

January 8, 2007

Dear Parks and Community Initiatives Committees:

UTSA is seeking allocations totaling up to \$10 million in the \$550 million City of San Antonio bond election scheduled for May 12, 2007. City bond funds will be used to begin work on a \$60 million competitive athletic park located on or near the 1604 UTSA campus. UTSA will provide the land and ongoing park maintenance, and will work with the City, County and Sports Foundation to market the park for large athletic competitions.

The UTSA Competitive Athletic Park would include collegiate quality venues for baseball, softball, track, soccer, tennis and some practice facilities. The proposed UTSA Athletic Park facilities currently are not available anywhere within the San Antonio community. A competitive athletic park like the one proposed by UTSA would have significant economic impact within the San Antonio tourism industry.

In addition to public funds, UTSA is prepared to raise private and corporate donations and sponsorships to complete and operate the Athletic Park. In addition to NCAA events, the UTSA Athletic Park would provide access to local youth tournaments, UIL, national and international competitions, Senior Olympics and other competitive athletic events.

Since the State Legislature cannot appropriate funds for university athletics facilities, UTSA must be creative in funding recreational and athletic facilities. This cooperative effort utilizing local government, university, corporate and private funding is an excellent use of San Antonio taxpayer dollars. If you have questions concerning this request, please contact UTSA Associate Athletic Director-External Affairs Brad Parrott at Brad.Parrott@UTSA.edu or 210-458-4909.

Following are brief descriptions of the park components and answers to the most often asked questions about the UTSA Competitive Athletic Park:

Athletic Park Description:

Softball Stadium—Seating for 1,500*, batting cage and team locker rooms.

Baseball Stadium—Seating for 4,000*, batting cage and team locker rooms.

Soccer Stadium—Seating for 5,000*, international size field.

Track Stadium—Seating for 5,000*, international size track.

Tennis Stadium—Seating for 1,500*, 12 outdoor courts.

Team Facility—Multiple locker rooms, training facility.

Parking—Surface parking for 1,000 cars.

Practice Fields

Central Ticketing

Public Restrooms and Concessions

Maintenance Building

**Stadium design will allow for additional temporary seating to host larger events.*

Questions and Answers

Why should City of San Antonio taxpayers help build a UTSA Competitive Athletic Park?

The UTSA Competitive Athletic Park would offer recreational opportunities for City residents. Much like a more traditional park offers swings and picnic tables, a competitive athletic park offers sporting events. Athletic parks—such as the Alamodome, Wolff Stadium, the AT&T Center and the proposed UTSA park—also offer economic benefits. Persons visiting San Antonio to attend the NBA playoffs, Alamo Bowl or NCAA Final Four generate millions of dollars in economic impact for the City. Over the life of the UTSA Athletic Park, it will help pay for City support through additional sales taxes and hotel/motel taxes generated by visiting teams and fans. Few traditional community parks have this type of tourist attraction and payback.

Isn't this unique to use City bonds to finance a collegiate athletic complex?

Over the past 10 years, UTSA has hosted eight NCAA championship events in the Alamodome and AT&T Center. It will host the 2007 Men's Basketball Regional, the 2008 Men's Basketball Final Four and the 2010 Women's Basketball Final Four in the Alamodome. UTSA plays regular season basketball and baseball games in the Alamodome and Wolff Stadium. Playing NCAA events in a City supported facility is nothing new to San Antonio. These events have generated millions of dollars of positive economic impact. Other universities like the University of Nebraska, Penn State University and the University of Texas-Pan American have worked with city governments to finance baseball parks.

Are we setting a bad precedent by providing tax support to a collegiate athletic program?

Taxpayer support for athletic facilities is a common occurrence in San Antonio. There are five professional athletic teams currently occupying City and County constructed athletic facilities. (AT&T Center—San Antonio Spurs, San Antonio Rampage and San Antonio Silver Stars; Wolff Stadium—San Antonio Missions; and Alamodome—Dallas Cowboys). These are for-profit businesses occupying tax supported facilities. UTSA is a not-for-profit state entity that is educating more than 28,000 young people. By the time that the proposed UTSA Athletic Park is completed, UTSA could be educating as many as 35,000 students.

Why should the City provide support for the UTSA Athletics program and not other collegiate programs in San Antonio?

UTSA is the City's largest tax-supported, four-year institution of higher learning. It is the city's only NCAA Division 1 athletic program. UTSA competes for the same national championships as the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M and Texas Tech. UTSA is willing to provide land on or near its 1604 campus to build the park, and is willing to maintain the park. The University also will work with the San Antonio

Sports Foundation, the City and other entities to attract and host other large events—just as it does the NCAA Basketball Final Fours. UTSA Athletics officials will work with other public and private universities in San Antonio to schedule conference and NCAA Divisions II and III regional and national tournaments. UTSA developing and maintaining athletic park facilities with the City and County makes perfect sense given that all three entities have similar needs.

It's easy to make promises to host national and regional events when you're asking for money. What assurance do we have that UTSA Athletics will actually follow through?

UTSA already provides fields and facilities to host non-collegiate events. For example, the UTSA Convocation Center where the Roadrunners play volleyball and basketball annually hosts University and community events attended by more than 285,000 people. Nearly 120,000 (42%) were attending events not associated with UTSA. They were attending high school graduations, cheerleading competition, UIL playoffs and other non-UTSA events. Improved athletic facilities could bring thousands of additional youngsters to San Antonio and the UTSA campus to participate in and attend NCAA, UIL, international games and local youth competitions. Getting youngsters on campus opens their eyes to the possibility of going to college.

What are some of the potential events that could be held in the Competitive Athletic Park in addition to UTSA athletic events?

Due to the location of the park on or near the 1604 campus and its proximity to La Cantera, Fiesta Texas, Sea World and numerous new retail malls, there would be great opportunities to attract special events that would generate significant economic impact. The athletic park would accommodate soccer, track, baseball, softball, tennis and possibly football practice. Championship events for all age groups could be hosted in the park. Among the events that could be held in the park are regional UIL championships, coach/athlete clinics, NCAA regional and conference championships, national youth championships, Senior Games, Para Olympics, Special Olympics, Pan Am Games, international track and soccer events, and professional exhibition matches. There also is the possibility of eventually providing football practice facilities for an NFL pre-season camp, Alamo Bowl pre-game preparations, UIL championship games and Army All American Game pre-game practices.

Are there other college athletic parks that serve as tourist destination economic generators?

The Home Depot Center on the campus of California State-Dominguez Hills near Los Angeles is a good example. The Center is owned and operated by Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). It hosts a broad array of entertainment and sports events in a 20,000 seat soccer stadium, 10,000 seat tennis stadium, 5,000 seat track stadium, 3,000 seat indoor bicycle racing facility, and smaller baseball and softball facilities. The Center is extremely versatile, using these facilities to host X Games, high school football, concerts, beach volleyball and other events. USC and Texas actually practiced there last

year in preparation for the BCS national college football championship game. AEG has a long-term land lease with Cal State and is a for-profit organization. Another nationally known tourist destination sports park is the Walt Disney Wide World of Sports in Orlando. There are several other tourist destination athletic parks in the country.

It seems that all of the parks bond dollars are going to the north side. Isn't this UTSA Athletic Park just making this more inequitable?

Over the past 15 years, there have been four major tax-supported sports venues built in San Antonio. The Alamodome was built on the near east side. Wolff Stadium and the natatorium at Palo Alto College were built on the far south side. And the AT&T Center was built on the east side. The UTSA 1604 campus sits in the middle of the most rapidly developing part of San Antonio. It seems natural and fair for the northwest side of San Antonio to get a sports venue.

Is this Athletic Park part of adding football at UTSA?

The UTSA administration is reviewing the recently released football feasibility study and is seeking input from community leaders. In preliminary plans for the athletic park, practice field space for football has been identified. The feasibility study calls for UTSA football games to be played in the Alamodome. With or without football, UTSA must update its athletic facilities.

UTSA recently announced that it had received approval from the University of Texas Board of Regents to purchase 125 acres west of the existing campus on Highway 1604. Would the athletic park be located on this land?

A 2003 architectural master plan for the University's building expansion identified a 60-70 acre deficit over the next 20 years at the 600-acre UTSA 1604 campus. The anticipated land acquisition on Highway 1604 alleviates this 20-year deficit. Most of the University's athletic facilities are more than 20 years old and are in need of renovation. Moving these facilities off campus at this point would free space on the main 1604 campus for classroom, residential and research facilities. It also would alleviate traffic and parking congestion on the main 1604 campus during athletic events. A new architectural master plan is anticipated by the University prior to a final decision on the location of the proposed Athletic Park and other University facilities.

How much will the UTSA Competitive Athletic Park cost? If you're not asking for the entire amount, where would the remaining dollars be derived?

Preliminary estimates for the Athletic Park—excluding land acquisition costs—call for stadium and support structure expenditures of about \$60 million. Additional public and private funding will be sought to complete the project. Bexar County voters already approved \$1.5 million for a UTSA soccer and track complex in a 2003 bond election. The 2003 bond allocation would be used in the construction of this proposed Competitive Athletic Park.