

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes

December 11, 2024

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:01 p.m. on December 11, 2024, both in person and via MS Teams.

2. Roll Call

Anthony Moffa	Co-Chair	TCEQ appointee, NCTCOG
JoJo Heselmeyer	Co-Chair	PSC appointee, Tx Vehicle Inspection Assoc
Julie Claussen	VIAC Member	Station Owner - Emissions
David Lewis	VIAC Member	Emissions Testing Equip Manufacturer
Vanessa Mayo	Assistant Chief	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ron Joy	Service Director, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Audrey Rosales	Service Director, OSS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	Sr. Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amanda Contrino	Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
James Thomas	Major, RCS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	Manager, RCS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	Manager, LRS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Jennifer Wessels	Prog Supervisor, LRS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Personnel Admin Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Renee Davis	Staff Services Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Staff Services Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Edgar Gilmore	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
David Serrins	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nicholas Landuyt	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Stephen Cruz	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

3. Minutes from September 5, 2024

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

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

a. DPS

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee regarding recent enforcement operations in Houston. He stated that Regulatory Services worked closely with the Criminal Investigation Division of DPS, along with the Texas Highway Patrol and Houston Police Department. The enforcement operations resulted in the arrest of 5 people and 14 other people with warrants issued for their arrest. All these arrests and warrants were felonies. He went on to say that as of February 2024 to date, there have been a total of 89 felony arrests all related to vehicle inspection clean scanning.

Service Director Ron Joy introduce Major James Thomas who joined the Regulatory Services Division. He stated Major Thomas would be leading a new service in RSD, called Regulatory Crimes Service. This service will also consist of 3 additional troopers. He further explained that the service would hopefully be expanding to an additional 5 agents to the service in the coming year.

Service Director Ron Joy further addressed the committee regarding the static IP address notice that was issued to vehicle inspection stations. He explained that when there is a vehicle analyzer in an emissions county, the station cannot move the analyzer from that IP address without notifying DPS. As of December 31, 2024, DPS will set business hours as 6am to 7pm for inspections. Very few stations will be granted an exception to work outside of the hours he stated. When an analysis was done of this project, less than 2% of all inspection stations were inspecting after hours.

Committee member Julie Claussen asked what was going to happen to the VIC units after December 31, 2024. She wondered if the units would need to be sent back to DPS. Service Director Joy stated that the Department does not need the VIC units back however, DPS will come pick up signs from the stations.

b. TCEQ

David Serrins stated his team continues to work closely with DPS to develop and refine tools and systems intended to identify suspected emissions inspection fraud.

Serrins stated that the rulemaking and State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to implement the changes required by HB3297 and SB2102 is not scheduled for an adoption

agenda. The statutory six-month deadline is December 28, 2024, so the rulemaking package will not be adopted.

David Serrins stated that analyzer software updates to implement changes required by HB3297, HB3014, and HB2195 are in the process of being installed in all high-speed analyzers in the Texas program. All high-speed analyzers in the Texas program must be updated to the new software by January 1, 2025, or they will be locked out. Additionally, he added, DPS's static IP address requirement, elimination of offline inspections, and implementation of set business hours will happen by January 1, 2025. HB3297 eliminates non-commercial safety inspections effective January 1, 2025. HB3014 exempts fully electric vehicles from safety inspection requirements relating to the emissions and exhaust systems and related components. HB2195 adds a check for a wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plate to the vehicle safety inspection sequence.

Committee Co-chair JoJo Heselmeyer commented that Texas State Inspection Association (TSIA) was working with one specific rule relating to increasing the emissions fee. She stated that their obvious concern is the ramifications of that and what they are hearing from station owners. Station owners are stating that once the safety fee is eliminated, particularly Travis, Williamson, and El Paso counties, they will not be able to operate with that amount of money and will exit the program. She went on to say that if that comes to fruition it will be difficult for people to get their inspection to comply with registration.

Committee Co-chair Anthony Moffa stated he knew Eastern Research Group (ERG) prepared the 2024 program evaluation for TCEQ and asked if they might be able to share the findings of the report or have them attend the meeting in March to discuss some of their findings and recommendations. David Serrins stated that the report is over 200 pages and asked if there was anything specific, he wanted to know. Anthony Moffa stated he thought there was a section on fraud with recommendations for things to look out for, so that might be a good talking point. He stated it did not need to be exhaustive, just a bit of information for the committee to reflect on. David Serrins stated he would ask and let the committee know.

5. Old Business

No old business.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

No discussion of recommendation items

7. Public Comments

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items

Anthony Moffa inquired about the committee vacancies. Ron Joy answered stating DPS has attempted contact in the Dallas area but has not received applications. He suggested that committee members also solicit potential members in order to get the vacant committee positions filled. JoJo Heselmeyer asked for a list of vacancies be sent to the committee members.

Please provide any future agenda items to Anthony Moffa, JoJo Heselmeyer, or Carlos Romero.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

10. Adjourn

Anthony Moffa adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.