

# El Paso Shared Services Summit

## 2009 Summit Findings

Shared Opportunities:  
*Maximizing Government Effectiveness  
and Efficiency in El Paso, Texas*



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# LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

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Dear community member and stakeholder:

Thank you for taking the time to look over the information that came from El Paso's first-ever Shared Services Summit. On November 12, 2008 taxing entities throughout our community came together to draft goals for greater collaboration and more efficient, effective government. The time, resources, and experience shared that day were invaluable. We are grateful to all those who attended and participated in the workshops; together, we will ensure El Paso moves forward with the Shared Services concept.

This report is a compilation of the notes and presentations taken from the three breakout sessions and describes pertinent details from the discussions, the participants and most importantly, the goals identified by the participants.

The Summit and this report are the very beginning of what we hope will be an ongoing process and dialogue - led by the professionals within each entity and supported by elected officials, stakeholders and the public. We hope this report serves as a guide for all entities and a resource for the public as we continue to move toward accomplishing our established goals while also finding new ways to collaborate in other areas.

Thank you again for your interest and faith in this process. We look forward to a more effective and efficient El Paso public sector.

Shared Services Steering Committee,



Veronica Escobar  
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 2

David Almonte  
City of El Paso  
Director, Office of Management & Budget



Dr. Libby Dalton  
University of Texas at El Paso  
Institute for Policy & Economic Development



Mark Smith  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce



Hector Gutierrez  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce



Cassie McKenzie  
El Paso Greater Chamber of Commerce



Phillip Del Rio  
El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The El Paso region is on the brink of unprecedented growth that may increase in the foreseeable future. As local elected officials, business leaders and advocates for efficient government, we understand that continually increasing the tax burden on an overburdened base is an unworkable strategy. We also know that with few exceptions, duplication of services is inefficient, costly and unnecessary.

To address growth and keep taxes as low as possible, elected officials have agreed that greater collaboration among all local taxing entities is necessary. From shared purchasing power of gasoline, technology and paper, to combined approaches for the use of buildings, we can work together to lower the costs of government.

Although most taxing entities in the community already engage in key areas of collaboration, there are innumerable other areas where added collaboration would reap great benefit for the public. The idea for a shared services summit was presented to nearly all local taxing entities in the late spring/early summer of 2008, and governing bodies (elected or appointed officials) were asked to vote on a resolution of support. A committee comprised of individuals from the El Paso County, City of El Paso, the University of Texas at El Paso's Institute for Policy and Economic Development, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce worked on strategy, sponsorships and facilitation for the summit.

## GOALS:

The goal for the summit was to bring all local taxing entities together (see list below) and focus on three areas of potential collaboration: *purchasing, information technology and facilities planning*. These three areas of focus were identified during informal surveys administered to local government leaders in El Paso. The professionals in each area came together in a group setting and their conversations were facilitated by state leaders from the Texas Comptrollers Office and the Texas Department of Information Resources.

What came out of those sessions were commitments for short- and long-term collaboration. The short-term goals were those which could be achieved within 12 months; the long-term goals were those which needed more time and significant commitment. Leaders within each group session were identified and agreed to help spearhead the goals of the group, which are outlined in this report.

TAXING ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2008 SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT		
El Paso County	City of El Paso	San Elizario Independent School District
City of Socorro	City of Horizon	University of Texas at El Paso
City of Clint	Village of Vinton	Clint Independent School District
El Paso Community College	Thomason Hospital	Anthony Independent School District
El Paso Independent School District	Canutillo Independent School District	Tornillo Independent School District
Socorro Independent School District	Ysleta Independent School District	Fabens Independent School District

# REPORT FINDINGS: PURCHASING SESSION

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## Introduction

The principal goal of collaborative purchasing is to capture savings through lower administrative costs, quantity purchasing discounts, sharing fixed costs, and assured levels of business with vendors and suppliers. Collaborative agreements are already in place between many of our taxing entities (with entities in and out of El Paso). Region 19 also has significant purchasing agreements in place. These agreements/collaborative all intend to either streamline the purchasing process and/or save taxpayer dollars. A few examples of these efforts include:

- Off-site fueling between the City and County of El Paso
- Medco Prescription Plan between Ysleta Independent School District and the City of El Paso
- Public health services between the City and County of El Paso
- Cooperation with Region 19 Educational Services Center with many of the region's taxing entities
- Cooperative purchasing through statewide organizations such as commodities and simple services
- Self-funded risk pool to include county, housing authority and 911 district
- Law enforcement record management software services between the City and County of El Paso

Despite the numerous purchasing collaboratives already in place, there are many other avenues that have yet to be explored. While at the summit, several potential opportunities were outlined, including:

- Garbage collection, which is currently restricted to certain areas
- Possibly consolidate recycling contracts
- Food purchases
- Common commodities
- Pharmaceuticals both internal and external
- Medical supplies
- Expand prescription drug plan contract
- Include piggyback clauses on all new contracts by creating a standard clause for use by all
- Insurance (health, property, worker's compensation, etc.)
- Staffing/Temporary services
- Janitorial services
- Maintenance services (building and vehicle)
- Job order contract
- Utilities
- Advertising
- Bulk mail and presorting

## Short-Term Goals:

The most feasible short-term opportunities for collaboration identified by the Purchasing Group are purchases of necessities that are bought in bulk by most entities. The following is a list of the commodities that can be purchased in bulk by this new collaborative group:

- Copy/printing paper
- Police vehicles
- General purpose vehicles and heavy equipment

- Toner (OEM and recycled)
- Advertising
- Fuel (all types)
- Lamps/lighting
- Dairy products
- Breads/tortillas
- Uniforms (all types)
- Custodial paper products
- Utilities
- Tires
- Preventative vehicle maintenance
- Road materials
- Travel

Although not all entities would be able to participate initially because of of current contract end dates and preferences, many were able to agree upon purchasing several items in bulk together. Within the 90 days following the Summit, the group agreed to focus on collaborative purchases that would bring early results:

1. Lighting
2. Paper
3. Toilet paper
4. Gasoline

In order to accomplish these short-term goals, there will be the need for development of specifications and evaluation criteria and a mechanism to measure and report results with each participating agency. Development of a boiler plate as well as a piggy back clause would need to be passed by all interested entities, and ultimately, a purchasing association would streamline the purchasing process.

## Long-Term Goals

Beyond the 12 month period, there are other goals that were identified by the professionals in this group. These include:

- Developing an El Paso Purchasing Alliance with the delegates being those who have attended short term meetings
- Explore insurance pooling with delegates being chosen by the El Paso Purchasing Alliance at a later date
- Develop supplier evaluation system to share supplier information with others, with the lead on this being Christine Gerlach of Ysleta Independent School District
- Shared printing services
- Procurement automation system with the lead being Laura Rivera of El Paso Independent School District

Four individuals were selected from the various entities to move the outlined goals forward:

OVERSEEING	NAME	ENTITY
Special District	Randy Jackson	Thomason Hospital
City of El Paso	Terry Freiburg	City of El Paso
County of El Paso	Joe Lopez	County of El Paso
School Districts	March Vechione	Socorro Independent School District

# REPORT FINDINGS: TECHNOLOGY SESSION

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## Introduction

Local governments spend millions of dollars annually on information technology, oftentimes independently purchasing operating systems that do similar work. This can often lead to inefficient expenditure of resources and a duplication of services. Examples of this include mainframes and payroll systems. Recognizing these problems, a number of governments have moved toward consolidating these systems. Information technology specialists are at the forefront of finding innovative solutions to not only deliver better services but manage costs in doing so. In El Paso, many IT professionals are already collaborating on community-wide technology goals; the session at the Summit, however, brought together even more professionals in an effort to build on already great work.

The goals for the information technology specialists in the session were:

Increased Cost Effectiveness – Local taxing entities can spread the cost of service over multiple agencies, fully leveraging their purchasing power. Bringing these efficiencies to bear allows more agencies the ability to make use of the service, further expanding the economies of scale. Properly implemented, a shared technology infrastructure encourages collaboration, reuse of intellectual capital, and better long term cost models.

Improved Service Delivery – Administrators of a shared infrastructure will develop deeper skills and therefore, provide better and frequently lower-cost service to all end users. Agencies unable to dedicate employees to critical functions, such as network and data security, will have improved and consistent access to resources.

Focus on Core Missions – When directors and department heads are relieved of some of the burden of managing tactical IT issues, their agencies are in a better position to assess and act on those technologies that advance their core missions and directly add value to citizens.

## Short-Term Goals

The information technology working group came up with two short term goals:

1. **Video Conferencing System** – This system would provide managed solutions for conferencing and collaboration technologies, which help organizations save time and money by optimizing the communications environment. Face to face meetings are vital to the success of business relationships and the best way to maximize collaboration, regardless of your location. Video conferencing uses telecommunications of audio and video to dialogue between people at different sites for a meeting. This can involve video communication between two people in private offices or involve several sites with more than one person at each location. Video conferencing can also be used to share documents, computer-displayed information, and whiteboards.
  - a. Goal to be accomplished within 6 months  
*Responsible party: Peter Cooper – County of El Paso*
2. **Video Surveillance** – Security is a major factor in safeguarding the information held by any entity. Video management is crucial for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of any organization’s surveillance systems, especially when being shared amongst multiple entities.
  - a. Goal to be accomplished within 6 months

## **Long-Term Goals**

Long Term goals stated are:

1. **GIS Web Application** – This tool would be designed to deliver map based data to all local entities and the public.
  - a. Cooperate with establish Geographic Information Systems within the City of El Paso and the University of Texas at El Paso
  - b. Goal to be accomplished within 10 months  
*Responsible party: Jose Granillo – City of El Paso*
  
2. **K- 12 Professional Development**
  - a. Goal to be achieved within 12 months  
*Responsible party: Sharon Ninkovich – Ysleta Independent School District*
  
3. **311 Type System** – Establish a system to handle non-emergency phone calls to field service complaints such as potholes, fallen trees, noise complaints, street or traffic signals not working, or non-emergency 911 phone calls. In some cases 311 brings together local police or fire communications centers/systems, while others times the number has no connection to emergency agencies and are handled separately. All 311 non-emergency calls are routed to a separate center where information is then entered into a computer and routed to the proper entity for handling. Cities such as Denver, Minneapolis and San Francisco have a similar 311 program in place.
  - a. Goal to be achieved within 12 to 18 months  
*Responsible party: Leila Melendez – City of El Paso*
  
4. **Data Center** – The philosophy behind a shared data center is for several entities to leverage their technology and data needs by constructing a data facility that can be shared by numerous entities. The force behind a shared data center is the potential for financial savings by having entities all fall under one roof as opposed to various entities duplicating the same efforts multiple times.
  - a. Goal to be achieved within 12 to 24 months  
*Responsible party: Peter Cooper – County of El Paso*

# REPORT FINDINGS: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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The goal of the facilities management group was to maintain and enhance buildings, grounds and physical infrastructure in a cost-effective, safe and environmentally responsibly manner. Additionally, entities that have a need for added facilities should collaborate in order to maximize space and resources. Initial priorities and needs as outlined in the session included:

- Parks – expanded open grounds
- Maintenance – Fleet, building and ground
- Roads – Safe Routes Grants
- Sportsplex
- Libraries
- Land needs – Availability
- Ponding Areas – Greening/Alternative Energy
- Data center
- Security services
- Combined Governmental Center
- Planning and Zoning
- Internet sites
- Economic Development
- Code enforcement
- Professional services
- Emergency services
- School partnerships

## Short-Term Goals

Eight short term goals were identified within this session which included:

1. Maintenance – Creation of interlocal agreements that allow loaning of machinery while independent entities utilize staff to run equipment.
  - a. Fleet – Possibility of creating a one stop maintenance shop that is equipped to handle the needs of vehicles owned by various entities. This would be managed by the entity that has the largest volume of vehicles it manages.
  - b. Centralized building maintenance
  - c. Grounds – exploring the possibility of one crew to execute roadside maintenance
  - d. Formulate committee of regional partners for goals such as fueling stations
  - e. Develop needs assessment for all municipalities and evaluate the City’s capacity to meet those needs
  - f. Determine fees that will be charged through shared services
  - g. County to look into leasing facilitates
  - h. Fuel/oil changes meet quickly

*Responsible Party: Patricia Aduato – City of El Paso*

*Rosemary Neil – County of El Paso*

2. Planning and Zoning Ordinances/Land Needs/Ponding
  - a. Creating of a Metropolitan Planning Association to oversee and facilitate dialogue between jurisdictions as to land use planning with potential charter changes made to allow for school districts to participate. This could potentially be incorporated into the Metropolitan Planning Organization which primarily deals with transportation, however could also incorporate planning and zoning.
  - b. Create committee and identify issues
  - c. Determine County role on subdivision rights allowed in Texas law, with Commissioner's Court approval.
  - d. Have list of available land for those looking to purchase/lease land

*Responsible Party: Patricia Aauto - City of El Paso*

3. Safe Routes Grant
  - a. Set up committee of school districts and municipalities to combine research and development grant writers
  - b. City of El Paso could be the lead party as they are working with the grant within city limits. An interlocal agreement could be formulated to use the funds for other jurisdictions.

*Responsible Parties: Bob Coleman - City of Horizon*

*George Luevano - San Elizario School District*

*Al Flores - Anthony Independent School District*

*Ted Marquez - City of El Paso*

4. Data Center - to limit redundancy in the building of data centers, while still having an adequate backup system. This could serve as a backup system as opposed to primary data center. This center could also house the 911 District which is a large component of data and emergency response.
  - a. Identify feasible location
  - b. County could partner with 911 district and City of El Paso
  - c. Discuss going green with vendors; energy efficient structure

*Responsible Party: Peter Cooper - County of El Paso*

5. Economic Development
  - a. Expand partnership with County and other communities with focus on their needs
  - b. Look at staffing needs

*Responsible Party: Patricia Aauto - City of El Paso*

*Mayor Madeline Prano - Village of Vinton*

6. Code Enforcement
  - a. Among select cities of interest, the City of El Paso could assist with creating ordinances and citations and locals would enforce
  - b. Air quality inspections of tattoo parlors; not strict code compliance, no enforcement or clean up outside jurisdiction.
  - c. City/County could work with smaller municipalities to implement citation of codes while they apply the enforcement

*Responsible Party: Al Flores - Anthony Independent School District*

*Kurt Fenstermacher - City of El Paso*

7. Professional Services

- a. Create committee to discuss issues

*Responsible Party: Jim Booher - Ysleta Independent School District*

8. County Parks

- a. Determine revenues and costs associated with shifting County parks to the City of El Paso

*Responsible Party: Edward Dion - El Paso County*

## **Long-Term Goals**

Long term goals that were determined in the session include:

1. Maintenance - Fleet (3-5 years)

- a. Vehicle Maintenance, Labor; type of vehicles and if they are in line with current inventory;  
b. Switch to CNG/CLG vehicle to utilize facility to purchase fuel

*Responsible Party: Patricia Aduato - City of El Paso*

2. Planning and Zoning Ordinances/Land Needs/Ponding (3-5 years)

- a. Development of Regional Management Plan  
b. Zoning-Ordinance making agency for the County

*Responsible Party: Patricia Aduato - City of El Paso*

3. Libraries (2 years) - Work having school libraries open after hours to prevent municipalities from building stand alone libraries.

