

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006

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

Meeting convened at 3:05 p.m. Chair Tanny Berg presided over the meeting. The following Commission members were present:

Tanny Berg, District 1
Mike Breitinger, District 7
Gerardo L. Camacho, District 3
Mike Dipp, Mayor's Appointee
Y. I. Santoscoy, District 2

Others Present:

Daryl W. Cole, Streets Director
Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney
Richard Bristol, Street Department
Ray J. Mendoza, Street Department / Bridges & Meters Division
Rosemary G. Borrego, Street Department
David Almonte, O.M.B.
Ray Rodriguez, E.P.P.D.

Absent:

Daniel Barnes, District 4
Roger Curie, District 5
Blanca Dominguez, District 6
Martin Silva, District 8

Agenda

Item 2: Motion made and carried to approve the Minutes for the meeting of Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Santoscoy,
NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Curie, Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Silva

Item 3: Chair Berg announced that a Charette will be held all day on Wednesday (March 29), and Thursday (March 30) from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., to discuss the reconstruction of the Paso del Norte Bridge, the removal of Custom's Head Houses, and the new pedestrian and vehicular lanes that will be added to that bridge. Mr. Mendoza stated that discussions would also include the new design for the enhancement program; the canopies, toll collection facility, Lions Plazita, etc. Mr. Mendoza distributed agendas to all Commission members.

Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Dipp and carried to set up a sub-committee with Mr. Breitinger as Chair to attend the Charette.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Santoscoy,
NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Curie, Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Silva

Mr. Breitinger will have a synopsis of the Charette for the next meeting.

Item 4: Motion made by Mr. Breitinger, seconded by Ms. Santoscoy and carried to table Item #4 until the next meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Santoscoy,
NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Curie, Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Silva

Item 5: Mr. Mendoza gave a report on the maintenance at the bridges. Some of the items covered were:

- Bridges are swept on a scheduled maintenance program; downtown bridges are swept on a daily basis.
- Zaragoza Bridge - swept Wednesdays and Fridays; maintenance on a bi-weekly program.
- Janitorial service cleans bridge walkways eight hours per day, including surrounding area.
- Stanton & Zaragosa P.O.E.s – includes facilities, walkways and approaches, plus the employee building facilities. Maintained on a daily basis, holidays and weekends.
- Auto lanes are pressure washed on a quarterly basis to remove all the grease and grime, and booths are washed, all on a scheduled PM program.
- Painting and striping is done on an annual or as-needed basis; graffiti removal, and sign replacement as needed.
- Storm drains cleaned on an annual or as-needed basis.
- Tire shredders - Maintained daily, and as needed, and expansion joints maintenance done on a monthly basis.
- Scale calibration for Zaragoza on schedule through a contract twice a year.
- Maintenance on drains essential to keep the structural integrity of the bridges is done on a daily basis.

Discussion held in regard to cleanliness of the bridges, including Mr. Berg's comment of lack of trash cans on the bridges.

Mr. Mendoza stated that they have a dumpster in front of Lions Plazita, and at several locations at the Santa Fe quarter.

The following suggestions were made regarding the Commission's interests in the Santa Fe Bridge Charette:

- Mr. Breitinger suggested they add in future contracts that the cleaning service attend the Downtown Management District round table to discuss these issues.
- Partner with the program DMD has with probationers to clean around the bridges.
- Sell advertisement on trash cans – Drawback: revenue going back into the City.
- Add some "Welcome to El Paso" or "*bien venidos*" signs.
- Have a "wow" factor at the bridges.
- Let people know we really appreciate their coming over.
- Add benches.
- Give people who cross dignity and value, same as people going through an airport, or people driving down a freeway.
- Make bridges ADA compliant.

- Submit improvements, recommendations on signage, sanitation issues, paint, etc., for Department Head to work with the Deputy City Manager for Development Services.
- Recommendations should be submitted to the commission to be placed on the Agenda.

Mr. Mendoza stated that the Enhancement Program will be providing a shade canopy, restrooms, water fountain, benches, etc.

Item 6: Mr. Bristol reported on the bridge revenues, bridge activities, and the use of revenues by the City.

Discussion held on the toll-collection operating hours going southbound:

Santa Fe hours are from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. (pedestrians)

Stanton - 8:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. (pedestrians)

Vehicle tolls are open 24 hours

Item No. 7: Officer Ray Rodriguez from the El Paso Police Department was present to report on the Curfew at the bridges, which began March 12.

Mr. Rodriguez was asked to keep attending the Commission meetings to report on the bridge issues. He stated he will be retiring April 7 but will send a representative.

Item No. 8 – OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Discussed getting a store front location at the bridge; having a Police unit always present.

Mr. Breitinger asked that a copy of the new lobby ordinance be submitted with the next agenda.

Item No. 9. Motion was made by Mr. Dipp, seconded by Mr. Breitinger, and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Approved as to form:


Department Head / Board Secretary