



2017 3rd Quarter report

The summer has been busy as the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association (TREA) presents updates of the association to membership and summer conferences occurring during the summer months.

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association attended and gave the dinner presentation to the Multi- State Township officer's Annual Meeting; states represented were Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The presentation highlighted the importance of transportation and trade along the Ports to Plains corridor to enhance economic development opportunities

Joe Kiely representing Ports to Plains and I representing TREA attended the Western States Transportation Alliance (WSTA) Conference in Bismarck. Representative Dan Ruby Chairman of the North Dakota House Transportation Committee is the President of WSTA this year; the event was very informative on transportation issues. Crystal Jones - FHWA, Office of Freight Management and Operations - provided an overview of Federal Perspective and updates on Federal Funding and Freight movement.

We also gave an informational update of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association, Heartland Expressway and Ports to Plains Alliance to the Black Hills Community Economic Development and the Black Hills Council of Local Governments; we are working with the groups to consider hosting the Ports to Plains 2018 Conference in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The Association (TREA) continues to work with State and Federal officials to stress the importance of transportation and its role in the rural regions along the Ports to Plains Corridor for economic development. We are working with the Federal House Transportation Staff and Senate Staff of the Environmental and Public works committees. They strongly recommend that we send written correspondence to administration and to Federal Highway to be included in a plan for **a major surface transportation project**. We are currently working with Ports to Plains Staff and our Washington D.C. Government Affairs Liaison and will submit the letter when appropriate.

August 31, 2017 NDDOT hosted a ribbon cutting for the long awaited Lewis and Clark Bridge Project on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway south of Williston. This project is one piece of a transportation improvement, to move freight and people efficiently and safely along the TRE in North Dakota.

NDDOT is preparing the application Long X Bridge to be competitive in the INFRA grant opportunity this year. Planning Work continues on the Watford City to I-94 Phase of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway much of the work is going towards the Draft EIS. Prior to the Draft EIS being published. A Stakeholder Group meeting will be held this fall, the first one was held in Fairfield N.D. on February 8, 2017.

The next steps are publishing the Draft EIS and holding public hearings. The NDDOT is continuing to work on writing the Environmental Impact Statement document. Internally (NDDOT is) reviewing iteration's and drafts of the document and finalizing technical and specialist reports. NDDOT discussed the project (specifically Long X Bridge) at the Little Missouri River Commission Meeting on August 9th. NDDOT is working towards the second stakeholder meeting to be held early this fall.

The Ports-to-Plains www.portstoplains.com will celebrate its 20 year anniversary in Lubbock Texas September 12-14 2017 and will host a very interesting slate of speakers. Members of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association are planning to attend and look forward to a very informative and fun conference.

Register for the Annual Conference at www.portstoplains.com we would like to see you there.

Our work continues to complete the corridor with our alliance partners to provide safe efficient transportation for the traveling public, and enhance economic development opportunities for the corridor communities.

If you or an organization you are aware of, that would like to have an update of the TREA progress and Ports to Plains activities please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate.

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