

**RESOLUTION
PASO DEL NORTE TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan, *Plan El Paso*, was formally adopted by City Council on March 6, 2012 and this plan included the goal of becoming the least car-dependent city in the Southwest; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso Bike Plan was adopted on August 9, 2016 and incorporated as an addendum to *Plan El Paso*; and

WHEREAS, the Bike Plan included a full interconnected bike network map, showing current and proposed trails, called the *Bike Plan Atlas*, which includes most segments of the Paso del Norte Trail; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan set a level of service standard of 1 mile per 10,000 residents as a minimum standard, and development of trails to reach that standard are a high priority for the community; and

WHEREAS, bicycling is a key component of a multi-modal transportation system by improving the quality of life, providing transportation options, transforming and enhancing a community, and is an effective means to promote healthy activities for all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso's 20 in 2020 visionary goals support trail and trail-related infrastructure, specifically Goal 4.1 including "implement trailhead plan" as a goal; and

WHEREAS, the March 6, 2019 *Trail and Trailheads Update* to City Council included the completed and proposed segments of the Paso del Norte Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan was funded by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation and published in October 2018 with the goal of serving as a regional attraction that connects communities, celebrates El Paso's history and culture, highlights the Rio Grande and El Paso neighborhoods, promotes health and active living, and catalyzes economic development; and
and

WHEREAS, the strategic vision for the City of El Paso includes providing exceptional recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, trails and outdoor recreation opportunities are an excellent way for people to get outdoors and explore their communities, plus trails create important connections between amenities (parks, schools, businesses), which can lead to economic development, and improve overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, trails and greenways create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible places to bike, walk, hike, jog, or skate. In doing so, they make it easier for people to engage in low-impact and safe physical activity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to helping control weight, physical activity, including walking, helps prevent heart disease, helps control cholesterol levels and diabetes, slows bone loss associated with advancing age, lowers the risk of certain cancers and helps reduce anxiety and depression; and

WHEREAS, the Paso del Norte Trail corridor extends roughly 60 miles—the full length of El Paso County from the New Mexico–Texas border at Anthony south along the Rio Grande, past the Franklin Mountains and Sunland Park, through Downtown El Paso, the Medical Center of the Americas, Chamizal National Memorial, Playa Drain, and then southeast into the rural communities of the Mission Valley, past the historic missions, to the farmlands beyond; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan was led by a team of volunteers and staff from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, County of El Paso, City of El Paso, El Paso Water, El Paso Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, UTEP Institute for Healthy Living, Houghton Financial, and with input and support from hundreds of residents and dozens of committed and engaged stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the Paso del Norte Trail is that it be a destination-worthy trail that functions as a local recreation and transportation trail and becomes a place of pride and positive focus for the City of El Paso and El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, the Paso del Norte Trail will serve as a cornerstone for future trails, which supports the City of El Paso’s vision for eco-tourism, community health, and recreational opportunities; and

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

That the El Paso City Council finds that the development of the Paso del Norte Trail serves the municipal purpose of providing recreational, health and community benefits to the residents and visitors of El Paso and officially supports the Paso del Norte Health Foundation’s efforts to raise funds for the implementation of the Paso del Norte Trail in accordance with the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan.

APPROVED ___ this day of April, 2019.

CITY OF EL PASO:

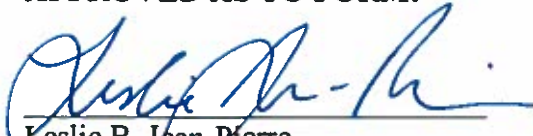
Dee Margo
Mayor

(Signatures on the following page)

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Leslie B. Jean-Pierre
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Tracy Novak, Director
Parks and Recreation Department