

**COMMITTEE ON BORDER RELATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
MAYOR'S BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010, 4:00 PM.**

The Committee on Border Relations met at the above place and date.

AGENDA

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2010
3. Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan
4. Discussion and action on the security situation in Ciudad Juarez
5. Discussion and action to recommend El Paso as a pilot site to demonstrate new technology for expediting cross border mobility
6. Discussion and action regarding exit control at land border ports by Department of Homeland Security.
7. Discussion and action regarding possible pilot for paperless I-94 project and automated process for I-94 fee intake at land border ports.
8. Discussion and action regarding Regional Investment Center program.
9. Discussion and action on the City's 2010 Federal Legislative Agenda
10. Discussion and action on City's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Resolution
11. Bridge Management Report:
 - a. Traffic and Revenue Report
 - b. Update on Stanton and Santa Fe Port of Entry Improvement Projects
12. **OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:** At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Committee will allow an open comment period not to exceed thirty minutes, to receive public comment on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken. Speakers in the audience will be allowed a maximum of three minutes and must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.
13. Adjournment

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Evelina Ortega called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Those present were:

Thomas Fullerton, Jr. – D-3
Oscar Baeza – D-5
Angelica Quintana – D-8
Irasema Coronado – D-2
Kathleen Walker – Mayor
Angel F. Quintana – D-5 (at large member)
Jorge Salom – Mayor's office (at large member)
Christopher Olivares – D-2 (at large member)
Miguel Escoto – D-8 (at large member)

ABSENT:

Sergio Chiu – D-4
Laird Carmichael – D-7
Lilia Ruiz – D-3 (at large member)
Pete A. Ocegueda – D-7 (at large member)
Ivan Ramirez – D-6

OTHERS PRESENT

Said Larbi-Cherif – International Bridges
Jane Shang – Deputy City Manager
Sylvia Firth – Mayor’s Office/Legal
Taylor Moreno – Legal
Myriam Cruz – Municipio de Juarez
Diana Nunez – Mayor’s Office
Bill Molaski – CBP
Estella Padilla – US Consulate
Marco Herrera – NMBA
Rafael Aldrete – TTI
Kathleen Neal – BTA
Manuel Ochoa – REDCO
Bob Geyer – County of El Paso

Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Fullerton, seconded by Ms. Walker and carried to approve the minutes of January 5, 2010

AYES: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Baeza, Ms Quintana, Ms Walker, Mr. Salom, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None

Item 3: Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan

There were no updates to report to the Committee.

Item 4: Discussion and Action on the security situation in Ciudad Juarez

Mr. Oscar Baeza made a slide show presentation regarding the violence in Juarez and the need for the United Nations to become involved and restore order. Mr. Baeza proposed to the committee that the CBR send a request to City Council that they consider asking Washington DC and Mexico City to request the assistance of the UN to combat the violence in Juarez. Discussion among the members followed.

Motion made by Kathleen Walker, seconded by Oscar Baeza for the CBR to ask Mayor Cook to discuss the request for UN involvement with the Mayor of Juarez and for a report to be brought back to the Committee.

AYES: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Baeza, Ms Quintana, Ms Walker, Mr. Salom, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None

Item 5: Discussion and Action to recommend El Paso as a pilot site to demonstrate new technology for expediting cross border mobility.

Mr. Larbi-Cherif introduced Mr. Rafael Aldrete from the Texas Transportation Institute. Mr. Aldrete made a presentation regarding pilot tests of Bluetooth and RFID technologies for the measurement of Border Crossing Times. Mr. Aldrete also made a presentation about the El Paso County Secure Border Trade Project. Discussion by members followed. No action was taken.

Item 6: Discussion and action regarding exit control at land border ports by Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. Walker and Mr. Bill Molaski (CBP) explained and discussed the status of the implementation of exit control at the bridges. Discussion followed about the program and about the impact of implementation of the exit control program in El Paso. No action was taken. Ms. Walker recommended that a resolution about the practicality of implementation of exit control be considered. The resolution may be used to oppose implementation of exit control because of the lack of infrastructure. The item was deferred for discussion under Item 9.

Item 7: Discussion and action regarding possible pilot for paperless I-94 project and automated process for I-94 fee intake at land border ports.

Item 8: Discussion and action regarding Regional Investment Center Program.

Motion made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Jorge Salom and carried to table Items 7 and 8 until next month's meeting.

AYES: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Baeza, Ms Quintana, Ms Walker, Mr. Salom, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None
Mr. Fullerton was not present for the vote.

Item 9: Discussion and action on the City's 2010 Federal Legislative Agenda

Ms. Silvia Firth and Ms. Taylor Moreno discussed the City's 2010 Federal Legislative Agenda and how the priorities were assembled and asked for guidance from the Committee. The final document will be presented to City Council on February 23, 2010. The following modifications were recommended: a non-exclusive listing of possible technologies to increase efficiency at the borders should be included; language about an "effective, clearly defined and well communicated" appeal process should be added to the Sentri (DCL) issue; that the realistic challenges to the implementation of exit control at the land borders be considered; that opposition to 287G agreements be restated; that the mandatory requirement of eVerify be opposed; that a drug education program be added; that help be available for families dealing with drug problems.

Motion made by Ms. Coronado, seconded by Ms. Walker and carried to approve the modifications to the legislative agenda to be presented to City Council on February 23, 2010.

AYES: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Baeza, Ms Quintana, Ms Walker, Mr. Salom, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None
Mr. Fullerton was not present for the vote.

Item 10: Discussion and action on City's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Resolution

The most recently passed Resolution was discussed and the Committee members were asked to review the Resolution and bring back recommendations. The item will be placed on next month's agenda.

Item 11: Bridge Management Report:

- a. Traffic and Revenue Report
- b. Update on Stanton and Santa Fe Port of Entry Improvement Projects.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif gave a report on the southbound bridge traffic, toll revenue and the parking meter revenue as well as an update on the status of the Stanton and Paso Del Norte improvement projects. Discussion followed.

Item 12: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no open comments.

Item 13: Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Coronado, seconded by Mr. Baeza and carried to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Baeza, Ms Quintana, Ms Walker, Mr. Salom, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None
Mr. Fullerton was not present for the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Approved as to form:

Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E., Board Secretary