



Texas Department of Transportation

MARITIME DIVISION

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PAAC Mission Statement

Elevate port issues as a vital component of the Texas transportation system and advise the Texas Transportation Commission and Department on matters relating to maritime transportation

PAAC Goals

- Identify high priority and strategic port projects and make recommendations to the department for investments
- Incorporate maritime interest in TxDOT planning activities and documents
- Promote Texas ports for economic development opportunities
- Identify Federal, State or other funding opportunities for maritime investment

Next issue:

Meet the new staff members of TxDOT's Maritime Division!

Port Authority Advisory Committee (PAAC) Moves Ahead

The PAAC closed out 2013 with a meeting on December 17, 2013.

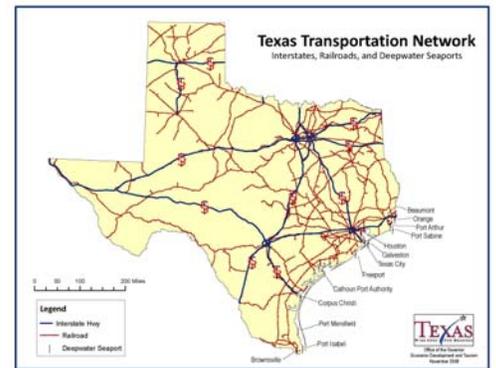
Discussions at the meeting included the state's Freight Mobility Plan, the Texas Mobility Fund as well as adoption of the PAAC's mission statement, goals and tasks. *(The mission statement and goals can be seen to the left of this article.)*

With the adoption of the mission statement, goals and tasks, Dan Harmon, Director of Maritime, explained how the tasks will be incorporated into the Port Capital Program as a new and improved planning document that will include funding recommendations from the committee. Russell Zapalac, Chief Planning/Project Officer,

challenged the group to include projects that link modes of transportation and demonstrate a real benefit to the State of Texas.

The next PAAC meeting will be held on March 20, 2014, in Corpus Christi at the Ortiz Center, 402 Harbor Drive. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. All port officials are invited and encouraged to come and participate in the meeting as we will be discussing the first three tasks which are as follows:

- Establish guidelines for determining eligibility of port projects to be funded by statewide sources, specifically funding under Ch. 55 of the Transportation Code and with a focus on projects that link multiple modes and have statewide impact



- Develop economic impact analysis and return on investment for state funded port projects
- Document statewide economic impact of ports to Texas and nation

We hope to see you all there!

Transportation Commissioner Jeff Moseley to Present Port Tours Report to Commission

In August 2013, the Maritime Division began coordinating tours with the ports in Texas for Transportation Commissioner Jeff Moseley. These visits have allowed TxDOT an opportunity to see port assets firsthand and visit with our port stakeholders.

Commissioner Moseley has tasked the Maritime Division with creating a comprehensive report highlighting port assets



Port of Palacios Director Debbie Morris discusses the port with Commissioner Moseley during a recent visit.

and strengths, as well as recommendations for strategic investments.

The report will be presented at the June 2014 Transportation Commission Meeting which will be held at the Port of Houston. The meeting will also include a workshop regarding maritime issues in Texas.

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The Maritime Division promotes the development and intermodal connectivity of Texas ports, waterways and marine infrastructure and operations. It also serves as a resource to increase the use of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and promote waterborne transportation to maintain Texas' economic competitiveness.

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Study Underway!

TxDOT has embarked on new research to examine what is needed to restore and sustain the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to its maximum utilization in order to prevent unnecessary transportation costs and to allow the waterway to function at its optimum capacity. The GIWW Working Group was established as part of the research and has held two meetings.

Members of the working group include various barge operators, the US Coast Guard, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Gulf Intracoastal

Canal Association, port directors, and refinery personnel.

As the local sponsor for the GIWW, TxDOT fully understands the importance of this marine highway, not only to the Texas maritime system, but to the state's economy as well.

Current conditions along the GIWW require users to light load barges in order to navigate the waterway thus increasing the cost of moving freight.

The study is being conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute.



Calendar of Events

March

- **Port of Oakland Tour March 5-7, 2014**
- **PAAC Meeting Corpus Christi March 20, 2014 9:00 a.m.—12 p.m.**

April

- **Freight Summit Houston April 2-3**
- **Port of Victoria Tour April 4, 2014**

May

- **Freight Advisory Committee Meeting May 7-8, 2014**
- **GIWW Study to be completed May 30, 2014**

June

- **Transportation Commission Meeting Port of Houston**

