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**County of El Paso
Agenda Item Details**

Item Title: County Judge's Office - Agreement with El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide grant match and potential ownership of the I-10 Downtown Deck Project

Submitted By: Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge

Department: County Judge's Office

Department Phone Number: 915-546-2098

Subject: Discuss and take appropriate action regarding entering an agreement with El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide grant match for FY2025 Federal Connecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant and potential ownership of the I-10 Downtown Deck Project. (#5528-OP)

Background: The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plans to apply for FY2025 Federal Connecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant for the I-10 Downtown Deck Design and Planning with support from a variety of community partners. The County is considering contributing up to \$1,000,000 of the estimated \$10,000,000 the match. The Commissioners Court will also discuss potential ownership of the Downtown Deck in coordination with involved community partners.

Fiscal Impact: Fiscal Impact Historical
NA

Fiscal Impact Projected
\$1,000,000

Long Account Number: Amount:

Long Account Number: Amount:

Budget or Unbudgeted Match: Unbudgeted.

Recommendation: Discuss and take appropriate action regarding entering an agreement with El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide grant match for FY2025 Federal Connecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant and potential ownership of the I-10 Downtown Deck Project. (#5528-OP)

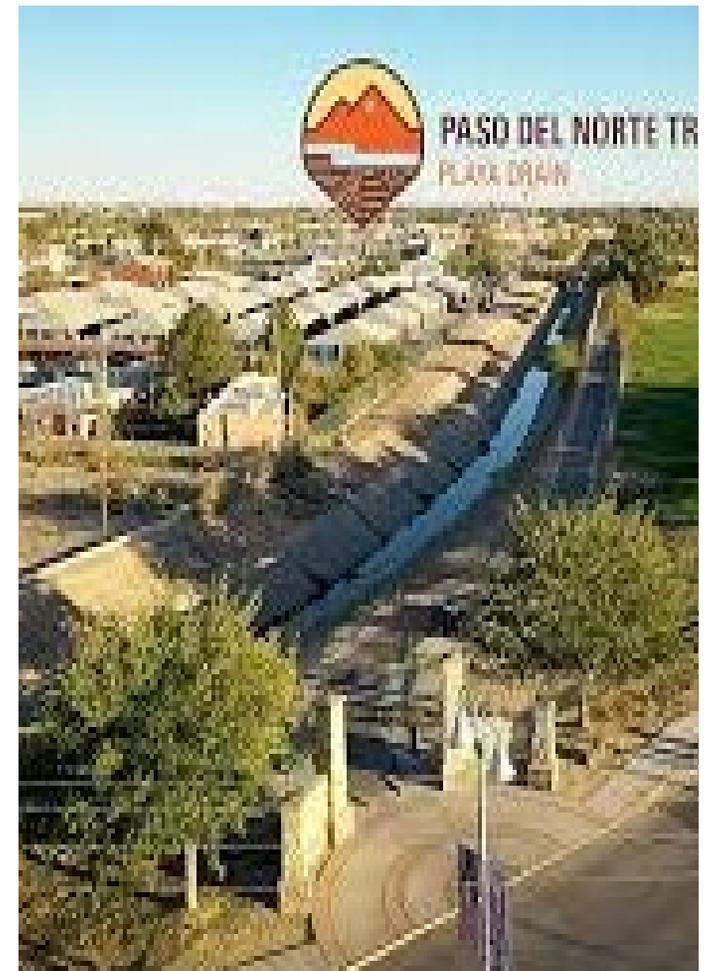
Prior Action:	NA
Strategic Plan:	NA
Strategic Plan Information:	
Estimated Time Needed For This Item:	30 minutes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

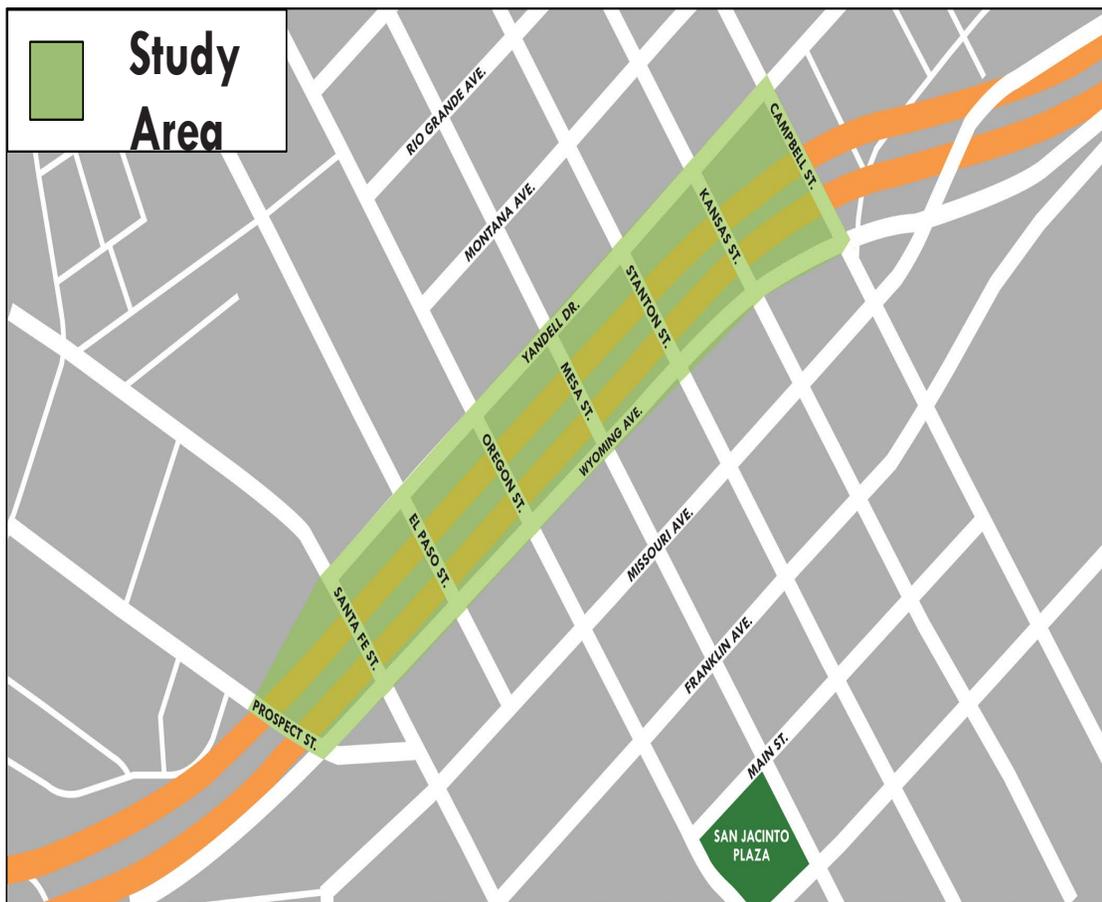


PASO DEL NORTE TRAIL

- 20 miles completed: Country Club to Borderland, Ascarate Park to Capistrano Park
- 28 miles funded to partner entities for design and/or construction for over \$55M including:
 - El Paso County: Fabens and Tornillo
 - TxDOT: Ysleta to Socorro
 - City of Socorro: various additional segments
 - COEP: Playa Drain Trail, Magoffin, Elvin to Liberty, MCA to Zoo
 - Sunland Park, NM: Racetrack to Country Club
- Paso del Norte Health Foundation funded Master Plan to support 68-mile trail across El Paso county; funded design and construction on Playa Drain Trail.
- Health Foundation provides engineering and event support to Trail Advisory Committee: County, City, TxDOT, MPO, RMA and other regional stakeholders.
- Paso del Norte Community Foundation established Paso del Norte Trail Foundation and “Friends of the Trail” to support amenities and tree planting.



DOWNTOWN DECK PLAZA



- Paso del Norte Health Foundation engaged OJB Landscape Architects in 2018 to create vision for a Deck Plaza over I-10 in the downtown corridor
- Paso del Norte Community Foundation established **Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation** to support development of the project
- City of El Paso received **\$900,000 RAISE grant** from U.S. DOT for design, engineering and community engagement. Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation providing \$400,000+ in matching funds.
- With Phase I Feasibility Study nearly complete, opportunity to apply U.S. DOT's **Reconnecting Communities Program** for PS&E (detailed design documents).

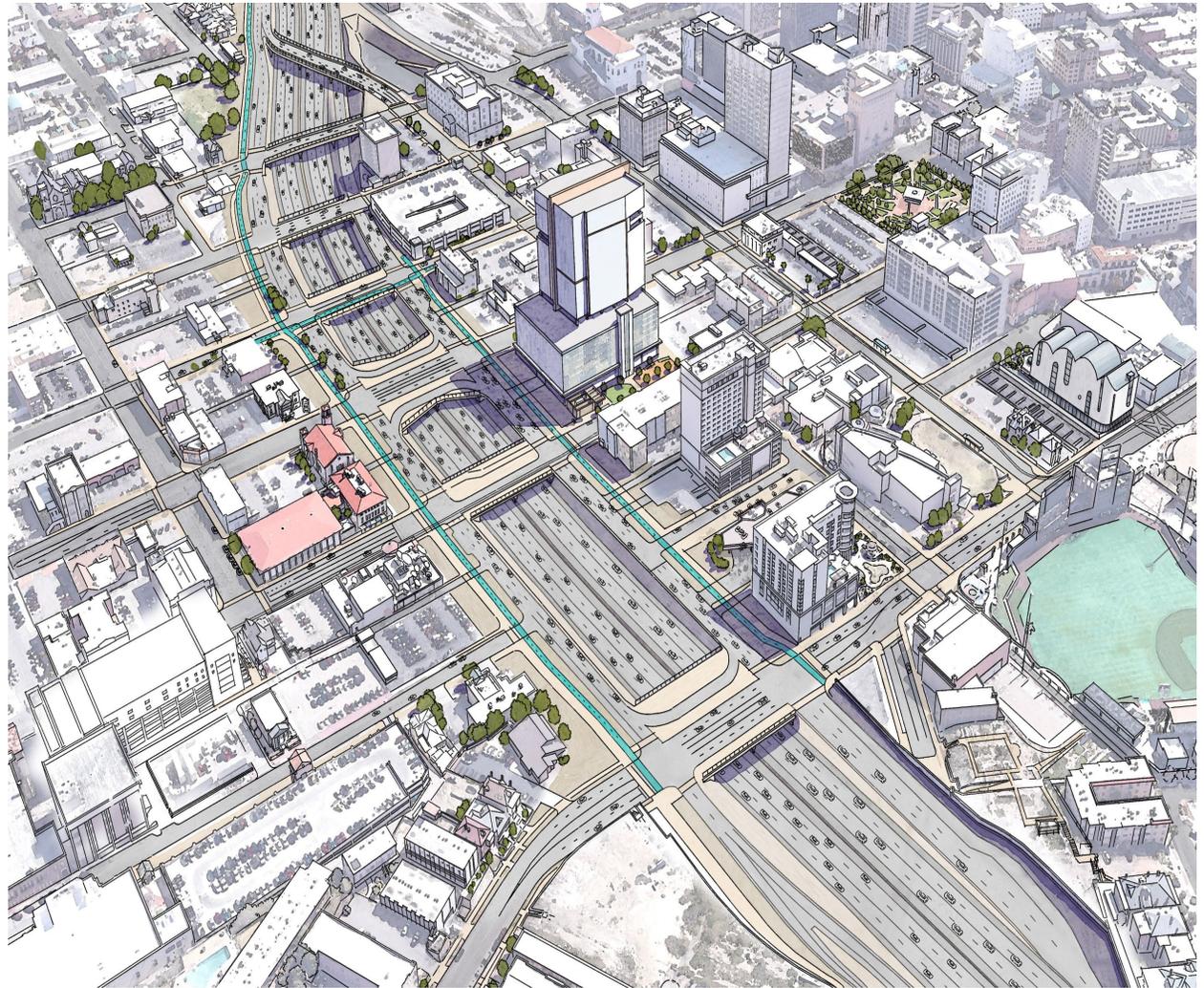
WHY NOW?



Photo courtesy of El Paso Herald Post Records MS348, Special Collections at UTEP Library

- In 1969, work was underway to extend I-10 through El Paso.
- The project disrupted the heart of Downtown El Paso — and the fabric of El Paso’s urban core — with a sunken freeway.
- TxDOT has prioritized and funded the reconstruction of I-10 from Executive Center to Copia with \$500M allocated for Downtown segment.
- With I-10 reconstruction, **we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity** to create a new community space.

TXDOT PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN 1-10



El Paso Deck Plaza | TxDOT Proposed Alt. 1

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A BETTER VISION FOR THE DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR



El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design

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SMELTERTOWN

BILLY ROGERS ARROYO

RIM-UNIVERSITY

20-minute walking circle

UTEP
0.85 miles

El Paso
high school

epcc rio grande campus
library

st. patrick
cathedral

HIGHLAND PARK

john r. karr park

SUNSET HEIGHTS

trinity-first
united
methodist

1 mile

WEST CENTRAL

houston park

el paso scottish rite -
museum

site

first baptist
church

FIVE POINTS

el paso chihuahuas -
stadium

el paso museum
of history

el paso
public library

LORETTO

el paso
convention

san jacinto plaza

st. rogers depot

abraham chavez
theatre

the plaza theatre

el paso
museum of art

WHY RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES?

Community Meetings – Spring 2023

February - March 2023

Community Meetings
(Series 1)

Hear Community Feedback

March - April 2023

**Develop alternatives based on
community feedback**

April 2023

Community Meetings
(Series 2)

**Present findings
to the community**

What We Heard



What We Heard

Tell us what you love about El Paso. Write your answer on a sticky note and place it in the appropriate category.
Cuéntenos qué les gusta de El Paso. Escriban su respuesta en una nota Post-it y colóquenla en la categoría que corresponda.

PEOPLE
Gente

WEATHER
Clima

CULTURE
Cultura

HISTORY
Historia

NEIGHBORHOODS
Barrios

OTHER
Otro

DOWNTOWN DECK PLAZA FOUNDATION

EP TX

How can we incorporate the things we love about El Paso into the new space? What should be in the plaza?
¿Cómo podemos incorporar las cosas que nos gustan de El Paso en este nuevo espacio? ¿Qué creen que debería haber en esta plaza?
¿Qué les gustaría hacer en la plaza? Escriban su respuesta en una nota Post-it y colóquenla en la categoría que corresponda.

PEOPLE
Gente

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DOWNTOWN DECK PLAZA FOUNDATION

EP TX

What We Heard

Major Themes:

- Shade/green space
- Native trees/plants
- Vendor spaces/food trucks
- Performance spaces
- Reconnection of neighborhoods
- Uniqueness of El Paso

Major Concerns:

- How will pedestrians interact with the space?
- What will the ultimate transportation improvements look like?
- What is the mechanism to fund construction and/or operations & maintenance of the facility?

Goals & Metrics

Authentic Cultural Crossroads

- Symbolism
- Heritage
- Contemporary Culture
- Common Ground

Inviting Sense of Place

- Active edges
- Amenity & Programming Variety
- Shade
- Safety
- Noise Mitigation

Enhanced Accessibility/ Connectivity

- Street Grid
- Walkability
- ADA Access
- Bike-ability
- Transit access
- Vehicular access
- Parking

Implementation Feasibility:

- Constructability
- Infrastructure Compatibility
- TXDOT Alignment
- Traffic Capacity Thresholds
- Cost
- Phasing
- Value Capture

Inclusive Economic Development

- Local Businesses
- Local Institutions
- Minimizing Displacement

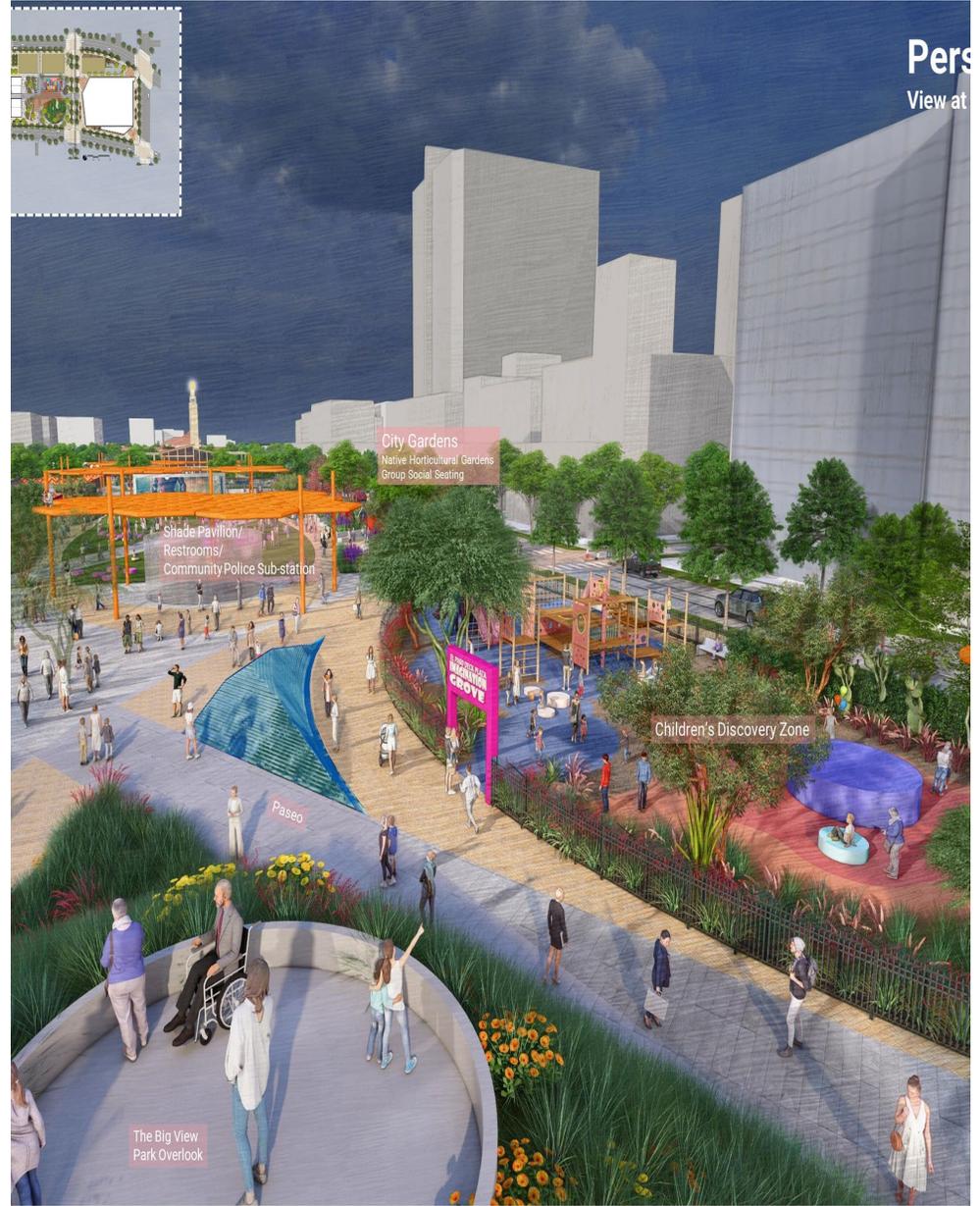
Sustainability/Climate Action

- Native Planting
- Water Conservation
- Heat Island Reduction
- Energy Conservation



za | Proposed Urban Design

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a | Proposed Urban Design

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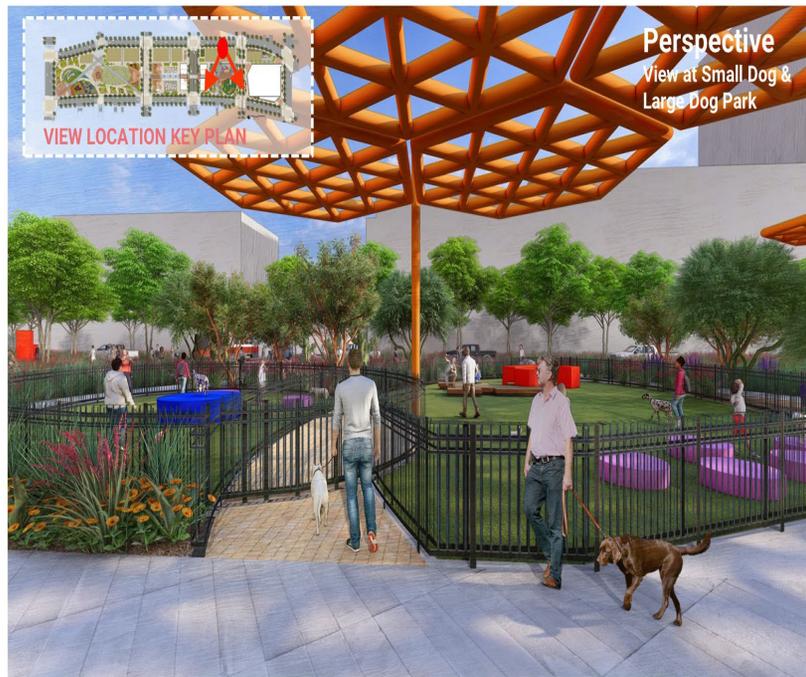
El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design

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Proposed Urban Design

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El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design

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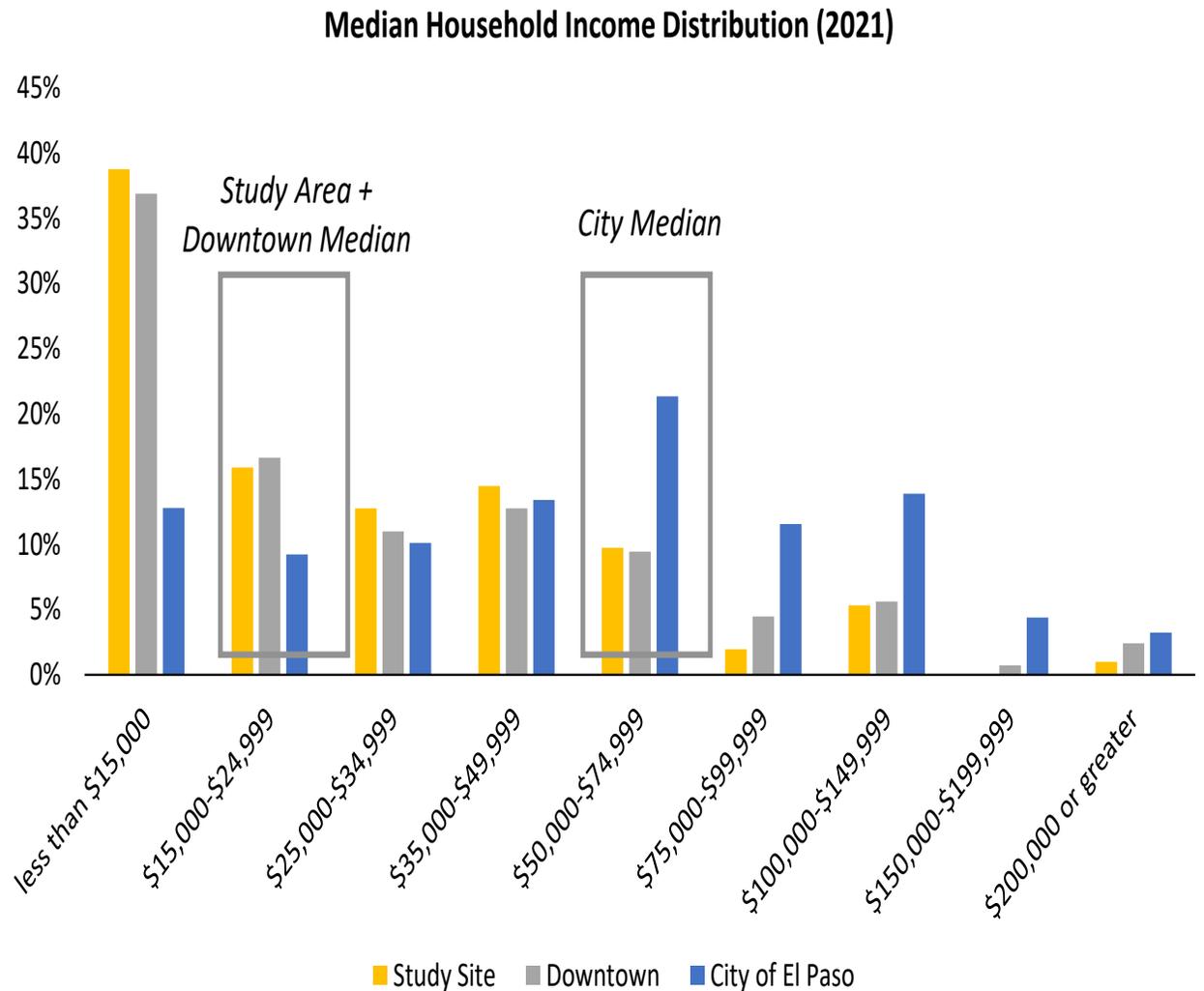
Demographic Analysis

The Study Area and Downtown have a significantly higher concentration of households with lower-than-average household income and almost no resident with an income over \$75K.

The median household income in El Paso is \$54,000, but in Downtown it is only \$22,000, and in the Study Area it is even lower at \$20,000.

These areas have some of the highest concentrations of households earning less than \$25,000 annually in El Paso. Both Downtown and the Study Area have a significant proportion of low-income households and individuals experiencing poverty.

This highlights the need for affordable housing developments, particularly in the Study Area and Downtown.



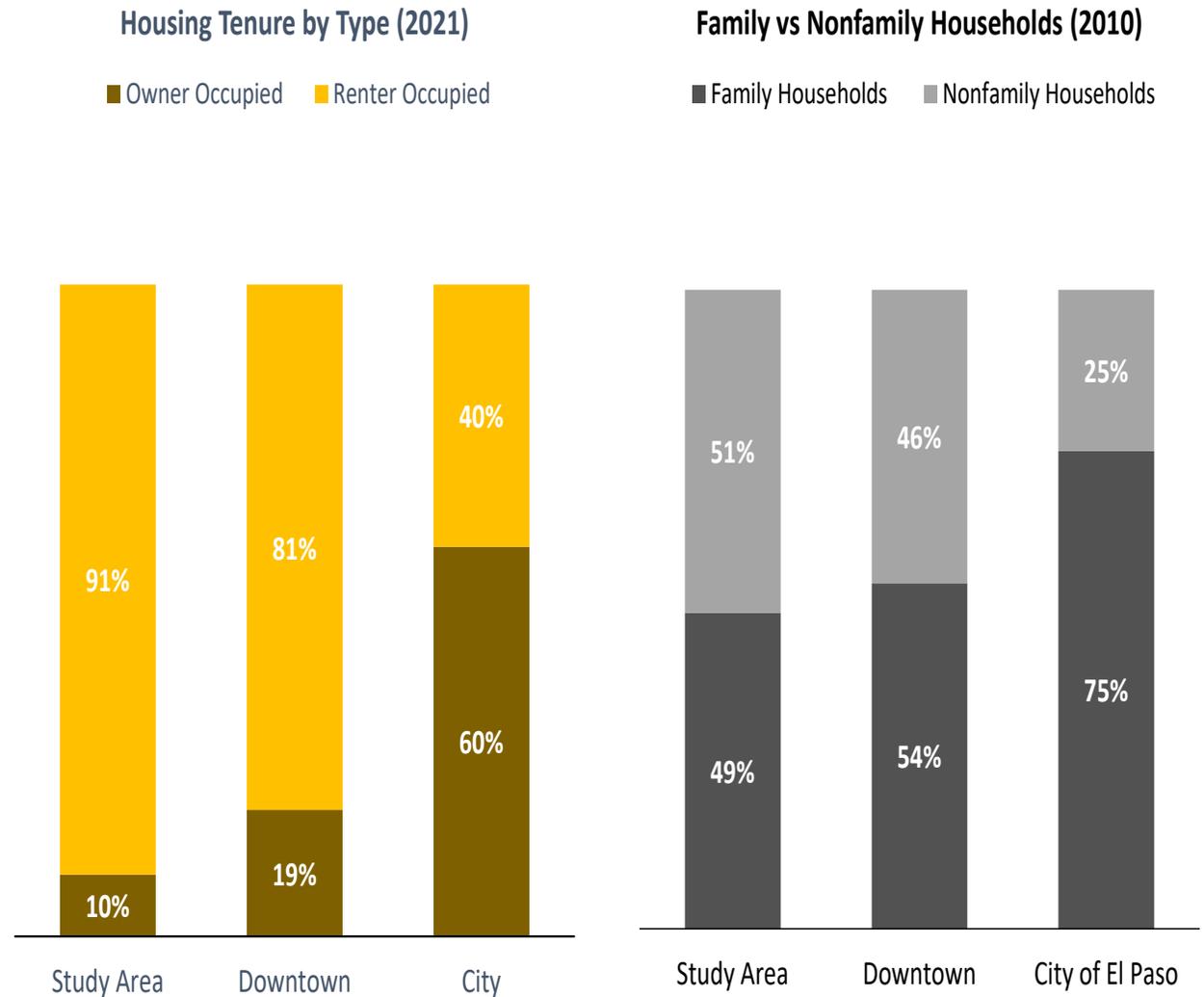
Demographic Analysis

The downtown and study area have a significantly higher proportion of renters and nonfamily households than the City of El Paso.

The Study Area has an extremely high renter population compared to City of El Paso, with 91% renters.

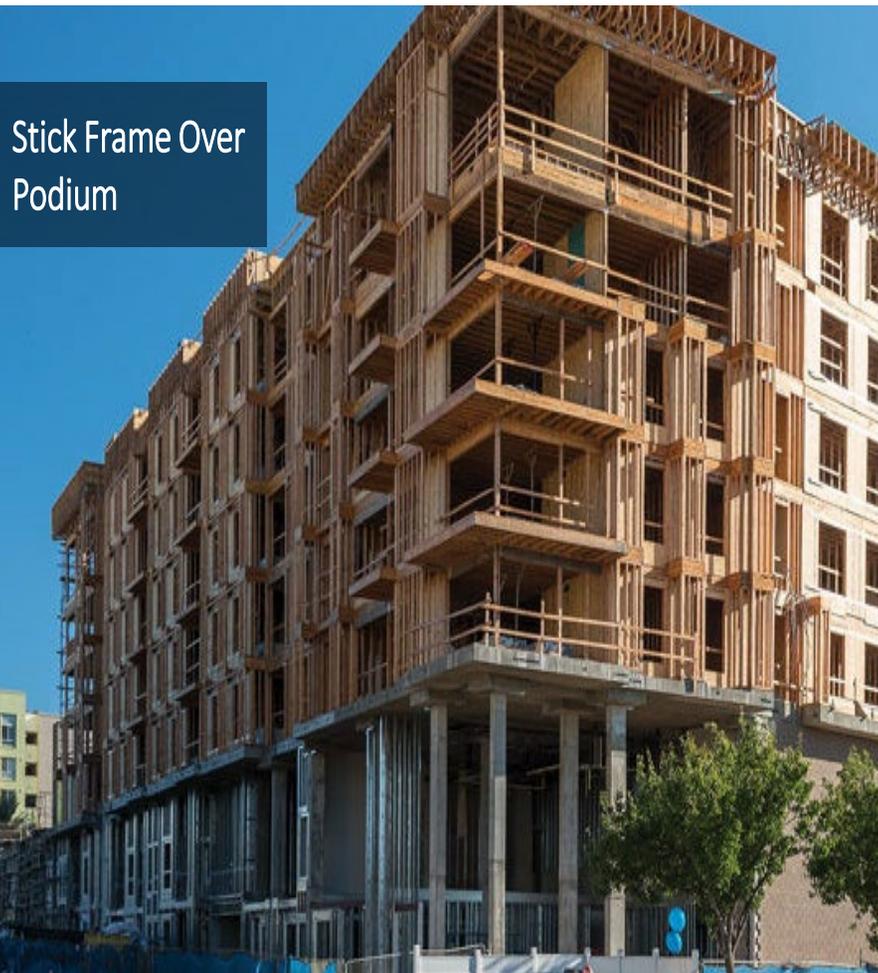
Furthermore, there is a higher percentage of non-family households, meaning 51% of households consist of individuals living alone or sharing their residence with unrelated individuals.

This highlights the pressing need for affordable housing options in both Downtown and the Study Area.

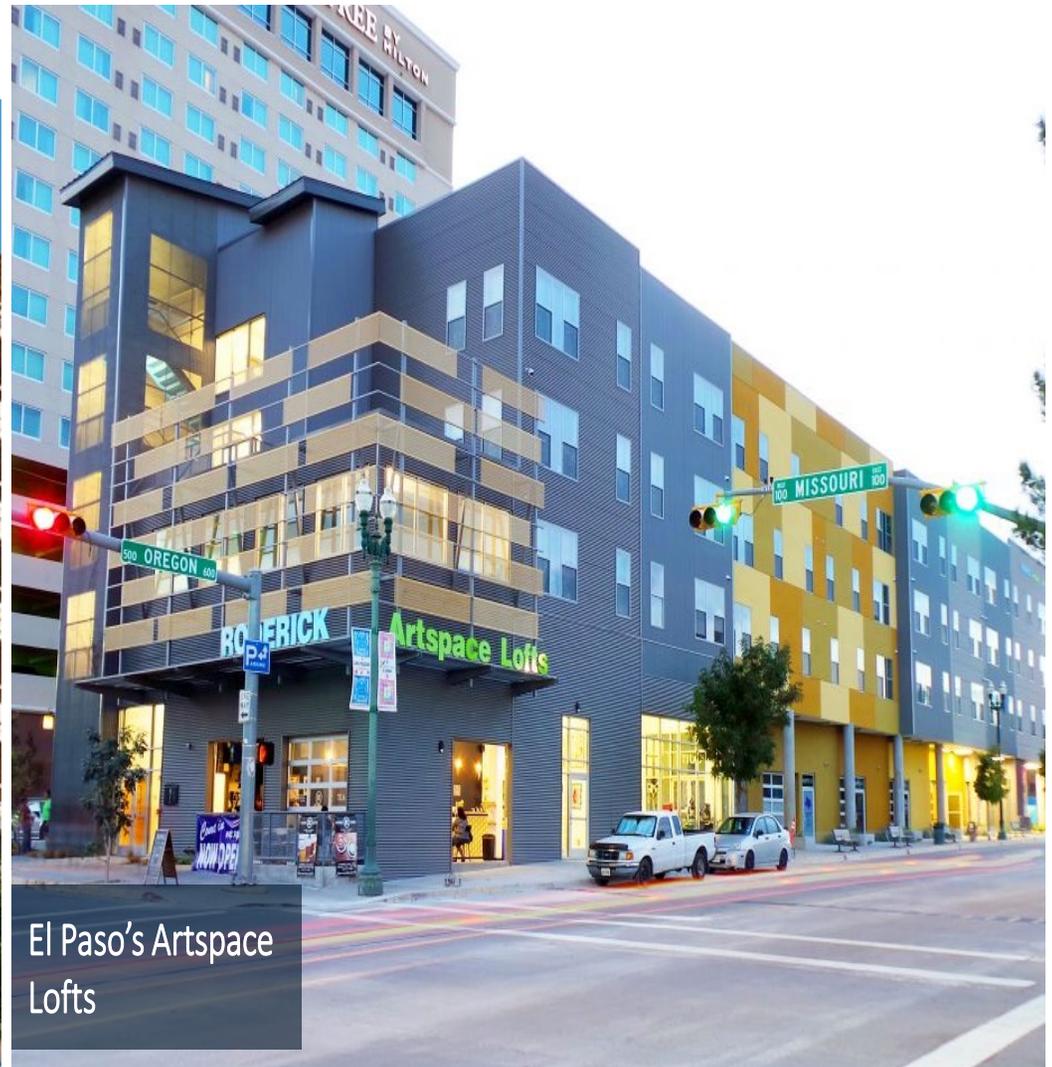


Soft Site Analysis

Lower-cost construction methods, on par with what has been completed recently, will be the most financially feasible in the existing market, though there may be room for some denser steel-framed buildings as the market strengthens.



Stick Frame Over Podium



El Paso's Artspace Lofts

For planning purposes, order of magnitude Opinions of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) were prepared for several areas:

PHASE I

CITY GARDEN + EVENT SPACE

Sante Fe' to Oregon Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 147,285 sf
Park Amenities	\$6,585,970.00
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$220,000.00
Deck Structure	\$35,903,124.50
Mobility Improvements	\$1,565,553.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$64,198,239.36
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$69,976,080.90

MULTI-CULTURAL FORUM

Oregon to Mesa Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 70,300 sf
Park Amenities	\$2,904,532.22
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$300,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$3,100,000.00
Deck Structure	\$15,118,432.50
Mobility Improvements	\$897,383.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$32,448,736.12
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$35,369,122.37
Phase I Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$105,345,203.27

PHASE II

BACK YARD GAMES

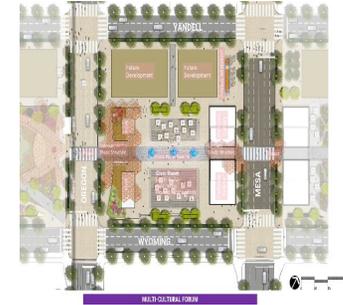
Mesa to Stanton Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 76,743 sf
Park Amenities	\$3,956,758.89
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$300,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$3,100,000.00
Deck Structure	\$16,644,252.50
Mobility Improvements	\$921,403.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$36,252,247.36
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$39,514,949.62

SHADED RECREATION

Stanton to Kansas Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 77,800 sf
Park Amenities	\$2,036,966.67
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$200,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$19,500,000.00
Deck Structure	\$16,493,612.75
Mobility Improvements	\$963,383.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$56,890,318.02
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$62,010,446.64
Phase II Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$101,525,396.26

Grand Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$206,870,599.53
Cost Per Acre (+/- 8.5 Acres total) // Year 2027	\$24,337,717.59

Project Areas:



Based on the Deck Plaza Concept from May 30, 2024, this opinion of probable cost estimate is a rough guide and should be confirmed by a professional cost estimator. It's based on similar deck park projects and doesn't include bridge structures, waterproofing, or tunnel-related costs. Costs may vary based on finishes, materials, and features. The estimate uses TxDOT prices and recent experience where possible.

How does this cost compare to other freeway lid parks?

The estimated cost of \$24.3 million (Yr. 2027) per acre for a freeway lid park in El Paso aligns with the financial expectations for such projects. These costs reflect the complex engineering, extensive amenities, and high-quality programs characteristic of world-class parks, which serve not only local communities but also have regional significance.

El Paso Deck Plaza:
Size: 8.5 acres
\$24.3M/ acre (2027)

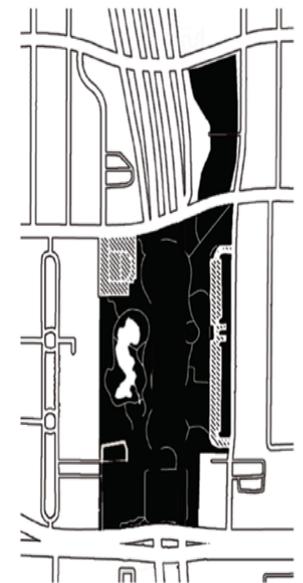
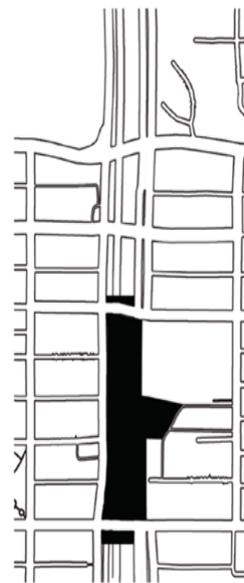
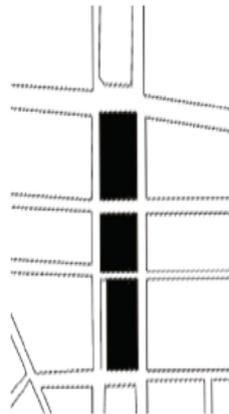
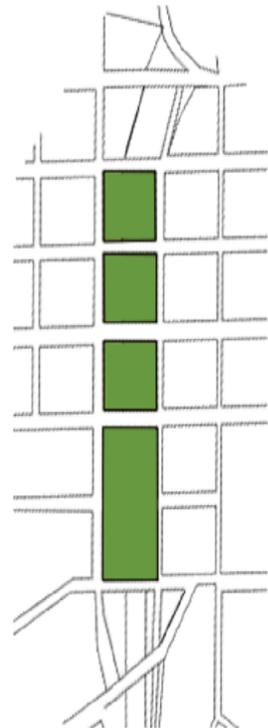
Klyde Warren Park:
Opened: 2012
Construction cost: \$110M
Size: 5.2 acres
\$21.15M/ acre (2012)
\$26.07M/ acre (est. 2027)

Frankie Pace Park:
Opened: 2023
Construction cost: \$32M
Size: approx. 3 Acres
\$10.66M/ acre (2022)
\$11.56M/ acre (est. 2027)

Central 70 Cover Park:
Opened: 2022
Construction cost: \$125M
Size: 4 acres
\$31.25M/ acre (2020)
\$34.56M/ acre (est. 2027)

Southern Gateway Park:
Under Construction
est. opening 2026
Construction cost: est. \$112M
Size: 2.8 acres (phase I)
\$40M/ acre

Margaret T. Hance Park:
Opened: April 1992
Size: 32 acres
Construction cost: \$100M (1992)
\$237.56M (est. 2027)
\$7.42M/ acre (est. 2027)



El Paso Deck Plaza

Klyde Warren Park

Frankie Pace Park

Central 70 Cover Park

Southern Gateway Park - PH1

Margaret T. Hance Park

Due to the size and scale of these types of complex infrastructure projects like the I-10 Deck Plaza, it can be difficult to identify one source of funding to complete the work. Often, these projects require phasing (completing one portion of the project at a time) and/or the accumulation and combination of several funding sources known as a “capital stack.”

Federal Grants	Federal Loans	Bond	State	Local Funding
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP)	Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)	Private Activity Bonds	Texas Mobility Fund	Public Private Partnership (P3)
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Section 129 Loan	General Obligation Bonds		TIRZ/TIF/BID/CID
				Philanthropy/ Foundation

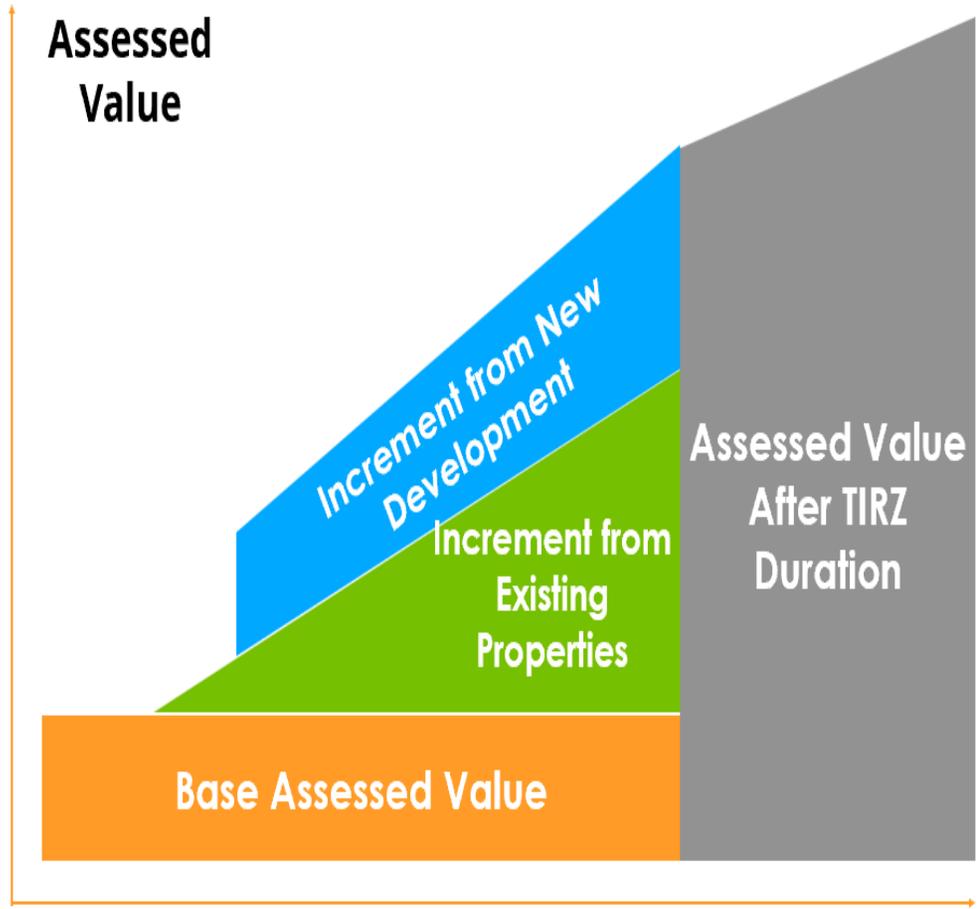
Multiple sources of funding to **not only** build the deck plaza, **but also** to fund operations and maintenance

How were other decks funded?

Local 
 State 
 Federal 



The construction of the park will create additional property tax revenue in the area, creating an opportunity for value capture. A tax increment financing (TIF) district is a tool that allows participating entities to allocate a share of their incremental property tax towards a specific project without adding an additional fee.



Tax increment is generally generated by two sources. First, the value appreciation of **existing properties** over the base assessed value at the creation of the district. Second, the value of **new development** in the district after the district is created.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) are a type of TID district in Texas used to pay for improvements in the zone, leading to business attraction and new development.

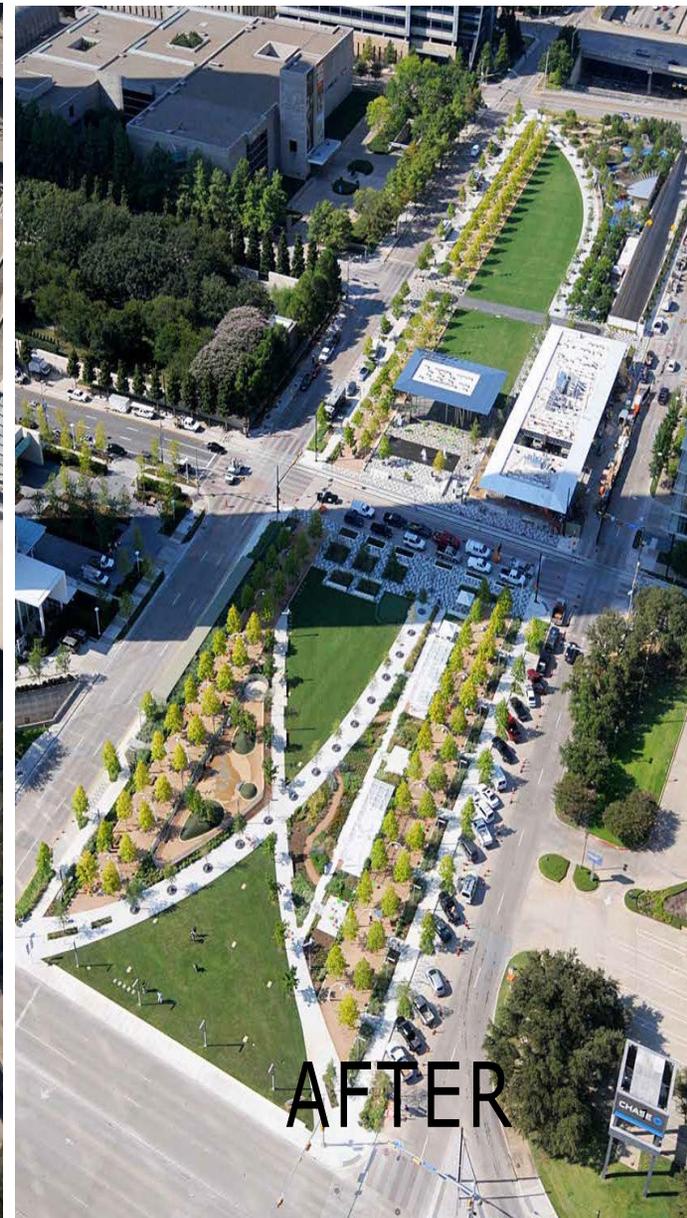
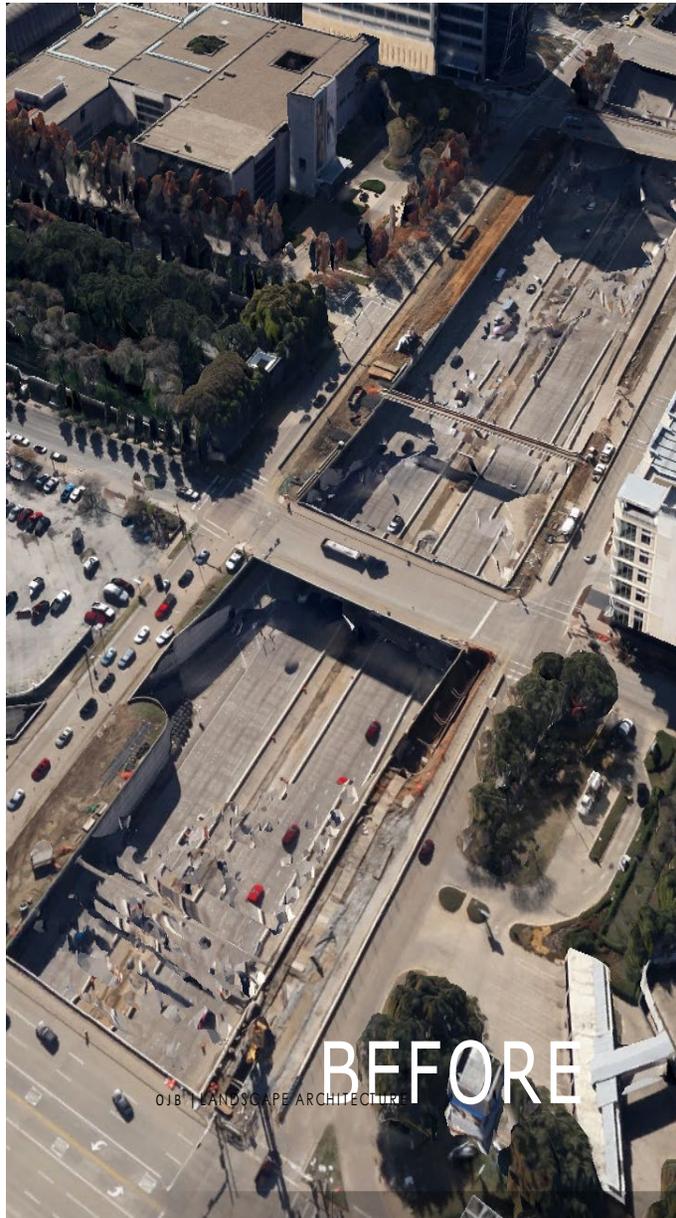
Their durations vary in El Paso, but the current political environment favors shorter durations, around 20 years.

THIS DOES NOT IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY

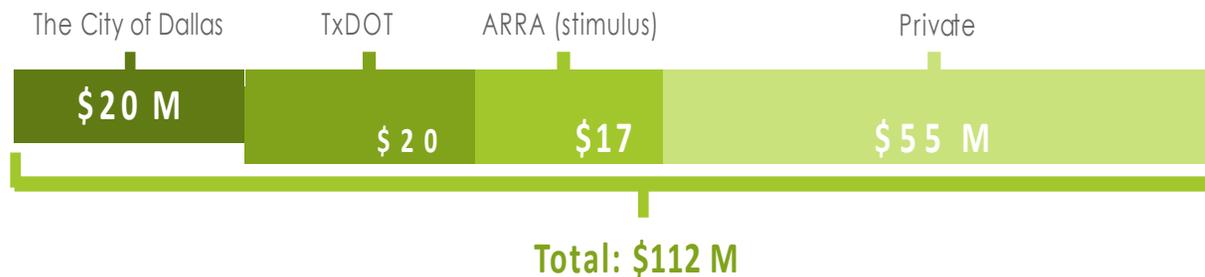
Deck Parks Across the U.S.



Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, Texas



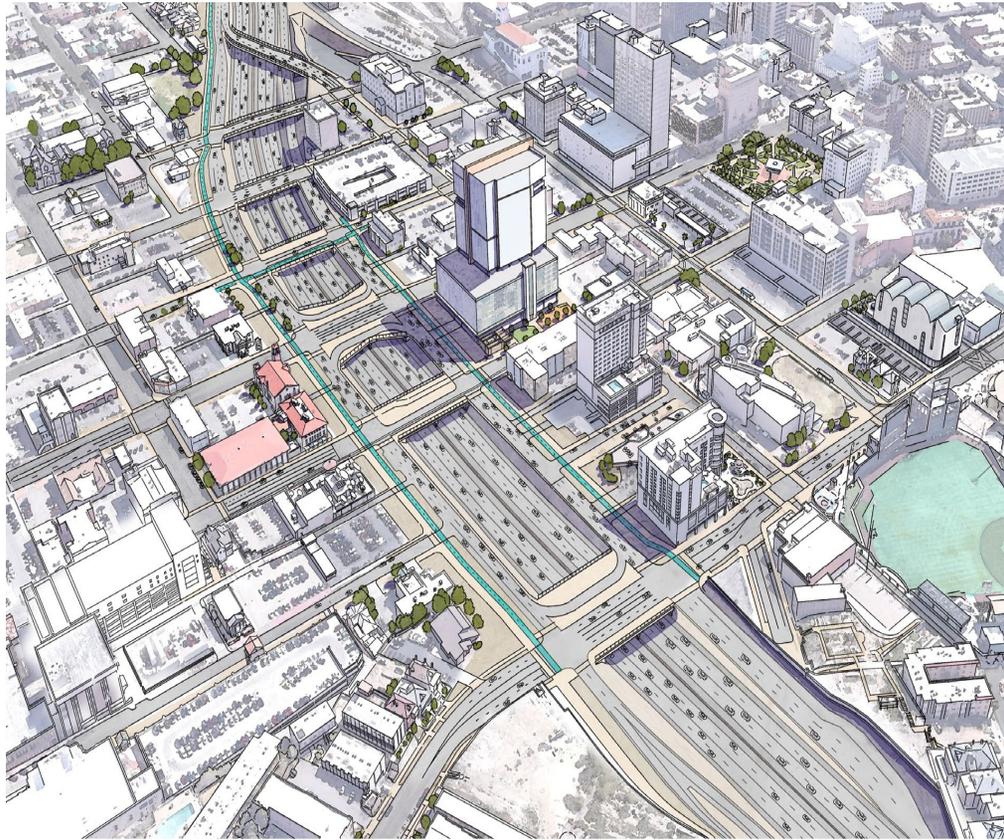
Economics of Klyde Warren Park



- Founded through public-private partnership to connect disjointed downtown neighborhoods
- Regional amenity and No 1 tourist attraction in Dallas; signature space in Dallas
- City invested \$20M; now generates \$15M a year
- \$2.5 bill to \$5.2 bill (2014 to 2019) value increase within PID
- Received Stimulus funds
- City of Dallas has 99 yr lease; operated by a nonprofit Park Foundation
- 40k people living within a 2 miles radius of park; 500 20 yrs ago
- 5.2 acres; currently expanding to include a visitors center
- Dallas received \$80M in federal funds this year for 4 new deck parks



NEXT STEPS



El Paso Deck Plaza | TxDOT Proposed Alt. |

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El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design |

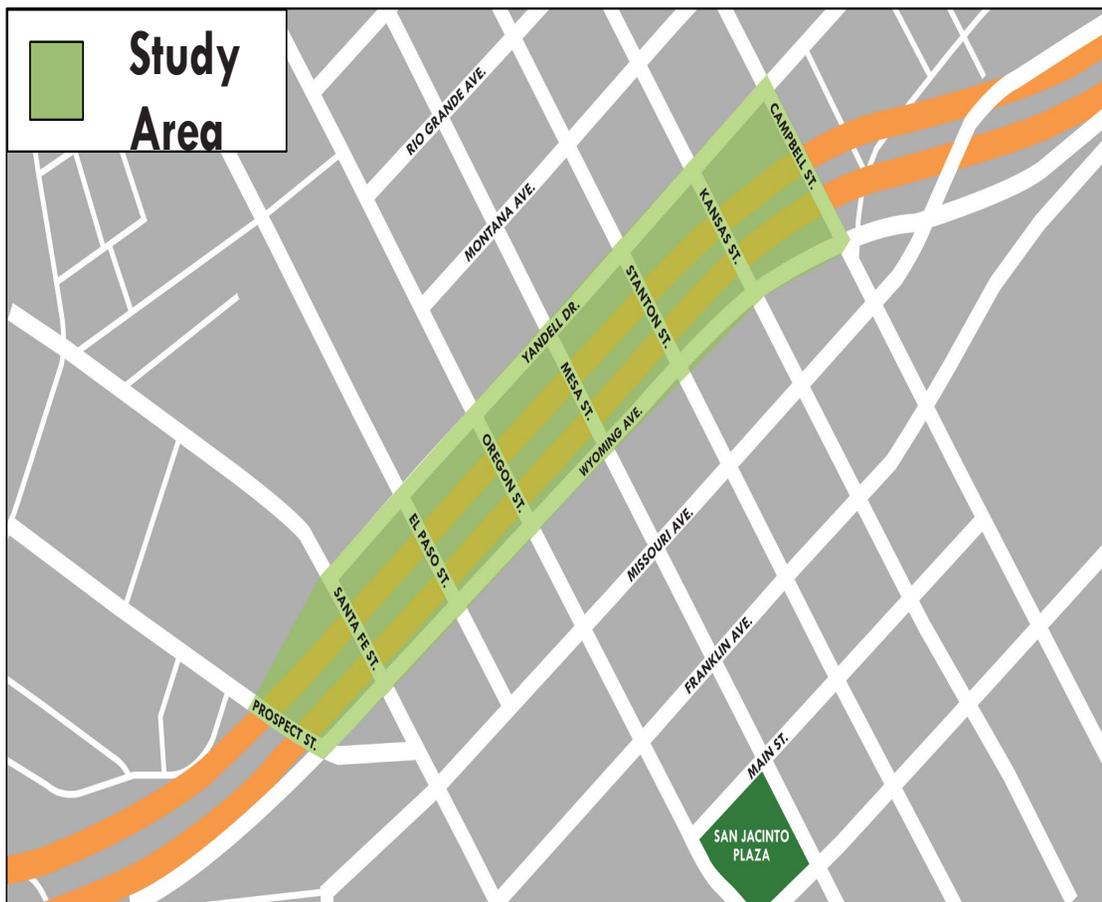
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PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

- **El Paso MPO:** serve as the applicant for a \$10 million request for U.S. DOT's Reconnecting Communities (RC) Program for Plans, Specifications and Estimates (detailed design documents).
- **El Paso County:** consider serving as the owner of and financial contributor with 10% contribution towards a 20% required match for the RC grant.
- **Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation:** serve as the nonprofit partner to help develop, program, fundraise, oversee construction, operate and maintain the Deck Park.

DOWNTOWN DECK PLAZA



- Paso del Norte Health Foundation engaged OJB Landscape Architects in 2018 to create vision for a Deck Plaza over I-10 in the downtown corridor
- Paso del Norte Community Foundation established **Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation** to support development of the project
- City of El Paso received **\$900,000 RAISE grant** from U.S. DOT for design, engineering and community engagement. Downtown Deck Plaza Foundation providing \$400,000+ in matching funds.
- With Phase I Feasibility Study nearly complete, opportunity to apply U.S. DOT's **Reconnecting Communities Program** for PS&E (detailed design documents).

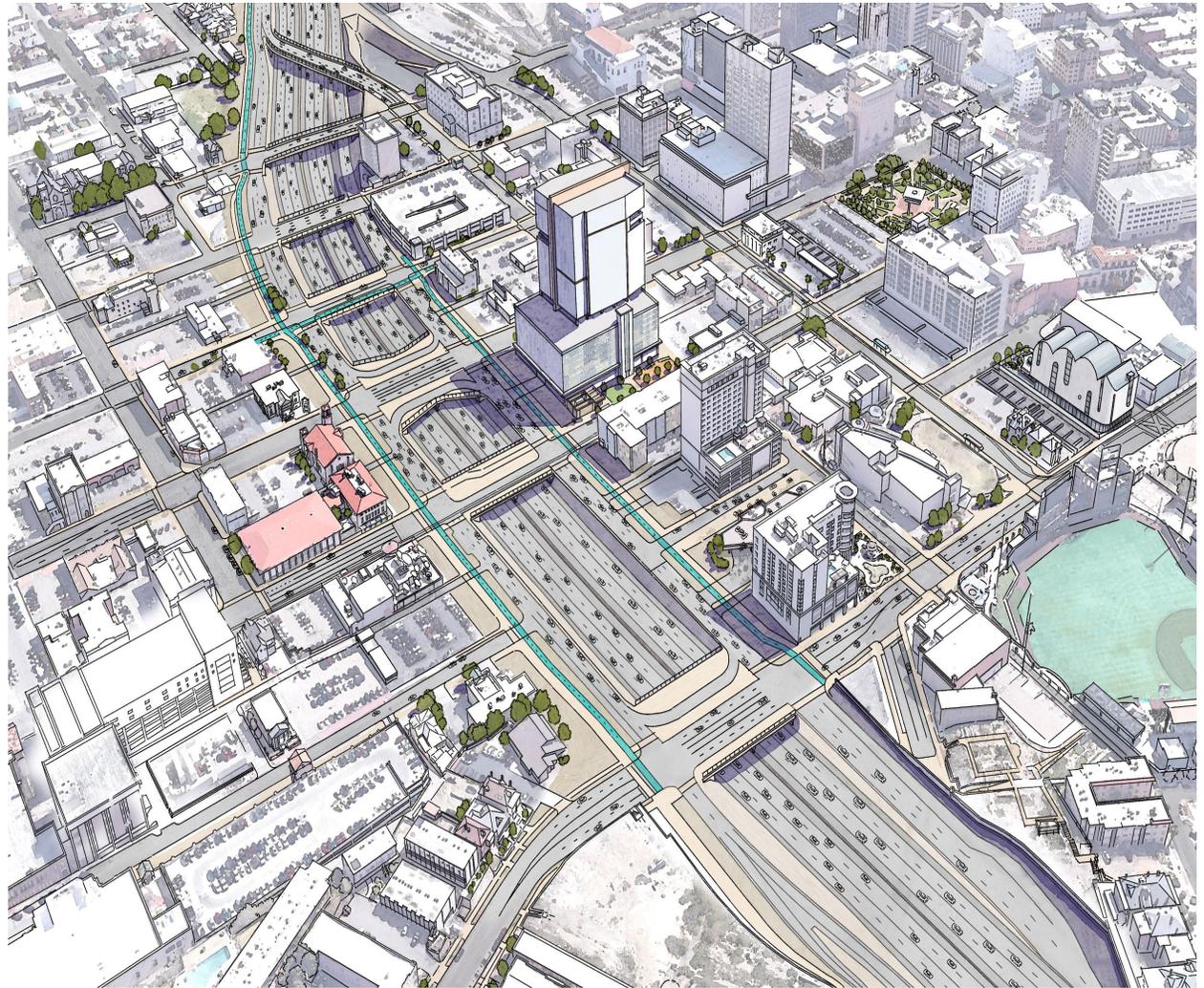
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Photo courtesy of El Paso Herald Post Records MS348, Special Collections at UTEP Library

- In 1969, work was underway to extend I-10 through El Paso.
- The project disrupted the heart of Downtown El Paso — and the fabric of El Paso’s urban core — with a sunken freeway.
- TxDOT has prioritized and funded the reconstruction of I-10 from Executive Center to Copia with \$500M allocated for Downtown segment.
- With I-10 reconstruction, **we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity** to create a new community space.

TXDOT PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN 1-10



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SMELTERTOWN

BILLY ROGERS ARROYO

RIM-UNIVERSITY

20-minute walking circle

UTEP
0.85 miles

El Paso
high school

epcc rio grande campus
library

st. patrick
cathedral

HIGHLAND PARK

john r. karr park

SUNSET HEIGHTS

trinity-first
united
methodist

1 mile

WEST CENTRAL

houston park

el paso scottish rite -
museum

site

first baptist
church

FIVE POINTS

el paso chihuahuas -
stadium

el paso museum
of history

el paso
public library

LORETTO

el paso
convention

el paso museum
of art

san jacinto plaza

st. rogers depot

abraham chavez
theatre

the plaza theatre

el paso
museum of art

WHY RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES?

Goals & Metrics

Authentic Cultural Crossroads

- Symbolism
- Heritage
- Contemporary Culture
- Common Ground

Inviting Sense of Place

- Active edges
- Amenity & Programming Variety
- Shade
- Safety
- Noise Mitigation

Enhanced Accessibility/ Connectivity

- Street Grid
- Walkability
- ADA Access
- Bike-ability
- Transit access
- Vehicular access
- Parking

Implementation Feasibility:

- Constructability
- Infrastructure Compatibility
- TXDOT Alignment
- Traffic Capacity Thresholds
- Cost
- Phasing
- Value Capture

Inclusive Economic Development

- Local Businesses
- Local Institutions
- Minimizing Displacement

Sustainability/Climate Action

- Native Planting
- Water Conservation
- Heat Island Reduction
- Energy Conservation

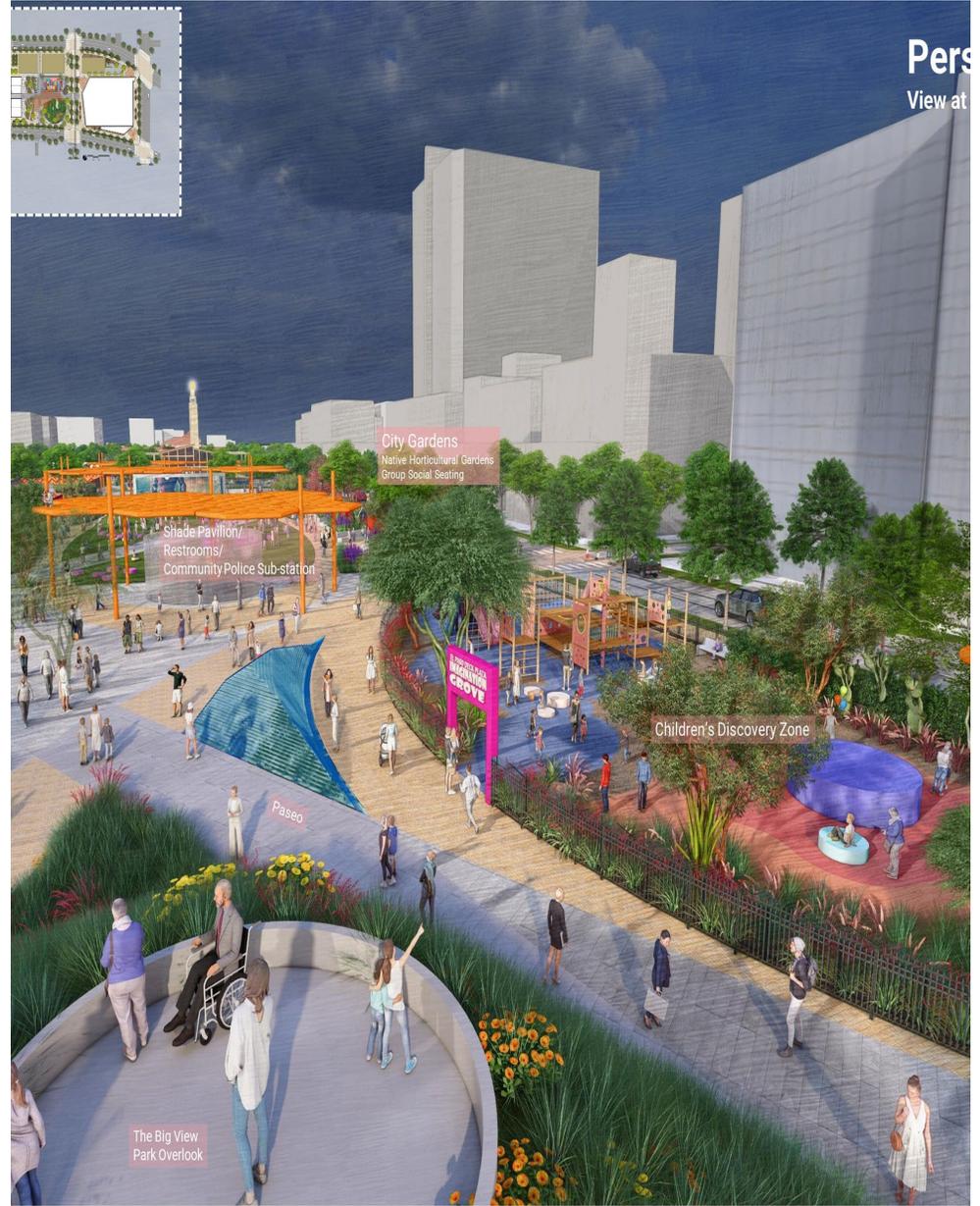


DOWNTOWN DECK PLAZA SITE PLAN



za | Proposed Urban Design

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a | Proposed Urban Design

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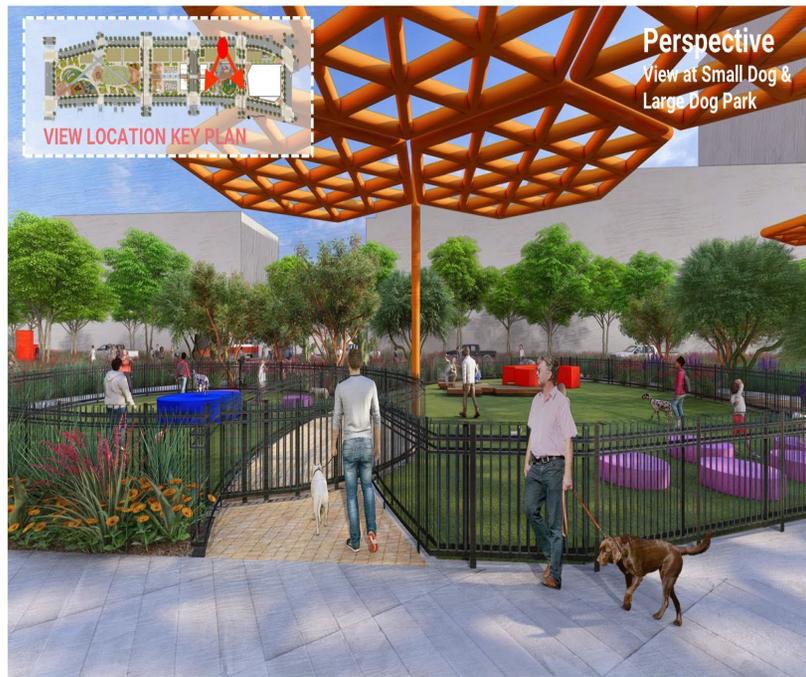
El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design

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Proposed Urban Design

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El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design

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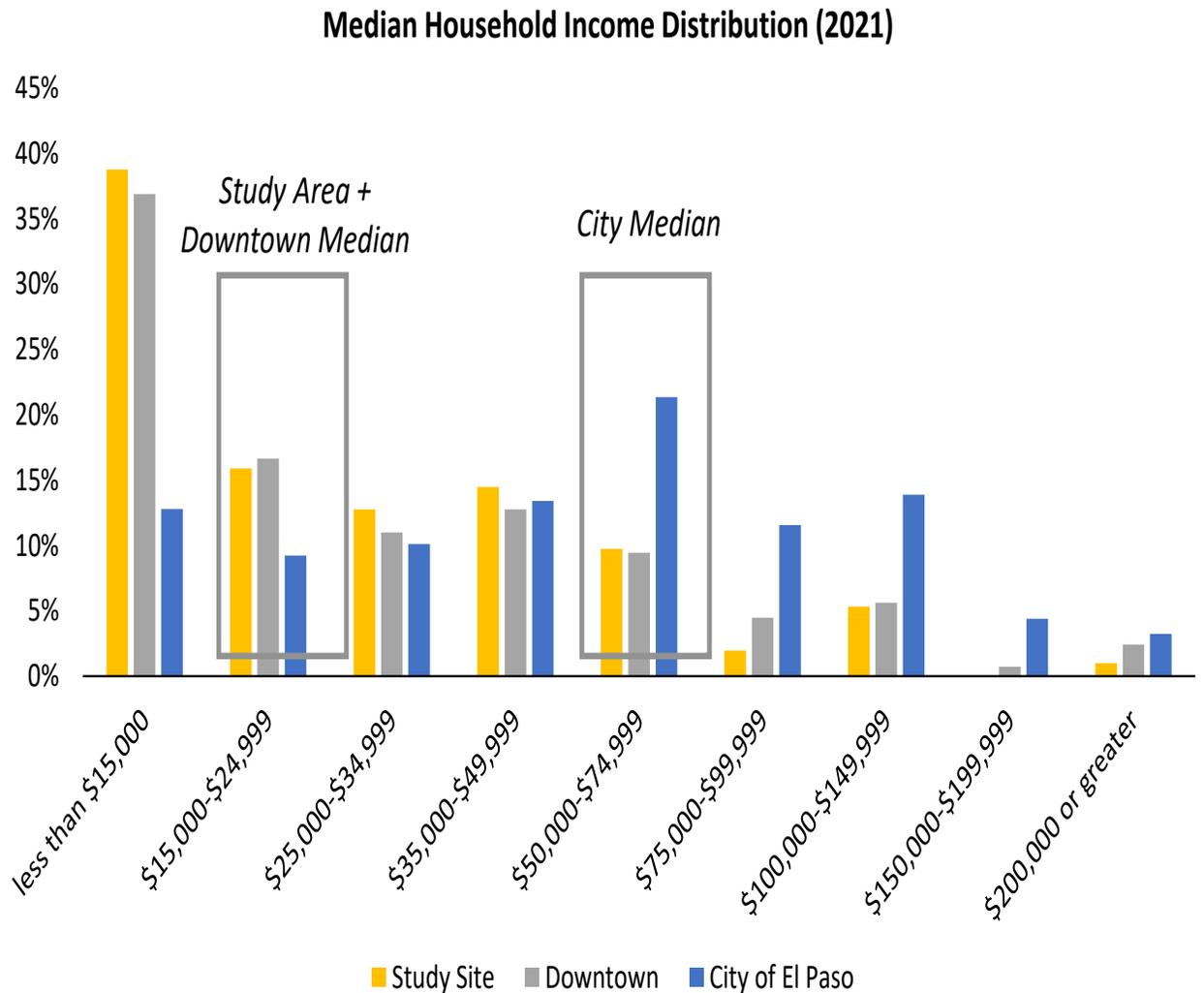
Demographic Analysis

The Study Area and Downtown have a significantly higher concentration of households with lower-than-average household income and almost no resident with an income over \$75K.

The median household income in El Paso is \$54,000, but in Downtown it is only \$22,000, and in the Study Area it is even lower at \$20,000.

These areas have some of the highest concentrations of households earning less than \$25,000 annually in El Paso. Both Downtown and the Study Area have a significant proportion of low-income households and individuals experiencing poverty.

This highlights the need for affordable housing developments, particularly in the Study Area and Downtown.



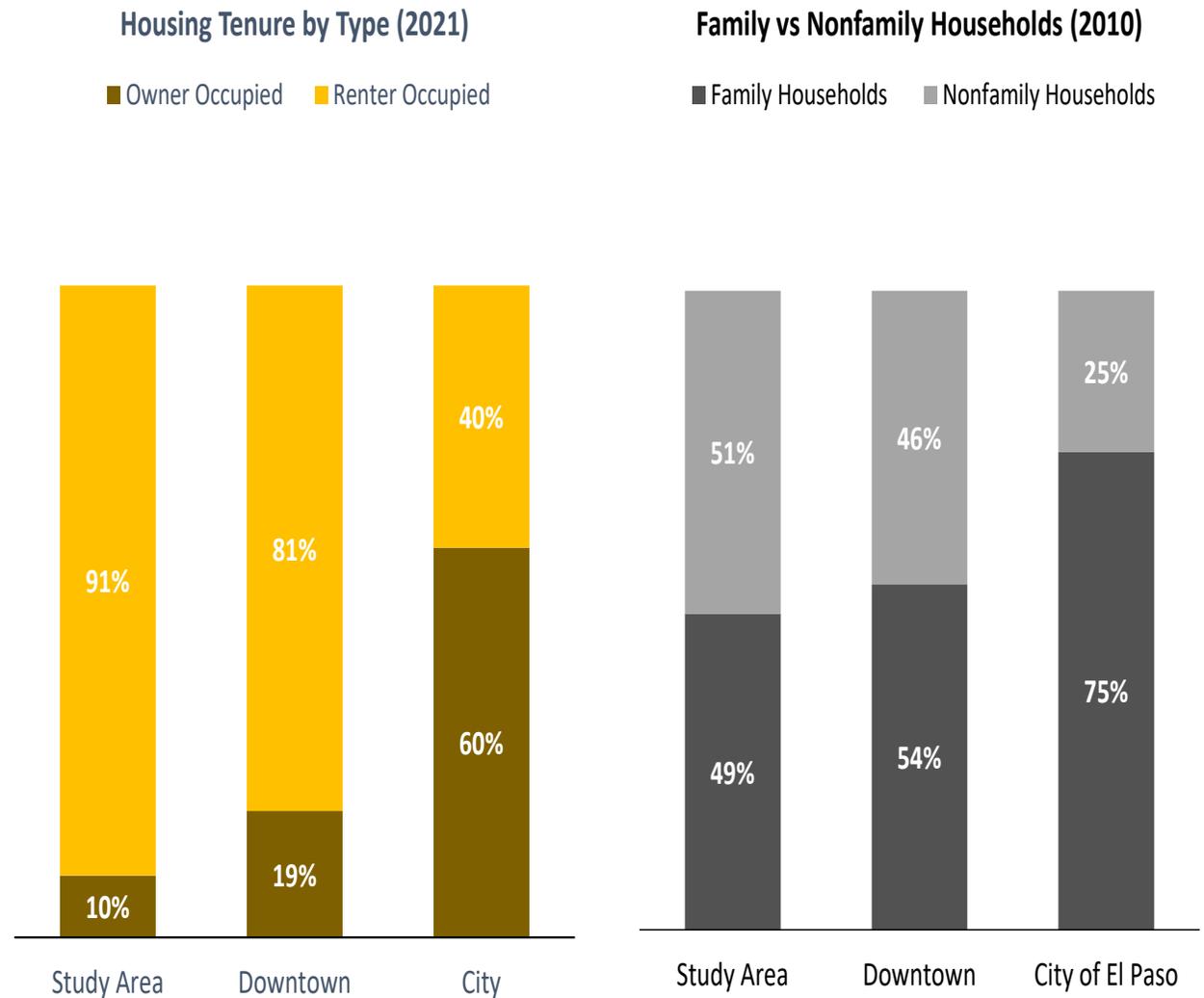
Demographic Analysis

The downtown and study area have a significantly higher proportion of renters and nonfamily households than the City of El Paso.

The Study Area has an extremely high renter population compared to City of El Paso, with 91% renters.

