



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION SUMMARY ROUTING SLIP

Meeting Date April 13, 2015

TITLE: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ACCELERATOR – EL PASEO.

- Are there attachments to the Council Work Session Summary? Yes  No
- Will there be a Video Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- Will there be a PowerPoint Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- If "yes", will a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation be included on the Council Work Session Agenda? Yes  No

DEPARTMENT / ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE	PHONE NO.	DATE
Drafter/Staff Contact	<i>SB by DW</i>	528-3079	4-3-15
Department Director	<i>DW</i>	528-3067	4-3-15
Other			
Assistant City Manager/CAO (if applicable)			
Assistant City Manager/COO (if applicable)	<i>[Signature]</i>	-221	4/15
City Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>		4-7-15



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## Council Work Session Summary

**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2015

**TITLE:** URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ACCELERATOR – EL PASEO.

**PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION:**

- Inform/Update
- Direction/Guidance
- Legislative Development/Policy

**BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

In June, 2014, a collaborative team led by the City of Las Cruces (CLC) Community Development Department applied for and was awarded a one-year grant from the Urban Sustainability Accelerator (USA) Program for a project known as Realizing El Paseo. The USA Program is supported by the Summit Foundation and the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University (PSU), Oregon. It helps communities with limited resources implement sustainability projects and programs.

Realizing El Paseo is a project that builds on past planning processes such as Picturing El Paseo (2010-2011) and the El Paseo Corridor Community Blueprint (adopted by City Council in 2012). It is the next step in a coordinated effort to implement goals and actions outlined in the community blueprint, specifically related to the redesign of El Paseo Road as a “complete street,” and the community’s vision for the corridor as a sustainable and economically vibrant place.

The City’s Community Development, Public Works and Transportation departments, as well as the Economic Development office, are collaborating with New Mexico State University (NMSU), Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and supporting community partners: Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber and the Las Cruces Association of Realtors to form the project’s implementation team. City Councillor Olga Pedroza, Brian Denmark (CLC) and Greg Walke (NMSU) form the project’s Leadership Team.

The following are the main deliverables anticipated for the program year (ending July, 2015):

1. A preferred option for the design of El Paseo Road. This involves a conceptual design for the corridor proposed by engineering students at NMSU, based on public input and technical advice from the USA Program experts.
2. A study on real estate development demands/supply and trends relevant to the El Paseo Corridor. This involves data collection and analysis with assistance from the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning at PSU.

Continue on additional sheets as required)

On February 28, 2015, a Realizing El Paseo Complete Street Workshop was held to inform the public of the project and to gather public input on the various NMSU student design proposals for the corridor. On March 17-18, 2015, the City hosted a public event geared towards business and property owners with speaker and USA commercial development expert, Michele Reeves.

Before the program year ends in July, 2015, one more public input meeting for the corridor stakeholders and property owners is anticipated to take place, hosted by NMSU, with the intention of arriving at a consensus design for El Paseo Road. This preliminary/conceptual design will be presented to City Council and upon support from City Council, is intended to act as the basis for further design refinement and funded implementation currently beyond the scope of the Realizing El Paseo Project.

The purpose of this work session is to inform City Council of the status of this project and to provide an opportunity for input as we go forward.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

1. N/A