

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Economic Development
AGENDA DATE: January 18, 2011
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Kathy Dodson, PhD, Director 541-4670
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Formal report of the Joint Economic Development, Planning and Tourism and Transportation Legislative Review Committee meeting held on December 16, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. as submitted by City Representative Ann Lilly, Chair. [Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872]

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Report to the Mayor and Council of the Joint Economic Development, Planning and Tourism and Transportation Legislative Review Committee meeting held on December 16, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:


Department Head

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Joint Economic Development, Planning & Tourism and Transportation

Members: City Representative Emma Acosta
City Representative Ann Lilly (Chair, Transportation)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
City Representative Steve Ortega (Chair, Economic Development, Planning & Tourism)

Date of Meeting: December 16, 2010

- I. Discussion and action to enter a Project Development Agreement between City of El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, REDCo and Freight Shuttle Partners, LLC to continue Universal Freight Shuttle development efforts.

Summary:

The City of El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, El Paso Regional Development Corporation (REDCO), and Freight Shuttle Partners, LLC are engaging in efforts related to the development of the Universal Freight Shuttle (UFS) Project. UFS is a technology used to move freight across the international border via rail and minimize truck traffic at the point of entries. The public will be served by reducing truck traffic on the international bridges, thereby reducing the negative environmental impact that arises from the idling truck traffic and by furthering the economic development of the region.

Action Taken:

The LRC approved unanimously to bring item forward to City Council.

- II. Discussion and action to enter an Interlocal Agreement between the City of El Paso and the Downtown Management District to establish a contractual relationship and duties related downtown redevelopment efforts.

Summary:

The City of El Paso and the El Paso Downtown Management District (DMD) have engaged in negotiations to establish an interlocal agreement that will mutually benefit both entities and serve the government purposes of stimulating commercial development and business activity in the downtown area. The DMD will perform duties to include: development of downtown marketing plan, create downtown census, and management of Downtown El

Paso website. The City will agree to provide a full-time employee to serve as Executive Director of the DMD.

Action Taken:

The LRC approved unanimously to approve item in concept and move item forward to City Council under pretense that contract be presented to Council members beforehand.

Disposition:

To be placed on City Council under City Manager's Update.

III. Discussion and action on park fee requirements for replats and amending plats in developed areas, including possible exemptions in designated areas.

Summary:

Presentation given by Staff to provide direction for an expedited process for making minor revisions to a recorded plat. Minor revisions include the correction of real property descriptions, relocating a lot line to eliminate an inadvertent encroachment of a building, correct errors in courses and distance, etc. Amending plats are reviewed administratively.

Action Taken:

The LRC approved unanimously to bring item forward to City Council.

IV. Discussion and action to approve an Ordinance amending Title 19 (Subdivisions), Article 1 (Subdivision Procedures), Chapter 19.01 (Provisions Applicable to All Platting Procedures), Chapter 19.05 (Reserved), and Chapter 19.20 (Parks and Open Space) of the El Paso City Code, to include provisions for requiring protective covenants for non-residential subdivisions.

Summary:

Read into record to delete item from agenda.

Action taken:

No formal action was needed on the item.

V. Discussion, guidance and action on the consolidation and pricing of loading zones, parking spaces and parking meters.

Summary:

For the past several months staff has devoted considerable time to inventory and GIS code the location and number of loading zones, street parking spaces, alley parking and parking meters in the UTEP, Downtown and Golden Horseshoe areas. Five areas have been inventoried. The inventory has indentified the following issues with street front loading zones: unauthorized parking, non-commercial use, unauthorized signs, reserved loading zones (federal, state and municipal) and loss of on-street parking. The following issues have been identified for alleys: unofficial loading areas, no parking signs, unofficial pavement markings, encroachments, and obstructions (dumpsters, staircases, utility poles, meters, guard posts). Further, there exists reserved parking for at least 21 different official and non-official uses.

The number of loading zones and reserved parking spaces by area is as follows:

Area 1 (N Wyoming/S Paisano/E Campbell/W Santa Fe): 67

Area 2: (N Paisano/S Cesar Chavez/E Kansas/ W Santa Fe): 64

Area 3 (N Mills/S Paisano/E Tays/W Campbell): 52

Area 4 (N Missouri/S Paisano/E Santa Fe/W Paisano): 11

Area 5 (N Mississippi/S Yandell/E Stanton/W El Paso): 9

Potential loading zone options to explore include:

- Take no action
- Consolidate existing loading zones
- Restrict delivery times to when parking meters are not enforced
- Change parking meter times to accommodate delivery times
- Charge each business a fee to use the loading zone
- Remove all loading zones

Potential alley options to explore include:

- Take no action
- Remove all non-official loading, no parking and unofficial pavement markings
- Remove illegal fences and blocking devices
- Enforcement of violations
- Allow parking
- Allow loading zones
- Where feasible, loading zones should be installed in alleys

Potential reserved parking options to explore include:

- Take no action
- Convert hotel zones to short term parking meter spaces
- Convert official reserved parking to metered parking spaces
- Remove all reserved parking.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4-0 (Lilly, Byrd, O'Rourke, Ortega) to direct staff to begin the public vetting process to evaluate the pros and cons of the various options. No options will be eliminated from consideration, excluding the option to take no action. Rep. Byrd requested analysis be completed on congestion pricing as a strategy to increase available on-street parking during peak times. Upon completion of the public outreach, the results will be brought back to the LRC for further guidance to address how to better manage a limited supply of parking in these five areas. Staff was also directed to identify a funding plan for the purchase of additional parking meters, signage and for restriping. Rep. Ortega requested staff to report back to the City Council the results of the parking meter pilot program within the next 30-60 days.

Disposition:

Staff will begin the public vetting process, return to the LRC with the results, provide more detailed recommendations, including congestion pricing during peak demand times, and suggest a funding plan. The results of the parking meter pilot program will be presented to City Council.

VI. Discussion, and action on guidelines for the installation of control boxes for traffic lights in the public right of way, including recent installation on the southwest corner of Copia and Fort Boulevard.

Summary:

The traffic signal infrastructure at the corner of Copia and Fort Boulevard dates back to 1985 with upgrades to the equipment in 2003 and 2006. It is an old traffic signal infrastructure design and is not ADA compliant. Proposed improvements include a complete reconstruction (approximately \$165K), partial reconstruction (approximately \$20K) and sidewalk repairs and relocation of the signal controller (approximately \$8K).

Action Taken:

The LRC (Lilly, Byrd, O'Rourke, Ortega) voted 4-0 to direct staff to perform an inventory to determine the number of existing obstructions and to develop a cost estimate to address these obstructions. Rep. Byrd will report back to her neighborhood association and look at submitting a Neighborhood Improvement Program application for the corrective work.

Disposition:

Staff will prepare the inventory and cost estimate for corrective action.

VII. Staff status report, discussion and action on the 2008 Comprehensive Mobility Plan.

Summary:

Read into record to delete item from agenda.

Action taken:

No formal action was needed on the item.

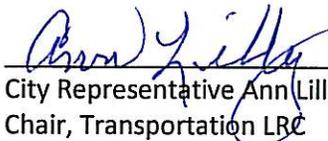
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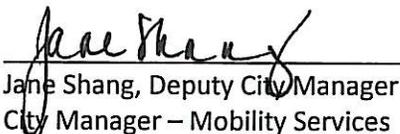
City Representative Steve Ortega, District 7
Chair, Economic Development, Planning and Tourism LRC



Kathy Dodson, Director
Planning and Economic Development



City Representative Ann Lilly, District 1
Chair, Transportation LRC



Jane Shang, Deputy City Manager
City Manager – Mobility Services