

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

1. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on January 16, 2019 at DPS, Building I, 2nd Floor Executive Conference Room.

2. Roll Call

Present

Shawn Dintino	Co-Chairman	North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
Abel Porras	Co-Chairman	Inspection Station Owner
Jason Brown		North Central Texas Council of Governments
David Lewis		Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Tommy Hebson		Vehicle Equipment Repair
Ken Jones		Retired – Station Owner
Calvin Lucas		Safety and Emission Station Owner
Edgar Gilmore	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Sarah Thomas	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
JoJo Heselmeyer	Senior Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Jay Alexander	Major	Texas Department of Public Safety
Wes Bryant	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sarah Gaytan	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Liz Kisamore	Program Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Program Inspector	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	Senior Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from September 12, 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

DPS:

JoJo Heselmeyer stated the safety inspection study has been completed and is available on the DPS website at the following link: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/rsd/vi/news/index.htm>. At this time, the University of Texas (UT) will be answering questions concerning the study.

Shawn Dintino asked when the report on the study would be delivered, to which DPS stated that it was sent in late December by government relations staff, well in advance of the deadline.

Jo Jo Heselmeyer also stated that DPS is preparing for the upcoming legislative session, staff could be called upon to testify. At least one bill impacting the Vehicle Inspection program has been filed. The recommendation from UT regarding the study is that there is value in the Vehicle Inspection program.

DMV's vehicle titling and registration study is available on their website now. Shawn Dintino stated that TCEQ is very curious to read because they have spent considerable funding on temporary license plates.

TCEQ:

No additional remarks from TCEQ

5. Old Business

a. University of Texas VI Study Update:

Update provided in opening remarks from DPS, no further discussion needed.

b. Legislative Update:

New committees have not yet been announced.

c. Remote Sensing Update:

Jo Jo Heselmeyer introduced Lawrence Cortez, who will be taking over remote sensing from Ronnie Heselmeyer. Lawrence stated that no new High Emitter Notices have been sent due to contract delays and staffing issues.

d. VIAC Public Interest Seat Vacancy:

Jo Jo Heselmeyer reminded the committee that the vacancy is a public interest seat, therefore no knowledge of Vehicle Inspection is required. TCEQ does not have any committee member recommendations at this time. If no recommendations are received from the committee, DPS will reach out to potential committee members.

Action Item:

Forward any recommendations to fill the public interest seat vacancy to DPS.

6. New Business

a. New recommended items for safety inspection:

Abel Porras asked if the language regarding weight requirements could be amended, to which Steve Moninger stated yes; the committee can make recommendations. It was added that the weight requirements should be amended to state anything 7500 pounds or above is required to be inspected. Current language does not specifically include those weighing in at exactly 7500 pounds, and since a large number of trailers weigh 7500 pounds they are not required to be inspected. Steve Moninger stated that this language was changed during the last session, but it can be revisited if the committee feels it is necessary.

Action Item:

Recommendation made by Jo Jo Heselmeyer and Steve Moninger for the committee to prepare a proposal with details and potentially send straight to the legislature.

b. Training Workshop Implementation & Attendance Requirement:

Abel Porras stated that regular workshops and/or meetings with the inspectors could potentially be helpful to stress the importance of the Vehicle Inspection program. Ken Jones stated that he had conducted a similar workshop; attendance was not great, but those that attended learned a lot and thought the training was helpful. Ken Jones also added that we need to do better teaching new inspectors how to inspect and further educate those without experience.

Action Item:

Determine what DPS/TCEQ can do to assist or coordinate.

c. Remote Sensing:

Shawn Dintino stated that we need to work to verify the effectiveness of the program and continue to notify high emitters. Shawn Dintino also stated that he feels the high emitters are higher, but there is no proof of this. Do we need to examine the high emitter cut points and update the numbers? This is of special concern due to the increased prevalence of energy efficient vehicles. Edgar Gilmore stated that previously; DPS had the expertise and consulted with TCEQ on the cut points. He also stated that he is unaware of differing data point standards in other states. Shawn Dintino stated that this information notwithstanding, he would like to have these numbers reviewed. This responsibility will fall under the purview of the Regulatory Compliance Service (RCS) at DPS.

Action Item:

RCS will begin reviewing cut points and consult with TCEQ.

7. Public/Member Comment:

Legislative Session:

Jo Jo Heselmeyer stated that it is still very early in legislative session, three (3) Vehicle Inspection related bills have been filed so far. Edgar Gilmore stated that TCEQ is currently working on bill analysis, but has not been impacted much by legislative session.

David Lewis asked how inspection items such as tire age are decided upon, to which Jo Jo Heselmeyer stated all inspection items are mandated by the legislature. The recent UT study covers this type of information, and DPS will continue to monitor as well. It was also suggested that different types of warning lights be examined to determine which are public safety related and which only impact the driver, such as seatbelt versus airbag warning lights. Abel Porras also requested that committee members continue to bring forward ideas to the committee's attention that could potentially assist and improve the program.

Action Item:

All committee members continue to present ideas to the committee that could assist and improve the Vehicle Inspection program.

VIAC Travel Reimbursement:

Ken Jones asked if there was an update on the rider that would cover travel reimbursements for the committee. Jo Jo Heselmeyer stated that DPS will be checking on the status. There is currently no money authorized to fund travel reimbursements. Jo Jo Heselmeyer stated that this is why teleconferencing is available for each meeting. Ken Jones added that he would like the committee to be updated on the status of the reimbursement funding as the committee works to fill the vacancy.

Action Item:

DPS will continue to monitor the status of funding approval to cover travel reimbursements for the committee.

8. Future Agenda Items:

Committee will continue to work to fill the public interest seat vacancy.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Shawn Dintino will chair the next meeting, to be held April 17, 2019.

10. Adjourn

Abel Porras adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm.