



# **Street & Alley Loading Zones and Special Issues**

## **Preliminary Findings and LRC Report**

**May 3, 2011**

*City of El Paso*

*Department of Transportation  
&  
International Bridges*

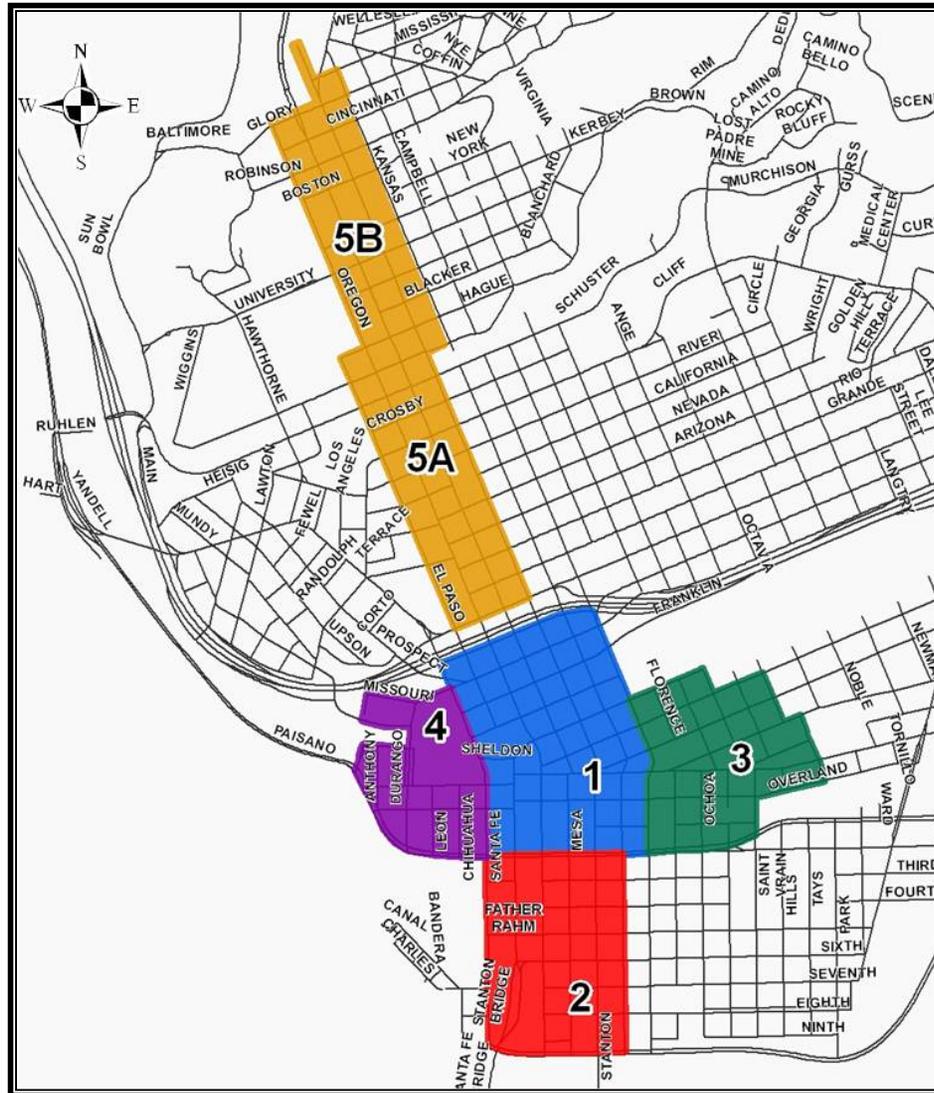


## Direction from City Council

- Study Specific Locations Related to Parking and Loading Zones in the City's Core Area
- Conduct Public Outreach
- Present Staff Recommendations to Transportation Legislation Review Committee (LRC)
- Present Staff Recommendations and LRC Report to City Council for Policy Guidance Prior to Finalizing Report



# Study Areas





## Actions to Date

- Inventory of all special parking and loading zones conducted from August 2010 through February 2011
- Project update to Transportation LRC on January 3, 2011
- Public outreach conducted February 2011 through April 2011
- Preliminary recommendations presented to Transportation LRC on April 14, 2011



# Outreach Efforts

(February – April 2011)

## Agencies/Entities:

- Municipal Court
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Health
- Sun Metro
- Museums and Cultural Affairs Department
- El Paso Public Library
- County of El Paso
- Sheriff's Office
- General Services Administration
- Mexican Consulate



Store Front Open House

March 22, 2011



# Outreach Efforts

(February – April 2011)

## Agencies/Entities:

- The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
- El Paso Central Business Association (CBA)
- El Paso Downtown Management District (DMD)
- Media
- Downtown Stakeholders
- Oregon Street Stakeholders
- Cincinnati/Kern Area Stakeholders
- Union Plaza District Stakeholders



Area 5 Public Meeting

April 11, 2011



# Recommendations

Loading Zones

Reserved Parking

Parking Meters



## Staff Recommendations for Loading Zones

- Consolidate Loading Zones: No more than one on-street commercial loading zone per block side
- Install Commercial Loading Zone Parking Meters: City will provide each business with a fixed amount of free parking hours for loading zones
- Consolidate Bus Stops and review length of passenger loading spaces



## Staff Recommendations for Loading Zones

Options considered and discarded:

- Direct businesses to schedule truck deliveries during off-peak parking hours
- Remove all loading zones
- Relocate all loading zones to alleys



**Reserved Parking**

The map displays several reserved parking zones with corresponding signs:

- NO PARKING OFFICIAL VEHICLES ONLY** (Red sign, top left)
- BORDER PATROL PRISONER UNLOADING** (White sign, top left)
- NO PARKING LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES ONLY** (Red sign, right side)
- RESERVE FOR PRISONER LOADING AND UNLOADING** (White sign, right side)
- NO PARKING FIRE DEPT. VEHICLES ONLY** (Red sign, right side)
- NO PARKING LOADING ZONE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ONLY** (Red sign, left side)
- RESERVED PARKING STATE DISTRICT JUDGES** (Blue sign, left side)
- NO PARKING VEHICLE INSPECTION ONLY COUNTY TAX OFFICE** (White sign, bottom left)
- RESERVED PARKING DISTRICT CLERK** (Green sign, bottom left)
- NO PARKING LOADING ZONE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ONLY** (Red sign, bottom left)
- RESERVED PARKING FOR PRESS ONLY** (Green sign, bottom left)



## Staff Recommendations for Reserved Parking

- Maintain reserved parking spaces and charge users for spaces at the following locations:
  - Surrounding Federal Buildings
  - Surrounding County Courthouse and County Jail
  - "Prisoner Unloading" zones at old Federal Courthouse, County Jail, Police Central Regional Command Center, and Municipal Court Facility
- Increase number of reserved parking spaces for Mexican Consulate as requested by the consulate and charge the agency for reserved spaces



## Staff Recommendations for Reserved Parking

- Accommodate media request for additional spaces by County courthouse and charge for use
- Remove reserved parking for municipal uses, employees, and convert spaces to meter parking spaces
  - Municipal Court
  - Fire Department
  - Police Department (except for prisoner unloading)
  - Health Department
  - Library



## Staff Recommendations for Parking Meters

- Convert free parking spaces to metered parking spaces in high-demand parking areas, including Union Plaza and Cincinnati Entertainment Districts
- Convert all parking meters to digital "Smart Meters"



## Staff Recommendations for Parking Meters

### Options Considered and Discarded

- Install parking meters wherever available
- Extend parking meter hours in Entertainment Districts



# LRC Recommendations



## LRC Discussion Points Regarding Reserved Parking

- Long-term parking users should utilize parking garages or parking lots
- On-street parking is for turn over or short-term use
- Staff recommendations must be made on a block by block basis considering land use and parking demand
- All City controlled parking facilities should be considered in the analyses
- Consolidate loading zones



## LRC Recommendations for Parking Meters

- Parking meters must break even
- Convert free parking spaces to metered parking spaces in high-demand parking areas, including Union Plaza and Cincinnati Entertainment Districts
- Update technology for parking meters that allows for variable pricing to include variable rates for residents in the core areas
- Restore parking meters on Oregon St. between Sixth Ave. and Border Highway
- Allocate net parking meter revenues to pedestrian enhancements in the areas where they are collected



# Staff Recommendations

Alleys

Residential Areas

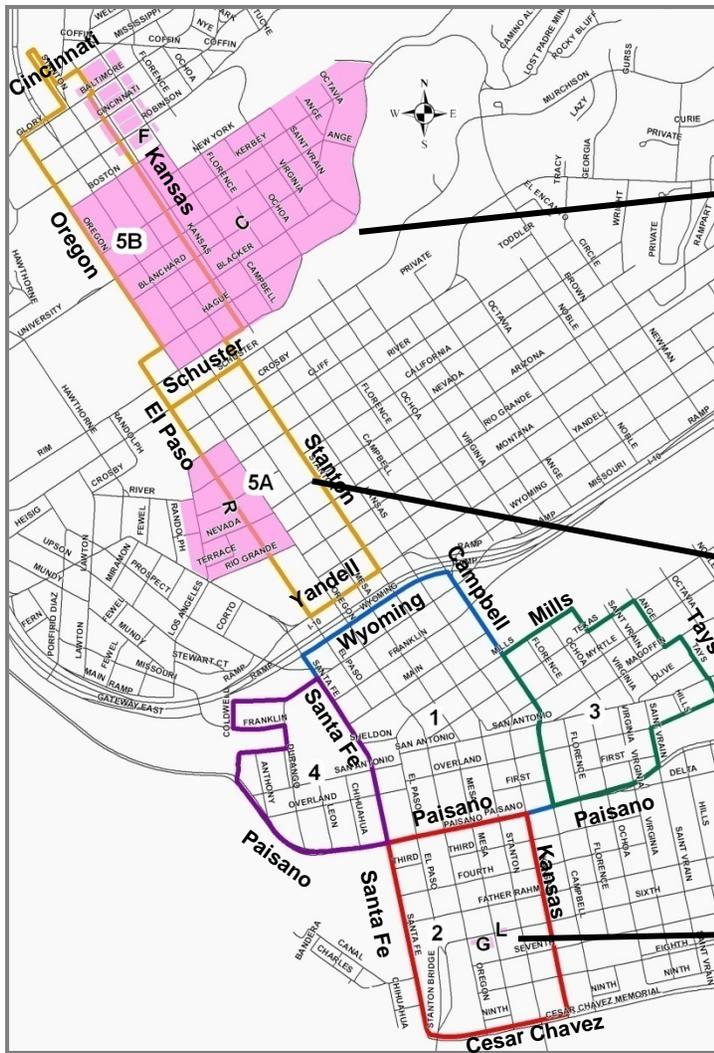


## Staff Recommendations on Alleys

- Enforce alley use regulations and remove all unofficial Loading/No-Parking signs & markings
- Designate and mark each dumpster location
- Evaluate installation of loading zones in alleys with widths greater than 20 feet
- Relocate on-street loading zones to alleys where feasible



# Residential Parking District



RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT (C, F, G, L, R)

Area Limits

AreaNumber

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5A
- 5B



## Staff Recommendations on Residential Parking Districts

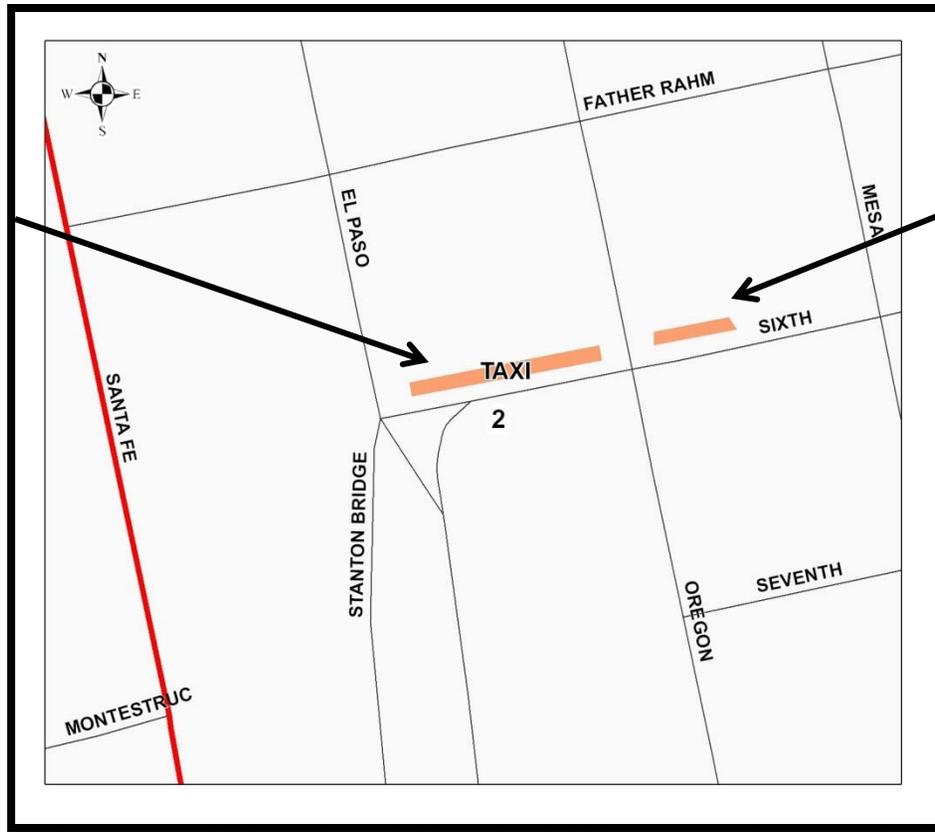
Amend Residential Parking District ordinances so that none of the residential parking district boundaries are within the study areas



## Staff Recommendations After April 14 LRC Meeting

### Area 4 – Union Plaza

- Met with area stakeholders on April 27, 2011
- Add parking meters in Commercial and Mixed Use areas only
- Explore strategies to provide residents free or reduced rate parking



