

August 2019



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

Keynote Speaker:
Representative Adrian Smith

Thursday, August 15, 2019
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location - Windbreak Bar and Grill
4552 Gilliland Dr. Kimball, NE 69145

Cost for lunch: \$15 per person

RSVP
to Megan Koppenhafer 308-533-6829

or email megank@nepadd.com

by August 8, 2019



Deb Cottier
Northwest Nebraska
Development Corporation
Chair



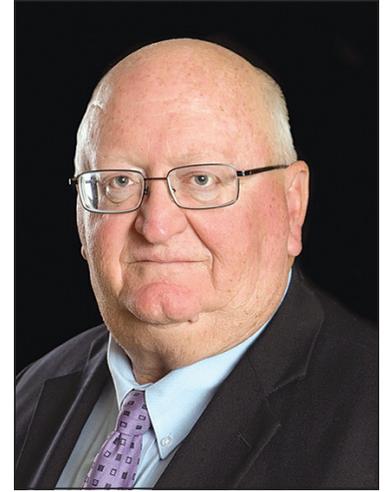
Chelsie Herian
Box Butte Development
Corp.
Vice-Chair



Megan Koppenhafer
PADD
Treasurer/Secretary



Doug Leafgreen
Nebraska Highway
Commission
Ex-Officio



Joe Kiely
Port to Plains Alliance
Ex-Officio



Karen Anderson
Scottsbluff/Gering
United Chamber
Director



Amy Sapp
City of Kimball
Director



Nathan Green
City of Scottsbluff
Director



Tim Garwood
Alliance Tractor
Director



Kent Greenwalt
City of Terrytown
Director



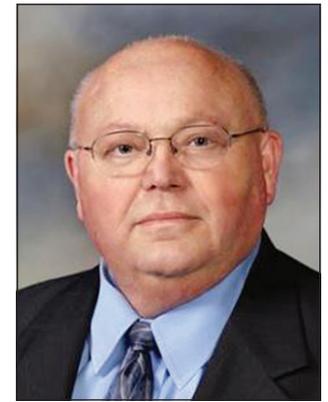
Annie Folck
City of Gering
Director



Milo Rust
City of Chadron
Director



Bill Law
City of Torrington, WY
Director



Mark Harris
Scotts Bluff County
Director

Notes From The Hill



Deb Fischer
U.S. Senator

“The Heartland Expressway connects Nebraska communities and provides a roadway for our ag producers to transport their world-class goods to market. In the state legislature, I championed the Build Nebraska Act (LB 84), which helped get the Heartland Expressway Project going. As the chairman of the Senate’s Surface Transportation Subcommittee, I worked with Nebraskans and Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao to secure an \$18.3 million grant to continue moving this major project forward.”



Adrian Smith
U.S. Congressman
Third District, NE

“Trade is crucial to Nebraska’s Third District – the number one ag district in the nation – and the Heartland Expressway will connect it directly with its two leading trading partners of Canada and Mexico. This project links consumers, producers, farmers, ranchers, and small businesses to more efficient markets. I will continue to support this project which benefits Nebraskans.”



John Stinner
Nebraska State Senator
48th District, NE

“One of the federally designated high-priority corridors that will be positively impacted by the Transportation Innovation Act is the Heartland Expressway. This expressway connects Nebraska to other transportation networks, such as the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway in Montana, North & South Dakota and the Ports to Plains Corridor running from Denver, Colorado down to Monterrey in Mexico.

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of attending the Heartland Expressway Association’s annual meeting, which outlined the work that had been done in connecting the Heartland Expressway to these surrounding networks. All of these efforts are a vital part of economic development for rural Nebraska, connecting our entrepreneurs and small business owners to interstate and international commerce.”

A Note From The Chair



It’s a pleasure to serve as the third Chair of the Heartland Expressway Association. I have been involved, at some level since its inception and naming in the late 1980’s. Previous efforts from those who have recently gone off this board set the standard for how we proceed. Travis Hiner and Lane Danielzuk are both pretty big shoes to fill. The committed members of the Association are who make the work fulfilling and worth the effort. We will continue to advocate on behalf of the Western Nebraska businesses and communities whose livelihood depends on modern, safe transportation.

