

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

DEPARTMENT: Community and Human Development

AGENDA DATE: February 15, 2005

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Robert A Salinas/541-4643

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: District #8

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

City Council is asked to commit \$50,000 in 30th Year (2004-2005) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds to provide partial support for the completion of a Downtown Master Plan. The City's commitment of \$50,000 is contingent upon the completion of a HUD-mandated citizen participation process, which calls for: (1) project review by the CD Steering Committee, (2) advertisement of the proposed project in the El Paso Times for citizen review with a 30-day comment period, (3) placing the project on City Council agenda for funding approval, and (4) notifying HUD about the new project.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

The focus area of the Master Plan will be the traditional downtown area stretching from Interstate 10 Highway to the two downtown bridges to and from Mexico; and from R.E. Thomason/Texas Tech Medical Center to Union Depot. The final product will be a Land Use Master Plan that will transform downtown El Paso into a downtown of commercial, social, cultural and residential vitality with a desired mix of uses. Input sessions will be used to help select a preferred land use scenario, review successful models applicable, identify key drivers for change and to develop the implementation actions and phasing plan. Baseline data will be compiled and analyzed including: base maps, current land uses, parcel sizes and ownership, transportation and infrastructure network, urban design character, and the physical fit of several land uses.

Several land use scenarios will be developed and a preferred land use scenario will be selected as a component of the Master Plan. Land use scenario elements will include:

- Potential new development on various sites including new office, retail, residential, civic, industrial, entertainment, multi-use facilities and hospitality development including potential reuse of existing buildings.
- Potential new cultural facilities and programs and new public space improvements and programming.
- Implications of a planned medical school facility in the downtown area of influence.
- General transportation strategies suggested by land use changes including parking requirements for the range of improvements and locations for potential parking facilities.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

The City has utilized CDBG funds for planning activities in the past.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

\$50,000 is currently available in 30th Year (2004-2005) CD Administration Account No. G7130CD0002. To comply with federal regulations pertaining to the CDBG program, the City will be required to place a public notice

in the El Paso Times indicating its intention to award the \$50,000 for the above-mentioned purpose. Citizens will have 30-days to comment on the project. After the 30-day comment period, an item will be placed on City Council agenda formally approving the CDBG project for \$50,000. A budget transfer from the CD Administration Account to the new project account will then take place.

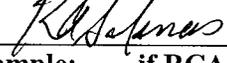
BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

The Community Development Steering Committee, as part of the citizen participation process, reviewed and recommended funding in the amount of \$50,000 for this planning activity during a meeting held on January 27, 2005.

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

LEGAL: (if required)  **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: 
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That, contingent upon the completion of a federally mandated citizen participation process, the City of El Paso will commit \$50,000 in 30th Year (2004-2005) Community Development Block Grant funds to fund the Downtown Master Plan; and

That the Mayor, or the City Manager or designee, if otherwise authorized by City Council, be authorized to sign any agreements or related documents which might be necessary to accomplish such purpose, upon approval of the City Attorney's Office and the Director of Community and Human Development.

ADOPTED this 15th day of February, 2005.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

Joe Wardy
Mayor

ATTEST:

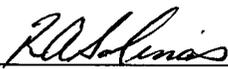
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



John F. Nance
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Robert A. Salinas, Director
Community and Human Development