

August 2018



# 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

Key note speakers:

Lt. Governor Mike Foley and  
NDOT Director Kyle Schneeweis

**Thursday, August 16, 2018**

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location - Elite Commons

(East side of Elite Health Center)

820 w. 42nd Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Cost for lunch \$15 per person

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

or to Daniel Bennett

308.436.6584

or email [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com)

by August 13, 2018



**Lane Danielzuk**  
City of Gering  
Chairman



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



**Deb Cottier**  
Northwest Nebraska  
Development Corporation  
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



**Amy Sapp**  
City of Kimball  
Director



**Starr Lehl**  
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



**Lane Danielzuk**  
City of Gering  
Chairman

Lane Danielzuk, City Administrator of Gering has Chaired the HEA for 5 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.



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

"As the nation's top producing agricultural district, residents of Nebraska's Third understand the importance of trade and the ability to transport products to market as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For this reason, the Heartland Expressway is vital to our continued economic growth as it will increase our competitive advantage across numerous industries.

As a federally-designated high-priority corridor, the Heartland Expressway will connect Nebraska to both Canada and Mexico, and I was happy to see additional funding allocated to its construction this year."



**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."



**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.

"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, serving ten US states, and into Canada in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The Corridor, including the Heartland Expressway, is an Ideal candidate for inclusion in the Trump Infrastructure Initiative. It is a rural corridor of national significance because it is: , Congressionally-Designated High Priority Corridor, an Energy Corridor, an Agricultural Corridor, an International Trade Corridor, a Jobs and Economic Development Corridor, a Connectivity Corridor, and a Congestion Relief Corridor (For I-25 and I-35).

Ports-to-Plains publishes an annual report card. By the end of 2017, the 3,088 U.S. corridor has reached almost 58% of four lane or better. Download the report card: <http://www.portstoplains.com/index.php/home/report-card>."



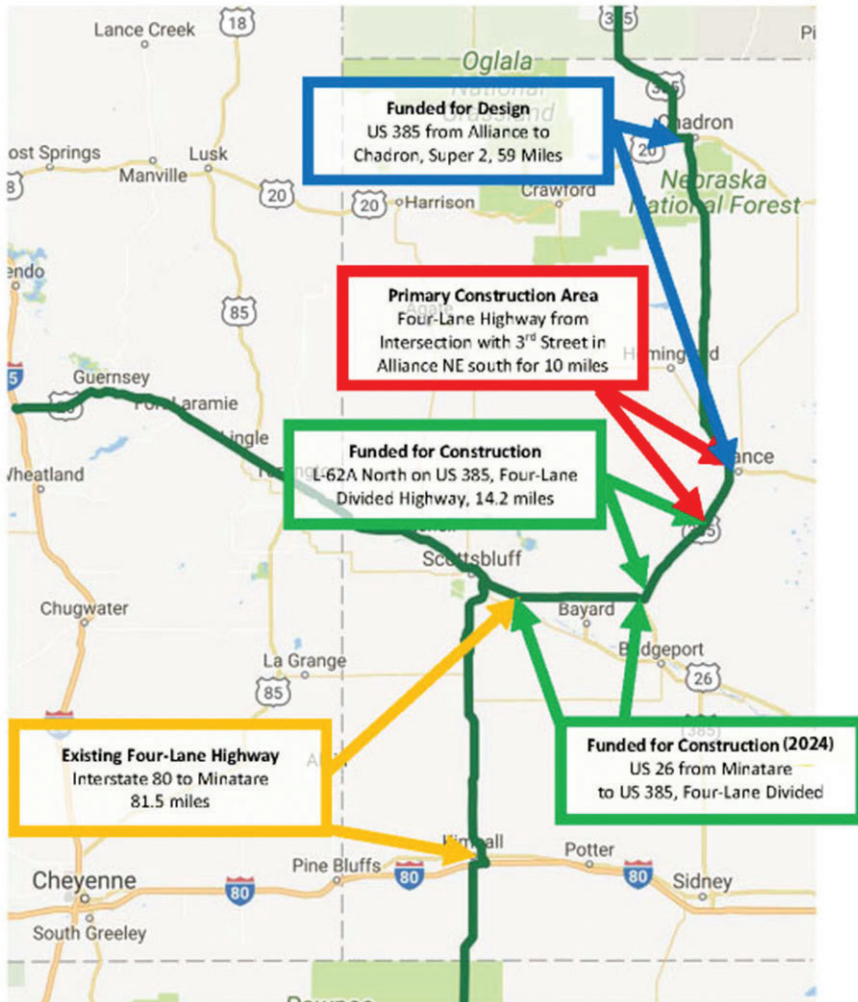
**Joe Kiely**  
Port to Plains  
Alliance  
Ex-Officio

