

## **Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)**

Meeting Notes

March 12, 2025

### **1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on March 12, 2025. The committee convened both in person at 5806 Guadalupe St., Building I in Austin, Texas and virtually via Microsoft 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
Lisa Cargill	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Lyons	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ruben Garibay	CE Specialist, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain, 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
Carlos Romero	Admin Ops Specialist	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
David Serrins	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kristin Jacobsen	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 December 11, 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 the closeout of non-emissions safety inspection facilities. He stated DPS is about 50% complete with picking up signs from the stations.

Service Director Joy stated DPS notified stations about the new static IP address implementation plan and that the deadline was December 31, 2024, in order to contact DPS with their addresses. At this time, SD Joy stated that they had only received about half of all addresses. Program Investigators are being tasked with visiting stations to remind vehicle inspection stations of the need for their IP addresses. In the near future implementation of this specific plan will occur and those who have not provided their addresses will be shut out.

Finally, Service Director Joy added that DPS, DMV and TCEQ have been working on the implementation of Bexar County into the emissions program ahead of the November 2026 deadline.

Captain Mark Berry addressed the committee stating his criminal investigations unit has been hard at work. He stated his team had just completed serving a search warrant on a station that showed to have done a couple hundred clean scans. They made two arrests and confiscated some marijuana located on the property. Captain Berry stated they will continue to do these types of investigations into those doing multiple clean scans and are not necessarily focused on the one-offs.

Manager Pablo Luna addressed the committee stating his team was seeing an increase in applications being submitted by individuals other than the station owners. All applications are required to have ownership documents attached. The name on the application must match the owner documentation. He asked that the committee members pass along the information when they are working with their colleagues in the industry.

## **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. In addition, they are engaged with DPS and DMV in planning for implementation of emissions inspections in Bexar County to begin in November 2026.

Mr. Serrins stated that they are paying close attention to bills being filled during the current legislative session. The analyzer software updates to implement changes required by HB3297, HB3014 and HB2195 from the last legislative session, are complete. All high-speed analyzers in the Texas program were required to be updated to the new software by January 1, 2025.

Finally, Mr. Serrins stated that the proposed rulemaking and State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to implement the changes required by the passage of HB3297 and SB2102 is anticipated to be at the TCEQ's commissioner's agenda meeting on April 17, 2025. Backup is anticipated to be filed on March 28, 2025, with the comment period anticipated to be April 22, 2025, through June 3, 2025.

Co-Chair JoJo Heselmeyer stated she had a question that was asked of her by Commissioner Greg Gonzalez. He wanted to know with On-Board Diagnostics II (OBD II) and all that the system can do, what is the value in continuing to inspect the catalytic converter, the emission components and the gas caps. Wouldn't the OBD II system detect failures of these items? David Serrins stated the gas cap integrity check and visual inspection of emissions components that were previously part of the safety inspection sequence are required by both the vehicle inspection and maintenance, state implementation plan, and federal regulations. They are required in Chapter 8 "Test Procedures, Standards, and Test Equipment" of the [2014 I/M SIP revision](#). This SIP revision was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on October 17, 2016, and is now considered to be part of federal law. The same requirements appear in Chapter 8 of the [2022 I/M SIP revision](#), which is not yet approved by EPA but for which EPA published its proposed approval on October 11, 2024. The federal regulations requiring the gas cap integrity check can be found in [40 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) §51.357\(a\)\(10\) and \(b\)\(3\)](#). The requirements for visual inspection are in [40 CFR §51.357\(a\)\(8\) and \(b\)\(2\)](#).

Co-chair Anthony Moffa stated that at the last meeting he inquired as to Eastern Research Group (ERG) and their last inspection. He noted a few highlights from that report:

- Missing OBD VIN
- Safety
- Communication Readiness
- Time between tests

Committee Member Julie Claussen stated there used to be third party testing that occurred, and she wondered if that was something that could be brought back. She stated that the reasoning behind the idea would be that they are having to pay the cost of training of their people, the cost of the drive time there and back, as well as the test itself. It would be more cost effective to be able to do in house testing. Service Director Ron Joy stated they would do some investigation into this matter and notify Committee Member Julie Claussen.

## **5. Old Business**

Co-Chair Anthony Moffa asked for an update on the current committee vacancies. Service Director Ron Joy stated there are currently 3 station owner positions, 1 public member position, and 1 independent vehicle equipment repair technician position. He urged the other committee members to solicit people they knew to help fill these positions.

## **6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items**

Steve Moninger addressed the committee stating that while there were no recommendation items to be discussed, he did want to address the earlier questions regarding instructors or schools. He stated that back in 2012 or 2013 the committee voted to repeal the rules that spoke to the licensing of those schools under the reasoning that there was no statutory authority for them to create another license. He further explained that with no statutory authority for it there was potential liability for the actions of these schools if they were to approve their certificates and someone did something they shouldn't have done or weren't well trained.

## **7. Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **8. Future Agenda Items**

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, June 18, 2025.

### **10. Adjourn**

JoJo Heselmeyer adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.