- a. Funding for staff to keep library open after hours and Saturday  
b. Needs assessment to determine what materials/staff may be needed  
c. Restricting access to school from library

*Responsible Parties: Carol Brey-Casiano - City of El Paso*



OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER VERONICA ESCOBAR  
PRECINCT 2

Thank you for taking the time to review our report. In the months since the Shared Services Summit took place, the various jurisdictions have been faced with significant budgetary challenges, issues that have come about as a result of declining revenues in a slow economy. A Shared Services initiative then becomes more difficult to achieve (because of the pressure to scale back on anything but what is required for each entity), yet more necessary than ever.

Thankfully, the good will and determination to make shared services successful has been at play, and the community has already seen the jurisdiction's work on some early wins: The City of El Paso and the County have partnered on gasoline purchases; the City of El Paso and the Village of Vinton are working on an economic development collaborative and Thomason is helping EPISD with its medical supply purchases. During this time, the County has also created a multi-jurisdictional template for purchases, and the Information Technology group has moved forward with its already well established network.

Yet there is still much work to be done. Leaders within each jurisdiction have been identified, and they will ensure that a resolution (which accepts the commitments identified in this report) is passed, and our office will continue to remain in contact with the participants. Ultimately, the professionals involved in the summit will have to be the ones pushing their own initiatives, and the elected officials at each entity will also need to ensure that they make shared services a priority.

Our office has also been in contact with the Rio Grande Council of Governments (COG), a future partner, stakeholder and potential coordinator for future annual shared services summits and collaborative efforts. While our office works on finding ways to further our goals with the COG, we will also work to assist the jurisdictions on any aspect of our united efforts as they move forward on the goals they have identified for themselves. We will also keep track of the progress and post updates to the report on our website.

Our larger vision for the future is to have one entity (potentially the COG) house the summit, and have our multi-jurisdictional efforts at collaboration be an ongoing effort, discussed every budget cycle until we have maximized our ability to work together.

Thank you for your interest, support and assistance. We look forward to continuing our work!

Sincerely,

Veronica Escobar  
County Commissioner, Precinct 2  
<http://www/comm2/>

# EL PASO, TEXAS: COMMUNITY PROFILE



## QUALITY OF LIFE

*Elevation: 3,927 ft.*

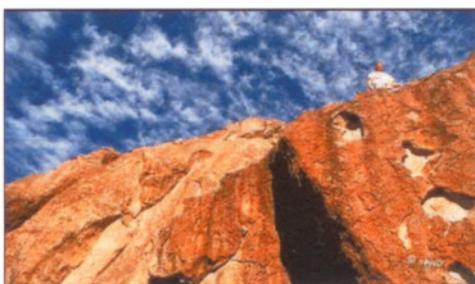
*Average high: 77.1F*

*Average Low: 52.1 F*

*Average Rainfall: 9.43 in.*

**Three states, two countries, one culture – El Paso, Texas.**

El Paso is at the forefront of communities transcending borders – a global culture centuries in the making. On average, the sun shines more than 300 days per year, earning El Paso its “Sun City” nickname. It is also a city of historic notability, featuring archeological sites, two state parks, a national memorial and 12 different museums.



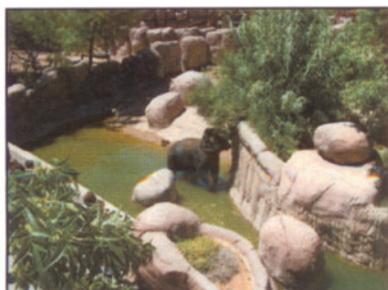
Hueco Tanks State Park, for example, is an Indian habitat that some anthropologists say dates back more than 2,000 years. Franklin Mountains State Park is the largest urban state park in the nation lying completely within city limits, covering 24,247.56 acres or about 37 square miles. For the outdoor enthusiast, El Paso offers a wondrous, diverse landscape to explore, including the Rio Grande, the Franklin Mountains, and the Chihuahuan Desert.

El Paso is the site for the second-oldest collegiate bowl game in the country, the Sun Bowl. In addition to the game, the Sun Bowl Association puts on an annual parade on Thanksgiving Day.

The stadium is also the football home for the University of Texas at El Paso Miners and hosts the Texas vs. The Nation Division 1-A collegiate senior all-star bowl. The game pits players originally from Texas or who play college football in Texas against top players from around the country.



Year-round golf is available on a variety of public and private courses citywide, including the newly opened Butterfield Trail Golf Course & Club House. It is the latest from award-winning course designer Tom Fazio, elaborating natural topographical features to “keep the golfer’s ball in play.”



The Sun City offers a variety of arts, historic and culture offerings, including the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the El Paso Opera and three theaters. The El Paso Mission Trail – which includes the Ysleta Mission, the Socorro Mission and the San Elizario Church – also offers a trip to the area’s rich past and are the oldest active mission in the United States. The El Paso Zoo



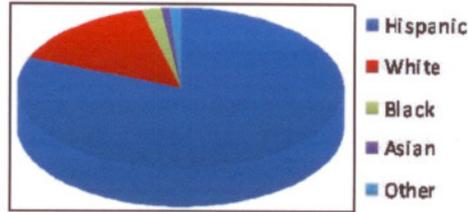
is an 18 acre oasis for about 240 species of animals and is in the process of a major expansion to double its size.

