



Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association 2nd Quarter Report 2016

U.S. 85 Alternatives Public Workshops

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association (TREA) asks you to mark your calendar to attend:

The purpose of the workshop (public meeting) is to get input and feedback on the proposals for the U.S. 85 Project from Watford City to I-94 at Belfield North Dakota. These workshops have been scheduled for **July 25 in Belfield and July 26 in Watford City.**

Please watch your local paper and NDDOT web site <http://www.dot.nd.gov/> for times and location. I will also send out an alert as the date gets closer.

Past Year's Accomplishments

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association www.trexpessway.com , working with the Ports-to-Plains Alliance www.portstoplains.com was able to successfully advocate for specific programs that were included in the federal transportation reauthorization legislation called the FAST Act

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- **Formula Freight Funding to Each State**

For the first time in history, states are receiving federal formula funds to directly benefit freight movement. This means that North Dakota receives \$7,933,570; Montana receives \$13,142,861; and South Dakota receives \$9,016,413 in average annual payments for the next five years.

- **Discretionary Freight Funding Opportunities for Each State**

The FAST Act established a Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program as a competitive grant process with dedicated funding specifically for freight projects. The competitive grant program includes \$4.5 billion nationally from 2016 through 2020, an annual average of \$900 million.

North Dakota has submitted an application for the replacement of the Long X Bridge in North Dakota.

Thanks to all who sent support letters. The Bridge Planning Department at NDDOT submitted the application and was very pleased with the support and number of letters submitted to them supporting the replacement of the Long X Bridge.

Critical Rural Freight Corridors

The FAST Act expanded the definition of Critical Rural Freight Corridors to include both energy and agriculture production area. Critical Rural Freight Corridor score higher when freight funding decisions are made in the programs described above. North Dakota is eligible to identify 150 miles; Montana 188 miles; and South Dakota 150 miles.

Working with the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association successfully advocated Federal Highway Administration to release guidance to states on the process of designating Critical Rural Freight Corridors.

Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association will continue to encourage state DOTs to designate portions of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.

The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association continues to work with the Ports to Plains Alliance to strengthen our corridor transportation system and to enhance the economic opportunities transportation can provide to communities along the corridor.

Spring Clean-up of U.S. Highway 85

Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association coordinated the Spring Clean-up of U.S. Highway 85. The large groups of volunteers represented the majorly populated areas along Highway 85—Bowman, Bowman County, Williston, Belfield and Watford City—and several state and regional entities such as the N.D. Association of General Contractors, the N.D. Petroleum Council, N.D. League of Cities, Vision West, N.D. Tourism Department, N.D. Motor Carriers, Theodore Roosevelt-Medora Foundation, N.D. Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties, McKenzie County Tourism and Western Dakota Lions Clubs. This project was very successful and we give thanks to all the volunteers and organizations that participated and made a difference of the attractiveness of U.S 85 and the beauty of the country side that this corridor serves.

I do want to thank the TREA membership for the continued support. I will be attending scheduled public meetings to give updates as time and schedules allow 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

Cal Klewin

Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association

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