

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of El Paso, Texas, and Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua create the largest and most populous border community in the world with over 60 million border crossings a year between our two sister communities and an average of over 20,000 pedestrians crossing every day (over 16,000 per day in 2007) solely at the Paso Del Norte Bridge;

**WHEREAS**, the social, cultural and economic impact on El Paso is positively and dynamically influenced by citizens of both countries crossing the international port of entry downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso is severely impacted by and dependent on a smooth, efficient and well-maintained flow of vehicles and pedestrians through the Paso Del Norte port of entry, which is in a district where the City of El Paso, through its City Council and citizens, has already determined that there will be a concerted effort for revitalization; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to increase mobility and efficient operations, and at the suggestion of our local citizens in El Paso and in cooperation with the Homeland Security forces and the support of our elected officials, the United States government has undertaken a reconstruction project at the Paso del Norte Bridge to add nine (9) additional pedestrian lanes and two (2) additional vehicular lanes requiring up to 900 days of construction, causing obstruction of normal operations of the bridge facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to complete the construction of the bridge facility by the General Services Administration (GSA) on behalf of the government, there is a need to divert the up to 20,000 daily pedestrian individuals onto Oregon Street, into is a predominately residential neighborhood where there are currently limited facilities for the onslaught of pedestrian traffic; and

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**WHEREAS**, this bridge reconstruction project is stressing every element of the downtown community, both residential and commercial, and negatively impacting not only our own citizens, students and families but also our good relationship with our sister community of Cd. Juarez, Mexico, and its citizenry, other citizens from throughout Mexico, and tourists from all over the world that use this facility to access El Paso as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Bridge Commission (“IBC”) is an advisory commission to the Mayor and City Council and is charged with the duties of making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to improve matters affecting the aesthetic appearance, safety and efficient flow of commerce and people across the international bridges in El Paso; and

**WHEREAS**, the IBC considered the reconstruction project on the City and other stakeholders and recommends that the City address the limitations mentioned herein and recommends that City Council place a moratorium on increasing bridge fees for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic at the Paso Del Norte port of entry until construction at that location is completed.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

THAT the City of El Paso, if unable to change the temporary re-routing of pedestrians crossing at the Paso Del Norte bridge, will assist in addressing the needs of the pedestrian community as it is released onto Oregon Street, taking into account their dignity and basic needs as human beings and as our esteemed visitors, and committing the resources of our City to develop a master plan to accommodate those needs using all resources available to our community; including but not limited to, Sun Metro, the City’s Environmental Services Department, the City’s Police Department and the City’s Street Department;

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THAT the City Council finds that downtown El Paso is severely impacted by and dependent on a smooth, efficient and well-maintained flow of vehicles and pedestrians through the Paso Del Norte port of entry; and,

THAT the planned detour will negatively impact the flow of citizenry, citizens from throughout Mexico, tourists and our own citizens, students and families; and

THAT the City of El Paso will not consider raising the fees on both vehicles and pedestrians at said port of entry until such time as the current reconstruction of the facility is completed and that the construction company will build a "pedestrian tunnel" adjacent to the building on Sixth Street and NOT send the commuters to Oregon Street.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007.

**CITY OF EL PASO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Cook  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josette Flores  
Assistant City Attorney

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daryl W. Cole  
Streets Director

07 JUL 19 PM 12:00  
CITY CLERK DEPT.