

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: International Bridges Department
AGENDA DATE: Public Hearing: February 6, 2018
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: David A. Coronado, (915) 212-7505,
CoronadoDA@elpasotexas.gov
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT:

That City Council authorize the Department of International Bridges to utilize revenue from bridge tolls that fund the P3 program, which was approved in December 2013, to fund infrastructure and traffic management improvements at the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Starting in 2015, a new approach was taken by the City of El Paso's International Bridges Department as a first step to leverage the bridges for economic development purposes. Since then, the International Bridges Department has been managing and facilitating a series of collaborative efforts and projects undertaken by the newly formed Bridges Steering Committee (BSC) dedicated to bridge infrastructure and inspection processing improvements at ports of entry (POE) in the El Paso region by applying Lean Six Sigma methodologies and techniques. This new collaborative has created a venue for all affected regulatory agencies, business groups and other stakeholders to come together and work on the issues negatively impacting the city's ports. Applying Lean Six Sigma methodologies provides all of these stakeholders with an opportunity to build new relationships and form project teams to make multiple improvements at the ports and reduce wait times safely and securely. The BSC has created a capital and bridge improvements plan with over 50 projects to address needs in the region's POE. Several of those projects are currently underway.

In the summer of 2017 and as a result of these efforts, the City of El Paso was awarded \$32 million in state transportation funding that will help provide the financial resources needed to develop and construct several of these projects to increase security measures and expedite the flow of cross-border traffic at the Bridge of the Americas and the Ysleta/Zaragoza Bridge. Once completed, these improvement projects will improve wait times at the ports of entry, facilitate and expedite trade, and promote economic development in the region. The projects that are being funded include a set of international bridge infrastructure improvements, improved signage and striping, and the installation of new intelligent transportation systems.

This resolution, if approved, will allow the International Bridges Department, using revenue from bridge tolls which fund the P3 program, to fund work required to plan, design, and construct various bridge improvements at the Bridge of the Americas and supplement the \$32 million in State funding (Rider 49) set aside in the summer of 2017.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

December 3, 2013 – CC approval of the Section 560 "P3" reimbursable fee agreement w/CBP

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Title 12 of the City Code authorizes the international bridge tolls for southbound traffic at City-owned ports of entry; and

WHEREAS, paragraph 61 of the FY 2014 Budget Resolution dated August 20, 2013, authorized an increase to international bridge fees for passenger and commercial vehicles heading southbound upon the acceptance of a formal agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) for the provision of CBP services; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2013, the City Council authorized the Mayor to sign a “Section 560” Reimbursable Fee Agreement and Annex to the “Section 560” Reimbursable Fee Agreement between the City and CBP whereby the City reimburses CBP for overtime provided by CBP officers to reduce wait times at the City ports of entry (the “P3 program”); and

WHEREAS, the Resolution dated December 3, 2013, amending the FY2014 Budget Resolution restricted the increase to international bridge tolls for passenger and commercial vehicles heading southbound to be used for CBP services, City ports of entry infrastructure, traffic management and any other purpose to support the “Section 560” program as approved by City Council;

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to allow for use of the revenue from bridge tolls which fund the P3 program, to fund work required to plan, design and construct various bridge improvements at the Bridge of the Americas and supplement \$32 million in State funding (Rider 49).

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

That City Council authorizes the Department of International Bridges to utilize revenue from bridge tolls that fund the P3 program which was approved in December, 2013, to fund infrastructure and traffic management improvements at the Bridge of the Americas.

(Signatures appear on next page)

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

Dee Margo
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Josette Flores
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Monica Lombraña, Managing Director
Aviation and International Bridges



EL PASO
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

Public-Private Partnership (P3) Program Amendment

February 2018

**Strategic Goal # 1 – Create an Environment Conducive to
Strong, Sustainable Economic Development**

**1.5. Stimulate Economic Growth Through Transit Integration,
Cross Border Mobility, Trade and Tourism**



Background



- Approved by City Council on 12/03/2013
 - ❖ Officially commenced 1/26/2014
 - ❖ Renewals: 9/23/2014; 9/22/2015; & 7/12/16
 - ❖ Expires 12/18/18
- El Paso is one of five (5) entities selected for the five-year pilot P3 Program
- Funding can be utilized for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) services, City ports of entry infrastructure, and traffic management
- City supplements CBP overtime to staff all lanes during peak hours to help reduce or stabilize wait times at PDN and Ysleta, with additional coverage during holidays and special events
- Paid for by an increase in tolls effective January 2014
 - ❖ \$0.50 for autos and \$0.50 per axle for cargo trucks



Background



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

That Schedule C, attached to the FY 2014 Budget Resolution shall be amended, effective January 26, 2014, as set forth in Attachment A, to revise the amounts of fees for passenger and commercial vehicles heading southbound as authorized by Title 12 of the City Code relating to tolls for international bridges; and

That funds raised as a result of this increase are restricted to use for CBP services, City ports of entry infrastructure, traffic management and any other purpose to support the "Section 562" program as approved by City Council.

ERK DEPT.
562
2 PM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF DECEMBER 2013.



Rider 49



- El Paso appropriated \$32 Million in State funding (Rider 49) for bridge improvements at Zaragoza and Bridge of the Americas (BOTA)
 - ❖ Updated electronic toll collection system at City bridges
 - ❖ Intelligent Transportation Systems at both ports of entry
 - ❖ Digital message boards
 - ❖ CCTV cameras
 - ❖ AVI and Bluetooth readers
 - ❖ Improved traffic control measures at both ports of entry
 - ❖ Lane assignments, dividers and striping
 - ❖ Signage
 - ❖ Redesigned northbound right-turn at BOTA cargo



Action Requested



- **Include BOTA in P3 program for infrastructure improvements**
 - ❖ Will allow Department of International Bridges to fund bridge improvement projects at BOTA, to include supplementing the \$32M in State funding (Rider 49), utilizing funding from P3 program
 - ❖ Place priority on infrastructure at all bridges and treat bridges as one system



Questions?