

April 25, 2022

These are the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port Authority Advisory Committee (the Committee) held on April 25, 2022, virtual WebEx meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:47 p.m. by Chair Phyllis Saathoff, with the following committee members present:

**Port Authority Advisory Committee:**

Phyllis Saathoff	Chair, Port Freeport
Chris Fisher	Port of Beaumont
Michael Plank	Lt. Governor Appointee- <b>Absent</b>
Allan Ritter	Speaker of the House Appointee- <b>Absent</b>
Roger Guenther	Port of Houston
Roger Reese	Port of Galveston- <b>Absent due to technical difficulties</b>
Ron Mills	Port of Mansfield
Walker Smith	Port of Harlingen
Sean Strawbridge	Port of Corpus Christi- <b>Absent due to technical difficulties</b>

Public notice of this meeting containing all items on the proposed agenda was filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at 11:18 a.m. on April 12, 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 if introductions should be relinquished due to the time limit. Geir Eilif Kalhagen agreed to forgo introductions.

**ITEM 3. Approval of the March 8, 2022 meeting minutes (Action)**

Ron Mills made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with a second by Roger Guenther. The Committee approved the minutes from the March 8, 2022, meeting by a vote of 5 - 0.

**ITEM 4. Discussion and approval the budget request for the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund. (Action) and ITEM 5. Discussion and approval of the budget request for the 2024-2025 Texas Port Capital Investment Report. (Action).**

Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, asked Geir Eilif Kalhagen to introduce these items.

Geir Eilif Kalhagen, Maritime Division, TxDOT, explains that this is for the Legislative request for the Port Capital and Ship Channel funding. The last request was \$135 million for the Port Capital and \$331 million for the Ship Channel. TxDOT is seeking the requested recommendation from the Port Authority Advisory Committee.

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Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, reiterated that the PAAC's initial appropriation request for the 87th Legislative Session was derived from the Port Mission Plan, which identified over \$1 billion for the Port Capital Investment Report (PCIR) and \$1.7 billion for the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund (SCIRF). The final TxDOT Legislative appropriations request was \$130 million for the PCIR and \$330 million for the SCIRF. TxDOT staff is still gathering the information but expects the total to be larger than in prior years due to adding the Houston Ship Channel project.

Ms. Saathoff, Chair, asked if it would be fitting to ask for the total appropriation again or request \$150 million for the PCIR and \$400 million for SCIRF?  
Ms. Saathoff welcomed input from fellow PAAC members.

Mr. Kalhagen, Maritime, TxDOT, indicated that the focus was on identifying the total needs. A question was asked on how much an appropriation would be in today's economy, which led us to the dollar amounts presented today.

Mr. Roger Gunther made the motion for \$150 million for the PCIR and \$400 million for the SCIRF, and Mr. Chris Fisher, seconded the motion.

The motion was carried with all in favor, 5-0.

#### **ITEM 10. Public Comments**

Mr. Kalhagen, Maritime, TxDOT, asked if this motion was for the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund and the Port Capital Investment Report?  
Mr. Gunther acknowledged that it was for both movements.

Mr. Gunther addressed Madam Chair on further discussions on available funding and how projects are evaluated; how things are to be done versus how they have been done in some Rider programs. Ms. Saathoff, Chair, made a note and stated that it would be placed on a future agenda.

#### **ADJOURN**

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Phyllis Saathoff, Chair  
Port Authority Advisory Committee