## POPULATION (2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau)

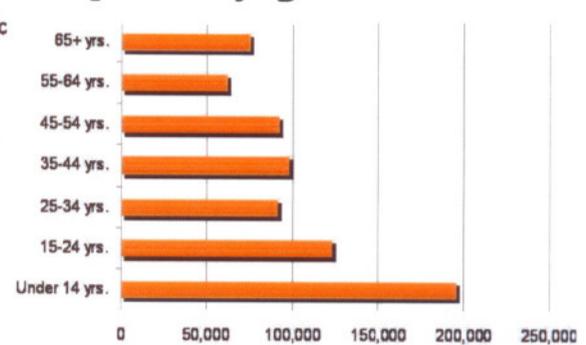
**City of El Paso: 596,189**

Hispanic	81%
Non-Hispanic	15%
African-American	2%
Asian	1%
Other	1%

**El Paso County: 736,310**



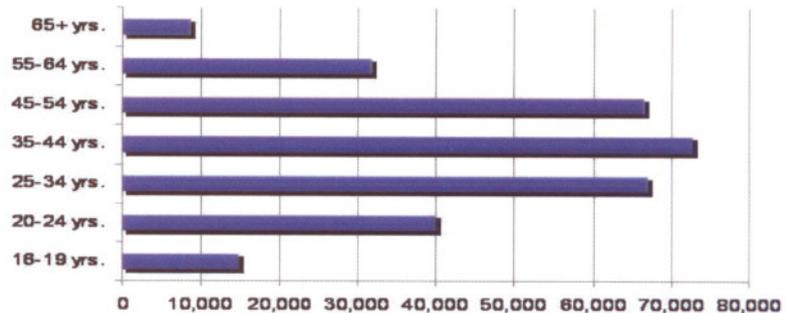
**Population by age**



## WORKFORCE (2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau)

Median household income:	\$32,111
Civilian labor force:	303,657
Employment:	278,954
Unemployment:	5.8% (Sept. 2007)
Texas is a right-to-work state	

**Labor force by age**



## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Downtown El Paso is ready to be re-established as the heart of the community. Redevelopment will transform 302.5 acres into a vibrant place to live, work, play, shop and visit via a strong public and private partnership. El Paso is seeking to provide for a broad range of retail choices in Downtown, sites for larger retail stores to meet the strong cross-border demand, and mixed-use and multi-tenant housing opportunities.

El Paso City County created a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone. In its first year of the TIRZ, property values climbed by 52 percent – one of the largest single year valuation increased in the history of Downtown.

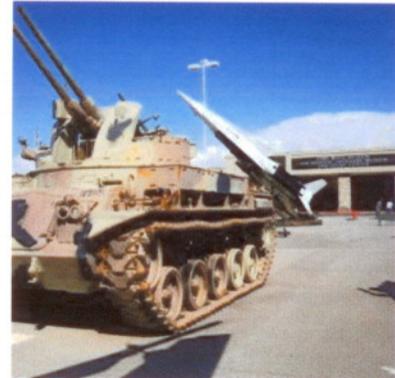


## FORT BLISS

Fort Bliss in Northeast El Paso is the fastest-growing U.S. Army installation in the United States. Through various Army Department of Defense initiatives, including Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Fort Bliss will grow significantly.

By 2013:

- A net gain of approximately 37,000 troops and as many as 53,000 family members
- \$3.7 billion additional economic impact annually
- \$248 million in new property taxes
- \$55 million in new sales taxes
- 2,000 new jobs (engineering, technical & industrial)



Fort Bliss and nearby White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico will be the center of integrated field experimentation for the Army's most significant modernization program – Future Combat Systems (FCS).

## Wages (El Paso MSA – Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006 occupational employment statistics survey)

Administrative Assistant	\$31,000	Librarian	\$47,133
General/Operations Manager	\$77,694	Graphic Designer	\$34,140
Accountant/Auditor	\$50,245	Registered Nurse	\$54,172
Computer Programmer	\$42,619	Massage Therapist	\$31,146
Architect	\$65,592	Carpenter	\$22,534
Social Worker	\$40,980	Electrician	\$31,998
Lawyer	\$106,238	Machinist	\$27,608

## COST OF LIVING & COMMUTE

According to the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association (ACCRA), the Cost of Living Index for El Paso is 93.2. The average cost of living in the U.S. is 100. The Median Housing Price is \$124,410, with Fortune Magazine ranking El Paso's housing market the second largest in the nation. (2006)

Despite being the 21<sup>st</sup> largest city in the U.S., commute time in El Paso is extremely low. The U.S. Census estimates that 40% of El Pasoans have an average commute of 21 minutes and 20% have an average commute of 30 minutes.

SPONSORS OF THE  
2008 SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT:



Vision. Integrity. Professionalism.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

# WORKS CITED

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El Paso Texas Community Profile 2008. City of El Paso Economic Development.  
[http://www.elpasotexas.gov/econdev/\\_documents/Community%20Profile%202008.pdf](http://www.elpasotexas.gov/econdev/_documents/Community%20Profile%202008.pdf)

“Shared Services Study: Final Report.” Spotsylvania County, Virginia Government and Schools. 26 April 2005 <http://www.spotsylvania.va.us/emplibrary/SharedServicesStudy.pdf>

# APPENDICES

# SHARED SERVICES AGENDA



# 2008 EL PASO SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT

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## AGENDA

**8:00am – 8:30am: Registration/ Breakfast**

**8:30am – 9:00am: Opening: The Future of Shared Services in El Paso**

Veronica Escobar

El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Frank Alvarez

Local Government Assistance & Economic Development Coordinator

Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts

**9:00am – 9:30am: Transformational Tax Collection**

Juan Sandoval

Tax Assessor/Collector

El Paso Consolidated Tax Office

**9:30am – 10:00am: Panel Discussion: Understanding the Challenges & Benefits of Shared Services**

Jose R. Rodriguez

El Paso County Attorney

Elaine S. Hengen

Senior Assistant City Attorney

Larry Baskind

School District Attorney

**10:00am – 12:00pm: Shared Services Breakout Workgroups**

**Working Group 1: Purchasing**

Facilitator: Charlene Rendon

Texas Cooperative Purchasing - Program Coordinator

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**Working Group 2: Facilities Management**

Facilitator: Frank Alvarez

Local Government Assistance & Economic Development Coordinator

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### **Working Group 3: Information Technology**

Facilitator: Mr. Dustin Lanier

Director

State of Texas - Council on Competitive Government

**12:00pm – 12:20pm: Tour of the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalinization Plant**

**12:20pm – 1:00pm: Lunch – A Measure of Success: Shared Services in Education**

Dr. Jimmy Vasquez

Executive Director

Region 19 Education Service Center

**1:00pm – 3:00pm: Shared Services Breakout Workgroups**

### **Working Group 1: Purchasing**

Facilitator: Charlene Rendon

Texas Cooperative Purchasing - Program Coordinator

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### **Working Group 2: Facilities Management**

Facilitator: Frank Alvarez

Local Government Assistance & Economic Development Coordinator

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### **Working Group 3: Information Technology**

Facilitator: Mr. Dustin Lanier

Director

State of Texas - Council on Competitive Government

**3:00pm – 4:30pm: Next Steps**

- Evaluation of Workgroup Strategies
- Selection of members for the Shared Services Oversight Committee
- Adoption of shared resolution language

SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT  
FACILITATORS/SPEAKERS

# SUMMIT FACILITATORS

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## **Frank Alvarez, Local Government Assistance & Economic Development Coordinator Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

Mr. Alvarez possesses a graduate degree in Journalism, a Masters degree in Administration, and a Bachelors degree in Political Science. He joined the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as a Local Government Coordinator and Economic Development Analyst in the Local Government Assistance (LGA) Division in January 2005.

Mr. Alvarez has contributed to several Local Government Management Reviews such as the cities of Jasper, Marshall and Bonham and the recently developed Local Government Management Assessment (LGMA) for the City of Wills Point. He is the senior analyst performing risk assessments at local government requests.

Mr. Alvarez has also written and contributed to several articles published in the Window on Texas Local Government newsletter, such as "Collecting Court Costs and Fees and Their Effective Dates," "Jury Duty: Money Well Spent" and "The Increased Cost of Fuel and Its Impact on Local Governments." Frank is also the LGA Fiscal Note and Legislative Analysis Cost Estimate Tracking (LACET) Coordinator. This means that Frank tracks and evaluates the potential costs to local governments regarding a number of issues being heard by the Legislature as well as any costs that may impact the LGA Division.

## **Dustin Lanier Director, Council on Competitive Government State of Texas**

Mr. Lanier currently serves as the Director of the Texas Council on Competitive Governments. Mr. Lanier formally worked for the Texas Department of Information Resources, which deals with all IT related issues for the State of Texas.

## **Charlene Rendon, Program Coordinator -Texas Cooperative Purchasing Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

Ms. Rendon was born and raised in Austin, Texas. She attended the University of Texas at Austin where she earned a bachelor's degree in government. After graduation, Charlene took a position with the State of Texas as a compliance analyst for the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program. After two and a half years with the HUB Program, Charlene accepted her current position as the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program Coordinator. Charlene is also currently pursuing her master's degree in public administration.

# SUMMIT SPEAKERS

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## **Larry Baskind, legal council to school districts**

### **El Paso County and West Texas**

Mr. Baskind is a graduate of the University of Texas with a BA and JD. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the El Paso Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. Other associations include the Council of School Attorneys, School Law Section of the State Bar of Texas and the Education Law Association. Mr. Baskind has co-taught a course in Public School Law for Graduate Students in the Educational Development and Management Department at NMSU and conducted numerous trainings for school administrators and in services sessions for school staff members at local school districts. Mr. Baskind is principal at Baskind & Hosford, PC, where he represents several school districts in El Paso County and West Texas.

## **Elaine Hengen, Senior Assistant City Attorney**

### **City of El Paso**

Ms. Hengen received her Bachelors of Arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a J.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law. Ms Hengen is a member of several legal associations, including the Nebraska State Bar, Texas State Bar and El Paso County Bar. Ms. Hengen has served as Deputy County Attorney in Hooker County, Nebraska, Legal Council to the Nebraska State Patrol, Instructor at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and today as Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of El Paso.

## **Jose Rodriguez, County Attorney**

### **County of El Paso**

Mr. Rodriguez received his law degree from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1974 and began his legal career as a staff attorney with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Mr. Rodriguez has served as Legal Advisor to County Judge Alicia R. Chacon and practiced law with the firm Rodriguez, Lewis & Collis and later worked for ten years as staff attorney and director of the farmworker program of Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc. Today Mr. Rodriguez serves as County Attorney and has held this position since 1993.

## **Juan Sandoval, Tax Assessor and Collector**

### **El Paso Consolidated Tax Office**

Mr. Sandoval holds a Bachelors of Science and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. He is a registered Tax Assessor and Certified Tax Administrator. Mr. Sandoval began his career as a teacher and coach at EPISD, where he then moved to serving as a Physicist at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. After serving at Los Alamos Mr. Sandoval started as a Recreation Program Supervisor with the City of El Paso. He

has been an employee with the City of El Paso for over 30 years and has held several positions; today serving as Tax Assessor/Collector.

**Dr. Jimmy Vasquez, Executive Director  
Region 19 Education Service Center**

Dr. Vasquez has come out of retirement several times in order to support issues around public education and has become known across the U.S. for having lead Edgewood vs. Kirby a lawsuit to equalize funding for education in Texas. As a result of the lawsuit, El Paso area schools now receive millions more each year to educate students.

Dr. Vasquez began his career at the Edgewood Independent School District in the San Antonio area. He started as a math and government teacher, moved on to Assistant Principal to Principal, Director of Curriculum for the School District and finally served as Superintendent of Edgewood ISD, a position he held until his retirement in 1991.

Shortly after, Dr. Vasquez took a job as a master/monitor with the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In 1993, he became the Senior Director of Governance, Operations, Civil Rights and Special Investigations at TEA. He retired in 1995 and started his own education consulting firm, providing school board training and in management professional development to principals and other administrators in the organization and management.

Today Dr. Vasquez serves as Executive Director of the Region 19 Education Service Center, a position he has held since 1997.

Dr. Vasquez has been recognized by several higher education institutions such as the University of Texas at Austin and Trinity University. He has also been a consultant to Stanford University, Harvard University and the coordinating Board for Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Vasquez was honored by President Jimmy Carter and invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Youth Employment Act in 1979. He was also honored by the Texas School Public Relations Association as the 1983 “Key Communicator of the Year” an honor he shares with Governor Bush, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Henry Cisneros, former Commission of Education Mike Moses, and other prominent Texans.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR  
SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT

# RESOLUTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF EL PASO

Know All Men By These Presents:

WHEREAS the unprecedented growth the County of El Paso is experiencing is expected to accelerate in the foreseeable future. With this growth comes an increased demand to improve services with the expectation that leaders will keep taxes from rising; and

WHEREAS these demands will require innovative organization and management of government support services and intergovernmental relations in order to achieve improved services and service delivery, organizational credibility and a more effective use of resources; and

WHEREAS continually increasing the tax burden on an already overburdened base is an unsuitable strategy; and

WHEREAS the municipalities, school districts, institutions of higher education and other taxing entities within El Paso County seek to provide cost effective and efficient delivery of government services to their citizens; and

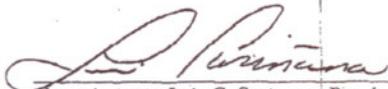
WHEREAS it is their shared belief that sharing services will be cost effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS the County of El Paso actively supports discussing and researching possible new and enhanced shared services between one or more stakeholders; and

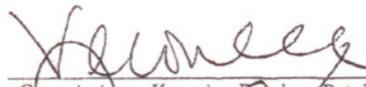
WHEREAS the County of El Paso will participate in all meetings of the Shared Services Summit and or its subcommittees for the purpose of reaching a consensus on the best opportunities for shared services among the various stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court support and approve working toward facilitating shared services within the County of El Paso.

SIGNED, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008

  
Commissioner Luis G. Sarinana, Pct. 1

  
Commissioner Miguel A. Teran, Pct. 3

  
Commissioner Veronica Escobar, Pct. 2

  
Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

  
Anthony Cobos County Judge



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR  
SHARED SERVICES INITIATIVES IDENTIFIED  
AT THE SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT

# RESOLUTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF EL PASO

## Know All Men By These Presents:

*WHEREAS, on November 12, 2008 every taxing entity within the County of El Paso, Texas met at the first annual Shared Services Summit to discuss areas of future collaboration; and,*

*WHEREAS, the areas focused on were purchasing, facilities planning and information technology; and,*

*WHEREAS, the collective goals and areas of interest identified for FY 2009 are as follows:*

### **PURCHASING GOALS**

#### Short-term Goals:

- Identify and move on creating purchasing agreements among entities around necessary items that can easily be bought in bulk

#### Long-Term Goals

- Develop an El Paso Purchasing Alliance with delegates being those who have attended short term meetings
- Explore insurance pooling with delegates being chosen by the El Paso Purchasing alliance at a later date
- Develop supplier evaluation system to share supplier information with others
- Shared printing services
- Procurement automation system

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

#### Short-Term Goals

- Shared Video Conferencing System
- Shared Video Surveillance

#### Long-Term Goals

- GIS Clearinghouse web application
- Create online K- 12 professional development training
- 311 System Data Center for documenting local non-emergency requests

### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

#### Short-Term Goals:

- Maintenance/Fleet – formulate a committee of regional partners to look at the needs of municipalities and the City's capacity to serve.
- Identify feasible location for a consolidated data center; build "green" facility/energy efficient structure
- Economic Development – expand partnership with the County of El Paso and other interested communities while addressing staffing needs.
- Code Enforcement – Among select Cities of interest, the City of El Paso could assist with creating ordinances and citations with enforcement managed by respective entities.
- Committee to discuss professional services
- Determine revenues and costs associated with shifting County parks to the City of El Paso

#### Long-Term Goals:

- Maintenance – Fleet collaboration
- Planning and Zoning Ordinances/Land Needs/Ponding – Development of a Regional Management Plan
- Seeking funding to keep libraries open after hours, need assessment, restricting access to school from libraries.

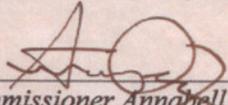
# RESOLUTION

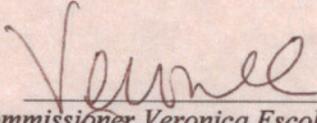
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF EL PASO

} Know All Men By These Presents:

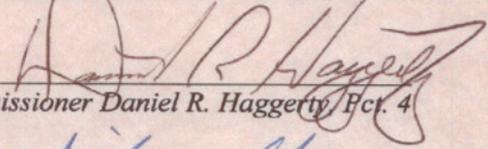
*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court agree to support the goals identified above by all stakeholders at the Summit, and which will help El Paso create added efficiencies that will save precious resources.*

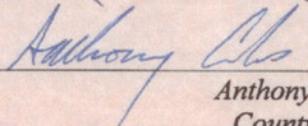
SIGNED, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Annabell Perez, Pct. 1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Veronica Escobar, Pct. 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Willie Gandara, Pct. 3

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Cobos  
County Judge



SAMPLE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT  
CITY/COUNTY OF EL PASO

STATE OF TEXAS )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
COUNTY OF EL PASO )

**INTERLOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF EL PASO AND  
THE EL PASO COUNTY**

This interlocal purchasing agreement (this "**Agreement**") is made and entered into this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007, by and between the City of El Paso, a Texas municipal corporation (the "**City**") and the El Paso County, a Texas County (the "**County**").

FILED FOR RECORD  
COUNTY CLERK  
2007 MAR 23 PM 4:17  
El Paso County, Texas  
*D. L. B. [Signature]*

**RECITALS:**

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County each separately undertake procurement efforts to acquire the same or similar goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County desire to increase their efficiency and effectiveness with respect to their respective purchases of goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County believe that by coordinating and combining the procurement efforts between themselves they will reduce costs by eliminating redundant purchasing expenses and achieve pricing advantages due to volume discounts from vendors;

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County anticipate that other government agencies which currently are not parties to this Agreement might also benefit from participation in joint purchasing efforts and, therefore, the City and the County desire to allow other agencies to become parties hereto;

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 791 (Interlocal Cooperation Contracts) of the Texas Government Code (the "**Code**") authorizes local governments to contract with one another in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. Section 791.025(a) of the Code authorizes local governments to contract with one another to purchase goods and services. A local government that purchases goods and services under Section 791.025(a) satisfies the requirement of the local government to seek competitive bids for the purchase of the goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto shall pay their respective costs associated with this Agreement from current revenues available to the paying party at the date of execution.

**AGREEMENT:**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

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CITY CLERK  
07 FEB 26 PM

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the parties hereto will make joint procurement efforts, from time to time, for various goods and services.

**SECTION 2. TERM.** The primary term of this Agreement shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_, 2007 and continue through \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, at which time it shall expire; provided, however, that this Agreement shall be automatically renewed for successive one-year terms except with respect to parties providing written notice to the other parties of its intent not to renew this Agreement at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of the then-current primary or renewal term.

**SECTION 3. PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENT.**

A. The City and the County are the original parties to this Agreement, with each to be known as a "**Charter Party**". With the unanimous consent of the Charter Parties, any governmental entity in Texas located in and around El Paso, Texas, constituting a "local government" within the meaning of the Code, may by written agreement join as a party to this Agreement, such joining "entities" shall be known as an "**Associate Party**". The term "**Party**" herein shall be deemed to refer, as the context may require, to each Charter Party and to each Associate Party. The supervision and authority over the conduct and operation of this Agreement shall be vested solely on the Charter Parties.

B. Subject to applicable laws or legal privileges, each Party who intends to acquire any goods or services by any means including, but not limited to, competitive solicitations (the "**Acquiring Party**"), may, at the Acquiring Party's option and in its discretion, provide notice to the other Parties of: (i) the goods and/or services sought; (ii) the form of the anticipated transaction [e.g. sale, lease, etc.]; (iii) the anticipated timetable for the acquisition process; and (iv) the deadline for receipt by the Acquiring Party of any other Parties' requests for inclusion of items or services in the proposed procurement. If another Party wishes to participate in such procurement (the "**Participating Party**"), the Acquiring Party and the Participating Party shall seek to reach agreement on mutually-agreeable terms and conditions of the procurement and of the solicitation documents.

C. The Acquiring Party, if there is a Participating Party for such procurement, shall include in the solicitation, the advertisement for the solicitation, and the subsequent contract, the following statement, or words to such effect:

*"This contract may be utilized for purchases by [Name Of Participating Party], pursuant to that certain Interlocal Purchasing Agreement dated February \_\_, 2007." Any procurement award by [NAME OF ACQUIRING PARTY] on behalf of [NAME OF PARTICIPATING PARTIES] shall be contingent upon the issuance of a purchase order or execution of a procurement agreement by [NAME OF PARTICIPATING PARTIES] and shall not be binding upon [NAME OF ACQUIRING PARTY], which shall only be legally responsible for*

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CITY CLERK DEPT

*payment for the goods and services in the quantities detailed in its own purchase order or procurement agreement."*

If a vendor refuses to comply with the above statement, the Acquiring Party may, nonetheless, procure the goods and/or services from the vendor for the price and on the terms submitted to the Acquiring Party. In such case, the Participating Party is hereby precluded from asserting a claim against the Acquiring Party for completing its acquisition of the subject goods and services.

**SECTION 4. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT; MUTUAL COOPERATION.** The Parties do not intend to limit the scope of this Agreement solely to the joint acquisition of goods and services as described above. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, unnecessary expenditures, and increase their efficiency and effectiveness, the Parties hereby agree to cooperate with each other as each deems appropriate with respect to procurement of goods and services. Such cooperation may include, but not be limited to: (i) jointly contracting to purchase goods and services as provided in Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code; (ii) developing a common registry of vendors; (iii) jointly advertising to save expense when requesting the same type of goods and services; and (iv) participating in or performing such other actions involving the procurement of goods and services as the Parties believe will be in their best collective interests.

