

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

1. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:31 p.m. on July 10, 2019 at DPS, Building I, 2nd Floor Executive Conference Room.

2. Roll Call

Present

Abel Porras	Co-Chairman	Inspection Station Owner
David Lewis		Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Tommy Hebson		Vehicle Equipment Repair
Ken Jones		Retired – Station Owner
Calvin Lucas		Safety and Emission Station Owner
Jason Brown		
Edgar Gilmore	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
David Serrins	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Walker Williamson	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Chad Cryer		Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Pablo Luna	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sarah Gaytan	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Program Inspector	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from April 16, 2019

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

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

DPS:

Pablo Luna stated that the legislative session was over and there were several bills discussing regarding the VI program. He said that two (2) bills went through and would be effective September 1, 2019. The first bill was SB711, which would add recall information to be included in the VIR. This will alert vehicle owners of open recalls. The second bill was SB616, or the Sunset bill. This bill requires that fingerprints be included in the background checks in order to conduct a thorough check.

Abel Porras asked if this would be required of established inspectors as well or only the new inspectors applying. Pablo stated that was yet to be decided, but DPS would likely follow what other programs are doing with their established customers.

On June 14th a message was sent to TIMS that all station license renewals must be completed by August 31, 2019. It stated that as of September 1st they would not be able to renew station licenses. This message also included instructions on how to complete the renewal process.

TCEQ:

David Serrins stated that in the legislative session there were efforts to pass bills regarding LIRAP, also known as Aircheck. He went on to say that the program had been shut down around the state as they did not see legislative appropriation money for the program.

David also said that they were working to get the Co-Chair position filled for TCEQ and did anticipate it being filled by the next meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Legislative Update:

This was previously discussed during Remarks from DPS and TCEQ. Abel Porras stated that he was in touch with a senator, who spoke with him in June, and was able to convince him that the program was vital and needed to be kept.

b. OBD Plan Update:

Nothing discussed

c. Communication Improvement Plan:

Nothing discussed

6. New Business

a. Encourage Recruitment of Inspectors onto the VIAC:

Abel Porras commented that they needed to have more people from the field as inspectors to join and have their voices heard. Pablo Luna also pointed out that these meetings are open to the public. He stated that they should encourage their colleagues to come to or listen in on meetings. He pointed out that there is even a public comment section in the Agenda.

Ken Jones brought up another issue regarding tire tread. He stated a situation occurred, where an inspector received a citation from an auditor for passing a vehicle who still had 2/32 tread on the tires but also tread wear indicators. Pablo Luna answered that he didn't know why an auditor would issue a citation for that and asked that Ken send him the information so that he could research the issue. He also stated that as long as 2/32 or more tread is on the tire, it will pass regardless of tread wear indicators. Ken also said that he would like to see warnings issued as much as auditors can because they are good tools for inspectors as well as good data to be collected. Pablo stated the in VIC they do tell their people to use that warning notice option to assist station owners. He went on to say that he would bring it up at the next Regional Manager meeting and remind them of that tool.

David Lewis brought up a question regarding OBD and unlimited testing in 2020, asking if there were any movement. Pablo Luna stated that DPS and TCEQ have been meeting regarding everything that needs to be in place by January 1, 2020 as well as communicating the upcoming changes. He stated that everyone should begin seeing more information on this soon.

7. Public Comment:

No comments at this time.

8. Future Agenda Items:

No future agenda items at this time.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held September 18, 2019.

10. Adjourn

Abel Porras adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.