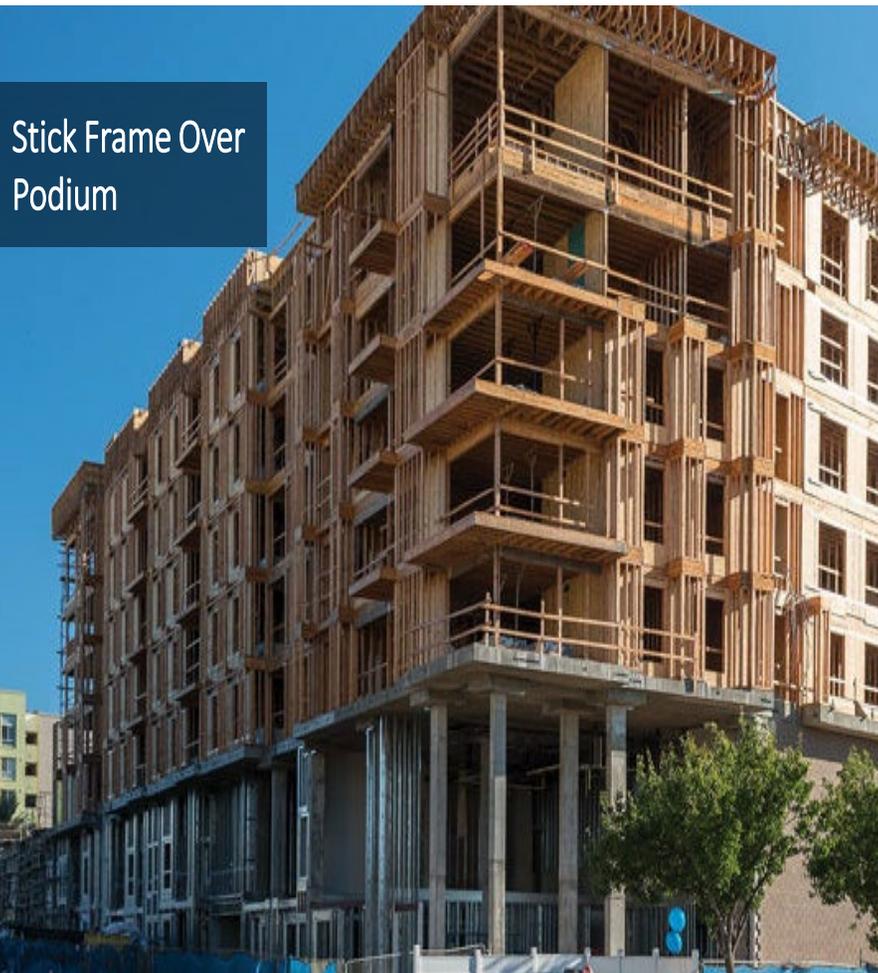
Furthermore, there is a higher percentage of non-family households, meaning 51% of households consist of individuals living alone or sharing their residence with unrelated individuals.

This highlights the pressing need for affordable housing options in both Downtown and the Study Area.

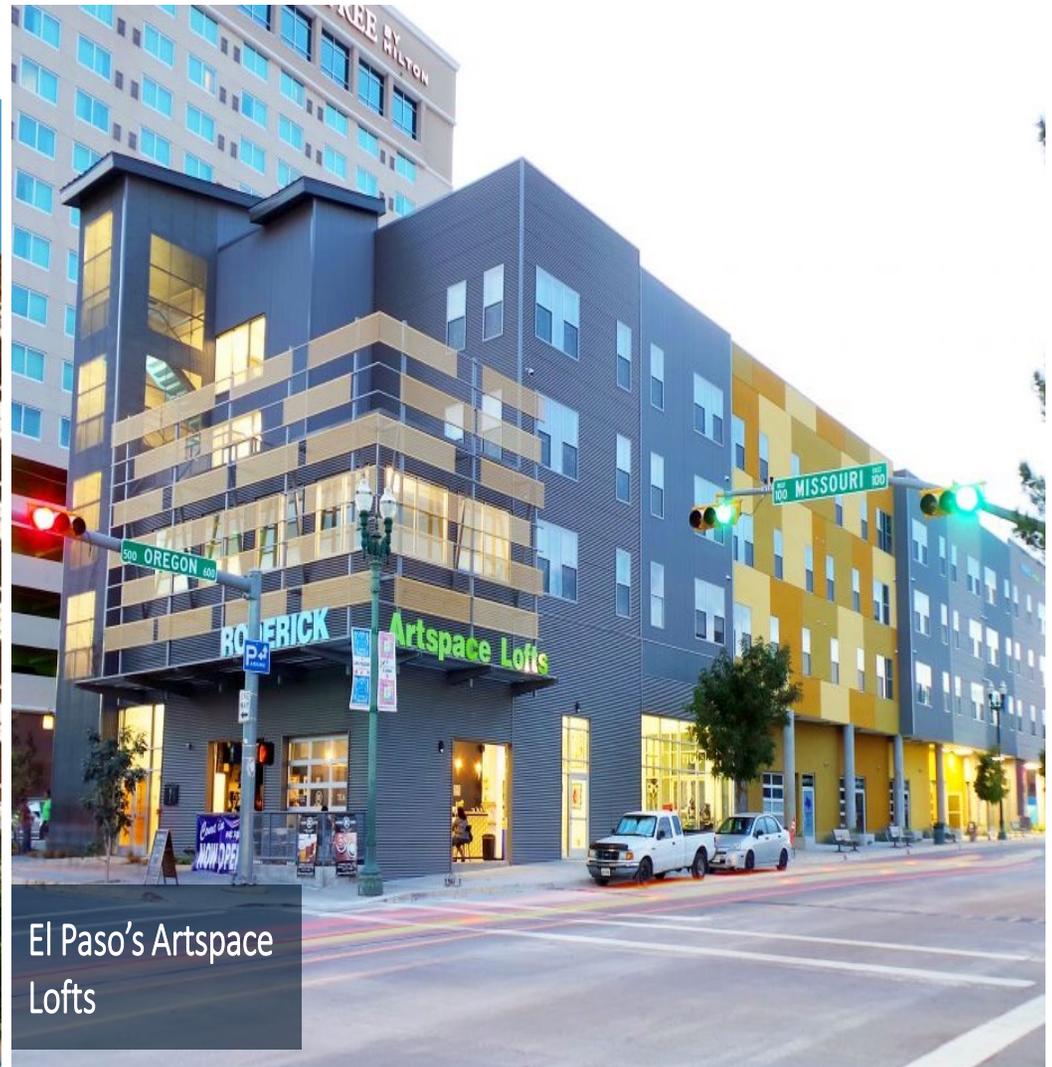


Soft Site Analysis

Lower-cost construction methods, on par with what has been completed recently, will be the most financially feasible in the existing market, though there may be room for some denser steel-framed buildings as the market strengthens.



Stick Frame Over Podium



El Paso's Artspace Lofts

For planning purposes, order of magnitude Opinions of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) were prepared for several areas:

PHASE I

CITY GARDEN + EVENT SPACE

Sante Fe' to Oregon Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 147,285 sf
Park Amenities	\$6,585,970.00
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$220,000.00
Deck Structure	\$35,903,124.50
Mobility Improvements	\$1,565,553.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$64,198,239.36
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$69,976,080.90

MULTI-CULTURAL FORUM

Oregon to Mesa Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 70,300 sf
Park Amenities	\$2,904,532.22
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$300,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$3,100,000.00
Deck Structure	\$15,118,432.50
Mobility Improvements	\$897,383.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$32,448,736.12
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$35,369,122.37
Phase I Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$105,345,203.27

PHASE II

BACK YARD GAMES

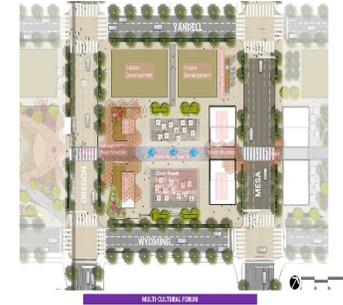
Mesa to Stanton Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 76,743 sf
Park Amenities	\$3,956,758.89
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$300,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$3,100,000.00
Deck Structure	\$16,644,252.50
Mobility Improvements	\$921,403.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$36,252,247.36
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$39,514,949.62

SHADED RECREATION

Stanton to Kansas Streets - Deck Park	Square Footage 77,800 sf
Park Amenities	\$2,036,966.67
Site Prep for Future Development / Not on Structure	\$200,000.00
Buildings on Structure / Over Cantilever Deck	\$19,500,000.00
Deck Structure	\$16,493,612.75
Mobility Improvements	\$963,383.33
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2024	\$56,890,318.02
Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$62,010,446.64
Phase II Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$101,525,396.26

Grand Total with Fees, Permits, Design & Construction Contingencies // Year 2027	\$206,870,599.53
Cost Per Acre (+/- 8.5 Acres total) // Year 2027	\$24,337,717.59

Project Areas:



Based on the Deck Plaza Concept from May 30, 2024, this opinion of probable cost estimate is a rough guide and should be confirmed by a professional cost estimator. It's based on similar deck park projects and doesn't include bridge structures, waterproofing, or tunnel-related costs. Costs may vary based on finishes, materials, and features. The estimate uses TxDOT prices and recent experience where possible.

How does this cost compare to other freeway lid parks?

The estimated cost of \$24.3 million (Yr. 2027) per acre for a freeway lid park in El Paso aligns with the financial expectations for such projects. These costs reflect the complex engineering, extensive amenities, and high-quality programs characteristic of world-class parks, which serve not only local communities but also have regional significance.

El Paso Deck Plaza:
Size: 8.5 acres
\$24.3M/ acre (2027)

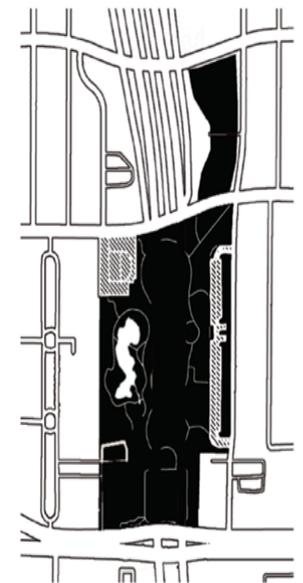
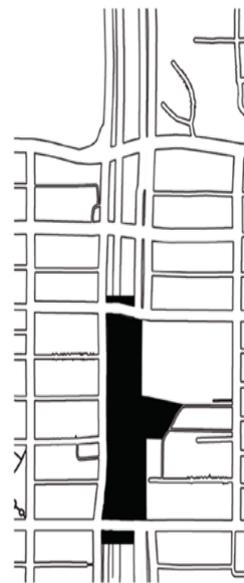
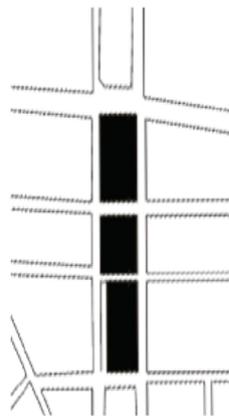
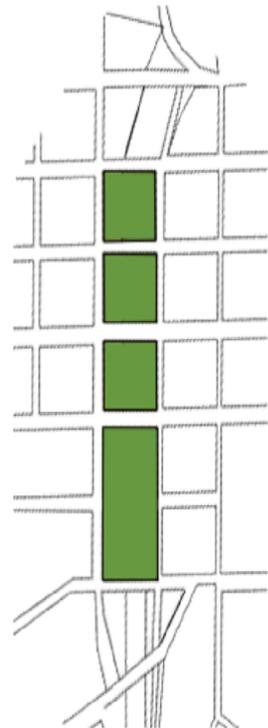
Klyde Warren Park:
Opened: 2012
Construction cost: \$110M
Size: 5.2 acres
\$21.15M/ acre (2012)
\$26.07M/ acre (est. 2027)

Frankie Pace Park:
Opened: 2023
Construction cost: \$32M
Size: approx. 3 Acres
\$10.66M/ acre (2022)
\$11.56M/ acre (est. 2027)

Central 70 Cover Park:
Opened: 2022
Construction cost: \$125M
Size: 4 acres
\$31.25M/ acre (2020)
\$34.56M/ acre (est. 2027)

Southern Gateway Park:
Under Construction
est. opening 2026
Construction cost: est. \$112M
Size: 2.8 acres (phase I)
\$40M/ acre

Margaret T. Hance Park:
Opened: April 1992
Size: 32 acres
Construction cost:
\$100M (1992)
\$237.56M (est. 2027)
\$7.42M/ acre (est. 2027)



El Paso Deck Plaza

Klyde Warren Park

Frankie Pace Park

Central 70 Cover Park

Southern Gateway Park - PH1

Margaret T. Hance Park

Due to the size and scale of these types of complex infrastructure projects like the I-10 Deck Plaza, it can be difficult to identify one source of funding to complete the work. Often, these projects require phasing (completing one portion of the project at a time) and/or the accumulation and combination of several funding sources known as a “capital stack.”

Federal Grants	Federal Loans	Bond	State	Local Funding
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP)	Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)	Private Activity Bonds	Texas Mobility Fund	Public Private Partnership (P3)
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Section 129 Loan	General Obligation Bonds		TIRZ/TIF/BID/CID
				Philanthropy/ Foundation

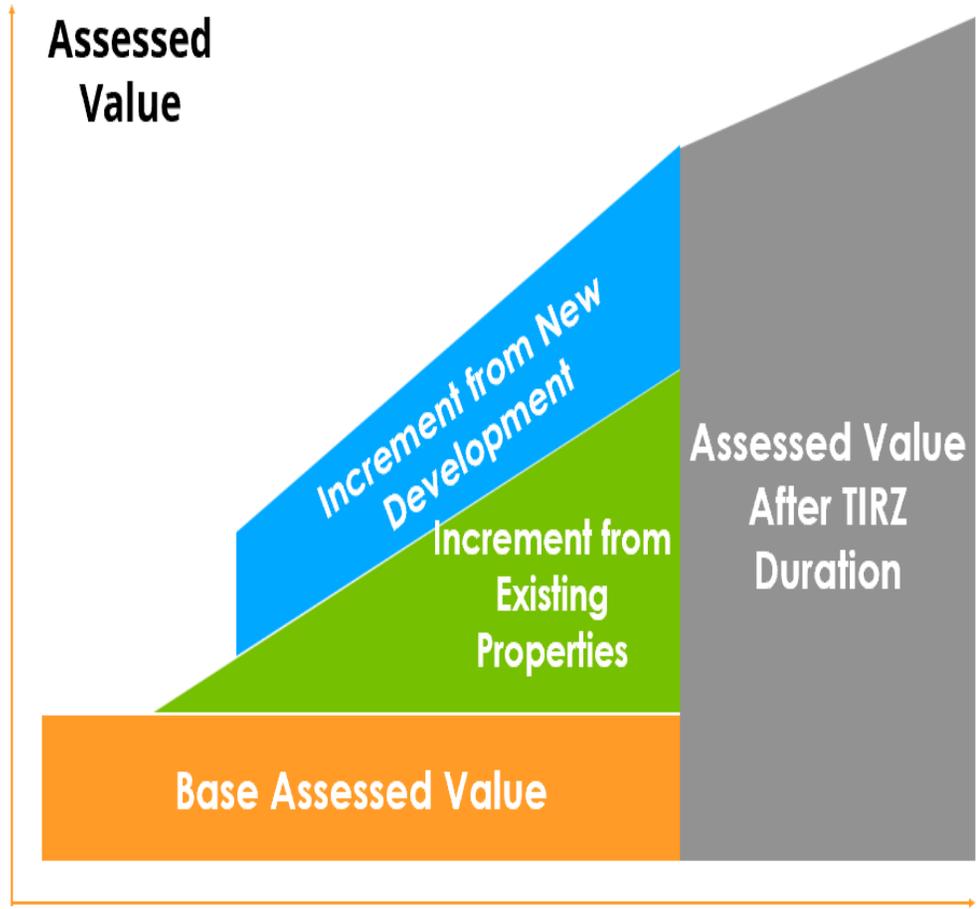
Multiple sources of funding to **not only** build the deck plaza, **but also** to fund operations and maintenance

How were other decks funded?

Local 
 State 
 Federal 



The construction of the park will create additional property tax revenue in the area, creating an opportunity for value capture. A tax increment financing (TIF) district is a tool that allows participating entities to allocate a share of their incremental property tax towards a specific project without adding an additional fee.



Tax increment is generally generated by two sources. First, the value appreciation of **existing properties** over the base assessed value at the creation of the district. Second, the value of **new development** in the district after the district is created.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) are a type of TID district in Texas used to pay for improvements in the zone, leading to business attraction and new development.

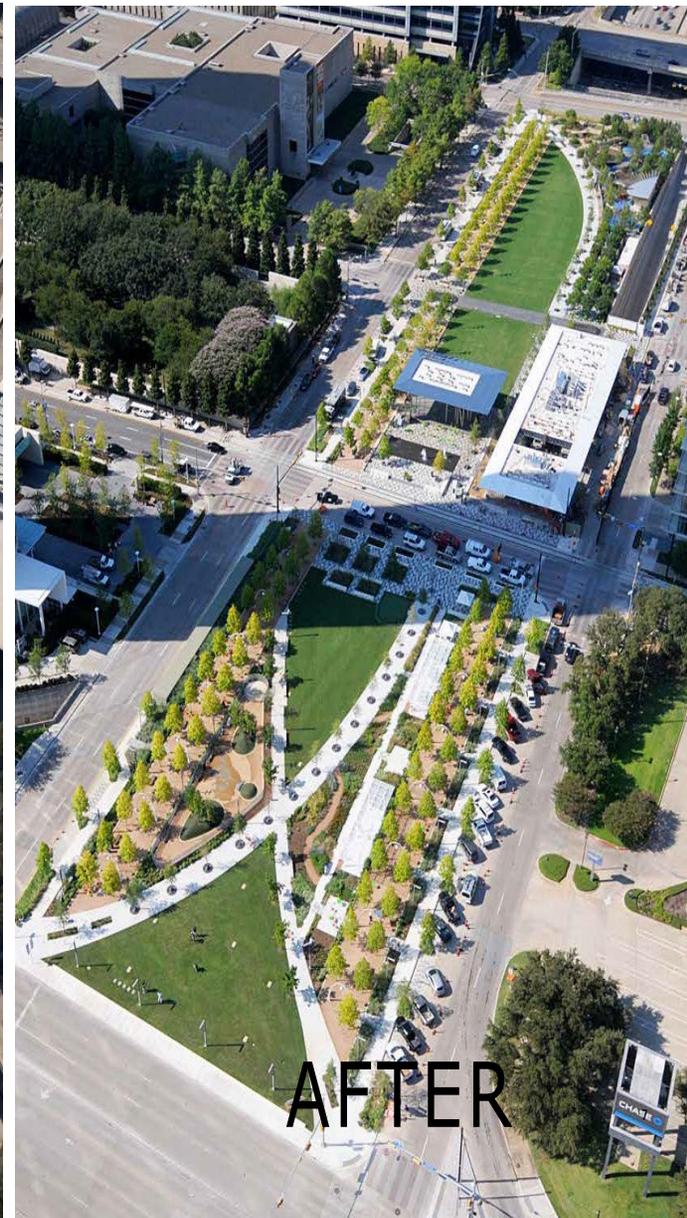
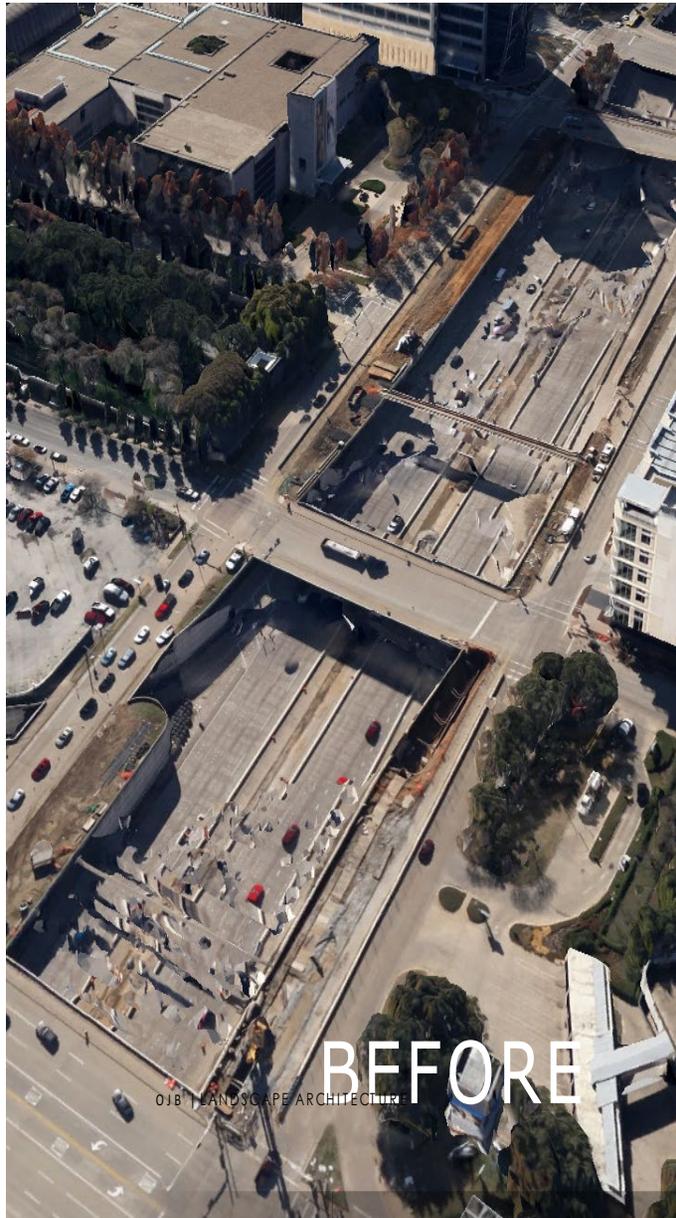
Their durations vary in El Paso, but the current political environment favors shorter durations, around 20 years.

THIS DOES NOT IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY

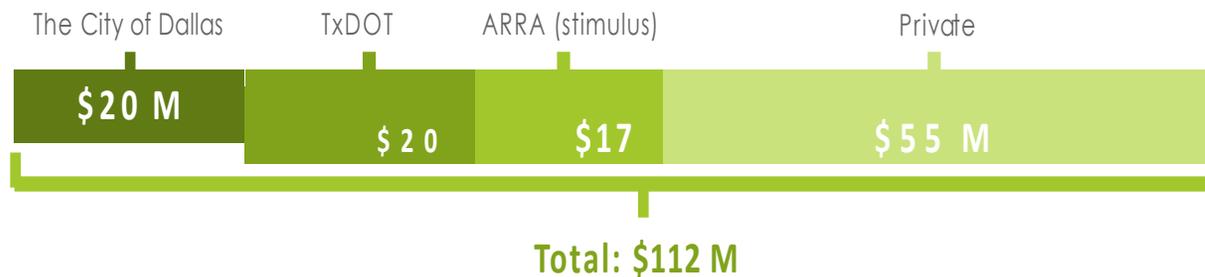
Deck Parks Across the U.S.



Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, Texas



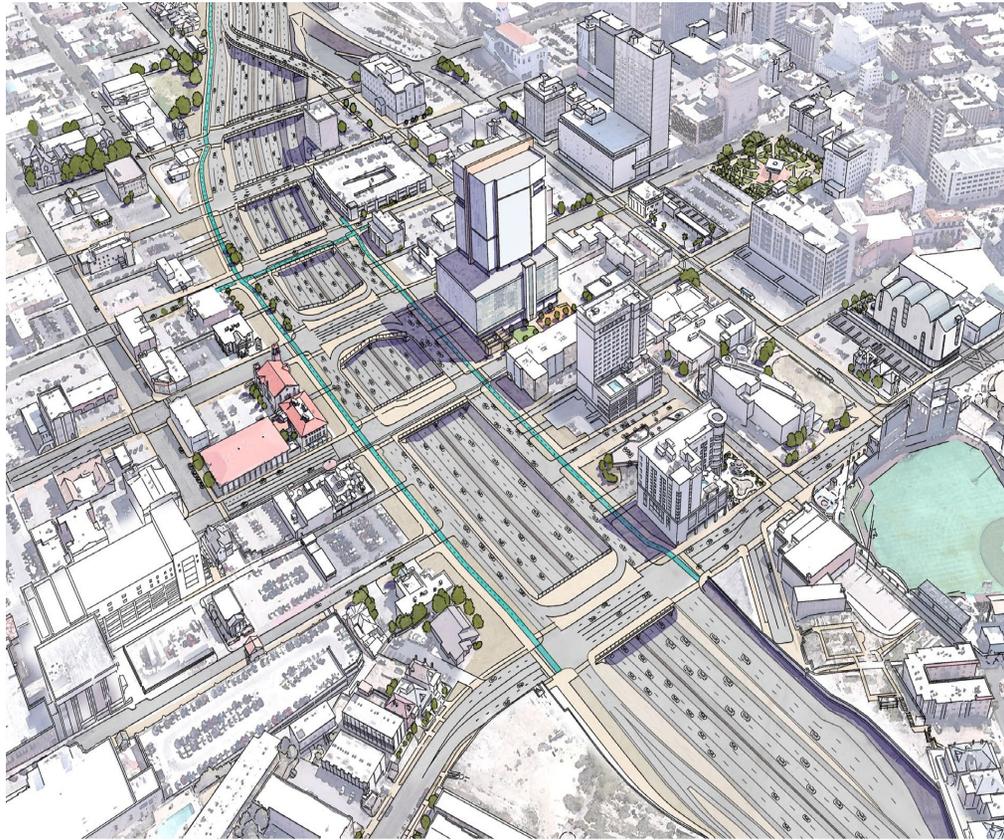
Economics of Klyde Warren Park



- Founded through public-private partnership to connect disjointed downtown neighborhoods
- Regional amenity and No 1 tourist attraction in Dallas; signature space in Dallas
- City invested \$20M; now generates \$15M a year
- \$2.5 bill to \$5.2 bill (2014 to 2019) value increase within PID
- Received Stimulus funds
- City of Dallas has 99 yr lease; operated by a nonprofit Park Foundation
- 40k people living within a 2 miles radius of park; 500 20 yrs ago
- 5.2 acres; currently expanding to include a visitors center
- Dallas received \$80M in federal funds this year for 4 new deck parks



NEXT STEPS



El Paso Deck Plaza | TxDOT Proposed Alt. |

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El Paso Deck Plaza | Proposed Urban Design |

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RICARDO SAMANIEGO
El Paso County Judge

August XX, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Commitment for Ownership

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As owner of the I-10 Downtown Deck, El Paso County commits to working in good faith to complete the construction of the project. If awarded, we agree to act as recipient and administer the award.

The I-10 Downtown Deck Project is a once in a generation opportunity to make significant investments in the downtown of El Paso. This project would reconnect neighborhoods historically separated by I-10, provide recreational space in the heart of downtown, and provide enhanced economic opportunities for our region.

It is for these reasons that we understand the scope of the project and commit to working to complete I-10 Downtown Deck Project. I respectfully urge your thorough and fair consideration of the I-10 Deck application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (915) 546-2098.

Sincerely,



RICARDO SAMANIEGO
El Paso County Judge

August XX, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Commitment for \$1,000,000 Match for Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)
Discretionary Grant Program Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

El Paso County commits to providing up to \$1,000,000 in local match funding for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program should the I-10 Downtown Deck Project be accepted and funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The I-10 Downtown Deck Project is a once in a generation opportunity to make significant investments in the downtown of El Paso. This project would reconnect neighborhoods historically separated by I-10, provide recreational space in the heart of downtown, and provide enhanced economic opportunities for our region.

It is for these reasons that we commit to this local match for the I-10 Downtown Deck Project. I respectfully urge your thorough and fair consideration of the I-10 Deck application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (915) 546-2098.

Sincerely,