

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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 Dipp, Vice-Chair – (Mayor John Cook)
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Analisa Cordova, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)

ABSENT

Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)
VACANT, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)

OTHERS PRESENT

Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney
Daryl W. Cole, Street Department Director
Said Larbi-Cherif, International Bridges Director
Ray Mendoza, International Bridges
Everett Esparza, Sun Metro

Item 2:

Motion made by Mr. Dipp, seconded by Mr. Breitinger and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting.

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

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Frank.

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

Mr. Cole introduced Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif, the newly-appointed International Bridges Director. Mr. Larbi-Cherif stated that he is looking forward to working with the Commissioners. Mr. Cole then asked Mr. Mendoza to report on the bridge capital projects.

Items discussed:

- MPO awarded the City of El Paso \$1 million in seed money for the feasibility study for the expansion of the Zaragoza Port of Entry. The Local Advanced Project

Funding Agreement (LAPFA) was approved by City Council January 22, 2008. City Council also approved the LAPFA for the new bridge and the feasibility study will determine where that bridge will be located.

- Presentation by the MPO at the Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting held at UTEP this past week on the need to construct a new commuter bridge.
- Message boards to be placed permanently at PDN and Zaragoza.
- Stanton property acquisitions to be completed within 30-45 days if there are no delays.
- Santa Fe project is on hold pending negotiations. Chair Berg stated for the record, when the contract was let part of the contract was to design something based on our budget, and the design did not come close to meeting the budget. Mr. Cole stated that they will address the canopy issues, and that the Engineering Department, who is the contract manager, is having meaningful discussions with the consultant. Discussion continued.

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

Mr. Mendoza reported that they are assisting GSA with minor adjustments at their facilities. He was told by a representative from GSA that the project is on schedule. Mr. Esparza, Sun Metro, reported that they have not had any problems with the bus route.

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

Chair Berg asked if this Commission can write a letter to the Federal authorities besieging them to increase manpower at the bridges. Ms. Flores stated that the Commission can make recommendations to City Council, and City Council would write the letter. Discussion continued on the need for more staff at the bridges.

Motion was made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried that we draft a formal letter to the Federal government to encourage them to adequately staff the bridges within El Paso in order to determine the real capacity of the bridges, and what the normal wait time is at adequate capacity.

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

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Frank.

Chair Berg asked the item be placed on the agenda as a recommendation from this Commission.

Item 6: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no open comments.

Item 7: Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mr. Breitinger, seconded by Mr. Barnes and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary