

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the El Paso/Juárez Borderplex is the second largest metropolitan area on the U.S./México Border with a combined population of approximately 2 million people and growth projected to reach more than 3.4 million by 2035;

WHEREAS, more than \$69.4 billion in U.S. - México trade (nearly 18 percent of the total trade between the U.S. and México) crossed through the El Paso/Juárez ports of entry in 2010;

WHEREAS, border-dependent businesses and travelers contributed over \$1 billion to the regional economy and supported nearly 700,000 jobs on both sides of the international border;

WHEREAS, current traffic volumes along the region's six international crossings are beginning to impact wait times at the border and have been known to exceed two hours for passenger traffic and one hour for commercial vehicles during peak hours of operation;

WHEREAS, the "El Paso Regional Ports of Entry Operations Plan" commissioned by the Texas Department of Transportation and completed in 2011 determined the entire system of border crossings in the El Paso/Juárez Borderplex will reach "operational capacity" (the point the crossings can no longer efficiently handle traffic demand) within 25 years and the busiest crossings (Bridge of the Americas and Zaragoza) within 10 years;

WHEREAS, Cambridge Systematics, Inc., the author of the "El Paso Regional Ports of Entry Operations Plan", recommended that the City create an operations plan implementation task force to ensure the implementation of plans to address the efficient operations of the ports of entry are coordinated; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the El Paso City Council desire to create such a working group of cross border stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO THAT:

1. **Ports of Entry Task Force:** The City Council of the City of El Paso authorizes the creation of the Ports of Entry Task Force for the purpose of addressing issues affecting the efficient operation of the international ports of entry in the El Paso/Juárez Borderplex. The Ports of Entry Task Force shall be comprised of one representative of the following agencies, departments, entities or offices:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, TX

Office of the Mayor, City of El Paso

City of El Paso Department of Planning and Economic Development

City of El Paso International Bridges Department
Municipio de Cd. Juárez, Office of the Mayor
Municipio de Cd. Juárez, Promocion Financiera y Economica
Office of Congressional District 16
Office of Each United States Senator for the State of Texas
Southwest Maquila Association
Foreign Trade Association
El Paso Committee on Border Relations
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Asociacion de Transportistas

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and that the Mayor of the City of El Paso shall serve as the Chairperson of the Ports of Entry Task Force and will be responsible for inviting each of the entities listed above to appoint a representative to participate in the Task Force. The City Attorney's Office will provide legal support to the Task Force and the federal legislative consultants under contract to the City of El Paso will assist the Task Force by providing consulting services. The Mayor's Executive Assistant will act as the recording secretary.


2. **Purpose of Ports of Entry Task Force.** The primary purpose of the Ports of Entry Task Force shall be to ensure that the recommendations contained in the "El Paso Regional Ports of Entry Operations Plan" are implemented and that immediate action is taken to reduce the wait times at the regional ports of entry.
3. **Meetings and other Organizational Matters.** Meeting dates and times and other organizational matters are to be determined by the Task Force at their first meeting which shall be held within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution. The Task Force is authorized to conduct meetings via telephone conference calls or other electronic means and shall not be subject to Texas Open Meetings Laws.

Unless otherwise subject to the requirements of Section 2.92.070 of the City Code or Chapter 2.92 by virtue of their positions with the City of El Paso, members of the Task Force shall not be subject to the financial disclosure requirements or subject to the Ethics Ordinance.

4. **Reports to Council.** The Mayor shall provide City Council with reports regarding the activities of the Task Force during regularly called City Council meetings, at least once a quarter. The first such report shall be made within 90 days of the first meeting of the Task Force.
5. **Term.** The Task Force shall automatically dissolve within twenty-four (24) months of the effective date of this Resolution unless City Council takes action to extend its term.

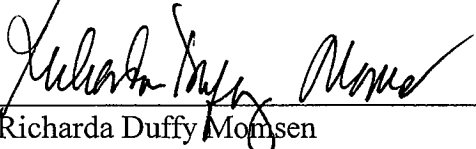
ADOPTED and EFFECTIVE this 3rd of April, 2012.

THE CITY OF EL PASO



John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:



Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney

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