**SECTION 5. INDEPENDENT ACTIONS AND APPROVALS.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, each Party (whether a Charter Party or an Associate Party) may independently request proposals and purchase goods and services at such times, in such quantities, and under such terms as such Party may elect without the involvement, consent, or approval of any other Party. The proposed joint cooperation under this Agreement shall in no way limit, impair, or otherwise affect the authority of the governing body of each Party to approve or disapprove under each Party's own guidelines and standards, any proposed contract or transaction. Participation in procurement efforts contemplated herein are voluntarily and, therefore, all Parties are prevented from requiring any other Party or Parties to participate in any transaction against such Party's wishes. In the event that more than one Party elects to participate in any proposed action, any Party may withdraw from such participation at any time without liability or continuing obligation to any other Party. In no event shall participation in this Agreement prevent any Party from entering into any other procurement agreement or cooperative arrangement.

**SECTION 6. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.** Nothing herein shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by any of the Parties, except to the limited extent required by law to enforce the Parties' respective obligations to each other hereunder. The Parties expressly agree that, in all things relating to this Agreement, they are performing governmental functions, as defined by the Texas Tort Claims Act, and that every act or omission of the Parties which, in any way, pertains to or arises out of this Agreement, falls within the definitions of governmental function. Furthermore, no Party shall be required hereunder to incur any monetary obligations or expend any funds that are not appropriated and budgeted by it; payment of any amounts in excess of budgeted figures by each Party is conditioned upon it being able to obtain and appropriate funds for such payment.

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**SECTION 7. TERMINATION.** Any Party may terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason by giving the other Party(ies) at least a ninety (90) day prior written notice. Each Party also reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at the end of its fiscal year by providing at least a twenty (20) day prior written notice to the other Party(ies).

**SECTION 8. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND DAMAGES.** No Party shall have the right to seek indemnification or contribution from any other Party for any losses, costs, expenses, or damages directly or indirectly arising, in whole or part, from this Agreement. No Party shall be liable to any other Party or to any person claiming rights derived from such Party's rights, for incidental, consequential, special, punitive, or exemplary damages of any kind [including lost profits, loss of business, or other economic damage, and further including injury without limitation to property, mental anguish and emotional distress] as a result of breach of any term of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Party was advised, had other reason to know, or in fact knew of the possibility thereof. No Party shall be liable to any other Party or any third party by reason of any inaccuracy, incompleteness, or obsolescence of any information provided or maintained by the other Parties regardless of whether the Party receiving said information was advised, had other reason to know, or in fact knew thereof. The Parties each acknowledge that the provisions of this Agreement were negotiated to reflect an informed, voluntary allocation between them of all risks [both known and unknown] associated with the transactions associated with this Agreement. The disclaimers and limitations in this Agreement are intended to limit the circumstances of liability. The remedy limitations, and the limitations of liability, are separately intended to limit the forms of relief available to the parties.

**SECTION 9. NO SEPARATE ENTITY.** Notwithstanding the formal or informal use by the Parties or others of "collaborative," "consortium," or similar terms in referring to the Parties' arrangement under this Agreement, the Parties do not intend to create, and have not created, a separate, legal entity. The relationship of the Parties is only one of independent contractors, and not a joint venture, partnership, unincorporated association, or other entity.

**SECTION 10. ASSIGNMENT.** Neither the City nor the County may assign, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of this Agreement or portion thereof, or its rights, title or interest therein, without the written consent of the other. An Associate Party may not assign, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of this Agreement or portion thereof, or its rights, title or interest therein, without the consent of both Charter Parties.

**SECTION 11. LEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS.** In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provisions had never been contained herein.

**SECTION 12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties hereto agree that reasonable efforts will be made to aid and assist the other in accomplishing the objectives of this Agreement. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising from or relating to this Agreement or any breach thereof, the parties shall use their best efforts to meet regularly and resolve the dispute, claim, question, or disagreement. To this effect, the parties hereby agree to consult and negotiate with each other in good faith. The parties further agree that should their efforts to resolve a dispute, claim, questions, or disagreement arising from this Agreement fail,

that before either party files suit against the other to enforce, or otherwise relating to, the terms of this Agreement, it shall notify the other party of its intent to sue. Upon delivery and receipt of such notice, the parties agree to submit the matter to be litigated to mediation before a mutually-agreed upon mediator and to diligently pursue a mediated settlement until such time as the parties mutually agree to terminate such mediation or the mediator declares an impasse. No lawsuit under this Agreement by one party against the other may be filed until mediation of the issue has ended in accordance with the terms hereof.

**SECTION 13. NOTICES.** Any notice, demand, requests, consent, or approval that either party may or is required to provide to the other, shall be in writing and either personally delivered or sent via Certified Mail, Return Receipt requested, to the following addresses:

To the City:           The City of El Paso  
                          Attention: City Manager  
                          2 Civic Center Plaza, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
                          El Paso, Texas 79901

With a copy to:       The City of El Paso  
                          Attn: Purchasing Manager  
                          2 Civic Center Plaza, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
                          El Paso, Texas 79901

To the County:        El Paso County  
                          Attn: County Judge  
                          500 East San Antonio, Ste 301  
                          El Paso, Texas 79901

With a copy to:       Piti Vasquez  
                          El Paso County Purchasing Agent  
                          500 East San Antonio, Ste 500  
                          El Paso, Texas 79901

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Changes may be made to the above addresses and addressees through timely written notice to the other party.

**SECTION 14. VENUE.** For the purpose of determining the place of this Agreement and the law governing the same, this Agreement is entered into in the City and County of El Paso, the State of Texas, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Venue shall be in the County of El Paso, Texas.

**SECTION 15. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT.** Each person signing below represents that he or she has read this Agreement in its entirety, understands its terms, is duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Party, and agrees on behalf of such party that such Party will be bound by those terms.

**SECTION 16. HEADINGS.** The headings of the sections contained in this Agreement are included herein for reference purposes only, solely for the convenience of the parties hereto,

and shall not in any way be deemed to affect the meaning, interpretation, or applicability of this Agreement or any term, condition or provision hereof.

**SECTION 17. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts; each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute only one instrument. Any one of such counterparts shall be sufficient for the purpose of proving the existence and terms of this Agreement, and no party shall be required to produce an original or all of such counterparts in making such proof.

**SECTION 18. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement supersedes any and all other agreements, either oral or in writing, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and no other agreement, statements of promise relating to the subject matter of this Agreement which is not contained herein shall be valid or binding.

*(Signature page to follow)*

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STATE OF TEXAS )  
 )  
 )  
COUNTY OF EL PASO )

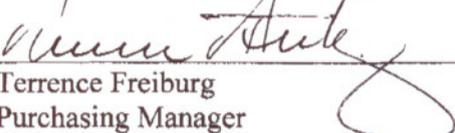
**INTERLOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF EL PASO AND  
THE EL PASO COUNTY**

*Signature Page*

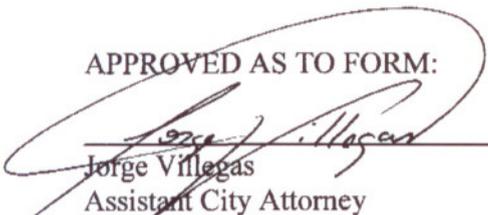
**CITY OF EL PASO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Wilson  
City Manager

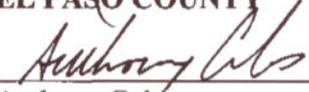
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terrence Freiburg  
Purchasing Manager

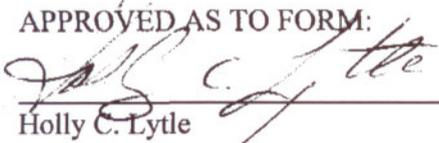
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge Villegas  
Assistant City Attorney

**EL PASO COUNTY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Cobos  
County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly C. Lytle  
Assistant County Attorney

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ARTICLES ON SHARED SERVICES

## **Summit looks at sharing services to save money**

By Erica Molina Johnson / El Paso Times

EL PASO -- In an effort to consolidate resources to save taxpayers money, about 20 regional taxing entities came together Wednesday at the first Shared Services Summit.

"I think this is a way to save money for the district, and that's what we're looking for," said Gilbert Alarcon, assistant superintendent of finance and operations for the Fabens Independent School District.

The summit was spearheaded by county Commissioner Veronica Escobar.

"When I was working in government many years ago I saw the areas where collaboration already existed and wondered why there wasn't more and I also know the realities of being a taxpayer and paying into multiple jurisdictions," she said.

"Now that I am an elected official within government, I see where we have taken advantage of some opportunities, but I think we haven't given enough empowerment to the professionals who run our government to create more opportunities."

The representatives of various taxing entities were split into work groups to brainstorm about plans that could be implemented on large or small scales to share services with one another.

Larry Baskind, a lawyer who represents several school districts, told the group it might want to begin considering whether consolidation of health insurance is possible or desired. "Maybe if we pool our resources, we'll have as much negotiating power as the big hospitals," he said.

Among the successes in shared services that were reviewed at the summit were the consolidated tax office, the consolidation of county attorney and district attorney functions and school district purchasing items through Region 19.

Escobar said she would like the event to be annual so that taxing entities could continue to find new ways to avoid raising taxes as the community grows. "We have to find ways to save money in some areas so that we can meet the demands in other areas," she said.

Erica Molina Johnson may be reached at [emolina@elpasotimes.com](mailto:emolina@elpasotimes.com); 546-6132.

## Shared Services Summit successful

Written for kvia.com by Anchor/Reporter Stephanie Valle



EL PASO, TX -- The leaders of the 18 different governmental and taxing entities in the county got together to brainstorm new ways to work together and ultimately save taxpayer money.

The Shared Services Summit is the first of its kind in the state, promoting cooperation between taxing bodies.

Leaders hope that cooperation will reduce how often those bodies duplicate services and therefore charge taxpayers for those services.

"We're all interested in finding ways to save money. We're all interested in reducing the cost of government," says County Commissioner Veronica Escobar.

Those who attended the meeting came from El Paso City and County, Socorro, Vinton, Horizon, Anthony, and Clint. They joined representatives from the nine school districts, Thomason Hospital, and El Paso Community College.

The main ways the taxing bodies could save money is by combining resources in the Information Technology, Facilities Management, and Purchasing departments.

The commissioner tells ABC-7, reducing the cost to the taxpayer could be sharing facilities like future schools, parks, and buildings.

"It was the beginning of what we hope are continued relationships between governments so that we're thinking more collaboratively and efficiently along the lines of saving money in the long run," says Escobar.

A report detailing the governmental cooperation should be released in the next month. The plan should be implemented over a year's time.

**Consolidate: Important summit here Wednesday**  
El Paso Times Staff

Call it one of the most important gatherings of El Paso's pencil pushers in memory. Those professionals who write the checks, using tax money, will convene Wednesday for the inaugural 2008 El Paso Shared Services Summit.

The idea is to find ways to save money in all taxing entities by use of consolidation. The summit was organized by County Commissioner Veronica Escobar. She said private money will pay expenses.

All taxing entities in El Paso County are expected to have high-level representatives at the summit, to be held at the Carlos M. Ramirez Tech H2O Water Resources Learning Center. Escobar stressed that the summit is for the professionals within the taxing entities, although elected officials are invited to attend.

That's important because, although elected councilpersons, commissioners and school trustees decide spending policies, it's the professionals on staff who handle the everyday arithmetic.

Escobar cited school libraries as a hypothetical example. Perhaps some of the smaller school districts in eastern El Paso County could build one large, joint library instead of two or three each building their own.

Consolidating on fuel purchasing could save taxpayer money, as another example. Often times buying in large bulk saves on cost.

There will be three main breakout categories, each moderated by a state official. That's because it's a great idea to get taxing entities together so they can begin forming networks to find ways of getting better services, at a lesser cost, to taxpayers.

## SHARED SERVICES PARTICIPANTS

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PURCHASING PARTICIPANTS		FACILITIES MANAGEMENT		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
NAME	ENTITY	NAME	ENTITY	NAME	ENTITY
Piti Vasquez	El Paso County	Eduardo Dion	El Paso County	Janina Prada	Thomason Hospital
Mike Rooney	Interested Citizen/Taxpayer	Many Lucero	El Paso County	Fabiola Rubio	El Paso Community College
Tony Reza	Canutillo ISD	Ray Cobos	Tornillo ISD	Jose Aguirre	City of El Paso
Karen Ellefson	Horizon City	Ernier Roberts	El Paso Community College	Mario Dominguez	Fabens ISD
Teresa Molina	El Paso County	Troy Glover	Thomason Hospital	Steve Stiles	El Paso ISD
Wally Hardgrove	El Paso County	Pat Adatao	City of El Paso	LuAnn Escobar	Canutillo ISD
Jose Lopez	El Paso County	Thomas A. Eyeington	Socorro ISD	Hector Reyna	Socorro ISD
Christine Gerlach	Ysleta ISD	John H. Alarcon	Socorro ISD	Leila Melendez	County of El Paso
Gilbert Alarcon	Fabens ISD	Tim Nugent	El Paso Community College	Peter Cooper	County of El Paso
Randy Jackson	Thomason Hospital	Ray Mendoza Jr.	City of El Paso	Rene Camarillo	County of El Paso
Justin Hill	Clint ISD	Poncho Garcia Jr.	Fabens ISD	Norma Palacios	County of El Paso
Laura Rivera	El Paso ISD	Geroge Luevano	San Elizario ISD	Alice Ramos	San Elizario ISD
Ruben Gallardo	El Paso Community College	Jim Booher	Ysleta ISD	Carlos Najera	Socorro ISD
Ron Gatlin	Canutillo ISD	Kurt Fenstermocher	City of El Paso	Sharon Ninkovich	Ysleta ISD
Terry Freiburg	City of El Paso	Robert Coleman	Horizon City	Said Larsi-Cherif	City of El Paso
Sylvia Aguilar	Horizon City	Yusuf Ferran	Canutillo ISD	Lynn Arrigoni	Horizon City
Mark Vechione	Socorro ISD	Ben Natera	Clint ISD	John McNicol	Clint ISD
Lee Shapleigh	El Paso County	Hector Martinez	El Paso ISD	Raed Aldouri	UTEP
Many Solis	City of Socorro	Rosemary Neill	County of El Paso	Victor Montes	El Paso County
Mayor Madeline Prano	Village of Vinton	Ed Stuart	El Paso Police Department	Jose Granillo	City of El Paso
Larry Worrell	San Elizario ISD	Perfecto Valdez	Village of Vinton		
Commissioner Veronica Escobar	El Paso County	Alfonso Flores Jr.	Anthony ISD		
Ruben Vogt	El Paso County	Pauline Dow	Canutillo ISD		
Celeste Varela	El Paso County				