

June 2016



# Heartland EXPRESSWAY

At the Heart  
of Progress on the  
Great Plains

The Heartland Expressway is a Federally designated, high priority corridor. When completed, the Heartland Expressway will provide multi-lane, divided highway access between Rapid City, South Dakota and Denver, Colorado via Alliance, NE, Scottsbluff, NE and Brush Colorado.



## Invitation to Attend Heartland Expressway Association Annual meeting

Thursday, June 23rd, 2016  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location - Torrington City Hall,  
Pony Express Room,  
436 E. 22nd Ave., Torrington, WY

Cost for lunch \$15 per person

RSVP to Daniel Bennett  
308.436.6584

or email [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com)  
by June 17, 2016



**Lane Danielzuk**  
City of Gering  
Chairman



**Mark Masterton**  
Scotts Bluff County  
Vice-Chairman



**Deb Cottier**  
Nebraska Northwest  
Development Corp  
Treasurer



**Doug Leafgreen**  
Nebraska Highway  
Commission  
Ex-Officio



**Joe Kiely**  
Port to Plains Alliance  
Ex-Officio



**Karen Anderson**  
Scottsbluff/Gering  
United Chamber  
Director



**Daniel Bennett**  
PADD  
Director



**Blaise Emerson**  
Black Hills Council  
of Local Governments  
Director



**Annie Folck**  
City of Scottsbluff  
Director



**Tim Garwood**  
Alliance Tractor  
Director



**Kent Greenwalt**  
City of Terrytown  
Director



**Chelsie Herian**  
Box Butte  
Development Corp.  
Director



**Travis Hiner**  
Oregon Trail Community  
Foundation  
Director



**Milo Rust**  
City of Chadron  
Director



**Mike Varney**  
City of Torrington, WY  
Director

Not Pictured: **Daniel Ortiz**, City of Kimball, Director



**Lane Danielzuk**  
City of Gering  
Chairman

Lane Danielzuk, City Administrator of Gering has Chaired the HEA for 4 years, taking over from longtime board member and chair Travis Hiner in 2012. Lane has led the City of Gering's support for the effort with generous financial support, staff support when needed, and helped create the most recent work plan to guide the organization. Through Lane's leadership the Association continues to meet monthly in the member communities throughout the Panhandle, Wyoming, and plans are to hold at least one meeting in Colorado this summer. Lane's knowledge of surface transportation history in the Panhandle has led to collaborative efforts with other groups in Nebraska, including 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska and the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Chairman Danielzuk states, "As we look toward another construction phase (from Alliance south on US 385) on the Heartland Expressway we are reminded of the long process of road building and the need to be diligent with the funding sources so we continue to be included. We are nearing a turning point in getting further commitment from federal and state government to finish another large portion of the route. This is the time to double our efforts to see that we are provided every available resource to finish what we started more than three decades ago. We appreciate your continued support and input.

Ports-to-Plains Alliance is based in Lubbock, Texas and is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-driven advocacy group led by mayors, councilpersons, economic development officials, business and other opinion leaders from over 275 local governments and organizations. With its Alliance partners including Heartland Expressway Association, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association and the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor, the region now extends from Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico through the state of Coahuila, Mexico, through 10 US states, and into Canada in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The organization focuses on a) working as an alliance to improve transportation infrastructure and business networks, by ensuring appropriate funding levels, so business and industry can thrive; b) economic and business interests are the lifeblood of the region; and c) being a political voice for our small town, grassroots members who may otherwise not have access to the right audiences. Advocacy for transportation funding and policy and energy development at national and state levels have been the primary activities of the organization. Ports-to-Plains is now expanding with the development of an Economic Development Coalition within its membership by exploring and implementing ways to collaboratively market the communities along the corridor to prospective business and industry via many events, media, and outreach. Ports-to-Plains publishes an annual report card. By the end of 2015, the 3,088 U.S. corridor has reached almost 55% of four lane or better.

Download the report card: <http://www.portstoplains.com/index.php/home/report-card>.



**Joe Kiely**  
Port to Plains  
Alliance  
Ex-Officio



**Doug Leafgreen**  
Nebraska Highway  
Commission  
Ex-Officio

The Nebraska Department of Roads has participated with our partners in completing several milestones associated with the Heartland Corridor. Achievements include the completion of the Heartland Expressway Corridor Development and Management Plan in October of 2014. In October 2014 the Department also held a Public Hearing for the Draft Environmental Assessment in Alliance. The Department plans to construct a 24.75 mile segment south of Alliance, the first of these segments is scheduled to begin construction in 2016. Additional current Heartland related information can be found on the Department of Roads' Heartland webpage: <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/heartland-exp/>.

The Heartland Expressway project is an integral part of the Great Plains International Trade Corridor, a proposed four-lane artery which will connect the metropolitan cities and regional trade centers of the Great Plains from Canada to Mexico. When completed it will enhance a North/South trade route in the heart of North America benefiting all communities along the route. I have served for 16 years on the highway commission and it is extremely important representing Western Nebraska and the Heartland Expressway.



**Doug Hoebet**  
Department of Roads NE  
District Five Engineer



**Adrian Smith**  
U.S. Congressman  
Third District NE

"The Heartland Expressway is the central portion of a crucial trade corridor known as Ports-to-Plains. This corridor plays an important role in connecting rural communities and allowing them to more safely and efficiently get their products to market. The Ports-to-Plains corridor annually generates approximately \$166.7 billion in trade with Canada and Mexico, nearly 20 percent of all U.S. North American trade.

"Nebraska's Third District is the number one agriculture district in the nation and is home to an abundance of energy resources. The Heartland Expressway, as part of the Ports-to-Plains corridor, plays a key role in transporting these goods and bolstering our rural economies.

"In order to highlight the importance of the Heartland Expressway and the Ports-to-Plains corridor, I co-founded and serve as co-chair of the Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus. This informal group is dedicated to issues related to the corridor, rural transportation, and economic development, and has a goal of educating other Members of Congress on the importance of these issues."



Kimball to  
Scottsbluff-Gering  
4-lane expressway  
completed in

2005



Kimball 4-lane  
bypass  
completed in

2011

South Dakota portion of the Heartland  
Expressway completed from Nebraska  
Stateline to Rapid City in August



2014

Photo Courtesy of Robert Garcia KOTA

- ▲ Heartland Expressway vision of a four-lane highway connecting Denver, Colorado to Rapid City, SD was born in 1988.
- ▲ Expressway was designated a federal “high priority corridor” with passage of ISTEA in 1991.
- ▲ Feasibility study was completed in 1993 for Kimball to Rapid City and a study for Kimball to I-76 route was done in 1995.

Heartland Expressway Nebraska Regional Steering Committee (Grassroots) has included:

Community Economic Development Group  
Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber  
Scotts Bluff County Tourism  
Twin Cities Development Corporation  
City of Gering  
City of Scottsbluff  
City of Terrytown  
Scotts Bluff County  
Panhandle Area Development District  
Box Butte Development Corporation  
City of Kimball Economic Development  
Nebraska Northwest Development Corporation



Grassroots group met June 3, 2009.

- ▲ Oregon Trail Community Foundation began as management of the Grassroots committee
- ▲ Heartland Expressway incorporated September 25, 2009
- ▲ Heartland Expressway joined Port-to-Plains as a member on December 31, 2009
- ▲ Corridor management study completed October 2014.
- ▲ Heartland Expressway Association joins 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska statewide expressway advocacy group September 2015.
- ▲ Highway 385 from L-62A to Alliance 4-lane construction to begin 2016.



## Legislative Milestones

- **1988-** Construction of a statewide Expressway System in Nebraska mandated under LB 632 and LB 1041 to connect urban centers to the Interstate. Heartland Expressway from Kimball to Scottsbluff is included in this plan.
- **1991-** Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) passed into law, identifying the Heartland Expressway as a Federally Designated ‘High Priority Corridor’.
- **2005-** Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) becomes law. South Dakota delegation secures \$70 million to finish construction of the Heartland Expressway from Rapid City to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.
- **2011-** Build Nebraska Act (LB 84) is passed, providing funding for state highway capital improvement projects. 25% of funds are to be dedicated for expressway construction. Portion of the Heartland Expressway on US 385 included in Tier I projects.

- **2012-** Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) signed into law, providing two years of funding for surface transportation. There were no funding allocations to specific High Priority Corridor projects.
- **2013-** Wyoming approves a 10 cent fuel tax increase expected to generate \$71.8 million more annually for state and local roads.
- **2015-** South Dakota lawmakers approve 6 cent fuel tax increase expected to generate an additional \$40.5 million per year.
- **2015-** Nebraska lawmakers approve 6 cent fuel tax increase expected to generate an additional \$75 million per year for state and local roads.
- **2015-** Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) becomes law, providing 5-years of federal funding to surface transportation and the Highway Trust Fund.
- **2016-** Nebraska passes the Transportation Innovation Act in law, allocating a total \$450 million to Nebraska projects.



Heartland Expressway board members meet with Governor Pete Ricketts and Sen. John Stinner at Rosita's Restaurant in Scottsbluff.



HEA Board and Ports-to-Plains Alliance members meet with Nebraska U.S. Senator Ben Sasse after the Nebraska Breakfast in Washington, D.C.



HEA Board member, Deb Cottier, of Chadron, NE, joins Western Nebraska industry leaders and Kyle Schneweis, Director, Nebraska Department of Roads, in a surface transportation field hearing in Scottsbluff hosted by Nebraska U.S. Senator Deb Fischer.



In April 2016, Governor Pete Ricketts signs the Nebraska Transportation Innovation Act into law, which will allocate a total of \$450 million to Nebraska projects. *Photo courtesy of 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska*



Many Thanks To The  
**Oregon Trail  
 Community  
 Foundation**

*for your services which began in 2002!*

Since 1988, the Heartland Expressway vision has realized the value in a safe and reliable transportation corridor connecting Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming communities with the Colorado front range and Black Hills of South Dakota.

Congress has designated the Heartland Expressway as a 'High Priority Corridor' since 1991.

