  
Texas Pacifico  
The Bank & Trust  
The Home Builders Association  
The San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau  
The Trinity Company  
Theodore Roosevelt Expressway  
Town of Clayton  
Town of Limon/Lincoln County EDC  
Union County Community  
Development Corp.  
Union County  
Valero McKee Refinery

# ***Ports-to-Plains Alliance Partners***

## **Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor:**

- » Battle River Alliance for Economic Development
- » Northeast Alberta Information HUB
- » Palliser Economic Partnership

Municipal District of Acadia - AB  
Village of Alliance - AB  
Village of Andrew - AB  
Town of Bassano - AB  
County of Beaver - AB  
Village of Bittern Lake - AB  
Blue Quills University - AB  
Town of Bonnyville - AB  
City of Brooks - AB  
Municipal District of Bonnyville - AB  
Town of Bow Island - AB  
Town of Bruderheim - AB  
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement - AB  
City of Camrose - AB  
Town of Castor - AB  
Village of Cereal - AB  
Village of Chauvin - AB  
Village of Chipman - AB  
City of Cold Lake - AB  
Cold Lake First Nation - AB  
Village of Consort - AB  
Town of Coronation - AB  
Cypress County - AB  
Town of Daysland - AB  
Village of Duchess - AB  
Town of Elk Point - AB  
Village of Edgerton - AB  
Elizabeth Metis Settlement - AB  
Village of Empress - AB  
Fishing Lake Metis Settlement - AB  
County of Flagstaff - AB  
Village of Foremost - AB  
Village of Forestburg - AB  
County of Forty Mile - AB  
Village of Glendon - AB  
Village of Halkirk - AB  
Town of Hanna - AB  
Town of Hardisty - AB  
Village of Holden - AB  
Village of Innisfree - AB  
Village of Irma - AB  
Kehewin Cree Nation - AB  
Kikino Metis Settlement - AB  
Town of Killam - AB  
Village of Kitscoty - AB  
Lac La Biche County - AB  
Lakeland College - AB  
Lamont County - AB  
Town of Lamont - AB  
Village of Lougheed - AB  
Village of Mannville - AB  
Village of Marwayne - AB  
County of Minburn - AB

Town of Mundare - AB  
Village of Myrnam - AB  
City of Medicine Hat - AB  
County of Newell - AB  
Town of Oyen - AB  
County of Paintearth - AB  
Portage College - AB  
Town of Redcliff - AB  
Village of Rosemary - AB  
Village of Ryley - AB  
Town of Sedgewick - AB  
Smoky Lake County - AB  
Town of Smoky Lake - AB  
Special Area No. 2 - AB  
Special Area No. 3 - AB  
Special Area No. 4 - AB  
County of St. Paul - AB  
Town of St. Paul - AB  
County of Thorhild - AB  
Town of Tofield - AB  
County of Two Hills - AB  
Town of Two Hills - AB  
Town of Vegreville - AB  
Town of Vermillion - AB  
Town of Viking - AB  
Village of Vilna - AB  
Municipal District of Wainwright - AB  
Town of Wainwright - AB  
Whitefish First Nation - AB  
Village of Willingdon - AB  
Village of Youngstown - AB

## **Heartland Expressway Association:**

Alliance Chamber of Commerce - NE  
Alliance Tractor and Implement. - NE  
Black Hills Council of Local Governments - SD  
Black Hills Community Economic Development - SD  
Box Butte County - NE  
City of Alliance - NE  
City of Chadron - NE  
City of Gering - NE  
City of Kimball - NE  
City of Scottsbluff - NE  
City of Terrytown - NE  
City of Torrington - WY  
Dawes County - NE  
Eagle Communications Inc - NE  
Hiner Foundation - NE  
Kosman, Inc. - NE  
Panhandle Area Development District - NE  
Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association - NE  
Regional West Medical Center - NE  
Scottsbluff - Gering United Chamber - NE  
Scotts Bluff County - NE  
Valley Bank - NE

## **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway:**

Billings County - ND  
Bowman County - ND  
City of Bainville - MT  
City of Belfield - ND  
City of Bowman - ND  
City of Culbertson - MT  
Stark Development - ND  
City of Medora - ND  
City of Rapid - SD  
City of Watford City - ND  
City of Williston - ND  
County of Dunn - ND  
Brosz Engineering - ND/SD  
Fisher Sand and Gravel - ND  
Frontier Travel Center - ND  
First Community Bank - MT  
McKenzie County - ND  
Missouri Basin Well Services - ND  
Montana-Dakota Utilities  
ND Assoc. of Oil & Gas Producing Counties  
Northern Improvement  
Slope County - ND  
Stark County - ND  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation - ND  
Timber Creek Land Resources - ND  
Williams County - ND  
Belle Fourche Chamber and Development Corporation - SD  
Spearfish Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Spearfish Development Corporation - SD  
Sturgis Chamber of Commerce -SD  
Sturgis Development Corporation -SD  
Deadwood Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Deadwood Development Corporation - SD  
Lead Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Lead Development Corporation-SD  
Hill City Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation - SD  
Custer Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Box Elder Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation - SD  
Whitewood Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Wall Chamber of Commerce - SD  
Rapid City Chamber of Commerce -SD  
Rapid City Development Corporation - SD  
Black Hills Community Economic Development - SD  
Black Hills Power- SD