"The Nebraska Department of Transportation is nearing completion of the latest segment of the Heartland Expressway. This section of US-385, 4 lane starts about 9 miles south of Alliance and finishes with the construction of a 5 lane segment at the Junction of US-385 and N-2 on the western edge of town. This segment completes an essential logical point from which the next phases of 4-lane projects will build from. Plans for construction of the next US-385 segment are completed and utility relocation is beginning. Once the second project is complete, the Department will focus our attention of the segment between Minatare and the US-385 junction. We encourage people to visit our website: [www.dot.nebraska.gov](http://www.dot.nebraska.gov) for information on a range of transportation related information."



**Doug Hoevet**  
Department of  
Transportation  
District Five Engineer

## Nebraska Heartland Expressway Corridor Status



- ▲ 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.
- ▲ 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, scheduled Phase I completion 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.
- **2018-** Nebraska lawmakers pass LB 1009 enabling an increase of expressway speed limits to 70 mph



Scottsbluff city manager Nathan Johnson (middle) and PADD executive director Jeff Kelley (right) meet with Nebraska Representative Jeff Fortenberry at the Ports-to-Plains Fly-in in Washington, D.C.



Torrington, WY mayor Mike Varney meets with Nebraska Department of Transportation Director Kyle Schneeweis at a Highway Commissioners meeting in Sidney, NE.



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



Heartland Expressway Association board members Joe Kiely (left) and Deb Cottier, meet with Nebraska Congressman Adrian Smith in Washington, D.C.




U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer joined NDOT District 5 Engineer Doug Hoebet (middle left) and the Heartland Expressway Association board to unveil the new route signage in August 2017. HEA and Ports-to-Plains worked with NDOT to develop new signage to be placed along the route in Nebraska."

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

**\$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.

**10 fatalities** were recorded on unfinished Heartland Expressway roads from 2013-2016 alone.

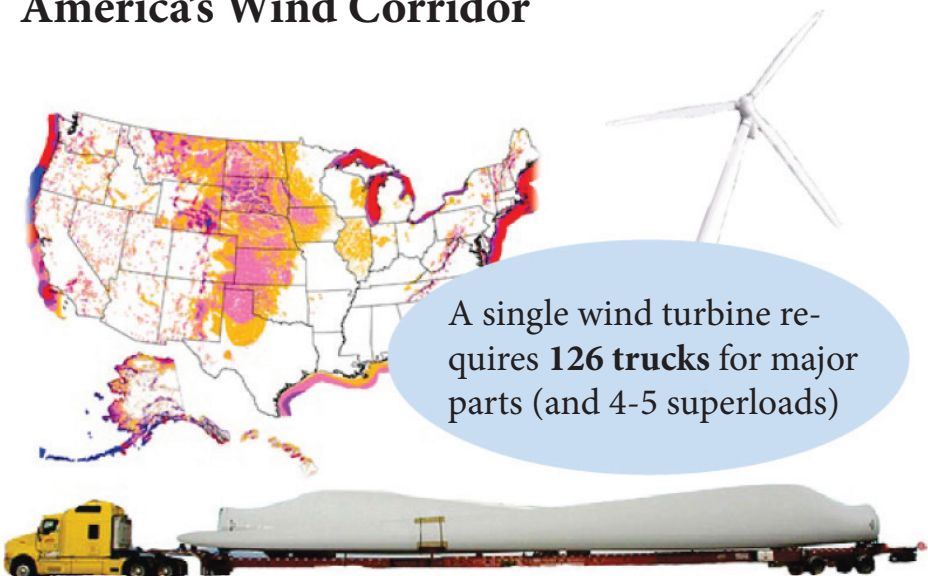
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## 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.

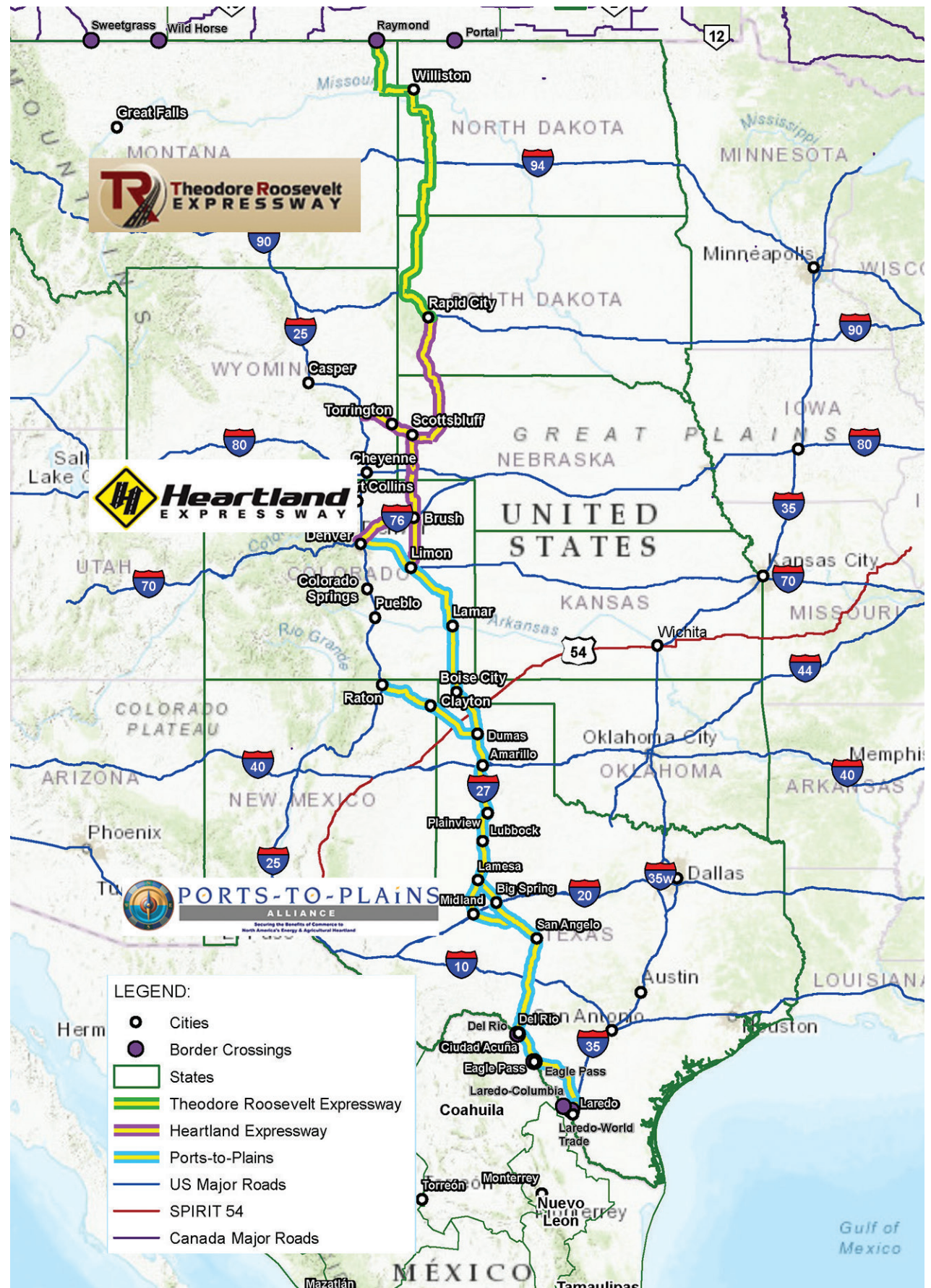
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[heartlandexpressway.com](http://heartlandexpressway.com)

## Corridor Partners

- ND** Theodore Roosevelt Expressway  
**MT** Cal Klewin - [call@trexpressway.com](mailto:call@trexpressway.com)  
[www.trexpressway.com](http://www.trexpressway.com)
- SD** Black Hills Business Council  
 Ali DeMersseman  
[ademersseman@tie.net](mailto:ademersseman@tie.net)
- NE** Heartland Expressway  
 Daniel Bennett  
[danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com)  
[www.heartlandexpressway.com](http://www.heartlandexpressway.com)
- WY** City of Torrington  
 Mike Varney  
[mvarney@torringtonwy.gov](mailto:mvarney@torringtonwy.gov)
- CO**  
**KS** Port to Plains Expressway  
**OK** Joe Kiely - [joe.kiely@portstoplains.com](mailto:joe.kiely@portstoplains.com)  
**NM** [www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com)  
**TX**



## Join these members!

### Gold

Platte Valley Bank • Regional West Medical Center  
Box Butte General Hospital • Murphy Tractor & Equipment

### Silver

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

### Bronze

Alliance Tractor and Implement • PREMA • Aulick Industries

#### 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



**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.

 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

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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)**