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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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# City of El Paso Invests in Modernizing International Bridges

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso City Council has approved the allocation of \$5 million from the Texas Economic Development (TED) Fund to support the Ysleta Port of Entry Expansion Feasibility Study, advancing plans to expand and modernize one of the region's busiest international crossings.

The investment is part of a broader effort by the City of El Paso International Bridges Department to strengthen safety, mobility, and efficiency across all City-owned bridges while supporting the region's role as a vital international trade corridor.

"These investments reinforce El Paso's role as a leading gateway for international trade and travel," said City Manager Dionne Mack. "By modernizing our bridges, integrating smart technologies, and improving pedestrian access, we are investing in the city's future and strengthening the economic and cultural ties that connect our community to the world."

District 7 Representative Lily Limón, whose district includes the Ysleta Port of Entry, praised the project as an investment in both the local economy and the daily lives of residents.

"The Ysleta Port of Entry is more than a trade corridor; it is a connection point for families, businesses, and communities on both sides of the border," Limón said. "This study moves us closer to a modern, efficient, and safe facility that will serve our region's growing needs for years to come."

The approval of the Ysleta Port of Entry funding follows Monday's International Bridges Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Progress Update to City Council, outlining progress under the five-year CIP (FY2025–2029)—a \$67.4 million plan focused on smarter, safer, and more efficient international gateways.

## About the Ysleta Port of Entry Expansion Feasibility Study

The Ysleta/Zaragoza Port of Entry is one of the region's most important international gateways, handling approximately 60 percent of total regional international trade—including Santa Teresa, New Mexico—and about 80 percent of trade that passes directly through El Paso ports of entry. The port processes more than 1.3 million cargo trucks, 6.9 million personal vehicles, and 2.4 million pedestrians each year, with trade activity valued at over \$83 billion annually.

The City will invest \$5 million from the TED Fund to conduct a comprehensive feasibility and design study that will guide long-term expansion planning. The study will assess infrastructure needs, develop design concepts, and evaluate opportunities for automation and operational efficiency. It will also prepare technical documentation for a future Presidential Permit and help position El Paso to meet growing binational trade demands, including those expected with the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) commercial lane closure in Fall 2027.

The TED Fund allocation builds on a \$3 million FY26 Community Project Funding (CPF) appropriation secured through Congresswoman Veronica Escobar's office for Phase II planning.

—more—



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**Other significant bridge initiatives include:**

**Toll Collection System Enhancements**

A \$6.2 million modernization of the toll collection system is underway to upgrade technology across all City-owned bridges. The project includes new software, updated toll booth equipment, pedestrian turnstiles, and advanced detection systems to improve efficiency and reduce wait times for bridge users.

**Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

More than \$32 million will fund next-generation Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) at the Bridge of the Americas, Zaragoza, and the two downtown bridges. The systems will feature dynamic message signs, CCTV cameras, and real-time crossing time data—enhancing communication, improving traffic flow, and giving travelers better information before they even reach the bridges.

**Zaragoza Pedestrian Improvements**

Supported by a \$12 million RAISE Grant and a \$2.9 million City match, this project reimagines the pedestrian experience at Zaragoza. Planned improvements include shaded pathways, enhanced crosswalks, landscaped waiting areas, and new public restrooms—creating a safer, more comfortable environment for daily users.

Additional efforts include bridge maintenance and repair projects, downtown traffic studies, and facility upgrades that support bridge staff and daily operations. Together, these initiatives reflect the City's coordinated approach to modernizing its ports of entry, improving the cross-border experience, and preparing for future growth in international trade and travel.

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