

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes

September 14, 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 September 14, 2022, via Teams Teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Anthony Moffa	Chairman	Co-Chair, TCEQ appointee
David Lewis	VIAC Member	Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Pablo Luna	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	RSD Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Hanson	RSD Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	RSD Personnel Ad Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
David Serrins	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah Thomas	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Donna Huff	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nicholas Landuyt	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kristen Jacobsen	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

3. Minutes from June 8, 2022

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

a. Housekeeping

Anthony Moffa asked for clarification regarding committee vacancies. Pablo Luna informed the committee that there were currently two unfilled committee positions. He stated that he had contacted the committee members to inquire as to their willingness to continue serving on the committee and asked if they had any suggestions for filling the current vacancies. He reminded the committee members that suggestions for new members should be forwarded to DPS for consideration.

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

a. DPS

Pablo Luna addressed the committee stating that the inspector licensee renewal window concluded on August 31, 2022. There were about 50 inspectors who renewed, but the system did not update their information. He stated that DPS was in the process of

manually entering those individuals. He asked the committee to assist in communicating that if anyone else had this issue they should contact DPS for corrective action.

Captain Chris Hanson informed the committee of ongoing clean scanning station investigations. He explained that RSD was partnering with the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of DPS to perform these investigations. CID had made some arrests as well as seizing some fraudulent analyzers. Captain Hanson stated that as word of these investigations travel through the industry, he hopes this will become a self-correcting issue.

Pablo Luna stated that DPS would begin reviewing any proposed VI legislative items as they are submitted and will pass any proposals on to the Committee for feedback.

b. TCEQ

David Serrins addressed the committee stating that TCEQ has been providing training to DPS throughout the year and these trainings would be continuing throughout the state

David Serrins reminded the committee that on April 13, 2022 the EPA proposed moderate non-attainment status for Bexar County. Bexar County will implement emissions testing by 2026.

5. Old Business

No discussion of old business

6. New Business

a. Inspection Ideas

Anthony Moffa asked the committee to consider ideas to enhance the Vehicle Inspection Program. He said it may be a good idea to look at some of the other states to see what things they have done to enhance their programs. One enhancement being developed is the Bring Your Own Device project, which will make it possible for inspectors to perform inspections with a device of their choosing. Success of this project might make it possible to have mobile inspection stations in the future. Pablo Luna commented that this project would only be available at safety-only stations, not those requiring emissions testing. Mr. Luna went on to say that one obstacle in having a mobile inspection station is the definition of stations in Chapter 548 of the Texas Transportation Code, which outlines the requirements for inspection facilities. He explained that a change to this would require changes to the Transportation Code.

Anthony Moffa asked Pablo Luna to explain the TORVET (Texas On-Road Vehicle Emissions Testing) program, which DPS regulates. Mr. Luna explained that a vehicle is parked on the side of a busy road which captures the emissions of passing vehicles. Motorists whose vehicle registers high emissions receive a notification. The vehicle owner can take the vehicle to a station of their choosing for further testing and repair. Mr. Moffa asked what happens if a vehicle fails emissions testing too many times. Lawrence Cortez explained that motorists receive a cautionary letter first alerting them that their vehicle is reading high emission levels. Repeat offenders receive a second enforcement letter alerting them that their vehicle is out of compliance and may be subject to enforcement action.

b. Ideas from committee members

Anthony Moffa asked committee members if they had any ideas to enhance the program. There were no ideas offered. He asked David Lewis if he was aware of how Texas's program compares to other states. Mr. Lewis stated that Texas is similar to what other states around the country do for inspections, OBD testing and emissions testing.

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, December 14, 2022.

10. Adjourn

Anthony Moffa adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.