

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 5, 2016

TO The Honorable Members of the Transportation and Trinity River Project Committee:  
Lee M. Kleinman (Chair), Sandy Greyson, Mayor Pro Tem Monica R. Alonzo, Adam Medrano, and Casey Thomas II

SUBJECT Naming of Continental Bridge

We respectfully request that you consider naming of the Continental Avenue Bridge to the "Ronald Kirk Bridge" in honor of former Dallas Mayor and United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Ronald Kirk.

Ambassador Kirk served as the first African American mayor of Dallas from 1995-2001. During his tenure as Mayor, he increased the public safety budget by \$128 million resulting in Dallas experiencing its lowest crime rate in 20 years. His economic development efforts helped secure more than 45,000 jobs and investment of more than \$3.5 billion in Dallas. During his leadership, the City successfully passed the 1998 Bond Program, which included one of Dallas' largest public works projects, the Trinity River Corridor Project. In 1999, the City of Dallas broke ground on construction of the American Airline Center, a project championed by Mayor Kirk while in office. He was instrumental in the establishment of Mountain Creek Park, as well as Pinnacle Park. Mayor Kirk was at the forefront of the very beginning of the restoration of Downtown Dallas. He passed seven budgets that focused on the critical needs of the City while maintaining and even lowering taxes. Prior to becoming Mayor of Dallas, Ambassador Kirk served as a City of Dallas Assistant City Attorney from 1983 to 1989.

Prior to serving as Mayor, Ambassador Kirk was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve as Texas Secretary of State. He also served as a legislative aide to the U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen and was named as chair of Texas' General Service Commission.

Ambassador Kirk has more than 25 years of diverse economic and legislative experience on local, state and federal levels. He was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and was confirmed by the United States Senate on March 18, 2009. As the USTR he was responsible for the development and oversight of U.S. trade policy, including implementation and enforcement of regional/bilateral, multilateral and sector-specific trade agreements. Prior to serving as USTR, Ambassador Kirk was a partner at Vinson & Elkins LLP, where he practiced public finance and public policy.

Ambassador Kirk has been recognized by many state and national organizations, being named one of "The 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America" by The National Law Journal in 2008; receiving the University of Texas Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001, the Woodrow Wilson Center for Public Policy's Outstanding Service Award in 2000, the Young Texas Exes Award in 1995, and the Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award in 1994.

Naming of Continental Bridge  
Page 2

He graduated from Austin College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and sociology and earned his law degree from the University of Texas, School of Law, in 1979. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Human Degree from Austin College in 2006 and the Mickey Leland Leadership Award from Texas Southern University in 2004.

Ambassador Kirk has dedicated his career as a public servant at all levels of the government and is deserving of this recognition of naming the Continental Avenue Bridge the "Ronald Kirk Pedestrian Bridge."

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Erik Wilson, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, District 8  
Vice-Chair, Transportation and Trinity River Project Committee

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council