

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes

March 10, 2021

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:01 p.m. on March 10, 2021 via WebEx Teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Present

Anthony Moffa	Chairman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Robert Ferre	Co-Chairman	Subject Matter Expert for Fuel & Emission Systems
David Campbell	VIAC Member	Station Owner
Julie Claussen	VIAC Member	Emissions Analyst
David Lewis	VIAC Member	Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Kevin Pishkar	VIAC Member	Automotive Repair Manager
Jason Hester	RSD Assistant Chief	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
Steve Moninger	RSD Sr. Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	RSD Deputy Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Anne Yusim	RSD Deputy Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	RSD Sr. Investigator	Texas Department of Public Safety
Krystal Sanders	RSD Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety
Edgar Gilmore	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nicholas Landuyt	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

3. Minutes from December 9, 2020

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

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

- *DPS*
 - Per Assistant Chief Hester, Pablo Luna is the acting Service Director for RSD, until the position is filled.

- Assistant Chief Hester briefed members that the Governor's office has removed the waiver for driver's license and vehicle registration expirations. Vehicle inspection stations will see an increase of customers needing their inspections for registrations. Notices have been sent to all licensees that conduct vehicle inspections in the field, that driver's licenses will need to be renewed. The Department for Public Safety (DPS) offers extended hours, as well as online support for those needing to renew their driver's license.
- To maintain compliance of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant, Assistant Chief Hester updated the committee that vehicle inspection numbers will be tracked, to ensure recalls have been completed and anticipate recall notices be printed by the end of the fiscal year.
- Per Hester, DPS will no longer require the use of face coverings (which may vary by location) in state offices due to the statewide mandate. DPS does encourage the use of masks and will continue safety screenings when entering DPS facilities. Training classes will maintain limited capacity as well as social distancing.
- Luna briefed the committee in reference to the vehicle inspection connection (VIC) outages. The outage affected VIC units as well as slow down the inspection process. The cause of the outage has been identified and was corrected last Friday.
- Luna highlighted new bills that have been filed that relate to vehicle inspection and they are as followed:
 - House Bill 2262- Would allow government fleet vehicles, to change inspection/registration frequency from one year to three years.
 - House Bill 2349-Would exclude certain travel trailers from being inspected as long as the owner completes a self-inspection and complete an affidavit that would be presented at the time of registration.
 - House Bill 2423- Would change the 2-24 range for emissions testing, to start with 1997 and later.
 - House Bill 2540 - Any modification to emission system causing it to be louder, would be a violation of the law. This would apply to passenger cars and light trucks.
- Hester advised all members to review TORVENT data from Anne Yusim
- TCEQ
 - David Serrins introduced new TCEQ team member: Nicholas Landuyt.

- Per Serrins, TCEQ is responding to bills for the legislative session, along with working with analyzer vendors and contractors on updates that will add safety recall information to vehicle inspection report.
- Serrins also noted, beta testing has begun to add safety recall information to vehicle inspection report and should be completed by the end of May. TCEQ will utilize this service for their 17 counties that use emission analyzers.
- Serrins highlighted SB 3198- Serrins infers this bill is in reference to emissions analyzers. This bill would require that the state allow third parties and owners of the analyzer to repair the emissions analyzers instead of the manufacturer.

5. Old Business

- Deleted Diesels
 - David Campbell offered comments on deleted diesels. David states that this is an ongoing issue in his area. He has concerns that other inspection stations are passing these deleted diesels. Luna informed Campbell that he is aware of the statewide issue and reminded the committee that any removal of emissions equipment, will cause the equipment to fail. Luna urges all station owners to follow inspection guidelines.

6. New Business

- Temporary Buyer's Tag
 - Per Anthony Moffa, citizens are able to purchase Texas temporary buyer's tags on the internet. Tags are being purchased to circumvent inspection for vehicles. Moffa detailed that tags could be purchased on various websites such as EBay, Facebook Marketplace, and Offer Up. Luna offered comments that these are known issues and concerned citizens should be referred to the Department of Motor Vehicles to investigate. Yusim also offered comment to send instances as a complaint to the Department of Public Safety for tracking purposes.

7. Public Comments

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items

Please provide any future agenda items to Anthony Moffa or Robert Ferre.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2021.

10. Adjourn

Anthony Moffa adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.