CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
PLANNING, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
Jim Martinez, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia D. Adauto, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Uribarri, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Adrian Ocegueda, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

FROM: Chuck Kooshian, Urban Planner,
Long Range and Neighborhood Planning Division

SUBJECT: Council Agenda Item (Ordinance)
Introduction: May 25, 2004
Public Hearing: June 8, 2004

DATE: May 19, 2004

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE SYSTEM AS DETAILED IN THE MAP ATLAS OF THE PLAN FOR EL PASO AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL IN 1999, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED. (Riverbend Dr.)

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Representative District 5:	*date:* _____	*time:* _____	*by:* _____
Representative District 6:	*date:* _____	*time:* _____	*by:* _____
Representative District 7:	*date:* _____	*time:* _____	*by:* _____
Representative District 8:	*date:* _____	*time:* _____	*by:* _____

C: George Sarmiento, Director; Rudy Valdez, Chief Urban Planner; Fred Lopez, Urban Planner; Esther Guerrero, Planning Technician; Lisa A. Elizondo, City Attorney; Terry Cullen-Garney, Deputy City Attorney; Matt Watson, Assistant City Attorney

Background:

Riverbend Drive is a two lane existing roadway in the upper valley that extends approximately one and three quarter miles in a generally southeast direction from Sunset Drive to Little Lane where it dead ends. The portion between Sunset Dr and Frontera Rd, about one and one half miles, has a 26 foot paved cross section. On this portion the north side is primarily residential land use while the south has a 60 to 80 foot graded dirt area between the pavement and the Montoya Drain. The quarter mile portion from Frontera Rd to Little Lane has a 62 foot paved cross section. There are a total of ten residences along both side of this portion. The roadway is designated as a minor arterial on the Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP).

The City purchased right of way between Little Lane and Sunland Park Drive in the late 1980's with the intention of extending Riverbend Drive. This right of way is approximately 100 feet in width and is bordered by the backs of residential land uses on the east and a horse farm on the west. The horse farm property is in the State of New Mexico. The proposed extension is planned as a minor arterial in the MTP.

Request:

A group of neighborhood citizens, now registered as the Zack White Neighborhood Association, requested that the Department of Planning, Research and Development consider removing the proposed extension and the minor arterial designation of Riverbend Road from the MTP. City Council also directed the Department to consider this request.

Analysis:

Due to the City's previous investment in right of way, the Thoroughfare Review team has devoted extensive staff resources to analyzing the removal of Riverbend Drive from the MTP. Their conclusion, and that of the Development Coordinating Committee (DCC), is that the planned minor arterial capacity and the extension will be needed in the future to reduce congestion along Doniphan Drive and on portions of Sunset, Bird and Frontera. For this reason, Riverbend Drive should be retained in the MTP.

Recommendation: The DCC recommended that Riverbend Drive and the proposed extension remain in the MTP but be downgraded to a three lane cross section. The City Plan Commission recommended that Riverbend Drive and the proposed extension be deleted from the MTP.

<u>Timeline for Riverbend Drive MTP Amendment:</u>

Thoroughfare Review Team	Multiple Meetings in 2003-4
Development Coordinating Committee	Mar 24, 2004
City Plan Commission	May 6, 2004
City Council Introduction	May 25, 2004
City Council Hearing	June 8, 2004

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ORDINANCE NO._____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE SYSTEM AS DETAILED IN THE MAP ATLAS OF THE PLAN FOR EL PASO AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL IN 1999, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED.

WHEREAS, *The Plan for El Paso* was formally adopted by the City Council on April 27, 1999, pursuant to the provisions of Section 213.002 of the Texas Local Government Code as the Comprehensive Plan for the City; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan serves as a general guide for the future growth and Development of the City to promote public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, its adoption was based on the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee following numerous public meetings and working sessions; and

WHEREAS, a well planned transportation system is a key element for improving the quality of life, by balancing neighborhood concerns with provision of access for commerce and mobility for personal travel; and

WHEREAS, the Development Coordinating Committee ("DCC") has analyzed the possible effect on future traffic congestion, and

WHEREAS, the City Plan Commission, after conducting a public hearing, determined that there is substantial citizen support for removing said thoroughfares from the plan, the City Plan Commission has recommended the adoption of the changes to the Year 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System map as herein enumerated; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the adoption of *The Plan for El Paso* and its changes to the thoroughfare alignments as herein enumerated will have no negative impact upon the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of the City,

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

That the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System, as detailed in the Map Atlas of *The Plan for El Paso,* is herein amended as described below and as more particularly shown in the attached and incorporated Exhibit "A".

Northwest Planning Area.
Representative District 8

- Amend the 2025 Major Thoroughfare System map by deleting the minor thoroughfare Riverbend Drive between Sunset Drive and Little Lane and its proposed extension to Sunland Park Drive.

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PASSED AND APPROVED this xx day of **JUNE, 2004.**

THE CITY OF EL PASO

_____
Joe Wardy
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Matt Watson
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

_____
George Sarmiento, Director
Planning, Research and Development

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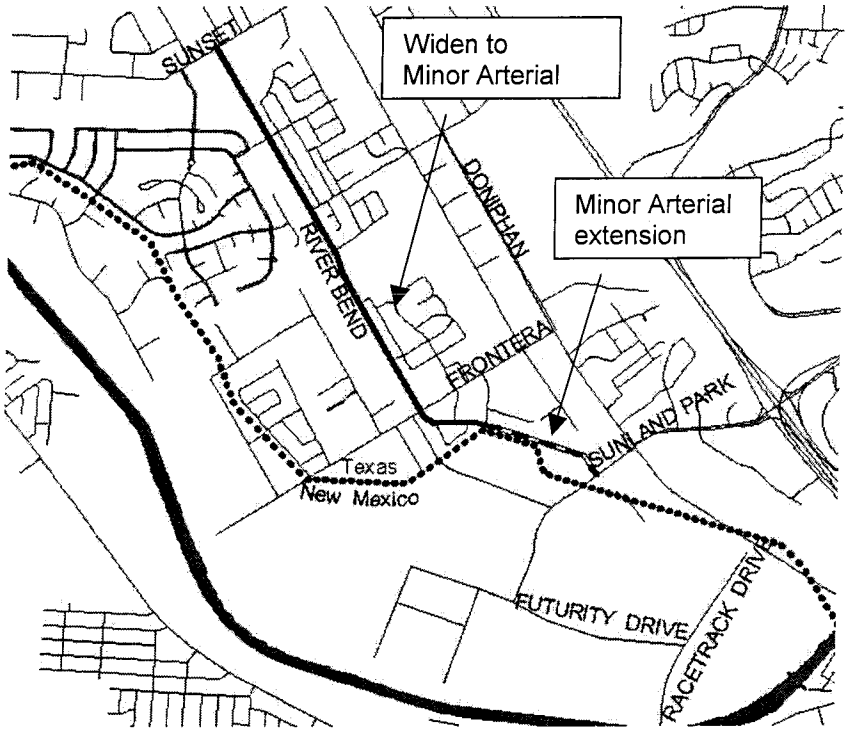
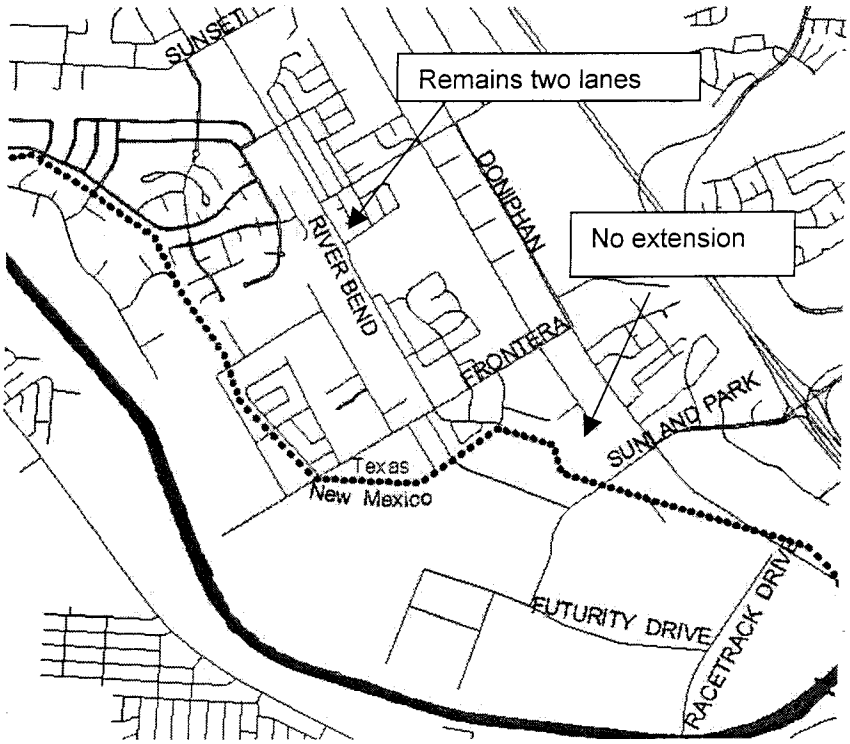
Exhibit A



Current Major Thoroughfare Plan



CPC Recommendation