

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes
February 2, 2022

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on February 2, 2022 via WebEx Teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Anthony Moffa	Chairman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
David Lewis	VIAC Member	Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Pablo Luna	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sherrie Zgabay	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	RSD Assistant Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	RSD Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	RSD Sr. Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	RSD Personnel Ad Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Edgar Gilmore	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
David Serrins	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah Thomas	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Laurie Barker	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Donna Huff	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Tonya Baer	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

3. Minutes from September 15, 2021

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

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

a. DPS

Pablo Luna addressed the committee stating that inspectors were due to renew their licenses this year. He stated the inspector renewal portal is currently open for this process and expires August 31, 2022. He stated the department was currently preparing to send reminder notices out to all current inspectors and encouraged everyone to renew before the deadline.

Pablo Luna also asked committee members to pass along information regarding inspector testing, requesting that those scheduled for testing make every effort to attend as there is

limited availability of seating. He also mentioned that DPS provides free test study materials on the RSD/VI website, which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Steve Moninger was next to address the committee stating that the Public Safety Commission recently approved amendments to Rule 23.41 which went into effect January 10, 2022. The approved amendments concerning Passenger (Non-Commercial) Vehicle Inspection Items requires the vehicle inspector to input the vehicle's odometer reading into the department's inspection database at the time of inspection. The amendment also exempts fully autonomous vehicles from the inspection requirements relating to the steering system, including power steering; high beam indicator; mirrors; windshield wipers; sun screening devices; or front seatbelts unless seat belt anchorages were part of the manufacturer's original equipment. Finally, the amendment exempts fully electric vehicles from the inspection requirements relating to the exhaust system, fuel tank cap and emissions control equipment.

Anthony Moffa asked if there was a penalty associated for an inspector that does not enter the reading. Pablo Luna stated there is not a new violation, but it falls under the existing violation of Failure to Input Information which is a category A violation.

b. TCEQ

Sarah Thomas addressed the committee stating currently there were no updates to report.

5. Old Business

No topics for discussion.

6. New Business

a. Emissions Enforcement Efforts

Anthony Moffa addressed the committee stating there has been a lot of news lately surrounding temporary inspection tags. He stated that media outlets are reporting these tags are being sold through inspection stations. He stated these people are not trying to hide the activity and are listing them for sale on Facebook, Craig's List, etc. Due to the news coverage the public is also aware. Anthony further informed the committee that clean scans also continue to be an issue and it seems that as soon as they get enforcement going in one area another avenue opens. He asked everyone to be extra vigilant until a new task force can be established and begin enforcement. He informed the committee that funds have been approved to fund a regional task force, which should be operating in six months to a year.

Pablo Luna agreed and stated that this type of fraud continues to be a problem and that these temporary tags focus on registration, as an inspection is not required. He asked that if anyone has information on these activities to please reach out to DPS so they can investigate.

Donna Huff asked what money would be available in six months to a year for the task force. Anthony Moffa replied that federal funds have been approved by RTC, our policy board.

7. Public Comments

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were presented at this time. Please provide any future agenda items to Anthony Moffa or Robert Ferre.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Pablo Luna informed the committee that, although not required, if anyone wished to meet in person a conference room could be reserved for this purpose. He also stated that the virtual meeting via WebEx would remain an option for this meeting as well.

10. Adjourn

Anthony Moffa adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.