



# 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND CITY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA UPDATE

August 16, 2022



## Priority

Issues identified as critical for the City of El Paso

## Oppose

Any bill that contradicts or undermines positions adopted by City Council

## Support

Not a City initiated ask, but does support based on positions adopted by City Council

## Purpose

### 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

- Provide an Update to City Council
- Council Approval of Priority Legislative Initiatives and Council Support/Oppose Items

# Timeline

## March to July 2022

- ✓ Completion of coordination with city departments and city leadership on identifying priority legislative initiatives
- ✓ Completion of meeting with Members of City Council on input for legislative priority initiatives
- ✓ Completion of meeting with legislative delegation on input and coordination of priority legislative initiatives

88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session begins January 2023

## August 2022

- Completion of meetings with Stakeholders
- City Council adoption on Priority Legislative Initiatives and Council Support and Oppose Items

## October 2022

- Council final adoption of legislative agenda

# CITY- RELATED PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The City will actively seek the passage of the following initiatives using City staff and authorized representatives to secure legislators to author a bill, provide testimony, and advocate for the bill's passage throughout the legislative process

Economic  
Development

Budget

Transportation

Bridges

# Economic Development

- Seek legislation that will streamline and expand the **Skills Development Fund Program** to allow municipalities' access to funding or provides for the reimbursement to companies relocating to Texas for the training provided by those companies.
- Seek legislation that will extend the **Texas Economic Development Act (Chapter 313)** and expand eligibility for the Act to include back office and large scale warehouse distribution companies.
- Seek legislation that will clearly allow municipalities to **convey city owned property** as part of **Chapter 380** economic development agreement.
- Seek legislation that will provide for more economic incentives and support for solar and **renewable energy initiatives**. **MOVED TO SUPPORT SECTION**

# Budget

- Seek legislation that will address the impact of new collective bargaining agreements and the **impact of inflation** to the City's ability to provide services, to include the impact on the city's workforce **MOVE TO SUPPORT SECTION AND ADD TO OPPOSE SECTION THE FOLLOWING:**
  - **Oppose legislation furthering limiting or restricting cities ability to generate property tax revenue**
- Appropriate **money** for the **Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG)** program to fund military value projects that strengthen Texas military installations.
- Seek legislation that will **appropriate funding** to municipalities for the **acquisition** of police body cameras and **storage of data** obtained by body cameras

# Transportation

- Seek legislation that will **add transparency** on how the **Texas Department of Transportation Commission** allocates Category 12 funding under the Unified Transportation Program to include whether or not the formulas used need to be updated and clarification on how **Metro District designations** are defined and determined.
- Seek legislation that allows the county to submit to the voters an increase in **vehicle registration fees** and contains provisions that will provide for a more **equitable distribution** of any increased revenue generated by such legislation
- Appropriate Funding for the **Wyler Aerial Tramway**



# Border

- Seek legislation that will **appropriate funding** to install and upgrade ITS technology and traffic control improvements/measures at the **Paso del Norte (PDN) and Stanton Street bridges**.
- Seek legislation that will **enhance and complement** the use of the **ITS** by completing the Texas Transportation Institute's Border Crossing Information System to include exploring the possibility of expanding scope into Mexico via **the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority**.
- Seek legislation that will **increase funding** for **Cross Border Infrastructure** for projects identified in the **TXDOT Texas Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP)** and provide for a dedicated funding source



# Gun Legislation

## (Adopted by Council on 6-21-22)

- Provide a **dedicated funding source** for specialized training either through the School Marshal program or other existing programs already available for the School Districts **to hire law enforcement officer or peace officers** and for mental health services and community mental health programs
- Establish and fund statewide **minimum standards** and guidelines for school safety

# Gun Legislation Continued

## (Adopted by Council on 6-21-22)

- Provide firearm safety legislation that will **adopt extreme risk protection** laws that allow family members or law enforcement to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms from an individual experiencing crisis; provides funding for **community-based violence intervention programs**; and adopts measures to protect women against gun violence from domestic abusers; strengthens existing legislation to provide stronger ways to more efficiently, effectively and consistently enforce existing laws; **raises the minimum age to purchase firearms to 21**; require universal background checks for all firearm sales; implements temporary red flag laws to allow temporary removal of firearms from those who are an imminent danger to themselves or others; requires a cooling off period for the purchase of a firearm; and regulates civilian ownership of high capacity magazines.

# Gun Legislation Additional Recommendation from Delegati

- Prohibits straw purchases – purchasing a firearm by one person on behalf of another who is legally unable to make the purchase themselves.

SB 641, SB 556 – filed by Senator Blanco

# Recommendations from Members of Council for Support/Oppose Items

- 1) Support legislation that provides for new ways to repurpose electric car batteries once they reach the end of their useful life
- 2) Support continued full funding for the Hazelwood Act
- 3) Support expansion of the benefits paid under Chapter 615 to school district employees when they suffer a death occurring during the performance of his or her duty resulting from exposure to a risk inherent in the particular duty performed or a risk to which the general public is not customarily exposed.
- 4) Support all efforts to protect women's reproductive rights and file the city's opposition to any bills or efforts to ban abortion in Texas



# Requested Action:

- Approval of the Priority Legislative Initiatives as listed:

<p>Seek legislation that will streamline and expand the Skills Development Fund Program to allow municipalities' access to funding or provides for the reimbursement to companies relocating to Texas for the training provided by those companies.</p>	<p>Seek Legislation that allows the county to submit to the voters an increase in vehicle registration fees and contains provisions that will provide for a more equitable distribution of any increased revenue by such legislation</p>
<p>Seek legislation that will extend the Texas Economic Development Act (Chapter 313) and expand eligibility for the Act to include back office and large scale warehouse distribution companies.</p>	<p>Appropriate funding for the Wyler Aerial Tramway</p>
<p>Seek legislation that will clearly allow municipalities to convey city owned property as part of Chapter 380 economic development agreement.</p>	<p>Seek legislation that will appropriate funding to install and upgrade ITS technology and traffic control improvements/measures at the Paso del Norte (PDN) and Stanton Street bridges.</p>
<p>Appropriate money for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program to fund military value projects that strengthen Texas military installations.</p>	<p>Seek legislation that will enhance and complement the use of the ITS by completing the Texas Transportation Institute's Border Crossing Information System to include exploring the possibility of expanding scope into Mexico via the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority.</p>
<p>Seek legislation that will appropriate funding to municipalities for the acquisition of police body cameras and storage of data obtained by body cameras</p>	<p>Seek legislation that will increase funding for Cross Border Infrastructure for projects identified in the TXDOT Texas Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP) and provide for a dedicated funding source</p>
<p>Seek Legislation that will add transparency on how the Texas Department of Transportation Commission allocates Category 12 Funding under the Unified Transportation Program to include whether or not formulas used need to be updated and clarification on how Metro District Designations are defined and determined</p>	<p>Add to the gun legislation initiative adopted by Council – Legislation that prohibits straw purchases</p>

## Requested Action:

- Approval of the Support/Oppose items recommended by Council Members:

<p><b>Support legislation that provides for new ways to repurpose electric car batteries once they reach the end of their useful life</b></p>	<p><b>Support expansion of the benefits paid under Chapter 615 to school district employees when they suffer a death occurring during the performance of his or her duty resulting from exposure to a risk inherent in the particular duty performed or a risk to which the general public is not customarily exposed.</b></p>
<p><b>Support continued full funding for the Hazelwood Act</b></p>	<p><b>Support all efforts to protect women's reproductive rights and file the city's opposition to any bills or efforts to ban abortion in Texas</b></p>

# Recommended Motion

- Motion to approve the Priority Legislative Initiatives and revisions to the Support and Oppose Section of the City's Legislative Agenda as presented by City Staff.

# Next Steps:

- Continue to craft agenda (support/oppose section) and work with stakeholders and city staff
- Provide Council Final Draft for Approval in October







## Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



## Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People