- *Deb Cottier*
Chair of Heartland
Expressway Association



Corridor

Construction Update

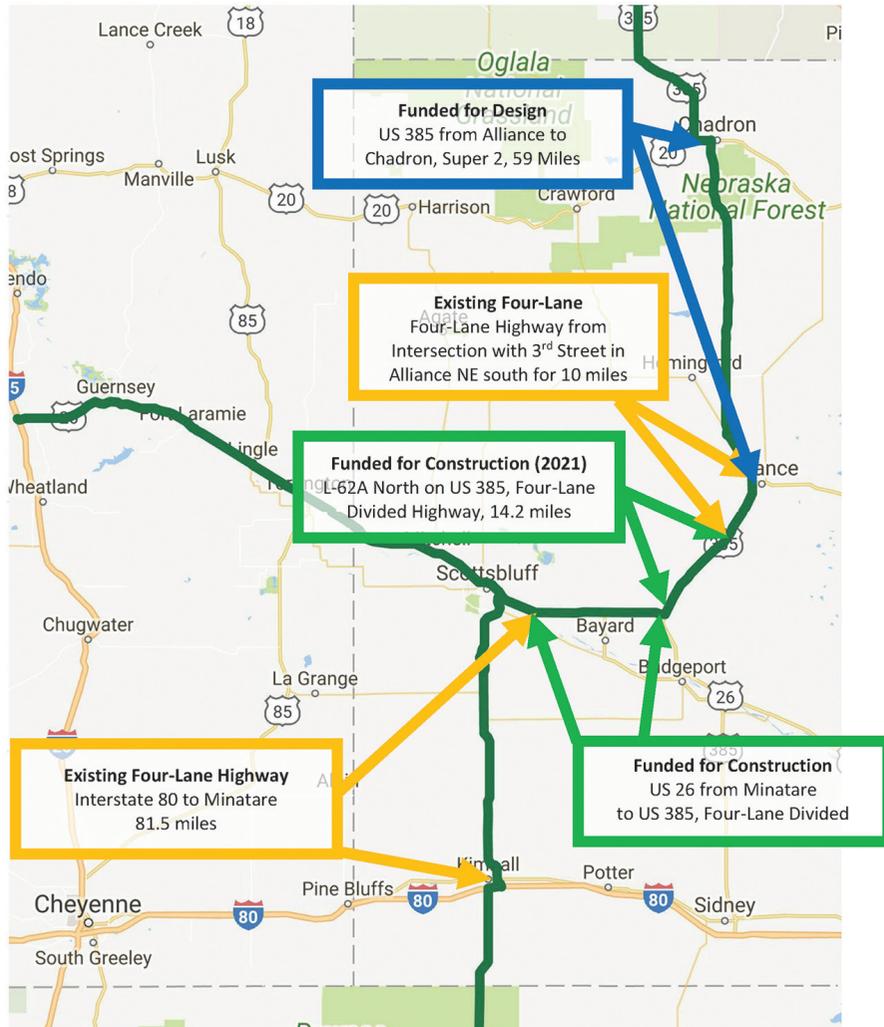
- Work continues on the south half of the highway on US 385 from the junction with L62A but it will not be visible for a while yet.
- Currently NDOT is working to complete utility relocations, environmental reviews and engineering reviews and updates.
- The project timeline remains on track even through the flooding in Eastern Nebraska and the 100s of miles of roads that had to be rebuilt.
- Funds remain appropriated to our project thanks to the FEMA funds distributed to help with those efforts in Eastern Nebraska.
- Construction is estimated to begin in 2021 after the bidding process has been completed.

Heartland Expressway Association would like to extend the deepest gratitude to the state for the continued communication. The Association would also like to extend our deepest appreciation and kudos to the NDOT for their efforts in Eastern Nebraska. It was a monumentally important effort and their speed and quality work does not go unnoticed!

Colorado Update

HEA met in Brush, CO in May the board received an update from the Colorado DOT (CDOT) on the truck diversion study. This study identified many unanswered questions. These will be used in a follow up study. Preliminarily, the study does show that truckers would be interested in taking the Heartland Expressway route if safety was increased along the route. Additional results of the study will be shared as they become available.

Nebraska Heartland Expressway Corridor Status



Doug Leafgreen
Nebraska Highway
Commission
Ex-Officio

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. As a member of the State Highway Commission it has been a privilege representing Western Nebraska and the Heartland Expressway.



Doug Hoevet
Department of
Transportation
District Five Engineer

“Now that the first segment south of Alliance is complete, the start of the next piece is on peoples’ minds. Specifically, individuals are wondering when to expect the next section of construction to begin. The answer is not as soon as many hoped for, however, this does not mean the project has been halted. The Department is committed to the corridor and we have taken several steps to ensure we are ready to hit the ground running once the project is advertised for contract. In other Heartland related news, the Department is in the beginning stages of preliminary corridor work on the segment between Minatare and the US-385 Junction. We encourage people to visit our website: www.dot.nebraska.gov for information on a wide range of transportation related information.”

- ▲ Heartland Expressway vision of a four-lane highway connecting Denver, Colorado to Rapid City, SD was born in 1988.
- ▲ 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.
- ▲ September 2016: NDOT public prioritization process results in selection of U.S. 26 from Minatare to U.S. 385 scheduled to begin construction by 2024.
- ▲ Highway 385 from L-62A to Alliance 4-lane construction begins in 2017, Phase I completed autumn 2018.”



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-** Nebraska and South Dakota lawmakers approve 6 cent fuel tax increases expected to generate an additional \$75 million per year for state and local roads in Nebraska and \$40.5 million per year in South Dakota.
- **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.
- **2016-** Nebraska passes the Transportation Innovation Act in law, allocating a total \$450 million to Nebraska projects.
- **2017:** Law passed that allows for NEPA Assignment, wherein the state may legally assume environmental review responsibilities for highway construction. This also presumably shortens the time frame for construction by accomplishing that assessment sooner than the federal government can do it.
- **2018-** Nebraska lawmakers pass LB 1009 enabling an increase of expressway speed limits to 70 mph



Board members visit with Senator Sasse at the annual ports to plains washington D.C. Fly in.



Board members listen as Senator Fischer speaks with Nebraskans at the Nebraska breakfast during the Fly in.



Chelsie Herian (Left), Karen Anderson (Middle Right), and Starr Lehl (Far Right) meet with Director of Transportation, Kyle Schneweis, during the Legislative trip to Lincoln.



The Heartland Expressway Board celebrates the completion of a portion of the route south of Alliance with a ribbon cutting ceremony.



Director of Transportation, Kyle Schneweis and Lt. Governor Mike Foley were guests at the 2018 Annual Meeting and spoke about progress from the state regarding transportation statewide.

Benefits of the Corridor...

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:

 Canada: \$1.571 Billion

 Mexico \$659 Million

- The Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor accounts for over 25% of US trade with Mexico and Canada.
- Heartland Expressway completion will bring an estimated average:
 - \$2.5 million annual savings from accident reduction
 - 385-950 additional annual jobs
 - \$9.5-\$24.8 million in annual earnings

2014 NDOT Corridor Development and Management Plan
 Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Ensuring Rural Highway Safety

1.5 to 1: Rate of fatal crashes per total crashes on two-lane roads vs. four-lane roads in Nebraska

3 to 1: Rate of fatal accidents on rural roads vs. urban roads in Nebraska

12 fatalities were recorded on unfinished Heartland Expressway roads from 2014- 2018

Nebraska Department of Transportation
 2016 - 2018 Crash Data

Thank you!



Travis Hiner
 Oregon Trail Community
 Foundation

Travis served as the chair until 2012 and has remained a strong supporter and advocate of the association since 1998. Thank you for your 20 years of service!



Daniel Bennett
 PADD

Daniel served as a staff member for the Association for the past five years. The board would like to extend a thanks for his time and efforts given to helping advance safe rural transportation in the Panhandle.



Lane Danielzuk
 City of Gering

Lane served as Chair of the board for 5 years and we are grateful for his many years of leadership which expanded our collaboration with other transportation agencies across the state.



Mike Varney
 City of Torrington, WY

Mike served as a representative for Wyoming on the board for many years. His enthusiasm and dedication will be missed.

Ports to Plains History

In 2008, the Heartland Expressway Association (HEA) was formalizing their board of directors and association status. The Ports to Plains (P2P) Expressway was expanding their reach to include Canada and Mexico. The cooperation between 3 federally designated high priority transportation corridors (Ports to Plains, Heartland and Teddy Roosevelt Expressways) developed mutually beneficial strategies to impact federal allocation of US Highway Administration budgets. HEA has a seat on the board of Ports to Plains, is included in planning of joint ventures (such as the annual Washington, DC Fly-In) and participates in board meetings and the annual meeting. This team provides support, participation and coordination between HEA and the other 2 portions of the Alliance. We are grateful for their assistance.



John Osborne Ports to Plains Alliance Chairman, from Lubbock, TX manages the board from the Alliance perspective as well as the southern leg of the corridor specifically, which requires a great deal of balance.



Jack Schenendorf Port to Plains Alliance Lobbyist, with Covington & Burling is an experienced, extremely well respected transportation specialist who has many years of experience dealing with Congress. Jack advises on federal policy development, contact with elected officials and making introductions to affiliated organizations in DC that share our goals.



Joe Kiely Ports to Plains Alliance Staff, in Limon, Colorado. He provides a large amount of the research, graphic creation of maps and is the liaison with the federal lobbyist. Joe is a valued member of our board, attending functions in NE whenever possible, and has met with state officials and Highway Commission members when needed.



Duffy Hinkle Ports to Plains Alliance staff member in Lubbock, TX, also assists with the fly-in, plans the annual and quarterly board meetings and is in charge of the overall Alliance membership management.

Ports to Plains Alliance Partners

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ND | Theodore Roosevelt Expressway | Visit our Websites!

www.trepressway.com
www.heartlandexpressway.com
www.portstoplains.com |
| MT | Cal Klewin
call@trepressway.com | |
| SD | Black Hills Business Council
Ali DeMersseman
ademersseman@tie.net | |
| NE | Heartland Expressway
Megan Koppenhafer
megank@nepadd.com | |
| WY | City of Torrington
Bill Law
blaw@torringtonwy.gov | |
| CO | | |
| KS | Port to Plains Expressway | |
| OK | Joe Kiely
joe.kiely@portstoplains.com | |
| NM | | |
| TX | | |



Torrington, WY

This year with the help of Torrington City Council member, Bill Law, we were able to connect with Wyoming elected officials on the state and national levels several times throughout the past year. In early February, Ports-to-Plains Board Member, Joe Kiely and Law met with Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and WYDOT then-Director Bill Panos and talked with them about the efforts being made on the Heartland Expressway.

In March and April, Law scheduled time with Wyoming Senators and the House Representative during both the Washington DC Ports to Plains Staff Fly-in and the full fly-in. The message was well received in these meetings. The board plans to continue scheduling time with them along with the other congress people during future trips to Capitol Hill. In May, Law and Kiely met with the new WYDOT Director Luke Reiner and Chief Engineer Shelby Carlson. As follow up to all of these face to face meetings, Law will be following up to identify contacts who will hopefully participate in some of our future monthly meetings or opt to stay informed as members of our email list.

The board looks forward to future collaborations with the Wyoming elected officials and would like to thank the City of Torrington for its support and efforts.

Join these members!

Gold

Platte Valley Bank • Regional West Medical Center
Box Butte General Hospital

Silver

Hiner Foundation • Panhandle Area Development District
Black Hills Council of Local Governments

Bronze

Alliance Tractor and Implement

Associate

Alliance Chamber of Commerce, Scottsbluff-Gering United
Chamber of Commerce, Ameri-Co Carriers, Twin Cities
Development, Panhandle Trails Intercity Public Transit

Government Members

Box Butte County, City of Alliance, City of
Chadron, City of Gering, City of Kimball
City of Terrytown, City of Scottsbluff, Dawes
County, Scotts Bluff County, City of Torrington



Megan Koppenhafer
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 megank@nepadd.com or in the office at 308-633-6829.

 Find us on
Facebook



Heartland EXPRESSWAY *Advocacy Support*

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

Entity Name

Contact Name

Address

City

State ZIP

E-mail Address

Join Today - www.heartlandexpressway.com