

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-224

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE CITY OF LAREDO INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CLOSURE POLICY. THE CITY OF LAREDO OPERATES AND MAINTAINS MULTIPLE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES (E.G., WORLD TRADE BRIDGE, COLOMBIA-SOLIDARITY BRIDGE, JUÁREZ-LINCOLN BRIDGE, GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS BRIDGE) SERVING AS CRITICAL POINTS FOR COMMERCE, PEDESTRIANS, AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. TEMPORARY CLOSURES OF THESE CROSSINGS MAY BE NECESSARY DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER (E.G., FREEZING CONDITIONS AND BLACK ICE), SAFETY HAZARDS, SECURITY CONCERNS, LIMITED CEREMONIAL CLOSURES AND/OR OTHER UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. A FORMAL POLICY WILL ENSURE CONSISTENT, TRANSPARENT, AND TIMELY DECISION-MAKING, MINIMIZE DISRUPTIONS, AND PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, AND ANY OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo owns and operates four international bridges which are critical infrastructure for binational commerce, travel, and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, the uninterrupted operation of these international crossings is vital to the economic health of Laredo, the State of Texas, and the United States, as well as to international trade with Mexico; and

WHEREAS, past practices have demonstrated the need for clear rules governing closures to ensure that bridge operations are not disrupted except under extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to establish a uniform framework for emergency closures, planned maintenance, and limited ceremonial closures that are consistent with the shared jurisdiction of the United States and Mexican federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds it necessary to clarify that bridges shall not be closed for political demonstrations or individual requests, and that closures must follow transparent procedures with clear lines of authority; and

WHEREAS, the proposed International Bridge Closure Policy provides for:

- Emergency closure authority for the Mayor, City Manager, and Bridge Director under narrowly defined conditions;
- Limited ceremonial closures for events of binational significance, requiring Council approval and binational concurrence;
- Clear restrictions prohibiting closures for political demonstrations;
- Bridge-specific rules preserving the commercial, non-commercial, and pedestrian functions of all four (4) bridges;
- Cost recovery provisions, including the option for City Sponsorship of all or part of the costs for eligible civic events;
- Bilingual public communication protocols and after-action review requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt the International Bridge Closure Policy as an official policy of the City of Laredo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1. The document titled “City of Laredo – International Bridge Closure Policy”, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*, is hereby adopted as the official bridge closure policy of the City of Laredo.

Section 2. All bridge closure decisions and practices shall conform to the requirements of the adopted policy.

Section 3. The City Manager, Bridge Director, and all City staff are directed to implement and enforce the policy in coordination with U.S. and Mexican federal authorities.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

BY: _____
DR. VICTOR A. TREVIÑO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO I. MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: _____
XAVIER A. CHARLES
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY