

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 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 3:00 p.m. Present were:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Mike Dipp, Vice-Chair - Mayor John Cook's Appointee
Victor M. Aguirre, D-5 (Rep. Presi Ortega)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)

ABSENT

Vacancy - D-2
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

OTHERS PRESENT

Daryl W. Cole, Streets Director
Richard Bristol, Street Department
Christine Bueno, Street Department - Bridges
Jorge Castillo, Economic Development
Everett Esparza, Sun Metro

Item 2: Motion made by Mr. Breitinger, seconded by Mr. Aguirre and carried to approve the Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Aguirre, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, and Ms. Dominguez.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Frank.

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

Mr. Mendoza thanked the Commissioners that attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the opening of two southbound passenger lanes at the Zaragoza International Bridge on April 30.

Discussion was held on the status of the Paso Del Norte Bridge. Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, the contract and design firm, has been issued the Notice to Proceed for the preliminary design.

Kick-off meeting held for the Stanton Street Bridge, and the property acquisition on Mesa Street.

Mr. Mendoza introduced Mr. Jorge Castillo from the Economic Development Department, and Mr. Everett Esparza from Sun Metro. Mr. Berg thanked them for being present and stated that he would like them to attend all the meetings.

Discussion held on outsourcing the management of the bridges to an out-of-town group. Mr. Berg asked that an invitation be extended for a representative from that group to make a presentation at the next meeting. He asked that we invite Mr. Don Michie, who is on the Border Relations Committee with the City of El Paso. Mr. Berg would like this item to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried to send a letter from the International Bridge Commission to the group considering the outsourcing of the bridges to invite them to give us a presentation at our next meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Aguirre, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, and Ms. Dominguez.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Frank.

Mr. Berg at this time thanked Staff on behalf of the Commission for the ceremony held at the bridges, and stated that it went very well.

4. Discussion on Proposed Resolution from Taxi Companies on Proposal for Placement of Taxi Stand at BOTA.

There were no representatives from the taxi companies to present a proposal for the placement of a taxi stand at the Bridge of the Americas as requested at the last meeting.

5. Discussion on the GSA Head House Project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.

Discussion held on the GSA Head House Project. Updates on the project will be sent to the Commissioners through e-mail as they are received.

Mr. Barnes sent Staff a draft through e-mail of a proposed resolution to be addressed at City Council on the impact of the south side community on Oregon Street, where GSA is planning to reroute pedestrian traffic through the residential neighborhood.

Motion made by Mr. Dipp, seconded by Mr. Camacho and unanimously carried to approve the proposed resolution as presented to the Commission, to be presented to City Council at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Aguirre, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, and Ms. Dominguez.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Frank.

Mr. Berg stated that he will make the presentation before City Council in either of the next two City Council meetings.

Mr. Berg distributed copies of the Traffic Counts and Revenues Report (a breakdown of how many people are crossing at each of the crossings downtown; how much money is being generated). This will be a part of our report at the next meeting.

Mr. Berg will ask Homeland Security to provide facilities to pedestrians who have to wait up to 1-1/2 hours to cross the bridges, e.g., bathrooms, water, benches, turnstiles and handicap accessibility. He asked that we include this in the next agenda, and invite someone from Homeland Security to the next meeting to talk about this issue.

6. Discussion on Regional Transportation Initiatives.

Mr. Berg received congratulations for being appointed to the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA). He stated they will be discussing transportation issues in Juarez, the City and County of El Paso, and New Mexico. Mr. Berg will keep the Commission aware of the issues.

7. OPEN COMMENT PERIODS: There was a brief discussion on the Sun Metro international service.

Motion made by Mr. Dipp, seconded by Mr. Aguirre, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Aguirre, Mr. Breitingner, Mr. Camacho, and Ms. Dominguez.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Frank.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Approved as to form:

Department Head / Board Secretary