## Reserved Parking for Taxicabs





## Staff Recommendations for Reserved Parking

Maintain reserved parking spaces for “Taxicab Zone” on Sixth Avenue located near port of entry

- Currently, 39 taxicab permits have been issued at \$250/yr for use of this Taxicab Zone (***Municipal Code 6.16***)



## Next Steps

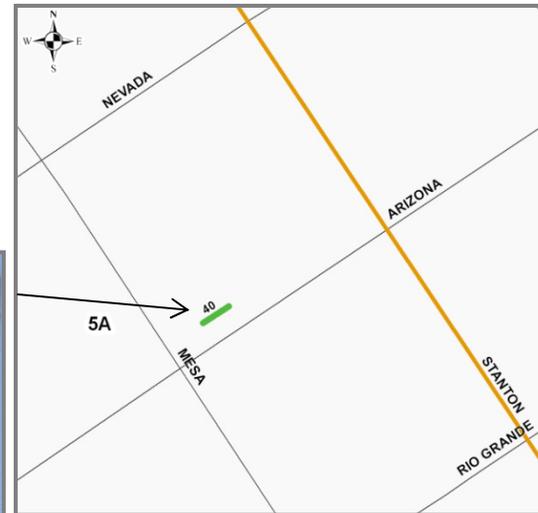
- Policy Direction from City Council on LRC and staff recommendations for first phase of implementation
- EPDOT and IBD vet specific process for managing loading zones with stakeholders
- EPDOT and IBD Finalized Plan for Implementation that includes:
  - Cost
  - Impact on Parking Space Inventory
  - Schedule for Implementation
  - Legislative Changes Required
  - Public Notification



# Pending Issues

## Reserved Parking Spaces

- Funeral Zone adjacent to churches



— 149 FUNERAL ZONE



# Requested Council Action Today

## Loading Zones

- Install Commercial Loading Zone Parking Meters and develop program to provide businesses with a fixed amount of free parking hours for loading zones?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to **Municipal** Properties

- Remove “Judges Parking Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces
- Remove existing “Police Cars Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces and Prisoner Loading where necessary?
- Remove existing “Law Enforcement Vehicles Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Prisoner Loading and Unloading” spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to **Municipal** Properties

- Remove “Law Enforcement Vehicles Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces?
- Remove existing “Fire Dept. Vehicle Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces?
- Remove existing “Fire Dept. Employee POV Parking 10 AM – 12 PM”
- Remove existing “Health Only” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to **County** Properties

- Maintain and charge for existing “Judges Parking Only” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Official Vehicles Only” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Press Only” spaces?
- Add two more “Press Only” spaces and charge for spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Vehicle Inspection Only” spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to **County** Properties

- Maintain and charge for existing “Reserved Parking for District Clerk” space?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Prisoner Loading and Unloading” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Police Cars Only” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Vehicle Inspection Only” spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to **Federal** Properties

- Maintain and charge for existing “Border Patrol Prisoner Unloading” spaces
- Maintain and charge for existing “Official Vehicles Only” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “US Marshal Only” spaces?
- Maintain and charge for existing “Law Enforcement Vehicles Only” spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Reserved Parking Adjacent to Mexican Consulate Properties

- Maintain and charge for existing “Mexican Consulate Employees” spaces?
- Provide additional reserved spaces for Mexican Consulate and charge for spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### **Reserved Parking Taxicab Zone**

- Maintain reserved parking spaces/permit fees for “Taxicab Zone” on Sixth Avenue located near port of entry?

### **Reserved Parking Adjacent to Churches**

- Remove “Funeral Zone” spaces and replace with parking meter spaces?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Parking Meters

- Remove existing parking meters if their monthly net revenue is less than \$50?
- Staff recommendation is to establish pedestrian sheds for major destinations and the outer boundaries of the combined sheds become the demarcation point for metering to ensure a viable boundary of valuable parking with appropriate turnover



## Requested Council Action Today

### Parking Meters

- Convert free on-street parking spaces to meter parking spaces in high-demand areas, including Union Plaza and Cincinnati Entertainment Districts?
- Convert all parking meters to “Smart Meters”?
- Develop residential parking permit process for mixed use areas?
- Is residential parking permit a minimal administrative fee or a reduced market fee?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Alleys

- Remove all unofficial loading/no parking signs and markings in alleys?
- Designate and mark each dumpster location?
- Designate loading zones in alleys with widths greater than 20 feet?
- Where feasible eliminate on-street loading zone when alley loading zone is available?



## Requested Council Action Today

### Resident Parking Districts

- Amend the Resident Parking District ordinances to eliminate Zones G and L located within Area 2?  
(Impacts mixed-use apartment complexes)
- Amend the Resident Parking District ordinances to eliminate Zones C and R located within Area 5?  
(Impacts Oregon Street residents)



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