

These are the minutes of the workshop meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission held on February 26, 2014, in Laredo, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Houghton with the following commissioners present:

Texas Transportation Commission:

Ted Houghton	Chairman
Jeff Austin III	Commissioner
Jeff Moseley	Commissioner
Victor Vandergriff	Commissioner

Commissioner Fred Underwood was not in attendance.

Administrative Staff:

James Bass, Interim Executive Director
 Jeff Graham, General Counsel
 Rose Guajardo Walker, Chief Clerk
 Robin Carter, Assistant Chief Clerk

Registration sheets listing others in attendance are on file with the Texas Department of Transportation, Assistant Chief Clerk.

A public notice of this meeting containing all items on the proposed agenda was filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at 4:23 p.m. on February 18, 2014, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as "The Open Meetings Act."

ITEM 2. Executive Session Pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 551

- a. Section 551.071 – Consultation with advice from legal counsel regarding any item on the agenda
- b. Section 551.074 - Deliberate on the search for a new executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation
- c. Section 551.074 - Interview selected applicants for and discuss the employment of the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation

The commission recessed to executive session at 12:04 p.m. and returned from executive session at 2:02 p.m.

ITEM 1. Safety Briefing

This item was presented by District Administrator Melisa Montemayor.

Introduction of area public officials, community and civic leaders, and private citizens. The commission recognized and received remarks from Representative Richard Raymond, Webb County Judge Danny Valdez, City Manager for the City of Laredo Carlos Villarreal, and LaSalle County Judge Joel Rodriguez.

Report by the District. The report was presented by District Administrator Melisa Montemayor.

ITEM 3. Discussion

a. Texas - Mexico Border Trade and Freight Transportation Issues

This item was presented by Director of Planning Marc Williams and Director of International Relations Jorge Garces. The commission heard comments from Undersecretary of Economic Development for the state of Nuevo Leon, Ing. Juan Francisco Livas Cantu, and Director of the Small Business Development Center at Texas A & M International University Mercurio Martinez.

b. Passenger Rail

This item was presented by Chief Planning and Projects Officer Russell Zapalac and Director of International Relations Jorge Garces. The commission heard comments from Coordinator General del Puerto de Colombia Lic. Carlos Garza Gonzalez,

c. Regional Priority Projects

This item was introduced by District Administrator Melissa Montemayor and presented by Laredo City Manager Carlos Villarreal. The commission heard comments from Representative Richard Raymond, Laredo Councilmember Mike Garza, and Real Estate Development Manager Rolando Ortiz.

d. Energy Sector Impacts and Agency Progress

This item was presented by Deputy Executive Director John Barton. The commission heard comments from Executive Administrator for Webb County Judge Danny Valdez Leroy Medford.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD - At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the commission will allow an open comment period, not to exceed one hour, to receive public comment on any other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the department. No action will be taken. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Speakers must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.

The commission received comments from businessman Pete Saenz, Jr., Executive Vice President of IBC Bank and President of NASCO Gerry Schwebel, Director of Transportation Coordination Network of the Coastal Bend Martin Ornelas, Jim Wells County Commissioner Margie Gonzalez, and Director of the Small Business Development Center at Texas A & M International University Mercurio Martinez.

The workshop meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ted Houghton, Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing pages constitute the full, true, and correct record of all proceedings and official records of the Texas Transportation Commission at its workshop meeting on February 26, 2014, in Laredo, Texas.



Robin Carter, Assistant Chief Clerk
Texas Department of Transportation