



EL PASO COUNTY
STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, in 1969 I-10 was extended through El Paso, disrupting the heart of Downtown El Paso. The Texas Department of Transportation has prioritized and funded the reconstruction of I-10, including the Downtown segment, offering a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a new, community space reconnecting this portion of our community.

WHEREAS, after several community meetings across El Paso, the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation, the City of El Paso, have partnered to apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program for planning and design of Phase 1 of the Downtown Deck Plaza Project.

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2024, the County Commissioners Court voted to provide a \$1,000,000 match for the Downtown Deck Plaza Project and considered the potential opportunities and responsibilities of owning the Downtown Deck Plaza.

WHEREAS, the current owner of the eligible facility is the Texas Department of Transportation, who is offering their support for this project through a letter of support. After the design is finalized, the Texas Department of Transportation would enter into agreements with the project sponsor regarding air rights and maintenance of deck. The County is willing to negotiate in good faith with relevant partners regarding its potential sponsorship and management of the Downtown Deck Plaza and sponsorship responsibilities should acceptable terms be reached during such negotiations.

WHEREAS, the Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation is a nonprofit supporting organization to the Paso del Norte Community Foundation established to support the design, development, fundraising, operations, maintenance and programming for the Downtown Deck Plaza through an agreement with the project sponsor. The Downtown Deck Plaza has committed \$250,000 in matching funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Reconnecting Communities grant application.

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso was an initial planning partner for the Fiscal Year 2021 RAISE Grant for the Phase I Feasibility Study and is set to consider contributing up to \$750,000 in matching funds for the FY2024 Reconnecting Communities grant application.

WHEREAS, the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization will serve as the lead applicant for the FY2024 Reconnecting Communities Grant and financial contributor to the project through transportation funds available for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court do hereby commit to working in good faith to reach an agreement to serve as the project sponsor of the Downtown Deck Plaza.

SIGNED, this 23rd day of September 2024

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Sergio Coronado, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego