



Senator Eliot Shapleigh

Border Health Institute

April 2002



This artist rendition of the Raynolds-Alameda neighborhood shows what the area will look like once the Border Health Institute, its supporting institutions and infrastructure are in place.



Dear Friends:

As you can see by the picture above, work on the Border Health Institute has entered an entirely new phase. We are no longer trying to explain the concept to people in El Paso, Austin and D.C., instead we are now pulling all the pieces together.

Mayor Ray Caballero's office has produced several presentations and photos that depict what the BHI medical campus might look like in the future.

As the pieces of this institution fall together, I am sending out this newsletter to update you on the status of the BHI because the process is moving rapidly.

Please take the time to read this and tell us what you think.

Eliot Shapleigh

Medical School to anchor BHI

As we prepare for the 78th Legislative Session, which begins in January 2003, securing a four-year medical school at the Texas Tech University campus in El Paso is the number one priority. This medical school must, and will, serve as the anchor to the Border Health Institute. Most of the successful medical complexes throughout the country are anchored by a full-fledged medical school.

For more than 30 years, El Paso has had two-thirds of a medical school through the partnership with Texas Tech University. Texas Tech sends its third- and fourth-year medical students here, together with 172 residents, where they complete their curriculum.

Now, it is time to put in place in El Paso the first- and second-year programs, as well as the basic faculty and facilities needed to fulfill the obligations of an entire four-year medical school.

For two sessions now, I, along with the El Paso state delegation, have executed a prudent incremental plan to invest health education resources in this community to further the quality of life, educate health professionals and foster the economic development of this region. Now we look to all of El Paso and other leaders of the state of Texas to assist us in this effort to firmly secure the vision of a four-year medical school as the anchor of the Border Health Institute.

For the past 60 days, a task force of elected officials, health care providers, university officials and business people have been meeting regularly to set the foundation for the medical school request.

During that time, we have also secured resolutions of support from City Council, the County Commissioners, El Paso Community College and the El Paso School District. The Ysleta School District has also pledged its support. We will gather letters of support from just about every organization and elected or appointed board in the city before November.

Now is the time for this entire community to unite and fight for our medical school, as other communities may also be making the same request to the Legislature.

Here is a brief BHI status report:

City will be master developer

The City of El Paso, through the leadership of Mayor Ray Caballero, has agreed to be the master developer of the BHI site. This means the city will secure the land, work with all institutions involved to make sure their construction and growing needs are met. The city will also

work with the landowners in the area on a re-location plan. As part of its master planner duties, the City has created a Tax Increment Financing District for the BHI area and is redesigning the Empowerment Zone to include land east of Raynolds Drive toward Chelsea Drive. The land around Thomason Hospital and Texas Tech is already in the master design proposal under development by the City. In every successful health science complex, the City plays a major role in focusing investment and resources.

Tech to start construction of first building

During the 77th Legislative session, Texas Tech was appropriated \$40 million in tuition revenue bonds to construct a new research tower in El Paso. The research tower will provide approximately 100,000 square feet of modern space for research in diabetes, infectious diseases and environmental health issues.

The research center will include wet labs and computer-based research laboratories for 20 investigators, 10 clinicians, and required support staff. Core facilities will include an Imaging Center, Vivarium, radioisotope labs, a 130-seat high-tech auditorium, several conference rooms, as well as office space for the BHI and Texas Diabetes Research.

Texas Tech officials state the acquisition of the land is ongoing, as well as the master plan for the development of the entire site - which will eventually include the four-year medical school. The university is currently also in the design development of the site which will take 15 months to finish. Construction should take about 30 months and is expected to be completed by 2006.

How to Contact

Senator Eliot Shapleigh

District Office:

800 Wyoming, Suite A
El Paso, TX 79902
Tel: 915-544-1990
Fax: 915-544-1998

Capitol Office:

P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
Tel: 1-800-544-1990
Fax: 512-463-0218

TDD: 1800-735-2989

E-mail: eliot.shapleigh@senate.state.tx.us

Visit us on the Web at:

www.capitol.state.tx.us

