

These are the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port Authority Advisory Committee (the committee) held on March 8, 2022, at the Galveston Wharves in Galveston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Phyllis Saathoff, with the following committee members present:

Port Authority Advisory Committee:

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| Phyllis Saathoff | Chair, Port Freeport- In Person |
| Chris Fisher | Port of Beaumont- In Person |
| Michael Plank | Lt. Governor Appointee- Absent |
| Allan Ritter | Speaker of the House Appointee- Online |
| Roger Guenther | Port of Houston- In Person |
| Rodger Reese | Port of - In Person |
| Ron Mills | Port of Mansfield- Online |
| Walker Smith | Port of Harlingen- In Person |
| Sean Strawbridge | Port of Corpus Christi- Online |

Public notice of this meeting containing all items on the proposed agenda was filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at 1:47 p.m. on February 7, 2022, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as “The Open Meetings Act.”

ITEM 2. Introduction of committee members and TxDOT staff

Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, asked TxDOT and other port authorities to introduce themselves. All present PAAC members are listed above; one was absent.

ITEM 3. Approval of the October 15, 2021 meeting minutes (Action)

Roger Guenther motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted with a second by Chris Fisher, and the committee approved the minutes from the October 15, 2022, meeting by a vote of 7 - 0.

ITEM 4. Update on Federal Funding Programs

Federico Rodriguez, State Legislative Affairs, TxDOT, gave the presentation on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This was signed into law by President Joe Biden on November 15, 2021. IIJA Guidebook is available, and the White House will be updated periodically and can be found on www.build.gov. New Grant Programs include:

- Reducing Truck Emissions at Ports
- PROTECT-Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation-this program will improve resilience (natural infrastructure, wetlands, floodplains, aquatic ecosystems) at the state and municipal levels.
- Improving State Freight Plans-must update freight plans every four years and are required to include supply chain, cargo flows, and inventory of commercial ports.

- National Multimodal Cooperative Freight Research Program-enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations on methods to improve the efficiency and resiliency of freight movement.
- Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)
- IJA expands the list of eligible projects to include those that eliminate port-related pollutants or greenhouse gas emissions, port electrification, and master planning.
- Marine Highway Program- Funded at \$25 Million. Supplemental funds will allow the use of America's navigable waters, expand marine highway service options and facilitate their integration into US Transportation systems. The deadline for this is April 29, 2022.
- Other Highlights-National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. TxDOT is in the early stages of drafting an EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan, and Port Authorities are eligible to apply for this, which is a push for electrification.

There were no questions for Mr. Federico Rodriguez.

Please see attachment 4 for additional details.

ITEM 5. Presentation on the functions of the TxDOT Rail Division

Mr. Jeff Davis, Rail Division Director, gave a presentation on the functions within the Rail Division of TxDOT.

Three sections of the Rail Division

- Planning and Programming Section-responsible for the South Orient Railroad in Presidio, Texas that goes into Mexico. Public-private partnership. TxDOT will build a border facility for customs and border protection. An x-ray machine will be purchased for customs and border protection, which will be completed by 2024.
- This section is also responsible for the types of State Rail Plan updated every two years.
- Rail-Highway Section- Section 130 has a \$100 million planned for grade crossings and updating crossing signals.
- Every crossing has a blue sign with a phone number; provide the DOT number to stop train movement.
- Rail Safety Section- seventeen rail investigators are qualified and certified by the Federal Railroad Administration to educate and enforce regulations.

Mr. Davis wants to work closely with Mr. Kalhagen on port congestion at the ports on the Texas Coastline.

There were no questions for Mr. Jeff Davis.

Please see attachment 5 for additional details.

ITEM 6. Update on the 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (TCRMP)

Mr. Chris Levitz, AECOM, presented this plan which puts forth the vision for our communities, the ecosystem, and the economy along the coast. The program has moved to a four-year cycle and focuses on implementation leading to 2023 TCRMP.

- Region 1-Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange Counties
- Region 2-Calhoun, Jackson, Matagorda, and Victoria Counties
- Region 3-Aransas, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties
- Region 4-Cameron, Kenedy, Willacy County

The plan will identify and prioritize potential resilience projects. The Technical Advisory Committee will involve state and federal agencies, universities, local governments, non-profits, engineering firms, port representatives, regional trusts, foundations, and partnerships.

There were no questions for Mr. Chris Levitz.

Please see attachment 6 for additional details.

ITEM 7. Update on the 2024-2025 Texas Port Mission Plan

Mr. Chris Levitz, AECOM, presented this Port Mission Plan.

Port Mission overview- outlines investment needs in the TX Port Capital and Ship Channel report.

Port Connectivity Report- Interviews have been completed. Currently, AECOM is working on updating the needs from the previous plan and reaching the final stage to send over to the Maritime Division for review. Solutions will be addressed with all the ports.

Connectivity Stakeholder Involvement Status Update- The AECOM team will be doing a workshop with the TxDOT and Maritime groups soon. The solution review will be in late Spring.

- Port Capital Program- Met with ports and navigation districts to discuss previous and future capital projects. Whitney Casey from their capital team will be reaching out to ports to discuss specific projects.
- The Ship Channel Report-Report aligns with the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund (SCIRF) and identifies channel improvements and maintenance funded by ports. A meeting with each port was held in December 2021 and January 2022. Drafts profiles for projects and report narratives are ready for review.

The PMP team has requested a review of federal and non-federal projects from all ports to confirm project costs and local/federal allocations to date.

Travis Milner encourages ports that the report is only as good and complete as the information that goes into it.

Please see attachment 7 for additional details.

ITEM 8. Update on the 2023 Texas Freight Mobility Plan

Ms. Sherry Pifer, Freight Systems Branch manager, presented finalized Texas Highway Freight network plan. The plan includes all that was in the previous 2018 but 1709 miles have been added, and it has updated analysis and a newly incorporated network.

- Texas Highway Freight Network (THFN)- designated by TxDOT
 - Based on Stakeholder input and the Texas Freight Advisory Committee.
 - No mileage limitation
- National Highway Freight Network (NHFN)- designated by FHWA
 - Includes Primary Highway Freight System, DOT, MPO, and urban/rural freight corridors, which affects funding eligibility.

Supply Chain Analysis- there is relevant information on planning for future meetings with supply chain experts. Discerning how it will impact the Texas Ports is essential for us to consider especially working out the 2050 plan.

Resiliency Case Studies- They want to make sure that the multimodal freight network is resilient and able to reduce the impact on destructions. How were businesses, organizations, and communities impacted?

A question was asked by Leslie Ruta of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, “as a state, should they go ahead and mention the goal of being net-zero by 2050 because of the two plans hitting the same date? Ms. Pifer’s responded that FIT is working closely with the Maritime Division to make sure these plans do align.

The question was asked if this is a plan in motion now.

Ms. Pifer responded that we currently operate under the 2018 Texas Freight Mobility plan projected to 2045.

There were no other questions for Ms. Pifer.

Please see attachment 8 for additional details.

ITEM 9. Presentation of the final study, “Creating a Resilient Port System In Texas: Assessing and Mitigating Extreme Weather Events.”

Dr. Zhanmin Zhang, Ph.D., gave this presentation. He is with the University of Texas. Presenting the TxDOT Project 0-7055

Research Goals-Systematic investigation of the resilience of the Texas Port System by assessing network-level and port-level exposure, risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience capacity.

- Identify and Characterize Potential Extreme Weather Events
- Enhance the Inventory of the port system and supporting infrastructure
- GIS Dataset Tool
- Quantify Physical Risks on Texas Port System
- Quantify Economic Risks of Port System Disruptions
- Direct impact
- Indirect Impact
- Develop Port Resilience Metric

All the information was gathered from interviews, workshops, and stakeholders' input.

Mr. Travis Milner, Maritime Division, clarified that the Maritime Division did not lead this study. It was started by TxDOT, RTI (Research and Technology Implementation). This division manages or administers contracts, and then they look for subject matter experts or steering committee members.

There were no questions for Dr. Zhang, Ph.D.

Please see attachment 9 for additional details.

ITEM 10. Public Comments

No virtual public comments

Ms. Kris Knoll, MRD, TxDOT, informed everyone that four committee members have expiring terms coming up on August 31, 2022. A nomination form will be sent out, and the deadline for nominations is April 1, 2022.

Ms. Knoll thanked Mr. Rodger Rees for hosting this PAAC meeting. The Maritime Division would like to continue the PAAC roadshow to help showcase all Texas ports (PAAC members and non-PAAC members) interested in having us visit and tour. Maritime Division wants to help the ports tell their story.

June 14, 2022, is the next PAAC Roadshow.

Ms. Lauren Freriks, MRD, TxDOT, the Maritime Division, makes a significant effort to post on social media. Ms. Freriks gave some encouraging words to members and the public. If they may have anything interesting, please inform her. The Maritime Division is looking forward to helping the Texas Ports tell their story.

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, reminded everyone that the supply chain assessment of the Transportation Industrial Base Freight Images Study that was done by USDOT was released in February, and there is an executive summary to it that lays out several policy goals, and it is a document that we need to ask for to and make sure that we review.

Ms. Saathoff, Chair, stated that we have a lot of great work to do here in Texas concerning our ports and infrastructure. The more we work together and collaborate, the more effective we will be.

ADJOURN

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Phyllis Saathoff, Chair
Port Authority Advisory Committee