

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

DEPARTMENT: International Bridges
AGENDA DATE: March 10, 2009
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E. - 858-3842
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

International Bridge Commission Recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in a positive attempt to improve matters affecting the aesthetic appearance, safety and efficient flow of commerce and people across the international bridges in El Paso.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Ordinance 011598 which established the International Bridge Commission on October 19, 1993 and later amending Ordinances require that the Commission make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council as required, but at a minimum, once annually.

The recommendations are made in a positive attempt to improve matters affecting aesthetic appearance, safety and efficient flow of commerce and people across the international bridges in El Paso. These recommendations, when fully implemented, will provide a sustainable plan action and go a long way in improving cross border mobility and commerce.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

None

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
(Example: *Said Larbi-Cherif 3/4/09*
if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA: _____

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The International Bridge Commission voted at its regular meetings of January 20 and February 17, 2009, to forward the following recommendations to City Council. These recommendations are made in a positive attempt to improve matters affecting aesthetic appearance, safety and efficient flow of commerce and people across the international bridges in El Paso in accordance with Ordinance 017008.

The Commission is making the following recommendations to City Council:

1. That the Capital Improvement Plan be completed:

- The Five Year International Bridge Capital Improvement Plan has been approved by City management. The Texas Transportation Commission has also approved the SIB loans for the Stanton and Santa Fe Improvement Projects.
- The Stanton and Santa Fe bridge improvement projects are in the final design phases with the construction contracts scheduled for issuance in early summer of 2009. The projects are designed to enhance the mission of the department and will include amenities to improve the border crossing experience such as pedestrian shade canopies, bridge shade canopies, benches, landscaping, turnstiles, public art, restroom, water fountains, placitas and digital information monitors.
- International Bridges is planning a new commuter port of entry to be located between the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) and the Zaragoza Port of Entries. The planned POE will use "Green Technologies" such as HOT (high occupancy toll way), Interchangeable Lanes, Bus and Taxi Lanes, Mass Transit Stops and Taxi Stands in order to expedite cross border mobility and reduce wait times.
- International Bridges Department will issue a request for qualifications in the very near future to select a consultant for the development of an expansion plan and Presidential Permit for the Zaragoza POE.

2. That the International Bridges Department develops a Department Strategic Plan:

- The Department must develop a Strategic Plan that is externally-focused, customer-driven to guide the development, management, and coordination of International Bridges Department resources and services. A request for proposal will be issued in the near future to select a consultant to develop the strategic plan.

3. That the International Bridges Department continues to provide Improved Amenities to Bridge Users:

- Pedestrian canopies, restrooms, drinking fountains, shade trees, benches and digital information monitors are part of the amenities included in the POE and pedestrian corridor improvement projects
- Upgraded illumination is part of the POE projects.
- Lion's Placita enhancement will be included in the Santa Fe POE improvement project.
- Structural improvements that will enhance security must include decorative fencing and security cameras in the Santa Fe POE improvement project.

4. That the International Bridges Department continues to work with Sun Metro to integrate Transportation Terminals with Port of Entries:

- The Downtown Transfer Terminal will be located on Santa Fe St. approximately 2 to 3 blocks north of the Santa Fe POE.
- International Bridges Department in conjunction with Sun Metro must continue studying the possibility of using a "Universal Fare Card" that may be used to pay for tolls and bus fares. A total of over 12,000,000 northbound and southbound pedestrians use El Paso Port of Entries annually.
- International Bridges must continue to advocate for use of mass transit for border crossing.

5. That the City of El Paso continues to advocate for additional funding for appropriate staffing, resources and technology for Customs and Border Protection as part of its Federal Legislative Agenda.

6. That the City Council passes a Resolution recognizing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. General Services Administration for completing the Paso Del Norte Bridge Improvement Project ahead of schedule and for their sensitivity to community input.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


 Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.
 International Bridges Director

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:


 Mike Breiting
 Chairman, International Bridge
 Commission

CITY CLERK DEPT.

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