

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, July 21, 2014

Regular Meeting

Item Resolut.1

Council to consider a Resolution supporting the Ports-to-Plains Alliance urging Congress to fix the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

Staff Contact: Rick Kuckkahn, City Manager

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO ADDRESS THE SHORTFALLS IN FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND THE COMPLETE A LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION BILL PRIOR TO ITS EXPIRATION ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.

WHEREAS, transportation is a critical factor in our economy. This is true locally, statewide and nationally. The United States has been nearing a crossroads in surface transportation for many years but this year the crossroads could result in a roadblock; and

WHEREAS, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance has provided Ports-to-Plains' Congressional delegation with its Federal Priorities of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance for MAP-21 Implementation and Reauthorization and these Federal Priorities describe a short term and a longer term funding issue; and

WHEREAS, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance and the City of Scottsbluff supports a user fee increase and indexing required to meet current funding levels and to expand transportation funding lost due to inflation in the past twenty years since the user fees were last changed; and

WHEREAS, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance and the City of Scottsbluff supports a five or six year reauthorization bill, which is consistent with previous surface transportation bills and necessary for proper long-term planning. Operating under a series of short-term extensions is problematic and difficult on federal and state transportation agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsbluff wishes to see two priorities to ensure projects like the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, North America's Energy Corridor, and other critical transportation projects can continue.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA THAT:

Section 1. We urge you, as the Member of Congress representing SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA to work to ensure that Congress :

1. Passes a short-term fix immediately so that the Trust Fund does not run out of money in August, 2014; and
2. Passes a long-term fix by September 31, 2014, or as soon thereafter as possible, that accomplishes the following:
 - a. Reauthorizes Federal transportation programs (MAP-21) for five or six years in accordance Ports-to-Plains Alliance priorities; and
 - b. Provides the user-fee-based, sustainable revenues for the Highway Trust Fund necessary to support the higher levels of investment needed to modernize the America's national transportation network, including rural freight corridors important to energy development and agricultural production like the Ports-to-Plains Corridor and Heartland Expressway.

Section 2. This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Mayor