



# **City of El Paso**

## **Priority Federal Legislative Initiatives**



# MASS TRANSIT

- Seek \$12.8 million to purchase 30 CNG buses
- Seek \$4 million for a compressed natural gas station.
- Seek \$7.44 million to design, engineer, and construct four Bus Rapid Transit corridors
- Seek \$300,000 for the replacement of Job Access Reverse Commute program vans
- Seek to extend the Volumetric Excise Tax Credit for alternative fuels through September 30, 2021.



# INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY

- Support additional funding for appropriate staffing of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol and the lifting of FTE and overtime caps.
- Support a re-examination of the “zero tolerance” policy currently in effect regarding DCL use that has resulted in revocation of privileges without an adequate appeal process.
- Support efforts to expedite commercial truck safety inspections at international ports of entry.
- Support extended hours of operation of the DCL (Sentri), FAST lanes and all commercial ports of entry.



# INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY (cont.)

- Support the full exploration of new technologies aimed at increased international bridge efficiency, mobility, and security and will support the testing of such measures at the region's international ports of entry.
- Support funding for the initiation of a long-term planning study aimed at identifying ways to move people and product in a manner that is safe, timely, and efficient.
- Request more consultation with local communities on policies that impact the movement of people.
- Support the passage of H.R. 5662, the Putting Our Resources Towards Security (PORTS) Act as introduced by in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.



# **PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- Seek \$5.815 million to update and expand the first responder radio system to a digital platform.
- Seek \$7.307 million to purchase additional equipment and software to allow for full incorporation of e-ticketing department wide.



# **HANGAR AND OFFICES FOR U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AIR OPERATIONS**

- Seek \$3.5 million for construction of a new hangar and office space at the El Paso International Airport for the Air Operations division of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



# RAILROAD QUIET ZONE PILOT PROGRAM

- Seek \$880,000 to make infrastructure improvement to six (6) railroad crossings in residential neighborhoods to eliminate the need for blowing safety horns.



# **ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)**

- Support full funding of the EECBG, which was enacted in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.



# City of El Paso

## Issues of Interest and Advocacy



# IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

- Oppose legislation not in keeping with the resolution calling for comprehensive immigration reform as part of the City's state and federal agendas approved by City Council on January 13, 2009.



# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Support the passage of the **Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act** and the amendments to the **Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act** that increase opportunities for locally owned businesses to participate in more government contracting opportunities.



# INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HUB

- Support TTI request for \$550,000 to perform a detailed feasibility analysis of the implementation of the Universal Freight Shuttle in the El Paso region.
- Support TTI and the Border Trade Alliance initiative to develop standardized, automated methods to measure total border crossing times from point A to point B across major U.S. land border crossings—not just the travel time it takes to move through the U.S. federal inspection facilities.
- Support the Custom-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and initiatives to expand the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Program, develop more secure and smarter containers, expand the structured training program for C-TPAT Supply Chain Specialist, and coordinate with Customs and Border Protection Modernization Office to enhance C-TPAT's data collection and information management.
- Work with the MPO and Congressional delegation to ensure that the next surface transportation authorization bill includes program(s) to fund the international transportation hub.



# INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- Ensure that the City's interests and preferences are fully and fairly considered in the implementation of the US VISIT program.
- Support federal efforts that advance international commerce, promote investment and industrial development.
- Support federal efforts that advance tourism and cultural heritage.
- Support increased funds and resources being directed to the border to streamline international trade and commerce.
- Institute an international bus service route with Ciudad Juarez to increase international cooperation, commerce and decrease bridge traffic.
- Support increased federal funds to address and resolve serious environmental issues along the U.S. – Mexico border.



# HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support legislation and action that increases federal healthcare expenditure and resources directed at the U.S. – Mexico border and or highly underserved, low-income areas like El Paso.
- Support increased funds and resources directed to El Paso in support of the four-year medical school and the development of medical infrastructure.
- Support legislation that will allow for greater federal resources to reimburse hospitals and other providers for care to the uninsured and undocumented.
- Support El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation's (MHMR) request for support to establish a PTSD clinic designed to work with mental health providers affiliated with the federal government in order to improve access to care and provide services to individuals who are not eligible for services through those channels.
- Support efforts to eliminate the discrepancy in Medicare reimbursement rates that exists in lower-income areas.



# RAIL SECURITY

- Support federal funding to examine issues of rail security in the El Paso Ciudad Juarez community.
- Encourage federal co-sponsorship of legislation that directs additional DHS and DOT funds for rail security and safety for railroads and rail facilities including both passenger and freight lines.
- Engage private rail interests to increase rail security in the El Paso metropolitan area.



# FAA REAUTHORIZATION

- Support the passage of a long term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill that provides airports with the financial tools to meet growing passenger and capacity demands.



# MILITARY AFFAIRS

- Support funding needed for housing, education, transportation and workforce development to accommodate the influx of new troops and their families as a result of the transformation at Ft. Bliss.
- Support additional funding to expand services and capabilities of William Beaumont Army Medical Center.