



**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CITY OF ODESSA, TEXAS  
MAY 26, 2009**

On May 26, 2009, a joint meeting of the Odessa City Council and Midland City Council was held at 12:32 p.m., at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED), 1400 N. FM 1788, Library, Midland, Texas

Members present: Mayor Larry Melton; Councilmembers James Goates, District Two; Royce Bodiford, District Three; and Dean Combs, District Four.

Member absent: Councilmember Bill Cleaver, District One.

Others present: Richard Morton, City Manager; Larry Long, City Attorney; Norma A. Grimaldo, City Secretary; James Zentner, Assistant City Manager; Michael Marrero, Assistant City Manager; Andrea Goodson, Public Information Coordinator; members of the news media, members from the Midland City Council, and others.

A quorum being present, Mayor Melton called the meeting to order and the following proceedings were held:

**Invocation.** Mayor Pro Tem Bodiford gave the invocation.

**Introductions.** Mayor Melton welcomed everyone. He introduced the Odessa City Council. Mayor Wes Perry also welcomed everyone and thanked the two cities for a better planning coordination for the future. He introduced the Midland City Council.

**Midland Odessa Transportation Organization (MOTOR).** Melba Owens, MOTOR Executive Director, introduced her staff. She stated that the 25 year transportation plan was being developed. The plan will identify needed transportation. Workshops, meetings and public hearings were held to gather input. David Freidenfeld, Wilbur Smith Associates, is the consulting firm that is assisting in the plan. He reported that the transportation needs must be identified for federal funding. The theme for the Midland-Odessa Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is "Two Cities-One Community". The plan will be routinely be revised. The plan will be completed by December 2009. There is a total of \$542 million worth of projects consisting of roadway and transit. He reviewed the timeline for the plan. Hannah Twaddell, Renaissance Planning Group, highlighted the Preferred Development Scenario. This scenario was based on the existing plan and input from the planning directors, and planning and zoning commissions from both cities. A development pattern may grow and there must be transit planning on the local land development. The scenario will create opportunity for different types of transit. Mr. Freidenfeld reviewed the projected level of service. It included completion of loops, gateway projects, northern tier connection, park and ride, coordination of EMS services and the north/south freight rail.

**Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance (MOTRAN).** James Beachump stated that projects needed to be planned and ready to go in order to compete for funding. US 67 completed the passing lanes. SH 349 has four lanes divided. The right-of-way cost \$11 million. A required 10% match must be made by Martin County but its budget is not that large. A bill may be amended to waive the match for this project. The Port of Topolobampo's phase one was completed. Phase one expanded docking area. Phase two is underway and will expand additional area of docking. The port is a niche port and will deliver bulk goods. MOTRAN continues its Mexico relationships. He reported that there is a gap on the north and south rail. More business needed to be generated and it would fill in the gap. He stated that there is continued efforts for private



investments in local rail service. In regards to board security, the Marfa sector was down by 47% in illegal crossings. He highlighted MOTRAN's accomplishments and benefits for the Permian Basin. He reported that traffic numbers have increased and reviewed the funding received for transportation.

**Midland Odessa Urban Transit District.** Edward Esparza reported that the grant for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 was ready to be executed. He reported on the ridership. The fixed routes ridership was down, the paratransit riders was in line with last year. There has been a decrease in both cities of ridership. He reviewed the monthly ridership. He stated that Odessa's route five was low in ridership and will be evaluated for changes to increase riders. Mr. Esparza reported that fares will remain the same. Starting June 1, a promotional all day pass of \$2.00 will be available. A rider can purchase the ticket and ride all day. This promotion will be available for six months, and then it will be evaluated. It is possible that a weekly pass may be available. The promotion is to generate more ridership.

Mayor Perry thanked the Odessa City Council and the presenters. He stated that Midland was available for anything that was needed. He stated that it was a great honor to work together. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma A. Grimaldo, TRMC  
City Secretary

Larry L. Melton  
Mayor