



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

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Ports-to-Plains Applauds New Federal Transportation Bill

“The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is very pleased to see Congress agree on a long-term transportation bill that has programs that could be very beneficial to the further development of our corridor,” said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves. A House and Senate Conference Committee unveiled the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) Tuesday. The House is expected to approve the measure in a vote scheduled for today, and the Senate is set to vote Friday.

The bill funds federal transportation projects through 2020 at an average annual rate of \$44.3 billion, an increase over the \$40.3 billion for the program in FY 2015.

“It is very important to have five years of certainty for the transportation program after the past several years of short-term funding fixes,” said Reeves. “Transportation projects require years of planning and construction. A five-year bill allows state departments of transportation to better plan and deliver projects.”

Reeves added that the FAST Act places an emphasis on freight movement that will benefit the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. There are several programs that focus on freight in the bill including the National Highway Freight Program which contains provisions for Critical Rural Freight Corridors.

“Congress recognized that transportation and freight movement are critical to our nation’s economy, and also that many of those critical routes run through rural areas. After reviewing the freight provisions in the FAST Act, we are optimistic that there are many funding opportunities for improvements to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.”

“Several members of Congress that have a portion of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor in their districts and states were on the conference committee, and we really appreciate their leadership in crafting a bill that benefits all America, including rural areas,” said Reeves.

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Ports-to-Plains FAST Act Response Add One

Senators James Inhofe (R-OK), John Cornyn (R-TX), Deb Fischer (R-NE), John Thune (R-SD) and John Barrasso (R-WY) and Representatives Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Will Hurd (R-TX) were conferees who represent a portion of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor.

A full analysis of the FAST Act and its benefits for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is available online at www.portstoplains.com.

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/>.