

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

**Item 1:** Chair Tanny Berg called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those present were:

**Tanny Berg, Chair** – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)  
**Mike Breitinger**, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)  
**Gerardo Camacho**, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)  
**Analisa Cordova**, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)  
**Jorge Salom**, (Mayor John Cook)  
**Michelle Barron**, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)

### **ABSENT:**

**Saul Frank**, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)  
**Dan Chavez**, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintanilla)  
**VACANT**, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin)

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Said Larbi-Cherif, International Bridges Director  
Ray Mendoza, International Bridges  
Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney  
Jose Contreras, Border Relations

### **Item 2:**

Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting.

**AYES:** Mr. Berg, Mr. Salome, Mr. Breitinger, Ms. Barron, Mr. Breitinger

**NAYS:** None

**Item 3: Discussion and Action on Presentation of Bridge Management Report.**

**Item 4: Discussion and Action on the GSA Head House project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.**

Mr. Ray Mendoza presented report for the budget. Mr. Mendoza also introduced and welcomed Mr. Jose Contreras of the Border Relations Committee.

Items discussed:

- Three ordinances separating the International Bridges Department from the Streets Department were placed on City Council agenda and approved. International Bridges will become an independent department effective September 1, 2008

- Mr. Mendoza discussed a tour of PDN and spoke with CBP and the contractor. The project is on schedule. Kennels are completed. There is a deadline before Thanksgiving to open all lanes.
- Chair Berg recommended that a restriction be removed that would require International Bridge Commission board members to live in the same district as the City Representative that appoints them.
- Laredo, Texas officials will be visiting the International Bridges on 8/20/08. They will be meeting with City staff and CBP staff.
- Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif reported on canopies at bridges. The representative from Mexico likes the design. The City is working with TXDOT for permission for the canopies. The plans should be finished by December 2008.
- Mr. Ray Mendoza reported that on August 25, 2008, the first demolition on properties at South Mesa will begin. Mr. Larbi-Cherif stated that the consultant for the Lions' Placita still has to finish the survey.
- The increased security at the bridges has been working well. There have been no incidents to report. Pressure washing of bridges continues on a monthly basis.
- Mr. Jose Contreras commented that the DCL lane was dirty. Mr. Ray Mendoza stated that the lane will be swept with a City sweeper.
- Mr. Mike Breitinger asked about a discretionary budget for the bridges. Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that there is a maintenance contract and that small items can be accommodated.
- Mr. Mike Breitinger asked Ms. Marie Taylor, City Attorney, if the commission can designate a budget with donations from the public for items for the bridges and which would be controlled by the Bridge Commission.
- Mr. Tanny Berg suggested that at the next commission meeting, an item be placed on the agenda regarding the budget of the International Bridge Department. The commission would give a report to City Council annually on the security, sanitation, aesthetics, info structure and operation of the bridges and how these five issues are being dealt with.
- Mr. Ray Mendoza reported on the upgrade of the DVRs at the International Bridges and that they are working on getting traffic cameras on the internet.
- Mr. Tanny Berg suggested that a report on ADA compliance at the bridges be placed on the next agenda.

**Item 5: Discussion and Action on Potential Proposals for Shortening Wait Times at the Ports of Entry.**

- Electronic message boards are in place at the bridges. Bridge construction detours need to inform businesses/pedestrians with coordination amongst all. Give public information on bridge times. Mr. Tanny Berg suggested that a information hot-line be implemented where callers can report complaints about wait times, CBP officers etc.

**Item 9: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:**

Mr. Jose Contreras of the Border Relations Committee spoke on traffic delays.

**Item 10: Adjourn.**

Motion was made by Chair Berg, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary