

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007 – 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 3:06 p.m. Those present were:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Analisa Cordova, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)
Mike Dipp, Vice-Chair – (Mayor John Cook)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

ABSENT

Victor M. Aguirre, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)
Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)

OTHERS PRESENT

Daryl W. Cole, Street Department Director
Richard Bristol, Street Department
Jose Luis Sierra, Engineering Department
Jose Contreras, Chair, Commission on Border Relations, & representing Canaco

Item 2:

Chair Berg emphasized that we unanimously passed a resolution at the last meeting and that we need to add that Resolution to the October Minutes.

Chair Berg at this time expressed his condolences on behalf of the Commission to Mr. Camacho, whose wife recently passed away.

Chair Berg asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes, and asked that when we have a Resolution that we attach the document as part of the Minutes, and that the document is filed with the Minutes. Mr. Camacho asked that the minutes be corrected, and stated that the October 16, 2007 Minutes under Item 5 be corrected to reflect the letter. Chair Berg stated that the correction will be an attachment of the letter itself to the Minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting with the correction as stated above.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Cordova, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Frank.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Aguirre, Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Breitinger.

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

Mr. Cole introduced Mr. Jose Luis Sierra, Project Manager for the City Engineering Department, whose specific duty is to oversee capital projects for international bridges. Mr. Sierra then gave an overview of the projects.

Mr. Cole stated that once we have a set of drawings that we can get a schedule with the all the timeframes of the projects at both the Stanton and PDN bridges. Chair Berg asked that the Bridge Commission be invited to City Council when this is brought forward, and he stated that it's important that the Commissioners be invited to City Council on all issues related to the bridges.

Mr. Sierra completed his report on the bridge projects. Chair Berg asked about two amendments for the project that were on hold because of the timing: 1. The adjustment of the canopies to go over the toll plaza – he is requesting we get an actual cost now on that adjustment; 2. Rep. Lozano had asked that they consider the possibility of extending the canopy to the middle of the bridge. Mr. Cole stated that they have asked for that information and said that there is a plan of action for consideration by the City and the consultant on the extension of the canopies to the middle of the bridge.

Item 4: Discussion on the GSA Head House Project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.

Chair Berg asked that it be a part of the Minutes that the Commission is outraged in regard to the letter to GSA not coming directly to the GSA from the Commission. He also asked that there be follow up with the City Attorney's office on the reasoning.

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

Chair Berg asked that we schedule a meeting with the Administrator of the GSA, and that the meeting be scheduled around her schedule. This issue is to be brought up at the January meeting. He also asked that we bring pedestrian numbers and vehicles numbers to the next meeting.

Chair Berg stated that there will be no meeting scheduled for December pending any emergency, and if there is an emergency that the Commission is to be notified by e-mail or telephone. Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2008.

Item 6: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Chair Berg at this time recognized Mr. Jose Contreras who signed up to speak during the Open Comment Period. Mr. Contreras is the Chair of the Commission on Border Relations.

Item 7: Adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Dipp and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary