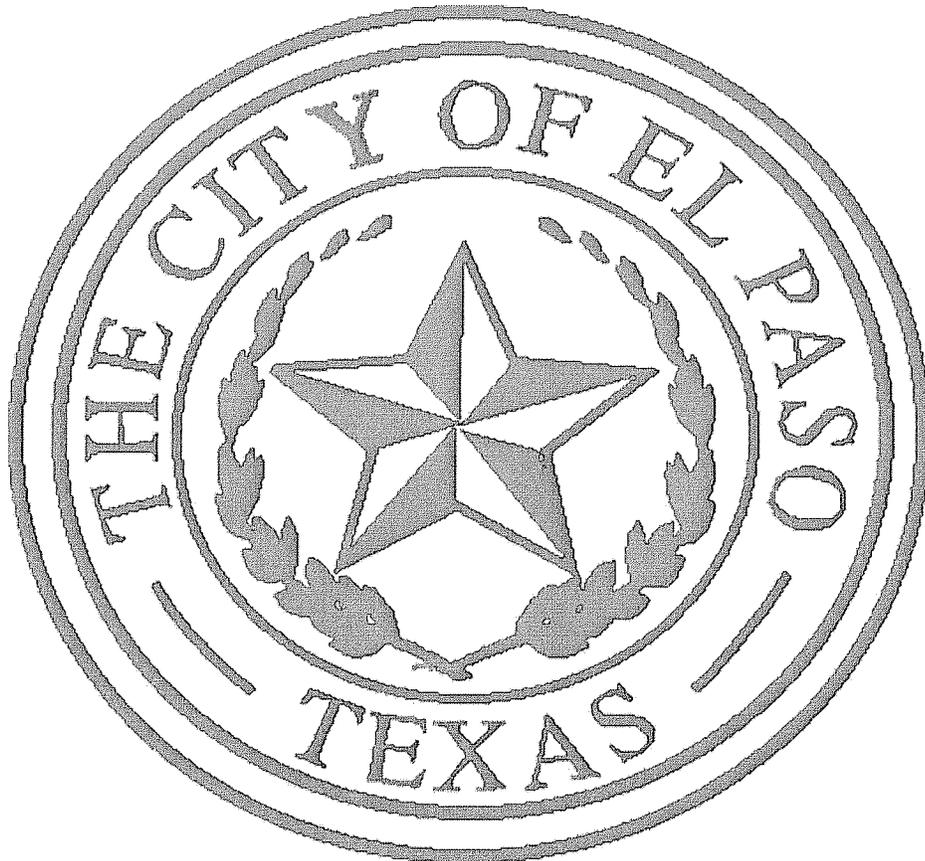


CITY OF EL PASO
2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

JOHN F. COOK

MAYOR

ANN MORGAN LILLY

EMMA ACOSTA

RACHEL QUINTANA

STEVE ORTEGA

SUSIE BYRD

MELINA CASTRO

EDDIE HOLGUIN, JR.

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JOYCE A. WILSON

CITY MANAGER

CITY OF EL PASO
2009 State Legislative Priorities
81st Legislative Session

Strategic Policy Statements: The City Council of the City of El Paso has met to formulate strategic policies to serve as guiding principles for the governance of the City of El Paso. Decision regarding City of El Paso positions regarding legislative matters will be weighed against these guiding principles when formulating positions.

1. **FISCAL:** The City of El Paso will seek to ensure long-term fiscal stability and sustainability of the City government.
2. **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** The City of El Paso will be a high performance, customer focused organization.
3. **CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT:** The City of El Paso will facilitate opportunities for citizens to be involved in local government.
4. **TRANSPORTATION:** The City of El Paso has a goal of becoming the least car dependent City in the Southwest.
5. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** The City of El Paso shall become the most livable city in the United States and be recognized as an international city.
6. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The City of El Paso will help business create quality jobs in El Paso and revitalize targeted areas of town, thereby adding to the tax base and fostering a healthy economy.

General Principles: The City of El Paso supports legislation that enhances the City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The City of El Paso opposes legislation that reduces the City's authority or increases the City's costs. We will work with other Cities to enhance and protect the authority of municipalities and to ensure that City taxpayers are not burdened with additional unfunded mandates.

The City of El Paso will also support legislative initiatives of community partners that enhance the educational, cultural, and infrastructure resources in our region.

This document reflects the City's adopted legislative policy as approved by City Council. The City's legislative program is organized into three categories:

I. Priority Legislative Initiatives - The City will actively seek to secure legislators to author bills for these initiatives, unless otherwise noted. The City will support and provide positive testimony for these initiatives and actively pursue passage of the bill.

II. Statement of Support or Opposition - City staff and authorized representatives will make known the City's position on these issues. Depending on the issue, staff will work to either assist in the passage of the bill or work against passage to preserve the City's interests. The important distinction between this category and the earlier category is that the City will not seek introduction of any legislation, but will vocalize the City's position in support or opposition.

III. Issues to Monitor - City staff and authorized representatives will monitor and track the development of any related legislation. Staff will seek advice and direction from the Mayor before taking an official position or taking any action to influence an outcome.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney
Director of Governmental Affairs
Chief of Staff Office of the Mayor
2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1029
Phone: 915-541-4656
Fax: 915-541-5401

Taylor Bengtson
Intergovernmental Affairs
Coordinator
2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1029
Phone: 915-541-4304
Fax: 915-541-5401

I. PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

1. TRANSPORTATION

Support the authorization of \$5 billion in Proposition 12 general obligation bonds to provide funding for highway improvement projects.

On November 6, 2007, Texas voters approved by a margin of 63 to 37 percent a constitutional amendment (Proposition 12) providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds by the Texas Transportation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$5 billion to provide funding for highway improvement projects. The bonds are to be backed from the state's general revenues rather than from gasoline taxes. The amendment was proposed by unanimous votes in both the House and Senate (S.J.R. 64). Before bonds can be issued and any funding allocated to transportation projects, authorization is required by the Texas Legislature.

Support legislation to eliminate diversions of state transportation revenues to non-transportation uses.

In 1987, state leadership began to transfer transportation funds to other areas of the state budget, with little regard for the long-term impact. Ignoring population growth projections, state government continued that practice, resulting in poor planning decisions. Over the past twenty years, more than \$10.5 billion has been transferred from transportation needs to other areas of the state budget.

Support efforts to capitalize the Texas Rail Relocation fund, authorized by voters in November 2005, to provide for relocation of existing rail traffic in metropolitan and urbanized areas.

Major urban areas in Texas are developing plans to relocate existing rail lines away from crowded urban areas in order to enhance safety, increase freight and commuter rail capacity, reduce toxic spills, improve air quality, reduce 18-wheeler truck traffic on Texas highways, and spur economic development. Funds are needed to implement these plans.

Support the Texas Department of Transportation's budget request for additional funding to maintain and clean rights of way.

Support preservation of the Texas Transportation Commission in its current configuration.

2. **TRANSIT**

Increase funding options for transit projects and support legislation that would require that all expenditures for highway construction in the State of Texas allow for funding dedicated transit lanes, bike paths and pedestrian friendly complements.

Support transit exemptions for transit equipment from motor fuel tax.

Support legislation to empower metropolitan regions to enact a local option transportation tax with voter approval.

Endorse the resolution passed by the El Paso MPO on October 24, 2008 to encourage funding of transit and alternative modes of transportation from Category 2 funds.

3. **MOBILITY**

Secure funding to study the feasibility of relocating or depressing the railroad tracks in the area of the Texas Tech/Thomason Medical Center of the Americas area.

Support efforts to expedite commercial truck safety inspections at international ports of entry by coordinating efforts between the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to create one-stop safety inspection facility for commercial trucks at the land ports of entry in the El Paso region.

4. **TRIBAL RIGHTS**

Support the efforts of the members of the El Paso Delegation to restore gaming rights on tribal land to the members of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

5. **TEXAS TECH FOUR YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL**

Support Texas Tech University's Legislative Appropriations Request for \$17,600,000.00 for operational support of the four-year medical school campus in El Paso.

6. **STATE PARK**

Seek additional appropriation for a visitor's center in the Franklin Mountains State Park to be located in the Northeast part of El Paso.

Seek enactment of legislation that provides utility companies with recreational immunity on property that is open for recreational use by the general public, such as trails along electrical corridors or irrigation canals.

Seek funding for creation of new trails to enhance accessibility to the Franklin Mountains State Park.

7. DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Seek enactment of legislation to allow for incentives to assist with the implementation of the El Paso Downtown Revitalization Plan such as mixed income housing tax credits, State historic tax credits and renewable energy tax credits and incentives.

8. TAX CODE

Seek enactment of legislation requiring Central Appraisal Districts to grant a full tax exemption to nature preserves that are owned by non-profit land trusts and are open for public use and enjoyment

Support enactment to increase penalties for chronic delinquent taxpayers.

Amend Chapter 42, Subchapter A of the Tax Code to give taxing entities legal standing to enforce the collection of payment of taxes as set out in Section 42.08 (b) and to seek a court order dismissing a pending action if the taxpayer fails to comply with the Section 42.08 (b) payment requirement.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL

Support renewable energy tax credits that complement federal renewable energy tax credits.

Support changes in the Public Utility Commission requirements to simplify the procedure for El Paso Electric to pay Renewable Energy Credits to individuals who are pushing power back onto the grid with renewable energy projects.

Support measures to enhance the use of solar energy “buy back” programs in the State of Texas.

Support measures to continue to increase the use of crumb rubber and shredded tire pieces in highway construction.

Support legislation that would require tire dealers and any facility that sells new & used tires to "render a tire unusable" by poking a 1/2 inch hole in the tire, if the tread on that tire does not meet safety standards (i.e., pass annual State inspection).

Support legislation that allows a deposit/refund to be collected for the purposes of recycling glass bottles.

Support measures in the legislature that will advance clean energy solutions by creating incentives and rebates to encourage installation of solar panels and energy efficiency measures in Texas homes and businesses.

10. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Support increased State funding for Medicaid and CHIP.

Support expedited licensure requirements to decrease the shortages of healthcare professionals in the State of Texas and border communities in particular.

Support the creation of statewide policies to facilitate coordination between health, judicial and law enforcement professionals to develop a jail decision program to keep mentally ill persons out of the jail system.

Support El Paso MHMR's funding request for additional funding in the amount of \$8,401,560.00 to meet the needs of the El Paso population, including the growth at Ft. Bliss.

Support measures identified by the Children's Mental Health Forum as priorities for the 81st Legislative Session.

Seek enactment of legislation to require businesses with more than 50 employees that receive state contracts provide health insurance to their employees.

Seek an amendment to state law to allow a lien to be placed on a homestead property with mosquito control chemicals to protect the public health and safety.

11. EDUCATION

Support the effort by the El Paso delegation to assist UTEP achieve Tier 1 status.

II. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

1. MILITARY AFFAIRS

Support funding to workforce development to create programs to assist in job placement of accompanying military spouses.

Seek additional resources dedicated to military installations, soldiers and their dependents residing in the State of Texas. These resources should also include incentives for those who wish to purchase homes, through tax breaks or other means.

Support passage of H.B. 43 filed by State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon of San Antonio to help protect areas around military installations across the state from encroachment by residential and commercial developers.

2. WATER

Support Public Service Board's request for funding:

- \$500,000 for the creation of state-wide water conservation program,
- \$6.3 million for infrastructure in the colonias, and
- \$20 million to address needed infrastructure within the El Paso Water Utilities system.

Support the establishment of separate construction grant programs for reuse projects

Support the Public Service Board's request to consider State regulatory requirements that continue to change and El Paso Water Utilities' ability to meet new regulations, variances, changes in regulatory requirements, and/or alternative treatment processes may be considered.

3. DEVELOPMENT

Support the efforts of the TXAPA to amend §545.352 of the Transportation Code to permit residential access streets to be designed for a 20 or 25 mph speed limit in lieu of the prima facie speed limit of 30 mph.

Support legislation to allow counties additional development authority, provided that such legislation does not erode city authority in the ETJ or conflict with development regulations enacted by cities with authority over the ETJ.

4. 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.

Support efforts by the University of Texas at El Paso's Center of Excellence for Border Security and Immigration and Center for Defense Systems Research.

5. REVENUE AND TAXATION

Support the efforts of appraisal districts across the State of Texas to seek legislation requiring the mandatory disclosure of real property sales prices to appraisal districts.

Oppose legislation that would mandate a reduction in the current appraisal growth cap.

Oppose legislation that would impose revenue caps of any type, including a lowered rollback rate, mandatory tax rate ratification elections or lowered rollback petition requirements.

Support legislation that would create further protection from predatory lending practices and close the "loophole" that allows payday lenders to use Credit Service Organizations to avoid usury laws in Texas while at the same time capping fees on any loans brokered by Credit Service Organizations so that the fees plus the interest paid are not higher than Texas usury limits.

Oppose legislation that would erode the protections currently in place in existing laws.

6. EDUCATION

Support funding for recruiting additional teachers.

Support the enhancement of the educational pipeline from Head Start through the college level.

Support public school finance solutions that give equitable funding to all public schools in the State of Texas and improve quality and results for each of those schools.

Support additional resources and flexibility to be given to school districts to allow for necessary expansion of services due to rapid military base expansion.

7. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Support funding for supportive housing programs for the mentally ill and the regulation of lodging facilities that serve that population.

Support TDHCA's budget request for \$40 million additional allocation for the Housing Trust Fund and \$10.7 million additional allocation for the housing weatherization program.

Support funding for educational institutions to increase the number of admissions of healthcare professionals.

Support legislation to continue streamlining and simplifying eligibility processes for Medicaid that will encourage more eligible but non-covered individuals to take advantage of this program.

Support legislation that increases funding to Title 5 services (coverage for children's dental and immunization services; and public education for prevention of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer).

Support legislation that eliminates the disparity in border Medicaid capitation rates and per capita expenditures.

Support continued funding for the Texas Area Information and Referral Networks.

Support legislation that reverses the reduction in funding for public health activities to include, but not limited to, children's health, women's health services, child and adult immunizations, family planning, tuberculosis, and services related to sexually transmitted diseases, and vector/mosquito control and general environmental enforcement activities.

Support legislation that allows for appropriate and responsive mental health and mental retardation services in our community as well as provides adequate resources to avert a waiting list. Instituting a waiting list would result in fewer people being treated and more people seeking care in emergency rooms and through the jail system.

Support legislation that ensures accountability and performance from the Adult and Child Protective Services Agency.

Support efforts to advocate for health care financing that will improve coverage, eliminate disparities in rates, and provide incentives for employers to insure employees.

Support legislation that will aid in licensing physicians and medical personnel in this region to address health care professional shortages.

8. PARKS AND RECREATION

Support passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks and recreation programs for both Local and State parks and that all TRPA funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system.

Support legislation that increases funding for the Texas State Park System and for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account Local Park Grant Program.

9. QUALITY OF LIFE - LIBRARIES

Support increased state aid for public libraries through the Lone Star Libraries program.

10. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support the continuation and enhancement of the Skills Development Fund job-training program.

Support Project ARRIBA in securing and obtaining state funds that provide workforce training in demand occupations.

11. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Support funding and programs to support local efforts to address the homelessness issue which exists within our Texas cities. Specifically creating strategic partnerships with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to better link the re-entry population from our prisons, and the operational and service subsidies that come with them, to supportive housing projects; and seek from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or Department of Public Safety the pre-release issuance of a Texas ID Certificate for everyone discharged from a Texas jail or prison.

Support legislation that would require electronic reporting of pawnshop data to local law enforcement agencies.

Support El Paso County's Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force's efforts to amend Texas Penal Code in order to enforce harsher penalties for repeat graffiti offenders.

Support the El Paso delegation's efforts to reform Central Appraisal District governance structure, appraisal process, appeal process, accountability and transparency to the public.

Support the passage of legislation that would enhance the ability of cities to expeditiously enforce and collect on liens for work done in connection with the demolition of unsafe

structures, environmental clean-up and other expenses incurred to remedy nuisances or to safeguard the health and safety of the public.

Support the passage of legislation that would allow for non-peace officer employees to issue citations for municipal code violations.

12. GENERAL MUNICIPAL INTERESTS

The City will support legislation and administrative actions that:

- a. Will protect and enhance City revenues.
- b. Reduce costs to the City.
- c. Provide for more local control.
- d. Protect those policies previously established through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.

The City will oppose legislation or administrative actions that:

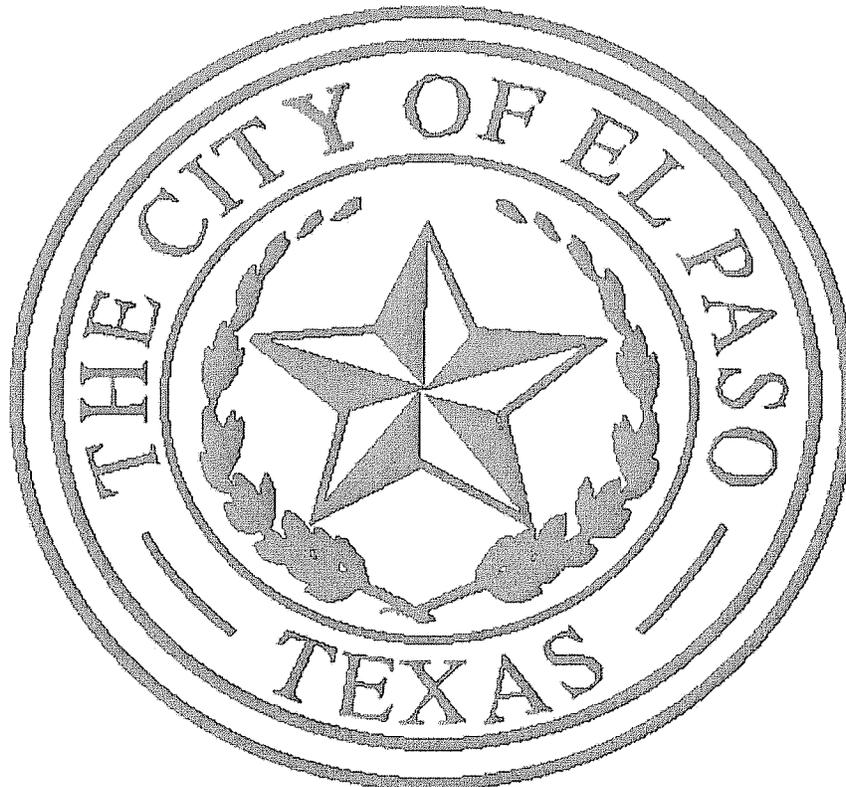
- a. Undermines the principle of home rule and local self-government.
- b. Results in loss of revenue or revenue growth to cities.
- c. Diminishes the current authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- d. Nullifies or undermines the City's policies contained in existing provision of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions and master plans, unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
- e. Diminishes any existing authority of cities.
- f. Imposes mandates that require any expenditure by the City unless all costs of same, including administrative as well as direct out-of-pocket costs, are fully reimbursed by the mandating government.

III. ISSUES TO MONITOR

1. Legislation that affects international trade.
2. Legislation that affects public pension funds.
3. Legislation affecting red light cameras.
4. Legislation affecting eminent domain.

Additional legislative developments will be brought to the attention of Mayor, Council, and the City Manager throughout the session.

CITY OF EL PASO
2009 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
AND
FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

JOHN F. COOK
MAYOR

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The City of El Paso will also support legislative initiatives of community partners that enhance the educational, cultural, military assets and infrastructure resources in our region.

This document reflects the City of El Paso’s adopted federal legislative policy as approved by City Council. The City’s federal legislative program is organized into four categories: I. Priority Legislative Initiatives; II. Pending Appropriation Requests; III. Issues of Advocacy and Interest; and IV. General Guiding Principals.

Note: Items are not listed in order of priority.

I. Priority Legislative Initiatives 5

The Mayor and City Council will actively seek federal funds in support of the following initiatives:

- 1. Mass Transit:.....5**
 - A. Bus Acquisition.....5
 - B. CNG Fueling Station.....5
 - C. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridors.....6
 - D. Job Access Reverse Commute Program (JARC).....8
 - E. Fuel Tax Language.....9
- 2. International Ports of Entry9**
- 3. Public Safety and Law Enforcement.....10**
 - A. Public Safety Radio Voice/Data Systems Interoperability10
 - B. Automatic Electronic Issuance of Citations (E-Ticket)14
- 4. Hangar and Offices for United States Customs & Border Protection Air Operations.....16**
- 5. Railroad Quiet Zone Pilot Program.....16**
- 6. Appropriation of Funds for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant Program (EECBG)17**
- 7. Regional Intermodal Rail Project Feasibility Study.....17**

II. Pending Appropriation Requests 17

III. Issues of Interest and Advocacy 19

The Mayor and Council will work with federal elected officials and agency representatives to advocate for El Paso’s interests in the following issue areas:

- 1. Immigration and Border Security.....19**
- 2. Business Development19**

3.	International Transportation System Hub.....	20
4.	International Trade	20
5.	Healthcare and Public Health.....	21
6.	Rail Security	22
7.	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization.....	22
8.	Military Affairs	23
IV.	General Guiding Principals	24

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For more information, please feel free to contact:

Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney
Director of Governmental Affairs
Chief of Staff Office of the Mayor
2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1029
Phone: 915-541-4656
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I. Priority Legislative Initiatives

1. MASS TRANSIT

A. Bus Acquisition

Proposal: Seek federal funding to purchase 30 CNG Buses

Amount Requested: \$12.8 million

Total Project Cost: \$16 million

Background: This purchase will represent the first fleet expansion in over a decade and follows the City's substantial investment in replacement of the total fleet (95 new buses in 2 years). The new vehicles will be equipped with security cameras, radios, automatic vehicle locator (AVL), as well as up-to-date fare boxes and will support the energy efficient policy adopted by the City of El Paso: reducing congestion, improving air quality, and supporting the influx of troops expected in the next year.

B. CNG Fueling Station

Proposal: Seek funding for compressed natural gas station.

Amount Requested: \$4 million

Total Project Cost: \$5 million

Background: Construction of a compressed natural gas station will secure Sun Metro's supply of natural gas increasing operational efficiency and improving air quality. The proposed plant is expected to be a joint venture supporting the local economy and stabilizing both Sun Metro's fuel costs and supply. Facilities are currently dependent upon daily truck delivery from vendors who are at least 400 miles away. These deliveries are often negatively impacted by weather, traffic conditions, and mechanical failures. Sun Metro expects that this plant will eventually supply an additional revenue stream supporting the Mass Transit system. As the City and Region continue their commitment to becoming energy efficient, improving air quality, and reducing congestion, this supply of liquid natural gas will further the City's goal to become the most transit utilized system in the Southwest while meeting the future energy needs of the community with clean, domestically produced fuels.

C. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridors

Proposal: Seek funding to design, engineer, and construct four BRT corridors.

Amount Requested: \$7,440,000

Total Project Cost: \$366,892,000

The El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) provides transportation services to a population of over 700,000 residents and a geographical area of 250 square miles. El Paso is the largest international metroplex in the United States and anticipates substantial growth in the next few years as a result of BRAC.

Below is a summary of the plan. Phases I through V are presently unfunded.

El Paso's Plan – Overview

Bus Rapid Transit has proven to be the preferred service for areas such as El Paso. BRT combines the quality of rail transit and the flexibility of buses. It will operate on exclusive transit ways, high-occupancy-vehicle lanes, expressways, or ordinary streets. The BRT lines will combine intelligent transportation systems technology, priority for transit, rapid and convenient fare collection, and integration with land use policy (i.e. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in order to substantially upgrade bus system performance.

**Phase I – Mesa Corridor – FY10 Federal Funding request – \$1,000,000: \$25MM Funded by the Comprehensive Mobility Plan
Total estimated cost \$69.412MM**

- 7 miles
- Construction Cost \$46.9 MM
- Administration Cost \$ 0.938MM
- Schematic Design \$ 0.938MM
- Environmental Clearance \$ 0.938MM
- Detailed Design \$ 4.69 MM
- R.O.W. Acquisition \$ 9.38 MM
- Utility Relocation \$ 4.69 MM
- Testing and Inspection \$ 0.938MM

Phase II – Montana Corridor – FY10 Federal Funding request – \$1,216,000: Total estimated cost \$118.992MM

- 12 miles
- Construction Cost \$80.4 MM
- Administration Cost \$ 1.608MM
- Schematic Design \$ 1.608MM
- Environmental Clearance \$ 1.608MM
- Detailed Design \$ 8.04 MM
- R.O.W. Acquisition \$16.08 MM
- Utility Relocation \$ 8.04 MM
- Testing and Inspection \$ 1.608MM

Phase III – Alameda Corridor – FY10 Federal Funding request – \$3,484,000: Total estimated cost \$39.664MM

- 4 miles
- Construction Cost \$26.8 MM
- Administration Cost \$ 0.536MM
- Schematic Design \$ 0.536MM
- Environmental Clearance \$ 0.536MM
- Detailed Design \$ 2.68 MM
- R.O.W. Acquisition \$ 5.36 MM
- Utility Relocation \$ 2.68 MM
- Testing and Inspection \$ 0.536MM

Phase IV – Alameda Corridor – Funding required – cost \$89.244MM: Total Estimated cost \$89.244MM

- 9 miles
- Construction Cost \$60.3 MM
- Administration Cost \$ 1.206MM
- Schematic Design \$ 1.206MM
- Environmental Clearance \$ 1.206MM
- Detailed Design \$ 6.03 MM
- R.O.W. Acquisition \$12.06 MM
- Utility Relocation \$ 6.03 MM
- Testing and Inspection \$ 1.206MM

Phase V – Dyer Corridor – FY10 Federal Funding request – \$1,340,000: Total estimated cost \$49.58MM

- 9 miles
- Construction Cost \$33.5 MM
- Administration Cost \$ 0.67 MM
- Schematic Design \$ 0.67 MM
- Environmental Clearance \$ 0.67 MM
- Detailed Design \$ 3.35 MM
- R.O.W. Acquisition \$ 6.7 MM
- Utility Relocation \$ 3.35 MM
- Testing and Inspection \$ 0.67 MM

Total Funding Requested for FY10

ITEM	COST
Phases I – V (Alternatives Analyses, NEPA Review/Environmental, Preliminary Engineering, Construction Cost Estimates)	\$7,440,000
Total	\$7,440,000

D. Job Access Reverse Commute Program (JARC)

Proposal: Seek funding for the replacement of JARC program vans.

Amount Requested: \$300,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$375,000.00

Background: The Job Access Reverse Commute program has operated since 2002 in cooperation with local social service agencies. The clients are offered transportation services that allow them to gain work and training experience that would otherwise be unavailable without this assistance. Over 32,000 trips were provided in FY2007 using a fleet of 8 vans. The service positively impacts the entire region by enabling low income, disadvantaged local citizens to seek work and training opportunities. The current fleet is beyond its useful life and is in need of replacement in order for the program to continue to serve the community. As an integral part of the regional coordinated transportation plan, its services are being offered by the county government and LULAC Project Amistad.

E. Fuel Tax Language

Proposal: Seek to extend the Volumetric Excise Tax Credit for alternative fuels through September 30, 2021

By purchasing 95 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses with an average useful life of twelve years, the City of El Paso Mass Transit Department has affirmed its commitment to energy efficiency. At present the tax credit will expire on September 30, 2009. The City supports extension of the above legislation through September 30, 2021. Extension of the credit through the useful life of the City's fleet will promote continued commitment to the City's energy efficient policy reducing congestion and improving air quality.

2. INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY

The City of El Paso encourages the full exploration of new technologies and other measures aimed at international bridge efficiency, mobility, and security and will support the testing of such measures at the region's international ports of entry. In addition, the City supports the development of new private/public partnership programs to improve cross border inspection security and efficiency.

1. The City of El Paso supports additional funding for appropriate staffing of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol and the lifting of FTE and overtime caps.
2. The City of El Paso supports 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.
3. The City of El Paso supports the transfer of all commercial truck safety inspections to the Texas Department of Public Inspection if possible or the co-location of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) in the Border Safety Inspection Facilities to create a one-stop safety inspection facility for commercial trucks in the existing Texas land port of entries Border Safety Inspection Facilities.
4. The City of El Paso supports extended hours of operation of the DCL (Sentri), FAST lanes and all commercial ports of entry.
5. The City of El Paso encourages the full exploration of new technologies such as facial recognition, wireless access, TECS and IBIS and other measures 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.

6. The City of El Paso supports 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.
7. The City of El Paso requests more consultation with local communities on policies that impact the movement of people.
8. The City of El Paso supports the passage of H.R. 5662, the Putting Our Resources Towards Security (PORTS) Act as introduced by Congressman Silvestre Reyes in the 110th Congress.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

A. Public Safety Radio Voice/Data System Interoperability

Proposal: Seek funding to update and expand the first responder radio system to a digital platform.

Amount Requested: \$5,815,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$41,250,000.00

The El Paso Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency for the City of El Paso and is responsible for the enforcement of the peace, traffic laws, and parking ordinances. Approximately 1,091 Officers, 17 Civilian Parking Enforcement Controllers, and personnel in various other departments provide enforcement services to a population of over 600,000 residents and a geographical area of 250 square miles.

El Paso is the largest international metro-plex in the United States and is, accordingly, on the national "front line" of first-responder preparedness with regards to both crime and terrorism. EPPD serves all areas within the city's boundaries through its five Regional Command Centers, a main Headquarters building, and several special-services locations.

The department's officers --along with other first responders--are dependent upon their radio system for information, coordination of activity, and safety. Currently, we experience intermittent radio interference in all areas of town and we have identified several "dead" areas where we cannot transmit or receive. When the system was new, it was crystal clear. The interference and dead spots have crept into existence over the last ten years. Cell towers, competing radio systems, and fifteen years of changes in area topography have had a negative affect

despite intense efforts to keep the system in top shape. Converting from an analog to a digital signal and adding repeaters and software and hardware infrastructure will facilitate the safety and interoperability goals of the region.

Radio System –overview

The radio system is shared with the Fire Department's approximately 899 firefighters, the El Paso International Airport, Sun Metro Public Transportation system, and numerous El Paso County volunteer fire departments. With expansion, the system has the potential to be available to all area law enforcement agencies as well as all City departments, promoting easier interaction among all agencies. When implemented in 1993, El Paso's radio system was somewhat unique in the USA in that all City Public Safety responders shared it. Adding to the system's utility was the ability to directly communicate with El Paso's public transportation departments. The existing system requires updating due to Federally-mandated changes how the radio spectrum will operate; we must convert from an analog to a digital voice system. This digital system will allow our responders to communicate with regional and state partners whether they are on 800MHz or VHF systems. The state envisions a web of radio hubs that can interconnect to facilitate interoperability. This vision supports the goals of the Federal government's homeland security plans. To meet local, state and federal communications goals, our radio network infrastructure requires upgrades and expansion.

The City of El Paso has placed itself in a progressive position by establishing a radio system that has proven to be a tremendous advantage in coordinating major emergency events impacting the City and County. Upgrading and expanding the system will allow additional city departments onto it –improving intra-operability-- and allow for easy communication with regional partners – improving interoperability. With the growth that El Paso is expecting over the next several years, updating our communications infrastructure is absolutely essential.

Below is a summary of our plan and the equipment and infrastructure that will be needed to accomplish each phase. Phases that presently remain unfunded are Phases 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, as well as funding for P-25 compliant hand held radios to replace outdated non-P25-compliant equipment.

El Paso's Plan - Overview

Phase I – Funded by UASI Grant –cost \$3,375,000.00

- New P-25 compliant systems at the master site
- New 6 channel, 800MHz repeater site located at the existing shelter and tower on Mt. Franklin in El Paso

- Five P-25 Control stations and BIMs (to provide basic existing console connectivity to the new radio systems)
- 8000 initial subscriber licenses
- Microwave connective hop between Mt. Franklin and the master site
- A complement of spares for the master site and P25 repeater site
- DC and backup power equipment for the proposed equipment on each site

Phase II – Funded by the PSIC Grant – cost \$1,800,000.00

- A new 4 –channel, VHF P-25 repeater site located on existing sites and on Mt. Franklin, and fault-management hardware and licenses for the Mt. Franklin VHF site
- This phase provides us with the means to “hub” communications for the region by integrating El Paso’s 800MHz system and the VHF systems that serve the more rural areas of our region.

Phase III – FY 10 Federal Funding request – estimated cost \$3,565,000.00

- A new simulcast prime site at the master site location
- Upgrades of the existing 6-channel, 800 MHz P-25 at two repeater sites
- A new 15 channel, 800 MHz simulcast remote site located at El Paso’s master site
- A second, new, Network Management Client terminal
- Addition of OTAR and POP25 hardware and software to the Master site infrastructure
- 2000 additional subscriber licenses
- Fault Management systems for new simulcast and remote sites
- A complement of spares for these sites

Phase IV – Funding required- estimated cost \$3,565,000.00

- New IP logging recorder equipment for Master site
- Replacement of existing Elite operator positions at backup dispatch site
- 24 new P-25 console control stations for the backup dispatch site
- Software updates for all applicable Central Electronics Bank boards as well as dispatch positions
- Fault management software for existing dispatch sites.
- Consolidation of existing electronics banks into a single electronics bank and connection into the P-25 system
- A new microwave hop from the backup site to Mt. Franklin
- A complement of spares for the trunking system

Phase V – Funding required- \$8,050,000.00

- Adding two additional remote repeater sites to the existing system, including
- A new 15 channel, 800MHz remote repeater site at the existing 3-hills site location
- A new 15 channel, 800MHz remote repeater site at the new Dyer street site location
- Fault management hardware and software for these sites
- Two new microwave hops from the Master site to 3 Hills, and from the Master site and Dyer

Phase VI and VII – Funding required \$18,400,000.00

- Four new 15 channel 800MHz repeater site, location to be determined by engineering study
- Fault Management hardware and software for these sites
- Four new microwave hops from the master site to these new sites.

Phase VIII – Funded by PSIC - \$245,000.00

- Three additional 800 MHz Mutual aid NPSAC Channels to meet the required level 3 of the SAFECOM Continuum
- Three additional VHF Mutual Aid NPSPAC Channels to meet the required Level 3 of the SAFECOM Continuum

P-25 compliant Hand held radios- Funding requested – FY 10 Federal Funding request – - \$2,250,000.00

Request amount: \$5,815,000 (Phase 3 and 900 P-25-compliant handheld radios)

Total Funding Requested for FY 2010

ITEM	COST
Phase III (radio equipment only)	\$3,565,000.00
Hand held radios (complete: radio, charger, battery, programming)	\$2,250,000.00
Total	\$5,815,000.00

B. Automatic Electronic Issuance of Citations (E-Ticket)

Proposal: Seek funding to purchase additional equipment and software to allow for full incorporation of E-Ticketing department wide.

Amount Requested: \$7,307,222

Total Project Cost: \$8,417,222

Background: The El Paso Police Department (EPPD) is the primary law enforcement agency for the City of El Paso and is responsible for the enforcement of the peace, traffic laws, and parking ordinances. Approximately 1,091 Officers, 17 Civilian Parking Enforcement Controllers, and personnel in various other departments provide enforcement services to a population of over 600,000 residents and a geographical area of 250 square miles. El Paso is the largest international metroplex in the United States and is, accordingly, on the national “front line” of first-responder preparedness with regards to both crime and terrorism. EPPD serves all areas within the city’s boundaries through its five Regional Command Centers, a main Headquarters building, and several special-services locations. The City of El Paso has an interstate freeway that requires increasing levels of traffic enforcement.

The municipal court, including its judges, employs 105 employees who process citations and monitor the legal procedures associated with traffic offenses. There are two main court locations within the city and satellite bond offices located in four of the five Police Regional Command Centers. The Municipal Court processes approximately 255,000 criminal citations and 80,000 parking citations annually, half of which are successfully adjudicated and those remaining ultimately converted to bench warrants.

The E-ticket projects have impacted the local and regional areas by addressing major public safety concerns such as speeding and the reduction of traffic collisions. Nationwide, law enforcement agencies, including the El Paso Police Department, are below required staffing levels. Staffing deficiencies are addressed by the instituting of technological advancements that help provide increased productivity and efficiency. The results of such innovations have been positive in the ability to provide more traffic law enforcement despite current staffing shortages.

In the US, approximately 20% of all traffic citations are dismissed in court because of incorrect statute numbers or other data entry errors. Because of this, the El Paso Police Department has converted to a high-tech system that will reduce ticket-writing time by up to 50% and streamline the

record-keeping process. The Pocket Citation Handheld Ticketing System utilized by the El Paso Police Department is a complete electronic ticketing system. This program enables officers of the El Paso Police Department to issue traffic citations using a mobile handheld device.

The electronic ticketing system allows for violator's driver's licenses to be scanned by the use of a magnetic strip reader and the appropriate information is automatically populated into the citation. Officers complete the citation by selecting the vehicle information and applicable violation(s) from drop-down menus. The program then automatically inserts the appropriate statute number, fine and court information, along with a state issued citation number. The citation is printed utilizing a wireless Bluetooth connection to a thermal printer and given to the violator.

At the end of the officer's tour of duty, the E-ticket device is cradled to a desktop computer located at the regional commands where the data is automatically uploaded (Quick Data) using the established network connection(s). The officer will verify that the information taken from the violators' during the traffic stops is correct before a Notary Public. The Notary Public will then electronically notarize the electronic citations and a digital image of the citation is created instantly. The image is attached and uploaded to the current program on the established network connection used by Municipal court that is called JIMS/View Point.

The benefits from this program include the following:

- Eliminates data errors on traffic citations.
- Completes tickets faster and more accurately.
- Enables officers to return to service more quickly thus reducing the contact time with the violator.
- Produces professional, easy to read tickets.
- Stores citations electronically for entry into JIMS and ILEADS RMS.
- Reduces the need for data entry clerks to transcribe data from hand written reports/forms.
- Reduces errors from transcribed data from hand written reports/forms.
- Citation data is retrieved from records systems more quickly.
- Works with the current software utilized by the El Paso Police Department. There is no need to replace any existing technology.
- Boosts efficiency

In summary, the implementation of the current E-ticketing system within the El Paso Police Department should result in an 84% increase in traffic stops and criminal citations while the average time spent on a traffic stop should decrease from 15-20 minutes to 8-10 minutes.

4. **HANGAR AND OFFICES FOR UNITED STATES CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION AIR OPERATIONS**

Proposal: Seek funding for construction of a new hangar and office space at the El Paso International Airport for the Air Operations division of United States Customs & Border Protection (CBP).

Requested Amount: \$3.5 million

Total Project Cost: \$6.5 million

Background: This project will entail the demolition of an existing hangar and office spaces at El Paso International Airport, and the construction of a new 38,000 SF hangar with approximately 18,000 SF of office space. The location is ideal for the Air Operations division of the United States Customs & Border Protection (CBP) because direct access to the airport's longest runway, Runway 4-22, is available at this location. Additionally, the location provides for the ability for USCBP to have a dedicated taxiway (Taxiway A) leading to the hangar, access via street side (off Airport Road) and airside, with potential for fully secured site if additional fencing is added airside.

Cost breakdown is \$1.3 million for demolition and site parking renovations, \$4.9 million for the new construction, and \$300,000 for contingency, for a total estimated project cost of \$6.5 million.

5. **RAILROAD QUIET ZONE PILOT PROGRAM**

Proposal: Seek funding to make infrastructure improvements to railroad crossings in residential neighborhoods to eliminate the need for blowing safety horns.

Background: In coordination with the Union Pacific Railroad, the City of El Paso proposes to undertake a pilot program to make infrastructure improvements and/or close rail crossings in residential neighborhoods to eliminate the need for blowing the train safety horns as they approach the crossings in compliance with the Railroad Safety Act.

6. **APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (EECBG)**

The City of El Paso supports full funding of the EECBG, which was enacted in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The grant program will enable cities and counties throughout the U.S. to undertake locally based energy efficiency, conservation and production initiatives such as fuel conservation programs, alternative fuels development, building retrofits for increased energy

efficiency, planning and zoning adjustments and alternative energy programs. The law authorizes \$2 billion annually in Block Grant funding.

7. **REGIONAL INTERMODAL RAIL PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Proposal: Seek funding to continue examining the possibility of relocating rail lines located in downtown El Paso.

Amount requested: \$450,000.00

Total project cost: \$500,000.00

Background: The City of El Paso seeks funding to continue examining the possibility of relocating rail lines located in downtown El Paso. The study would continue past efforts to look at the feasibility of the move, while at the same time, evaluate the economic impact.

The City of El Paso has spent \$580,716.00 previously to begin efforts at examining the possibility of relocating the rail lines.

II. Pending Appropriation Requests

1. **EXPANSION OF ZARAGOZA PORT OF ENTRY**

Background: The El Paso MPO has agreed that this project is regionally significant and has approved \$1,000,000 feasibility study for this project at the Transportation Policy Board meeting on January 26, 2007. The project is part of the Border Improvement Plan, which was also approved by the El Paso MPO (<http://www.elpasompo.org>).

The project as proposed will incorporate all the latest technology to provide more efficient and safe crossing for dedicated commercial, public transit, vehicular, and pedestrian traffic and increase the City's dedication to commercial traffic with expanded commercial lanes servicing pre-sealed and pre-cleared cargo loads; include U.S. Visit Protocols such as DCL services for both Private and Commercial users incorporating Free and Secure Trade (FAST), Radios Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) and Border Crossing Card (BCC).

2. **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PORT OF ENTRY**

Background: The El Paso MPO has agreed that this project is regionally significant and has approved \$1,000,000 feasibility study up through presidential permitting at the Transportation Policy Board meeting held on January 26, 2007. The project is part of the Border Improvement Plan, also approved by the El Paso MPO (<http://www.elpasompo.org>). It is anticipated the port of entry will be

between Zaragoza and the Bridge of the Americas, with a link between the Cesar Chavez Freeway in El Paso and the Rivereno freeway in Juarez.

3. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

Background: The transportation needs of people along the U.S. - Mexico border, and Texas in particular, are unique. El Paso is no exception. If we do not address them now, they will impact the rest of the nation. Our expanding relationship with Mexico is increasing trade and interaction between our two countries but also adversely impact our already strained infrastructure. El Paso continues to struggle with street congestion, lack of alternative freight routes, an aging bus fleet, deteriorating inspection facilities, and a host of other issues. The Mayor and Council will support legislation and federal agency action that will accelerates transportation infrastructure funding for communities disproportionately affected by international trade.

A. **Comprehensive Mobility Plan**

(i) **Border Highway Extension West (Loop 375)**

Construction of this regionally significant transportation project will provide the only parallel alternative route to Interstate Highway 10. Extension of the Border Highway west to connect with Paisano Drive (west of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad) would be the last link of a continuous freeway/expressway route from I-10 (at Sunland Park Drive) to I-10 east (at Americas Avenue). The El Paso MPO identifies this project in the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a 4-lane expressway. The total project cost of this project is \$460 million.

The project includes right-of-way, parkway, roadway, drainage, lighting, and traffic infrastructure improvements. These streets are within the central business district of the largest city in the region, making their improvement important not only to transportation in the downtown area, but also to the economy of the region as a whole.

(ii) **Northeast Parkway**

There is no truck bypass around metropolitan El Paso, nor is there a relief route to the Interstate Highway system. The Northeast Parkway project will provide for an 18.3-mile, four-lane divided highway from Loop 375 (Transmountain Road) to the Texas-New Mexico state line on FM3255. The project will divert truck traffic around El Paso and send it on a more direct route to New Mexico and eastern Texas. The route will provide truck traffic an alternative to using Transmountain Road and should reduce runaway truck accidents.

B. Widening of Interstate Highway 10

This project provides for widening of I-10 by adding two inside travel lanes from the Texas-New Mexico state line to Transmountain Road. The amount of truck traffic on I-10 has increased dramatically as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), causing severe strain on I-10. Widening the section of the highway from the state line to Transmountain Road will reduce congestion in a particularly high-volume section of the highway. Other congested sections of I-10 have been widened or are planned for widening, and this project will ensure that there are no bottlenecks along the I-10 corridor.

C. Regional Intermodal Rail Project

The "SAFE-TEA" Act of 2005 included appropriation for the relocation of the railyards in downtown El Paso to Santa Teresa, New Mexico. The City of El Paso needs funds to study the economical and environmental effects of the project and to plan for use of the recovered site.

III. Issues of Interest and Advocacy

1. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

The City of El Paso will 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.

The City of El Paso supports the passage of H.R. 495, the Southwest Border Violence Reduction Act of 2009. The bill would authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations.

2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The City of El Paso supports 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.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HUB

The City of El Paso has adopted the strategic goal of creating a Just-In-Time (JIT) international commerce port by integrating the highest level of international supply chain measures into the design of hub facilities and operations as required by the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. The City actively supports the Custom-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and initiatives to:

- 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 to improve the cross-border shipment of freight between the United States and Mexico. The system will be aimed at solving the air quality, energy, safety and security issues now associated with international goods movement, while also reducing congestion.
- 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. The project will identify appropriate intelligent transportation systems or other commercial technologies to easily and precisely measure border crossing times using a single methodology that is comparable from one location to another.
- Expand the FAST Program.
- Development of more secure and smarter containers.
- Expand the structured training program for C-TPAT Supply Chain Specialist.
- Coordinate with the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Modernization Office to enhance C-TPAT's data collection and information management.
- Work with MPO and Congressional delegation to ensure that next surface transportation authorization bill includes program(s) to fund international transportation hub.

The City will advocate for additional border crossings and assure that such crossings are FAST equipped facilities.

4. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Situated on the border of two nations and three states, the location of El Paso/Juarez presents a unique array of opportunities. The cities have an excellent relationship of friendship and cooperation and a concerted effort must be made to strengthen this important relationship. Efficient and streamlined trade through our port is significant not only to our own economy but to the economies of

Mexico and the United States. El Paso's proximity to Mexico furnishes an excellent opportunity for businesses to capitalize on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the maquiladora industry, and other prospects in Central and South America.

The efficient implementation of the US-VISIT program in a way that enhances security for our citizens and visitors while facilitating legitimate travel and trade across our borders is a top priority for the El Paso community. In addition, the US-VISIT program must help secure our borders, facilitates the entry and exit process, and enhance the integrity of our immigration system while respecting the privacy of our visitors. In this regard, the City's international trade priorities are as follows:

- 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.

5. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The people along the border suffer disproportionately high levels of poverty and disease, including diabetes, TB, hepatitis, cancer and HIV. Over three million U.S. residents who live along the border are uninsured. The border region is also adversely affected by environmental health hazards including lack of adequate drinking water, chemical exposure and air pollution. We have shortages of nurses, doctors, and other health practitioners, but no shortage of need. In addition, the border is shouldering the burden of providing services to the large numbers of uninsured, under-insured, and the undocumented

- 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.

6. **RAIL SECURITY**

The responsibility of securing our nation's rail and mass transit systems is a shared one. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation and other federal agencies have taken significant steps to enhance rail and transit security in the last three years in partnership with the public and private entities that own and operate the nation's transit and rail systems. Efforts have focused on greater information sharing between the industry and all levels of government, assessing vulnerabilities in the rail and transit sector to develop new security measures and plans, increasing training and public awareness campaigns and providing greater assistance and funding for rail transit activities. The Federal government provides leadership and technical assistance to transit and rail system owners and operators.

- 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.

7. **FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) REAUTHORIZATION**

The FAA Reauthorization expires on March 31, 2009. The City of El Paso supports the passage of a long term FAA Reauthorization bill that provides airports with the financial tools to meet growing passenger and capacity demands.

8. MILITARY AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso will work to secure the 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.

The City will also support additional funding to expand services and capabilities of William Beaumont Army Medical Center. As the number of combat troops continues to increase at Fort Bliss, William Beaumont's workload will include more and more veterans being treated for combat related injuries and conditions. Additionally, Fort Bliss will grow by over 300% bringing the total base population to over 100,000 soldiers, family members, and Army employees.

IV. General Guiding Principles

The City of El Paso will support legislation and federal agency actions that:

- Will protect and enhance City revenues.
- Reduce costs to the City.
- Provide for more local control.
- Protect those policies previously established through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.
- Promote educational, employment and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The City of El Paso will oppose legislation or administrative actions that:

- Undermine the principle of home rule and local self-government.
- Result in loss of revenue or revenue growth to cities.
- Diminish the current authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- Nullify or undermine the City's policies contained in existing provision of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions and master plans, unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
- Diminish any existing authority of cities.
- Impose mandates that require any expenditure by the City unless all costs of same, including administrative as well as direct out-of-pocket costs, are fully reimbursed by the mandating government.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, over 46 million people in the United States (nearly 1 in 5) under the age of 65 lack health coverage;

WHEREAS, over 230,000 (nearly 1 in 3) El Paso residents are without health insurance;

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest number of residents without health insurance in the entire nation with over 5.8 million adults and 1.4 million children without health coverage;

WHEREAS, children and adults without health insurance are less likely to have access to more cost-effective preventative medical care such as annual doctor exams, medical screenings, routine check-ups, and are more likely to seek treatment in an emergency room;

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of people without health insurance in the United States come from working families who cannot afford the high cost of health coverage;

WHEREAS, insurance costs have increased 131 percent in the United States since 1999 while wages have only increased 38 percent during the same period;

WHEREAS, in 2008, over 1,000 people in El Paso declared bankruptcy due to health care costs;

WHEREAS, each year, over 5,000 El Paso seniors are subject to the Medicare "donut hole" and forced to pay for their prescription drugs in full and out-of-pocket;

WHEREAS, low reimbursement rates for health care professionals is contributing to the shortage of medical professionals in El Paso;

WHEREAS, the number of small businesses that offer health insurance to their employees has declined from 61 percent in 1993 to 38 percent in 2008 due to rising health care costs;

WHEREAS, since 1998, over \$400,000,000 in local property tax dollars have been spent to help provide health care for those who could not afford to pay for treatment and services at University Medical Center of El Paso;

WHEREAS, El Pasoans with diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer, and other medical conditions are at risk of being denied coverage by insurance companies due to pre-existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of El Pasoans are forced to seek medical care and prescription drugs in our sister city Juarez because they cannot afford to receive care and treatment in the United States.

09 SEP 21 AM 10:39
CITY CLERK DEPT.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT the Mayor and the City Council hereby urge the Congress and the President of the United States of America to enact health care reform legislation that would:

- a. Provide an affordable option for health coverage for those individuals who are without health insurance;
- b. Allow individuals to keep their existing insurance if they are satisfied with their coverage;
- c. Reduce the long term-growth of health care costs;
- d. Improve the quality of health care in the United States;
- e. Prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage to anyone due to a pre-existing condition;
- f. Place a cap on the amount of annual out-of-pocket expenses for policy holders so that no one will have to experience financial ruin due to medical bills;
- g. Strengthen Medicare for seniors and preserve coverage for future generations;
- h. Eliminate the Medicare "donut hole" for seniors;
- i. Strengthen Medicaid for low-income Americans;
- j. Improve reimbursement rates for health care providers to help attract and retain medical professionals in underserved areas such as El Paso;
- k. Provide small business owners with financial assistance to help cover the cost of health insurance for their employees.

APPROVED this 22nd day of September 2009.

THE CITY OF EL PASO



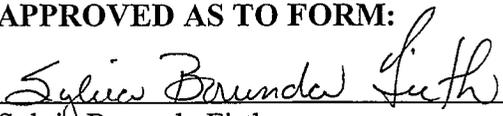
John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:



Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney

09 SEP 21 AM 10:39
CITY CLERK DEPT.



City of El Paso

FY 2010 Priority

Federal Legislative

Initiatives



PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Seek \$5.815 million to update and expand the first responder radio system to a digital platform. **\$250,000 included in the FY10 Omnibus Appropriations bill.**
- Seek \$7.307 million to purchase additional equipment and software to allow for full incorporation of e-ticketing department wide.



City of El Paso

Issues of Interest and Advocacy



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.



HEALTHCARE REFORM

El Paso City Council passed a resolution supporting healthcare reform on September 21, 2009.



City of El Paso

State Legislative Initiatives



TEXAS TECH FOUR YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL

✓ Support Texas Tech University's Legislative Appropriations Request for \$17,600,000 for operational support of the four year medical school campus in El Paso. **SB 1 by Senator Ogden included \$17.6 million. Effective on 9/1/2009.**

Support Texas Tech's request for \$65 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds for Texas Tech's third medical building.



HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- ✓ Support increased State funding for Medicaid and CHIP. **SB 1 by Senator Ogden effective on 9/1/2009. SB 2080 by Senator Uresti signed by Governor Perry on 6/19/2009.**
- ✓ Support expedited licensure requirements to decrease the shortages of healthcare professionals in the State of Texas. **SB 202 by Senator Shapleigh and HB 3674 by Rep. Thompson effective on 9/1/2009.**
- ✓ Support the creation of statewide policies to facilitate coordination between health, judicial and law enforcement professionals to develop a program to keep mentally ill persons out of the jail system. **HB 1286 by Rep. West effective 9/1/2009. HB 1629 by Rep. Naishtat effective 5/23/2009.**
- Support El Paso MHMR's funding request for additional funding in the amount of \$8,401,560 to meet the needs of the El Paso population, including the growth at Ft. Bliss. **SB 1 by Senator Ogden included \$8 million increase for the maintenance of critical services at local mental health authorities. SB1 effective 9/1/2009.**



HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- ✓ Support measures identified by the Children's Mental Health Forum as priorities for the 81st Legislative Session. **SB 1646 by Senator Van de Putte effective 6/19/2009. SB 1824 by Senator Lucio and HB 1286 by Rep. West effective 9/1/2009. HB 1629 by Rep. Naishtat effective 5/23/2009. HB 1630 by Rep. Naishtat and HB 4451 by Rep. McReynolds effective 6/19/2009.**
- Seek enactment of legislation to require business with more than 50 employees that receive state contracts provide health insurance to their employees.
- Seek an amendment to state law to allow a lien to be placed on a homestead property with mosquito control chemicals to protect the public health and safety.



City of El Paso

State Legislative Support Items



HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support funding for housing programs for the mentally ill and the regulation of lodging facilities that serve that population.
- ✓ Support TDHCA's budget request for \$40 million additional allocation for the Housing Trust Fund and \$10.7 million additional allocation for the housing weatherization program. **SB 1 by Senator Ogden included \$10 million increase for Housing Trust Fund and \$317 million overall for the weatherization program. SB 1 effective 9/1/2009.**
- ✓ Support funding for educational institutions to increase the number of admissions of healthcare professionals. **HB 2154 by Rep. Edwards and SB 1 by Senator Ogden effective on 9/1/2009. HB 4471 by Rep. Kolkhorst effective on 6/19/2009.**
- ✓ Support legislation to continue streamlining and simplifying eligibility processes for Medicaid that will encourage more eligible but non-covered individuals to take advantage of this program. **SB 2080 by Senator Uresti signed by Governor Perry on 6/19/2009.**
- Support legislation that increases funding to Title 5 services (coverage for children's dental and immunization services; and public education for prevention of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer).
- Support legislation that eliminates the disparity in border Medicaid capitation rates and per capita expenditures.
- Support continued funding for the Texas Area Information and Referral Networks.



HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support legislation that reverses the reduction in funding for public health activities to include, but not limited to, children's health, women's health services, child and adult immunizations, family planning, tuberculosis, and services related to sexually transmitted diseases, and vector/mosquito control and general environmental enforcement activities.
- ✓ Support legislation that allows for appropriate and responsive mental health and mental retardation services in our community as well as provides adequate resources to avert a waiting list. Instituting a waiting list would result in fewer people being treated and more people seeking care in emergency rooms and through the jail system. **SB 643 by Senator Nelson effective on 6/11/2009. SB 1 by Senator Ogden included \$162 million for mental health. SB 1 effective 9/1/2009. HB 4451 by Rep. McReynolds and SB 1325 by Senator Nelson effective on 6/19/2009.**
- Support legislation that ensures accountability and performance from the Adult and Child Protective Services Agency.
- Support efforts to advocate for health care financing that will improve coverage, eliminate disparities in rates, and provide incentives for employers to insure employees.
- Support legislation that will aid in licensing physicians and medical personnel in this region to address health care professional shortages. **SB 202 by Senator Shapleigh effective on 9/1/2009. HB 4471 by Rep. Kolkhorst effective on 6/19/2009.**