



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: February 13, 2012
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Mayor John F. Cook
RE: Report on Washington DC trip with TEAM El Paso on February 5-7, 2012

My visit to Washington was very productive as I was able to schedule many meetings/events with TEAM El Paso with members of The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and a meeting set up by Congressman Reyes with Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection David Aguilar to discuss the following issues:

- Border Wait Times at El Paso Ports of Entry;
- Infrastructure and staffing challenges;
- Use of technology to increase port efficiency;
- Public-private funding for infrastructure and staffing;
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation;
- Military Affairs – BRAC;
- Fort Bliss Initiatives and Community Support; and
- Update on the City's initiatives with our federal lobbyists.

TEAM El Paso

The purpose of the annual visits to Washington with TEAM El Paso is to meet with elected officials and key personnel to express the community's unified position and concerns on a wide array of issues. Below is a summary of some of the meetings I attended with the group.

On Monday, February 6, 2012, TEAM El Paso started the day by gathering the entire group composed of representatives from the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Fort Bliss personnel, the business community, County Judge Veronica Escobar and I to coordinate meetings.



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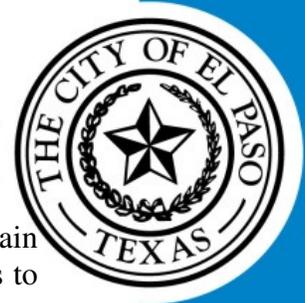
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Cortney Carlisle Niland

City Manager

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The first meeting was with General Tilelli from Cypress International, Inc. to gain support in our efforts to protect the region's military missions and to position us to attract other missions that might fit our capabilities. We also communicated our support to Secretary of the Army McHugh when we met with him on Tuesday.

This was followed by a meeting with the German Embassy where we expressed our support of the German Air Force at Fort Bliss. Fort Bliss personnel visited with Johnson Controls, Inc. to discuss Fort Bliss Net-Zero Energy Initiative to which the City is a strong partner in this effort.

We then proceeded to meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials, Acting Deputy Commissioner Thomas Winkowski, Assistant Commissioner Michael Yeager and CBP Buffalo Field Office Director Jim Engleman to express our position and concerns in regards to the border. Below is a synopsis of CBP's position on each of the border issues as composed by the Chamber's Government Relations-Chair-elect Kathleen Campbell Walker and also Chairwoman of the Committee on Border Relations:

Funding of Port of Entry (POE) Infrastructure and Staffing

- CBP is supporting the expansion of the airport user fee model to fund land border infrastructure and staffing. Public private partnerships can have gift act implications.
- User Fee background - An airport would desire to have commercial flights, but in this case then a POE was necessary. To establish a POE, a certain number of flights and passengers were necessary. Thus, the user fee would allow a means to get the airport started.
- CBP has been working on the modified user fee proposal for a long time, but in the next month, CBP plans to submit the proposal to Congress for consideration.

Staffing Models

- On February 15th, CBP's new staffing model for ports of entry will be submitted to Congress. The new model is more sophisticated and takes into account improvements such as SENTRI, Ready Lanes, Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) documents, and lane management.
- Staffing model will further outline existing staffing needs.



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Wait Times

- We noted the need to clarify the definition of “wait times.”
- Discussed County Project for use of Secure Origins and other technologies to track wait times for participating trucks, which should commence in March. This project and the project funded in part by the State of Texas, which also uses Secure Origins allows the detection of bottlenecks in border crossing as well as assist in accountability for wait times. Jim Engleman will be visiting El Paso in March and is willing to review Secure Origins. CBP noted the need to segregate traffic on the Mexican side to improve wait times and for México to waive fees for the use of lane on the Mexican side.
- Discussed Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) project of tracking wait times via use of RFID and Bluetooth technology. Jim Engleman noted that on the northern border, CBP brought in stakeholder to agree to methodology for determination of the official wait time. CBP has the average amount of processing time per officer and they are able to see to the end of the wait line except for Rainbow Bridge near Niagara. One or two times a year, CBP validates the estimated wait time.
- Alan Russell of TECMA noted that his company moved 15,000 trucks last year and that 90% of their raw materials are sourced in the U.S. The SENTRI project was a critical development to the predictability of crossings for business. To change the timing of goods presented for admission to the U.S., border businesses need six months to plan to change production schedules. In addition, the entire supply chain must be involved in the process to increase the possibility of success. Acting Deputy Commissioner Winkowski noted that CBP had tried town halls prior to the roll out of the expansion of hours at the POEs. Mr. Russell noted that the pre-planning phase of the last extended hours pilot was too short.
- Acting Deputy Commissioner Winkowski stated that industry must drive changes as to CBP hours. Mayor Cook offered to provide an industry based plan to help reduce congestion at the POEs. We discussed the lack of usage of Ysleta versus BOTA based on the difference in cost for BOTA. Jim Engleman commented that the cost of gas for trucks in the longer lines should at some part offset the BOTA toll savings. Mr. Russell noted that plants in México want what is produced today on the road the same day.

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Administrative/Processing Improvements – Land Border

- Create integrated exit/entry document system similar to northern border.
- C-TPAT carriers who self-report potential breach before arrival at POE should not be automatically suspended from CTPAT, but allowed a period of review before suspension except in extenuating circumstances.
- Pilot use of Global Entry kiosk for payment of I-94 fee and use of receipt for land border I-94 as to foreign national SENTRI holders.
- Pilot ATM like kiosk for I-94 fee intake.
- Resolve problem of database connectivity between CCD of State Dept., TECS of CBP, and CLAIMS of USCIS to allow creation of I-551 card based on an immigrant visa without requiring CBP to take rolled prints of the immigrant visa holder on first admission post immigrant visa issuance.
- Allow expansion of benefits of C-TPAT to foreign national employees in the context of expedited I-94 processing and visa appointments, as applicable.
- Pilot creation of system to scan I-94s at the POE to document exit control and automate the process.
- Promote use of RFID documents by U.S. citizens to allow greater use of Ready Lanes such as the passport card. Local passport office in El Paso willing to provide outreach on passport cards. San Ysidro has 50% usage rate of Ready Lanes versus 16% in El Paso. RFID saturation rate in El Paso is 28%.
- Improve public information on Travel Facilitation programs – post on City, County, Congressman Reyes, and Chamber websites among other venues. Consider new page on cbp.gov with all travel “facilitation” program links.

The Chamber representatives met with members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Monday and with the Department of Commerce International Trade Administration on Tuesday to discuss border wait times as well.

We also met with Congressman Canseco to discuss the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation, border infrastructure and technology to improve cross-border movement and a regional military partnership. These same issues were

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discussed with Congressman Pearce and Senator Udall's staff by Fort Bliss personnel on Tuesday. The Chamber staff and Fort Bliss personnel also met with U.S. Army Lieutenant General Robert Lennox and U.S. Air Force LTG Richard Newton to express support.

We met with Department of Homeland Security officials on Tuesday, February 7th to express our concerns on the border wait times and the inefficiencies at the Ports of Entry. The rest of the group stayed until Wednesday but I wrapped up my day before returning to El Paso that evening by meeting with U.S. Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner David Aguilar and Congressman Reyes to express all the concerns regarding the El Paso Ports of Entry and explain that the El Paso City Council has made the border wait times a priority in our legislative agenda due to the severe impact in our economy. I reiterated the community's support to CBP's mission and any initiatives that can help us reduce the border wait times and still promote trade efficiently without jeopardizing national security.

In conclusion, the trip was a success as we were able to speak to key legislators and advocate for our community. We were very well received and our comments were well taken.

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February 13, 2012

To: Mayor Cook

From: John Montgomery and John O'Donnell

Re: Notes from Meeting with David Aguilar February 7, 2012

Participants:

Commissioner David Aguilar

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Engleman (OFO)

Kim Lowery – Legislative Affairs

Rebecca Hoffman – Legislative Affair

Mayor Cook

Perry Finney Brody, Chief of Staff Congressman Reyes

Sigrid Gonzalez, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Reyes

During Mayor Cook's meeting with Commissioner Aguilar, the Mayor thanked the Commissioner for the agency's efforts to help reduce wait times. The Mayor provided the Commissioner with a short summary of the meetings he had while he was in Washington. Commissioner Aguilar thanked the Mayor for the City's efforts between Ports of Entry.

1. Private Public Partnerships

- The Mayor reiterated the City's offer to use local funding to help alleviate congestion at the EL Paso POEs.
- The Commissioner mentioned that there are current regulations on the books that require the agency to study the issue further to determine how it can partner with local governments and the private sector.
- MMO is working with Congressman Reyes and Senators Cornyn and Hutchison to include language in the FY 13 DHS Appropriations bill that would give CBP the authority it needs to accept local funding for additional personnel.

2. Current Initiatives in Place

- The Commissioner requested the City's help in getting the message out to the community to use the new technologies (RFID, readylanes) that would expedite border crossings.
- The Commissioner also mentioned that the 78 new CBP officers will be placed this year. There are still 15 in the academy but expects to have full utility of all officers by the end of the year. Congress appropriated funding in FY 12 for new CBP officers. The Mayor requested that El Paso be on the list to receive additional officers. Commissioner Aguilar could not make any announcements but was receptive to the Mayor's request and the Commissioner certainly knows the need in El Paso.
- The Mayor gave the Commissioner a list of issues discussed during the meeting with Commissioner Winkowski. The memo included a number of recommended action items that need to be followed up on.

3. Proposals and Follow Up

- The concept for a border reduction task force was discussed which included the suggestion from both the Commissioner and the Mayor for the development of a list of action items and that the task force include Ana Hinojosa, the Mayor, a representative from México and a representative from the business community. Programs/concepts discussed included the frequent traveler program which is used more frequently in California, the E-Verify program, the Ready Lane web site, Secured Origins and ideas that worked on the northern border.
- See Kathleen Walker memo regarding meeting w/ Winkowski.
- How can the City help CBP get the message out regarding readylanes and RFID technology?
- Task Force creation- CBP as well as DHS expressed an interest in taking part in a task force- Commissioner Aguilar suggested the following be included: City, Mexican officials, private sector, CBP and Port Director.



Mayor John F. Cook

Presentation to City Council

February 14, 2012

TEAM El Paso update

Trip to Washington DC

February 5-7, 2012



Cypress International Meeting

- Cypress helped us develop a strategy in the last round of BRAC
- Protect regional missions
- Position the region for new missions that fit our capabilities
- The region is Bliss, Holloman, and White Sands
- Contract must be with non governmental organization
- Multiple partners should fund the consultants
- City, County, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, private sector
- They will prepare a proposal for our consideration
- Key personnel: Ret. Gen. Tilelli



German Embassy Meeting

- Met with Lt Col Paust
- German Air Force is considering a move
- Purpose was to show gratitude
- German ADA has long history at Bliss



U.S. Customs and Border Protection Meeting

- Deputy Commissioner Winkowski
- Assistant Commissioner McAleenan
- Border Wait Times
- Need standard definition of wait times
- Segment for better analysis
- Staffing modules (02-14-12)
- Roles of Customs at ports (I-94 / finger printing)
- Proposal from private sector regarding extended hours
- Detailed notes by Kathleen Walker



Congressman Canseco Meeting

- Support of Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation
- Border infrastructure and technology to improve cross border movement
- Regional Military Partnership that includes Bliss, White Sands, and Holloman AFB



Department of Homeland Security Meeting

- Discussed the impact of and solutions to reduce border wait times
- 25% Solution
- Task Force
- AM Radio Broadcast to inform travellers about programs
- Ready lanes, SENTRI, NEXUS
- I-94 and I-551
- Data interconnectivity between agencies
- Need to involve private sector more
- Gary Becker - Senior Economist - Office of Policy
- Michael Frias - Director - Office of Policy - Private Sector



Secretary McHugh

Secretary of the Army Meeting

- Housing - progress and challenges
- Education - community investment - institutions
- Energy - net zero goals
- Water - reductions in consumption - reliability
- Waste to Energy - partnerships - Bliss, City, EPEC, 3rd party - incineration vs. gasification
- Community Support
- Health Care - MCA - Wounded Warriors - Civilian infrastructure



Bliss Net Zero Goals

Energy - Water - Waste

- 90 MW Waste to Energy (WTE) 2016
- 40 MW Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) 2016
- Partnerships with the City
- 20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Plant 2014
- 20 MW Geothermal Plant 2015
- 50 MW Wind Plant 2015
- Smart Grid (monitor, control, optimize consumption and generation)
- 10+ MW Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic
- Water usage (8% goal, 14.5% actual)



Acting Commissioner Aguilar Meeting

- Recap of CBP meeting (see Kathleen's notes)
- Request for the departments participation in a task force to reduce bridge wait times
- Staffing models to be updated (02-14-12)
- Additional inspectors already deployed
- New recruits to be trained and deployed
- Keep the lines of communication open