



# El Paso Shared Services Summit

## Progress Report: A follow up to the 2008 Shared Services Summit

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

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Friends & Colleagues:

As you might know, last year my office hosted a Shared Services Summit. Our goal was to bring together all the taxing entities within El Paso County in order to find areas of collaboration. The mission: save precious tax dollars and resources specifically in the areas of Purchasing, Information Technology and Facilities Management. We were very successful, had tremendous participation, and emerged from the day-long event with great goals, many of which are in progress.

Seeing the great work that came out of the summit, we are proud to provide a progress report on where many of the short and long term goals are. Below you will find a brief synopsis of some of the goals which are ongoing or in progress. Again, collaboration takes time; however we are lucky to see many large initiatives moving forward. Thank you to the many partners who have worked on moving the goals our community set forth forward. Below is a list of those taxing entities that participated in the summit.

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

Due to the success of the first summit and an overwhelming demand for greater collaboration in Human Resources, on December 4, 2009 we will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shared Services Summit which will focus on HR specifically benefits, training/development and hiring/development. There were many great ideas about ways government Human Resource Departments could work together. This year, the Comptroller's Office has helped us secure a facilitator from the Governor's office, and he will be flying in to help us with the summit that day.

For more information, including the final report, resolutions, news clippings, etc., please see our website: [www.epcounty.com/comm2/SharedServicesInitiative.htm](http://www.epcounty.com/comm2/SharedServicesInitiative.htm)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica Escobar".

Veronica Escobar  
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 2



# 2008 SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT PROGRESS REPORT

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## PURCHASING

- Creation of universal purchasing cooperative interlocal template
  - The County took the lead in creating a template agreement which can be used by any entity to enter into interlocal agreements for the purchase or sale of any good. Such a document allows for entities to work together to increase their buying power in acquiring products and services; lowering administrative procurement costs; and improving overall business performance at each entity.
- Shared purchasing agreement between Thomason Hospital & El Paso Independent School District
  - El Paso Independent School District partnered with Thomason Hospital in a one time purchase agreement that allowed for EPISD to purchase medical supplies at a much more cost effective rate through.
- Continued interlocal between the City/County for gas purchases

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Shared Data Center
  - To limit redundancy in the building of various data centers by different taxing entities, the idea of a shared data center, which houses entities primary or backup system, was proposed. This project has the potential of saving millions of taxpayer dollars in the long run. Thus far the County of El Paso and El Paso Community College with the potential for the City of El Paso to join in after an evaluation by an outside consultant.
- Consolidation of City/County Information Technology Department
  - The City retained a consultant to develop an IT Strategic Plan and assist in implementation of the recommendations. LBL Technology Partners is facilitating negotiations, where the County would manage and oversee the City' s IT department, as well as looking for other strategic partnership opportunities.
- Video Conferencing System
  - The County is currently testing video conferencing between the Sheriff and the County Attorney' s offices. Once all facets are complete and in place, i.e. equipment, funds, the county will be able to interface with video conferencing systems at other regional entities. This will allow the County the ability to conference with other entities, while allowing for other entities to potentially use said equipment in the County facilities.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Regular meetings have been ongoing, with representation from many regional GIS offices such as the County, City, Central Appraisal, 911 District, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Public Service Board, Texas Department of Transportation, the Border Patrol, Socorro ISD, the County Elections Department, UTEP, the Council of Governments and the IMIP Juarez. Aside from conversations on how to move forward, the group has already begun sharing certain services and technology/GIS systems.
- 3-1-1 Information System
  - The City of El Paso is working with the 9-1-1 District to consolidate a 3-1-1 communication system that would go live in Spring 2010.

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- Fleet Maintenance Interlocal Agreements
  - The City is actively engaged in negotiations on Interlocal Agreements with the Sheriff's Department at the County, the City of Sunland Park, and the Lower Valley Water District. The interlocal agreements are for vehicle fueling and preventative maintenance, and the Agreements are under legal review. We expect that some or all of these will be finalized before the end of the year.
  - An example to reflect upon is a recent agreement between the Anthony Independent School District and the Town of Anthony where both partnered to create a joint vehicle maintenance facility.
- Code Enforcement
  - The City is evaluating best practices from other communities across the country to develop a model program for smaller municipalities. This includes legislation needed to encourage active enforcement, better reporting and tracking, staffing & training, restructuring & consolidation of tasks, and other needed functions. Once the evaluation has been completed and the program restructured, opportunities will exist for agency partnerships. A report from the City of El Paso is due at the end of 2009.
  - The County of El Paso in partnership with State Representative Marisa Marquez and State Senator Eliot Shapleigh worked on drafting and passing C.S.H.B. 2833 which relates to certain building code standards applicable to the unincorporated areas of certain counties, specifically El Paso County. Currently, El Paso County did not have the authority to adopt building codes in the unincorporated areas of the County which contributed to the growth of substandard housing in colonias throughout the Texas-Mexico border region. The passage of C.S.H.B 2833 would allow for certain counties along the Texas-Mexico border to adopt a building code applicable to new residential construction that begins after September 1, 2009 in the unincorporated areas of the County. Having been passed, the Commissioners Court adopted a code. The bill authorizes the building codes adopted under the provisions of the bill to contain only the same requirements as the statutory warranty and building and performance standards that apply to residential construction and any rules governing those standards adopted by the Texas Residential Construction Commission. The bill makes it a Class C misdemeanor to violate its provisions. The bill prohibits a county from charging a fee to a person regulated by the code. The bill clarifies that the new authority granted does not affect existing county authority to adopt orders or ordinances under other law.
- Parks

- Both the City and County of El Paso evaluated the possibility of shifting County parks, specifically Ascarate Park and the Sportspark to the City of El Paso. After meeting and reports produced by both the City and County, it was determined that a Blue Ribbon Committee would best serve all parties involved in evaluating the possibility of a regional parks district. Members of the committee will include City Representatives, County Commissioners, School District Board Members, Community Leaders and Staff. The Commission will soon begin work as soon as all committee members are appointed.
- Facility/Energy Efficiency
  - The City's Sustainability Office is partnering with the County, UTEP, Fort Bliss and other agencies on various ARRA funding opportunities. These include building retrofits, vehicle upgrades, solar energy pilot programs, and various other green opportunities.
- Records Management
  - This function at the City will be transferred to the General Services Department effective November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Work is underway to develop an RFQ for outsourcing, and it will be structured to allow other governmental entities to participate.
- Regional Master Plan
  - The City is retaining Dover Kohl & Partners to prepare a regional comprehensive plan with various components on transportation, walkability, smart growth and other critical areas. The project, funded with OEA federal funding, is due to commence in January 2010. Regional stakeholders will be participants in the process. Additionally, the Regional Military Growth Plan, is also due for approval before the end of the year. This work involved regional stakeholders and is an assessment of needs due to military growth in the region.
- Regional Economic Development Strategy. Start up in January 2010.
- Libraries. Start up in January 2010.