## Economic Benefits

Nebraska Trade Partners via Trucking:

 2009: \$1.046 Billion 2014: \$1.520 Billion

 2009: \$298.6 Million 2014: \$423.3 Million

- The Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor accounts for over 25% of US trade with Mexico and Canada.
- Clear and safe accessibility between markets of the Front Range and western South Dakota.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

**\$2 to \$1** Return of Investment is Good for all of Nebraska and Wyoming.



## Ensuring Rural Highway Safety

**2 to 1:** Nationwide likelihood of accident fatality on two-lane road vs. four lane road

**6 to 1:** Rate of fatal accidents per total accidents on rural roads vs. urban roads in Nebraska.

**24 fatalities** have been recorded on unfinished Heartland Expressway roads in Nebraska alone from 2001-2009.

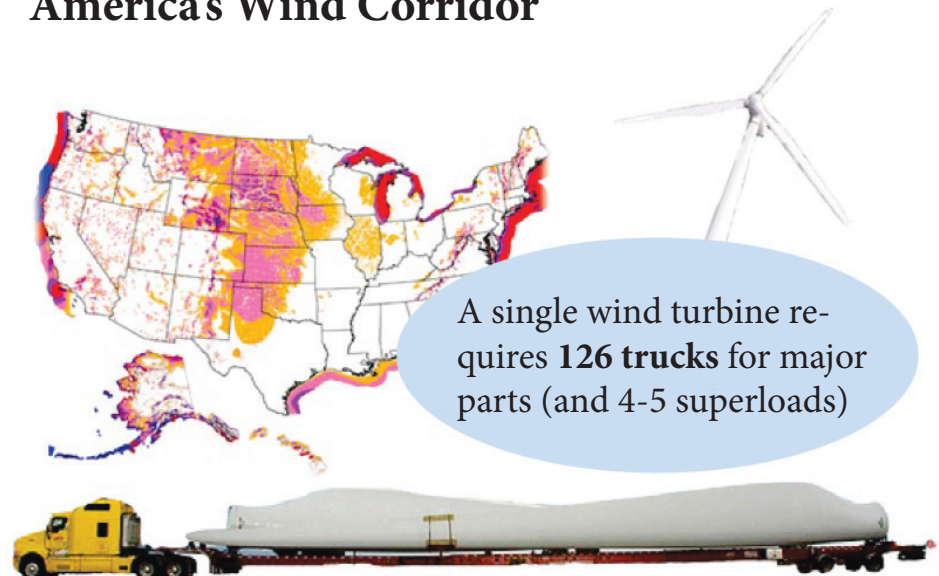
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## Leveraging our Energy Potential

- Oil & Gas is one of the leading industries in job creation in Nebraska, Wyoming, and other corridor partners.
- Developing one oil well requires an estimated 2,300 truck movements.



## America's Wind Corridor



## Join us.

Help build our future.

Contact us to get involved today.

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

[danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) • 308-436-6584

[heartlandexpressway.com](http://heartlandexpressway.com)

## Corridor Partners

- AB** Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor  
 Elvira Smid  
 Elvira.smid@albertatradecorridor.com  
 www.albertatradecorridor.com
- ND** Theodore Roosevelt Expressway  
**MT** Cal Klewin - call@trexpressway.com  
 www.trexpressway.com
- SD** Black Hills Business Council  
 Blaise Emerson  
 bemerson@tie.net
- NE** Heartland Expressway  
 Daniel Bennett  
 danielb@nepadd.com  
 www.heartlandexpressway.com
- WY** City of Torrington  
 Mike Varney  
 mvarney@torringtonwy.gov
- CO**  
**KS** Port to Plains Expressway  
**OK** Joe Kiely - joe.kiely@portstoplains.com  
**NM** www.portstoplains.com  
**TX**
- MEX** Ports to Plains  
 Fernando Madero  
 fernando.madero@portstoplains.com



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS

## ALLIANCE

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



## Current Membership List

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



**Daniel Bennett**  
Panhandle Area  
Development District

Panhandle Area Development District's (PADD) partnership with Heartland Expressway Association is a natural fit as the Heartland Expressway is a true regional project with region-wide benefits. I serve as a center point for communication for the Heartland Expressway Association and send out meeting materials, billings, media updates, and other notices for the association. Those interested in learning more, becoming a member, or contacting the association can contact me and I will either respond or find the right person with whom to be in touch. I look forward to hearing from you and can be reached at [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) or in the office at 308- 436-6584.



### Advocacy Opportunities

- Heartland Expressway Advocate: \$5,000 or greater annually
- Pioneer Advocate: \$2,500-\$4,999 annually
- Gold: \$1,000-\$2,499 annually
- Silver: \$500-\$999 annually
- Bronze: \$250-\$499 annually
- Associate/Not for profit: \$100 annually
- Governmental Jurisdiction: \$0.36 per capita annually

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**Entity Name**

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**Contact Name**

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**Address**

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**City**

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**State    ZIP**

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**E-mail Address**



**Join Today - [www.heartlandexpressway.com](http://www.heartlandexpressway.com)**