

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

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

Meeting convened at 3:00 p.m. Chair Tanny Berg presided over the meeting. The following were present:

Tanny Berg, D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)
Y. I. Santoscoy, D-2 (Susannah M. Byrd)
Martin Silva, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

Others Present:

Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney
Richard Bristol, Street Department
Ray J. Mendoza, Street Department / Bridges & Meters Division

Absent:

Mike Dipp, Mayor's Appointee
Vacancy – D-5 (Rep. Presi Ortega)
Daryl W. Cole, Streets Director

Agenda

Item 1: The meeting was called to order by Chair Berg.

Item 2: Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Breitinger and carried to approve the Minutes for the meeting of Tuesday, August 29, 2006.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, Ms Dominguez, Ms Santoscoy, and Mr. Silva.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Dipp.

Item 3: Presentation of Bridge Management Report –

Mr. Mendoza advised that there are several on-going projects at the downtown bridges and at the Zaragoza Bridge.

Discussion held on the upgrades being done on the toll system; he stated that they are going to start testing pedestrian counters, and hopefully will start using cameras.

The new security guard contract has been awarded. Security has been increased at the Stanton Street Bridge with an additional twelve hours not only for the entire bridge but also for the pedestrians that go through there.

Chair Berg asked that we contact the Police Department to have them send a representative from the Central Command Center to attend the International Bridge Commission meetings on a regular basis.

Discussion held on the traffic issues, and the lack of mass transit that goes back and forth between Juarez and El Paso.

Chair Berg stated that in one of our future meetings, we need to consider inviting some participants from Desarrollo Economico or somebody from Comunes y Puentes, and also from Sun Metro to talk to us about what it will take to re-establish some international transit.

Discussed HOV lanes at BOTA and at PDN.

Mike Breitinger stated we should have Homeland Security at the next meeting.

Item 4. General Services Agency was not present for the discussion and presentation on the status of on-going capital projects at the international bridges.

Mike Breitinger stated that at the meeting he attended with Customs and Border Patrol, he was told that the whole project was on hold until they get full funding, possibly until 2009.

Chair Berg directed Staff to write a letter on behalf of the Bridge Commission explaining to GSA that we represent a City Commission specifically geared to focusing on the bridges, and that we have great concerns of the progress of this project and its impact on our community as a whole. Include in the letter that timing is of the essence. Copy Mayor Cook and the Representatives, Silvestre Reyes, and Mr. Breitinger asked that the Border Trade Alliance also be copied.

Mr. Mendoza reported on other capital projects: The SIB loan application cleared the regional office and has been sent to Austin, and TxDOT funding is still in place for the Enhancement Project.

Chair Berg asked that Staff keep them informed on the progress of the projects.

Item 5.

Everyone was given a copy of a draft of the annual report to City Council. Chair Berg asked that the report be reviewed and asked for their input to finalize the document by the next meeting.

A copy of the Ordinance that established the Commission was handed out.

Item 7. Motion was made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Ms Santoscoy and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, Ms Dominguez, Ms Santoscoy, and Mr. Silva.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Dipp.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Approved as to form:

Department Head / Board Secretary