

 **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association Report**

 **3 rd Quarter 2015**

As the summer of 2015 comes to a close, the Theodore Roosevelt Association continues to see great improvements along the corridor in western North Dakota. These improvements are and will be a great start for the safety of the traveling public, efficient freight movements and opportunity for economic development along the TRE Corridor and the Ports to Plains Alliance partners

We promote the TRE (U.S. 85) as a major artery for western North Dakota’s oil and gas industry, but we must not forget the corridor serves agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, connecting major destinations in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, south into Mexico and North to Canada, all along the Ports to Plains Corridor moving agriculture, tourism and manufactured products along a primary North South Corridor. The economic potential this transportation corridor can provide to both the urban and rural business climate is crucial to community growth.

Our focus in the next few months will be working with Legislators, Federal and State in the 10 membership states and the Countries of Canada and Mexico of the Ports to Plains Alliance, stressing the importance of transportation and economic growth. The TREA has also discussed the opportunity to work with member communities on marketing economic development opportunity along the corridor highlighting the strengths of the regions.

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The Ports to Plains Alliance will be holding its 2015 Annual meeting in **Williston, North Dakota** on **October 6-8 2015**. If you have not already register please consider doing so, look for agenda updates and registration information [www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com). It is not too late to attend this conference, as is shaping up to be very informative with great networking opportunities. This is the most northern **U.S.** location where the Ports to Plains Alliance event has been held and the City of Williston is gearing to host a memorable Conference. TREA is working closely with Williston Economic Development and the CVB to assist in the planning of this event and discussing sponsorship opportunities for the event. We have promoted the conference at the North Dakota Economic Development Association and the Denver Petroleum Conf.

I have included the breakdown (as we have in the last report) the funding dedicated to infrastructure including the TRE. If you have the opportunity to thank your Legislator for recognizing and approving funding for highway infrastructure with Early Funding and Record State funding for roads please do so.

 (See breakdown below)

**SB 2103- Early funding passed in February**

* **Western North Dakota**
	+ State Highways $450 million
	+ Counties $240 million
	+ Cities $282 million\*
		- Sub-total = $972 million
* **Central and Eastern North Dakota**
	+ Counties $112 million
	+ Townships $ 16 million
		- Sub-total = $128 million
* **TOTAL = $1.1 Billion**

**Total Budget**

**$2.26\* billion for Road Projects *(numbers include state, federal & match funding)***

* **Western North Dakota = $1.44 \* billion**
	+ •State Highways =$1,137.9\* million
	+ •Includes Early “Surge” Funding=$450 million from SB 2103
	+ •Cities, Counties and Townships = $306.9 million
* **Central and Eastern North Dakota = $824 million**
	+ •State Highways = $452.3 million
	+ •Cities, Counties and Townships = $371.1 million
* **\*Trigger Funding - A portion of the SB 2015 transportation funding is based on a trigger that is contingent upon revenue exceeding projections in the General Fund. Western North Dakota enhanced state highway funds include:**
	+ **$18.00 million -** No trigger on this funding
	+ **$20.00 million** - Based on a trigger that is contingent upon revenue exceeding projections by $20M on 6/30/15 in the General Fund.
	+ **$25.85 million** - Based on a trigger that is contingent upon revenue exceeding projections by $126M on either 12/31/15 or 6/30/16 in General Fund.
		- **Sub total =** **$46.00 million**
	+ Based on a trigger that is contingent upon revenue exceeding projections by $250M on 12/31/16 in General Fund. **Total = $109.85 Million**

 **A Step South!!! The North Dakota Department of Transportation NDDOT with cooperation Federal Highway Administration is evaluating improvements along U.S. 85 (TRE) south of Watford City to I 94. This project would also include the rehabilitation or replacement of the Long X Bridge. At this time the contract is in place with the consultant, the Notice of Intent is ready to be sent to the Federal Register; once the notice is published the project is officially under way. It is a start to moving the forward and improving this portion of the TRE for the future.**

 I do want to thank the TREA membership for the continued support, and I have tried to attend scheduled meetings and am aware I have been unable to attend all so contact me if you need me to stop in for an update to your community or organization. We will be giving updates in October at the Ports to Plains Conf. and on October 1, 2015 TRE has been invited to give a presentation to the South Dakota Stockgrowers Annual meeting in Rapid City.

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Cal Klewin

**Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association**

Executive Director

(701) 577-8110  Work

(701) 523-6171  Mobile

(701) 523-3189  Home

14610 86th St. SW

Bowman, ND 58623

cal@trexpressway.com

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