



December 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **City of El Paso Awarded 2011 National Smart Growth Award**

*El Paso, Texas* – On December 1, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will present the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement to the City of El Paso for using innovative approaches to create healthier, safer and more economically and environmentally sustainable places to live. Mayor John Cook, Representatives Susie Byrd and Steve Ortega, and Planning & Economic Development Deputy Director, Mathew McElroy will accept the award on behalf of El Paso in Washington D.C.

The City of El Paso submitted its Plan El Paso 2010 proposal and was one of four communities selected from a pool of 68 applicants from 27 states. The winning entries were selected based on their effectiveness in creating sustainable communities, creating a robust public involvement process, generating partnerships among public, private and nonprofit stakeholders, and serving as national models.

El Paso's development plan supports national environmental goals by preserving open spaces and parkland and protecting critical habitats, improving transportation choices, including walking, bicycling and transit, which reduce emissions from automobiles, and promoting mix land uses.

*The EPA created the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2002 to recognize exceptional approaches to development that project the environment, foster economic vitality and enhance quality of life. In the past 10 years, 47 winners from 24 states have shown the variety of approaches that states, regions, cities, suburbs and small towns can use to create economically response development.*

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**Mayor**

John F. Cook

**City Council**

*District 1*

Ann Morgan Lilly

*District 2*

Susie Byrd

*District 3*

Emma Acosta

*District 4*

Carl L. Robinson

*District 5*

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

*District 6*

Eddie Holguin Jr.

*District 7*

Steve Ortega

*District 8*

Cortney Carlisle Niland

**City Manager**

Joyce A. Wilson