

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

DEPARTMENT: International Bridges

AGENDA DATE: Introduction: August 11, 2009
Public Hearing: August 18, 2009

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E./858-3842

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Approve an ordinance amending Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.78 (International Bridges), Section 12.78.010 (Tolls for International Bridges) to incorporate standard language for fees and to create Section 12.78.030 to allow for Seven No-Fee Days for pedestrians annually.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The proposed amendment will replace the fee amounts currently in the ordinance with standard language setting the fees in the amounts identified in the adopted budget resolution for the current fiscal year or by other appropriately adopted resolution of the City Council.

The proposed amendment will also allow for Seven No-Fee Days for pedestrians per to be determined by the international bridges department director after consultations with Downtown Management District to promote increased pedestrian crossings.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

None

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

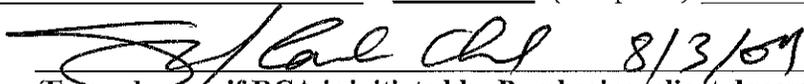
N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD:  8/3/09
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA: _____

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 12 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), CHAPTER 12.78 (INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES), SECTION 12.78.010 (TOLLS FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES) OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE TO INCORPORATE STANDARD LANGUAGE FOR FEES AND TO CREATE SECTION 12.78.030 TO ALLOW FOR UP TO SEVEN NO FEE DAYS FOR PEDESTRIANS ANNUALLY; THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED FOR IN 12.84.010 OF THE CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to grant to the Director of the International Bridges Department the authority to determine when the City shall offer up to seven no fee days for pedestrians each year in accordance with certain criteria.

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

SECTION 1. That Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.78 (International Bridges), Section 12.78.010 (Tolls for International Bridges.) of the El Paso City Code, shall be and hereby is amended and replaced with the following:

The following tolls shall apply to southbound traffic on Santa Fe (Paso del Norte) International Bridge, Stanton Street (Friendship) International Bridge and Zaragoza International Bridges, in the amounts identified in the adopted budget resolution for the current fiscal year or by other appropriately adopted resolution by the City Council:

- A. Pedestrians, three years and older;
- B. Bicycles;
- C. Motorcycles;
- D. Automobiles, pickup trucks (up to one-ton carrying capacity), panel trucks, vans, recreational trailers, in the amount set per vehicle;
- E. Commercial trucks, buses, motor homes, tractors, commercial towed trailers, in the amount set per axle.
- F. Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the rate of exchange of all bridge tolls shall be adjusted monthly to the next highest, whole denomination of currency of the country of Mexico, the peso, so as to equal, at the minimum: for subsection A of this section, the amount set per person; subsection B of this section, the amount set per bicycle; subsection C of this section, the amount set per motorcycle; subsection D of this section, the amount set per vehicle; and subsection E of this section, the amount set per axle.

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G. Currency Exchange. On a regular basis, but not less than weekly, the total foreign currency held by the city of El Paso in its international bridges department shall be exchanged for United States currency with one of the exchange businesses in El Paso at the best available rate based on bids received.

SECTION 2. That Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.78 (International Bridges), Section 12.78.030 (No Fee Days) of the El Paso City Code is created as follows:

12.78.030 No Fee Days.

A. Fees. Fees for use of the international bridges shall be in the amounts set forth in the budget resolution of the city council or as established by the director, except that the city council is authorizing up to seven no fee days per calendar year for pedestrians with the specific dates to be determined by the director of the international bridges department after consultation with the El Paso Downtown Management District. Such determination by the director shall comply with the following guidelines and criteria:

1. to promote increased attendance at events, programs and activities in the City;
2. to honor recognized holidays;
3. to enhance commercial opportunities; or
4. when otherwise appropriate to create good will in the community.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect September 1, 2009.

SECTION 4. Except as herein amended, Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.78 of the El Paso City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

(signatures appear on following page)

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ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2009.

THE 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:



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

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