

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes

December 10, 2025

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on December 10, 2025. The committee convened both in person at 5806 Guadalupe St., Building I in Austin, Texas and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

2. Roll Call

Sarah Thomas	Co-Chair	TCEQ appointee
JoJo Heselmeyer	Co-Chair	PSC appointee, Tx Vehicle Inspection Assoc
David Lewis	VIAC Member	Emissions Testing Equip Manufacturer
Ron Joy	Service Director, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Natalie Robertson	Service Director, LRS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	Manager, CES	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Manager, RCS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain, RCS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ryan Garcia	Manager, LRS	Texas Department of Public Safety
Carlos Romero	Admin Ops Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Personnel Admin Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Sr Personnel Admin Spc	Texas Department of Public Safety
Julie Smith	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety
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 17, 2025

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

4. Report from Regulatory Services Division

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee regarding the Bexar County implementation which will begin taking application in January 2026. He stated licensing staff have already received over 30 applications which they will begin processing in January. Compliance and Enforcement Specialist Ruben Garibay will be the lead on this project and work closely with Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Texas commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and Bexar County officials.

Service Director Joy stated that Clean Scanning incidents continue to be on a rapid decline due to the recent fraud preventative software implementations DPS and TCEQ have administered.

Captain Mark Berry informed the committee 28 investigations had been conducted in the past year. As a result of these investigations, 41 arrests were made. Of the arrests, 32 were third-degree felonies, 12 were state jail felonies and 1 Class B misdemeanor. The third-degree felonies were associated with those who issued or created fake inspection certificates, while the state jail felonies were associated with those using simulators. Captain Berry added that the number of arrests this year was down from that of previous years.

5. Report from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

David Serrins stated TCEQ continues to work closely with DPS to develop and refine tools and systems intended to identify vehicle inspection fraud. He did state there were other projects and rulemaking that would be developed in the next few months.

6. Report from Committee Member Representatives

a. Co-Chairs

Sarah Thomas and JoJo Heselmeyer both addressed the committee stating they had nothing to report

b. Station Owner Member

No report available.

c. Emissions Testing Equipment Manufacturer Member

David Lewis stated he had nothing to report.

David Lewis asked TCEQ if they had guidance regarding how they want to test the new On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) protocol Unified Diagnostic Services (UDS). He stated that although it was not scheduled to be required until a later date, he is seeing an increase in customers needing testing. Nicholas Landuyt informed the committee that TCEQ had no firm dates regarding this but would speak with Edgar Gilmore regarding this issue and inform the committee with more information.

Co-Chair JoJo Heselmeyer asked for further clarification regarding the OBD protocol, David Lewis explained that there is a new OBD protocol called UDS. He stated it is beginning to be present in some 2026 models. Mr. Lewis added that some companies are utilizing some of these vehicles in their loner fleets, then six months later when a company is ready to sell the vehicle, they must get them inspected, but stations are not yet set up to inspect those vehicles. He stated that he believes these vehicles would need to go to a waiver station to get a waiver test but was unsure of the correct procedure.

Davis Serrins informed the committee that the UDS protocol is going to be required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of all manufacturers in 2027. Mr. Serrins added that TCEQ is working on guidance regarding this matter.

d. Independent Vehicle Equipment Repair Technician Member

No report available.

e. Public Member

No report available.

7. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

Co-Chair JoJo Heselmeyer asked if RSD had seen a decline in the number of inspection stations in the Austin and El Paso regions due to the fee being lowered to \$11.50. Service Director Ron Joy stated Manager Ryan Garcia would run a detailed report and report back to her after the meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items

Please provide any future agenda items to Sarah Thomas, JoJo Heselmeyer, or Carlos Romero.

9. Identification of next advisory committee date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.