

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

DEPARTMENT: **Development Services**

AGENDA DATE: **Introduction: November 22, 2005**
 Public Hearing: December 13, 2005

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: **Tae-Gyu Kim, 541-4033**

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: **1, 2 and 4**

SUBJECT:

An Ordinance amending the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System as detailed in the Map Atlas of the Plan for El Paso and its related documents as originally approved by El Paso City Council in 1999, and as subsequently amended, to remove the proposed Stanton Street extension between Coral Sky Lane and proposed Arterial 1 and to remove a section of proposed Arterial 1 between Mesa Street and Alabama Street.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION: See attached report.

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

The Thoroughfare Review Team recommends (September 22, 2005):

- denying the request and instead keeping the current Thoroughfare Plan as is.

The Development Coordinating Committee (DCC) recommends (September 27, 2005):

- removing only a section of Arterial 1 between the proposed Stanton Street and Alabama Street.
- keeping the Stanton Street extension and the other section of Arterial 1.

The El Paso Mountain Committee recommends (September 30, 2005):

- removing the proposed Stanton Street extension and an entire section of Arterial 1 located within the Mountain Development Area.

The City Plan Commission (CPC) recommends (October 6, 2005):

- approving the request.

The Transportation Legislative Review Committee (LRC) recommends (November 4, 2005):

- approving the request.

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

LEGAL: (if required) N/A

FINANCE: (if required) N/A

DEPARTMENT HEAD: George Sarmiento, AICP

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE SYSTEM AS DETAILED IN THE MAP ATLAS OF THE PLAN FOR EL PASO AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL IN 1999, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, TO REMOVE THE PROPOSED STANTON STREET EXTENSION BETWEEN CORAL SKY LANE AND PROPOSED ARTERIAL 1 AND TO REMOVE A SECTION OF PROPOSED ARTERIAL 1 BETWEEN MESA STREET AND ALABAMA STREET.

WHEREAS, *The Plan for El Paso* was formally adopted by the City Council on April 27, 1999, pursuant to the provisions of Section 213.002 of the Texas Local Government Code as the Comprehensive Plan for the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan serves as a general guide for the future growth and development of the City to promote public health, safety and welfare; and,

WHEREAS, its adoption was based on the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee following numerous public meetings and working sessions; and,

WHEREAS, a well planned transportation system is a key element for improving quality of life, by balancing neighborhood concerns with provision of access for commerce and mobility for personal travel; and,

WHEREAS, the Development Coordinating Committee ("DCC") has recommended a change to the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System map contained within *The Plan for El Paso* to provide the most beneficial relationship between the uses of land and circulation of traffic throughout the City, and,

WHEREAS, the City Plan Commission, after conducting a public hearing, has recommended the adoption of the changes to the Year 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System map as herein presented; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the adoption of *The Plan for El Paso* and its changes to the thoroughfare alignments as herein presented will have no negative impact upon the public health, safety and general welfare of the City.

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

That the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System, as detailed in the Map Atlas of *The Plan for El Paso*, is herein amended as described below and as detailed in the attached and incorporated Exhibit "A."

West, Northeast, and East Planning Area

- Delete the proposed Stanton Street extension between Coral Sky Lane and proposed Arterial 1 and delete a section of the proposed Arterial 1 between Mesa Street and Alabama Street in the current Major Thoroughfare Plan. All details are shown in the map included in Exhibit "A."

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, **2005**.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carolyn J. Crosby
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

George Sarmiento, AICP, Deputy Director
Development Services Department

JOHN COOK
MAYOR

JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

GEORGE G. SARMIENTO, AICP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
J. Alexandro Lozano, District 3
MELINA CASTRO, DISTRICT 4
PRESI ORTEGA, JR., DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION**

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
Joyce A. Wilson, City Manager
Pat Aauto, Deputy City Manager

FROM: Tae-Gyu Kim, Transportation Planner II
Development Services Department, Planning Division, 541-4033,
kimtg@elpasotexas.gov

SUBJECT: Amendments to Major Thoroughfare Plan of *The Plan for El Paso*, to remove the proposed Stanton Street extension between Coral Sky Lane and proposed Arterial 1 and to remove a section of proposed Arterial 1 between Mesa Street and Alabama Street. (Districts 1, 2, and 4)

DATE: November 14, 2005

The Transportation Legislative Review Committee (LRC) on November 4, 2005 recommended this request.

The City Plan Commission (CPC) on October 6, 2005 recommended approving this request.

The El Paso Mountain Committee on September 30, 2005 recommended removing the proposed Stanton Street extension and the entire section of Arterial 1 located within the Mountain Development Area.

The Department Coordinating Committee (DCC) on September 27, 2005 recommended removing only a section of Arterial 1 between the proposed Stanton Street and Alabama Street and keeping the Stanton Street connection and the other section of Arterial 1.

The Thoroughfare Review Team on September 22, 2005 recommended denying this request and instead keeping the current Thoroughfare Plan as is.

COPY TO: George Sarmiento, Deputy Director of Planning
Rudy Valdez, Chief Urban Planner
Charles Kooshian, Interim Chief Urban Planner
Terry Cullen-Garney, Deputy City Attorney
Josie Hernandez, Paralegal
Carolyn J. Crosby, Assistant City Attorney

Attachment 1: City Plan Commission Staff Report

Attachment 2: Draft Ordinance

Attachment 3: Current & Proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan Maps

Attachment 4: TxDOT Letter

STAFF REPORT

Amendments to The Plan for El Paso

Proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan

Representative:

Brock & Bustillos, Inc

Location:

This amendment is proposing changes to the current Major Thoroughfare Map of *The Plan for El Paso*. The study area is bounded on the west by Mesa Street, on the east by Alabama Street, on the north by Coral Sky Lane, and on the south by the proposed Arterial 1.

Representative District:

1, 2, and 4

**EL PASO CITY PLAN COMMISSION HEARING 06 OCT 2005
1:30 PM, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL**

Amendments to *The Plan for El Paso*

Background:

The Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP) is part of The Plan for El Paso. It designates the functional class and general alignment of all arterial roadways in the City.

Arterial 1 is a proposed freeway/expressway, except for a section from Mesa Street up to an intersection with the proposed extension of Stanton Street as a minor arterial, shown on the Major Thoroughfare Plan. It runs eastward from Doniphan Drive towards the Franklin Mountains and passes through a tunnel to emerge in what is now Jobe Quarry to connect to Alabama Street. This proposed roadway and tunnel is considered to be an “inner loop” which would provide easy access between the west and northeast areas of El Paso.

Stanton Street is designated as a minor arterial on the Major Thoroughfare Plan. It currently runs parallel to the Franklin Mountain from Silver Springs towards Festival. It ends at Coral Sky Lane and picks up again near Excalibur after which it descends toward downtown. A section of Stanton Street between Coral Sky Lane and the proposed Arterial 1 is proposed to be connected as a minor arterial.

Request:

Brock & Bustillos has requested that the City consider removing the proposed Stanton Street extension between Coral Sky Lane and proposed Arterial 1 and a section of the proposed Arterial 1 between Mesa Street and Alabama Street from the Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Analysis:

TxDOT was contacted regarding their plans for Arterial 1 including the tunnel. Their response was that they hoped that the City would maintain the Arterial 1 proposal on the Major Thoroughfare Plan, because it would provide a high-capacity connection between the west side of El Paso and the rest of the metropolitan area and an alternative that would reduce congestion on I-10. TxDOT also recommended keeping the Stanton Street connection to provide an alternative to North-South travel in the West side.

A travel demand model was used to forecast traffic volumes for the year 2030 under three scenarios: (1) with Stanton Street connection and Arterial 1, (2) without Stanton Street connection but with Arterial 1, and (3) without both Stanton Street connection and Arterial 1. With Stanton Street connection and Arterial 1, about 23,000 and 36,000 vehicles per day are expected to use the Stanton Street extension and Arterial 1, respectively. The absence of the Stanton Street connection is expected to increase traffic on Mesa Hill, Mesa, and I-10, while it decreases traffic on existing Stanton Street. Removal of both Stanton Street connection and Arterial 1 results in even more traffic on I-10, but less on Mesa Street than that of the second scenario but it is still more than that of the first scenario.

Recommendation:

The Thoroughfare Review Team recommends (September 22, 2005):

- denying this request and instead keeping the current Thoroughfare Plan as is.

The Development Coordinating Committee (DCC) recommends (September 27, 2005):

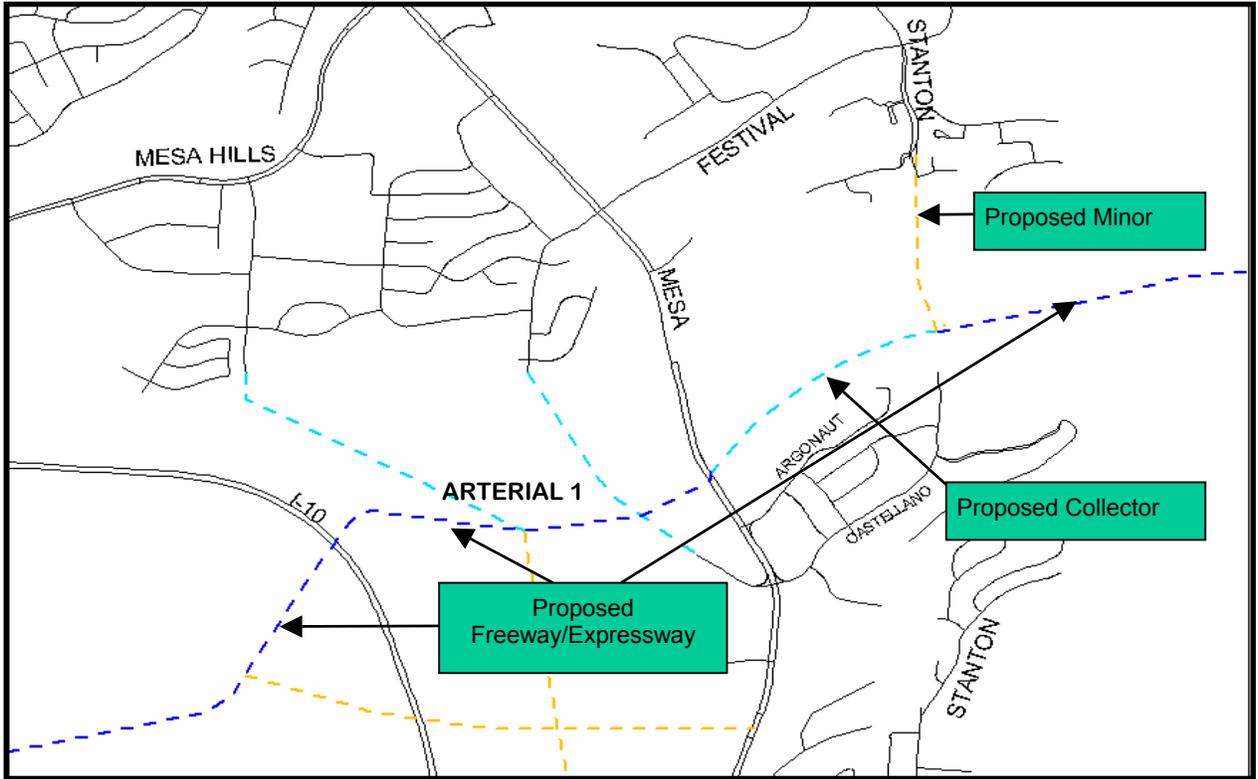
- deleting only a section of Arterial 1 between the proposed Stanton Street and Alabama Street.
- keeping the Stanton Street extension and the other section of Arterial 1.

The El Paso Mountain Committee recommends (September 30, 2005):

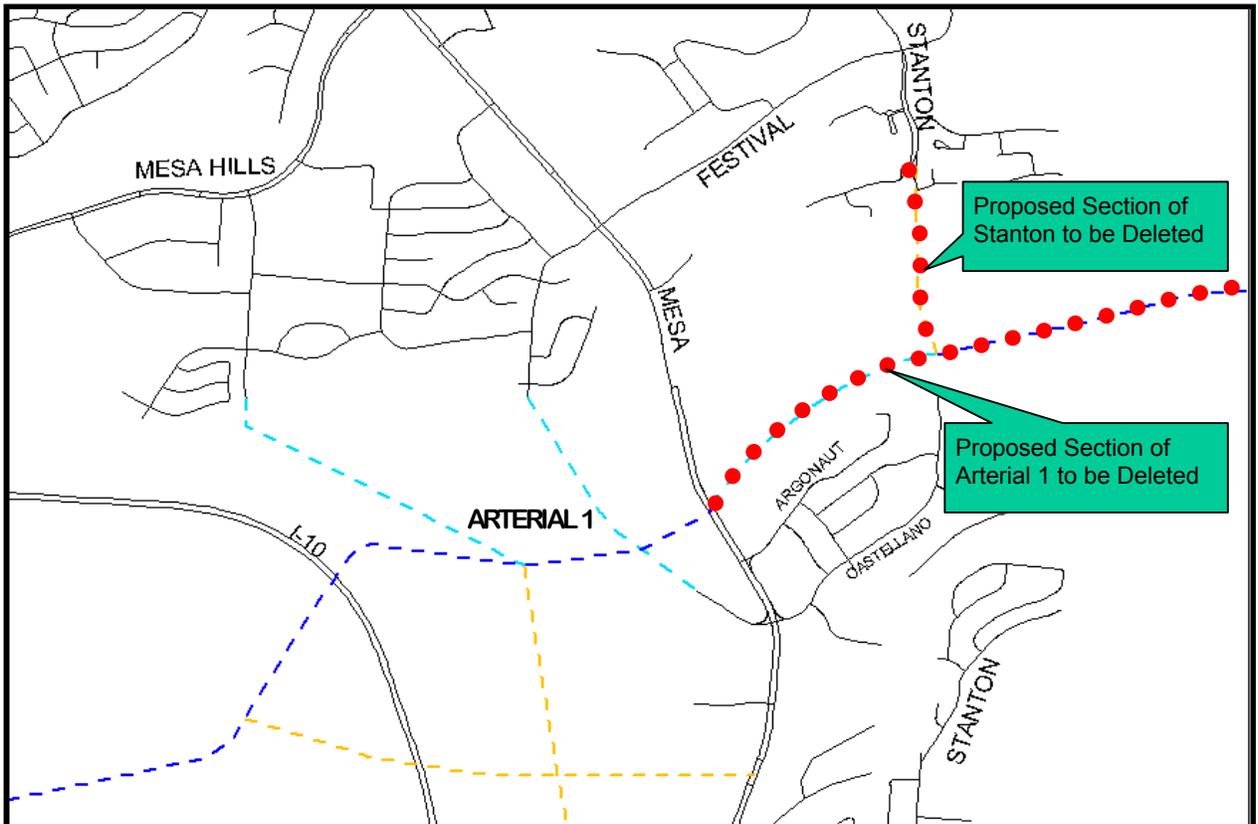
- deleting the proposed Stanton Street connection and an entire section of Arterial 1 located within the Mountain Development Area.

Exhibit "A"

Current Major Thoroughfare Plan



Proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan





13301 GATEWAY BLVD. WEST • EL PASO, TEXAS 79928-5410 • (915) 790-4200

September 19, 2005

Mr. George Sarmiento
Department of Planning, Research & Development
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mr. Sarmiento,

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the position of the El Paso District of the Texas Department of Transportation regarding three projects that have been in the various regional transportation plans at some time. These projects are "Arterial 1", the Stanton Street connection, and the Tunnel through the Franklin Mountains. We support these three projects and recommend to the City of El Paso to keep them in its Major Thoroughfare Plan because they represent major mobility alternatives, not just to the West Side of El Paso, but to the entire metropolitan area. Our support is based on the following:

- The Stanton Street connection (roughly between Vaquero Lane and Festival Drive) would link the two existing segments, and will provide a much needed alternative to North-South travel along the West Side. Congestion along Mesa Street and I-10 would likely be reduced.
- Arterial 1, is planned to have an East-West alignment and its limits would be the Stanton Street extension and US 85 (Paisano Drive). In conjunction with the Stanton Street extension, Arterial 1 provides an additional alternative for traffic feeding on/off I-10.
- The Tunnel through the Franklin Mountains, although a complex and controversial project, would provide a high-capacity connection between the West Side of El Paso with the rest of the metropolitan area. It would be a clear alternative that would reduce congestion on I-10.

The three projects have merits individually, but they will have a synergic impact if implemented as a set. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the discussion of these projects. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Calvo
Advance Transportation Planning
Supervisor

cc: Roy Gilyard, El Paso MPO