

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Notes

March 13, 2024

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 13, 2024, via WebEx Teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Anthony Moffa	Chairman	Co-Chair, TCEQ appointee
Julie Claussen	VIAC Member	
David Lewis	VIAC Member	
Lawrence Cortez	RSD Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	RSD Sr. Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Lyons	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ron Joy	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Natalie Robertson	RSD Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Renee Davis	RSD Personnel Ad Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	RSD Personnel Ad Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Carlos Romero	RSD Personnel Ad Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
David Serrins	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Edgar Gilmore	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nicolas Landuyt	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

3. Minutes from December 13, 2023

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

4. Remarks from DPS and TCEQ

a. DPS

Ron Joy presented statistics from 2023 on clean scanning, there were 1,785 individual inspectors and 1,487 stations that were suspended or revoked.

Ron Joy stated the enforcement operations led by Captain Mark Berry and the team are showing success and putting offenders in jail. Mr. Joy added that last week in Houston twelve stations were targeted and eight people were arrested for violations of clean scanning and they also seized several criminal instruments during the process.

Ron Joy informed the committee that DPS and TCEQ are currently working together to prepare for the implementation of House Bill (HB) 3297, the bill eliminates all non-commercial safety inspections beginning January 1, 2025.

Ron Joy stated that the proposed rule to require vehicle stations to have a static IP address will be presented to the Public Safety Commission at the April meeting.

David Lewis mentioned recent issues in contacting DPS personnel while requesting assistance with clearing lockouts. Ron Joy stated that he will talk offline with David about the situation and ensure that he has good contact information.

b. TCEQ

David Serrins stated that TCEQ continues to work closely with DPS to develop and refine tools and systems intended to identify suspected emissions inspection fraud.

David Serrins informed the committee that Sarah Thomas is no longer with their team. She has moved on to another position within TCEQ.

David Serrins stated that 2024 I/M Fee Analysis study is nearly finished. He expects the final report to be delivered in a few weeks and it will be published to the following TCEQ web page by mid-April 2024.

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/mobilesource/vim/im_rules_links.html

Davis Serrins added that TCEQ staff continue work on the rulemaking and state implementation plan revision process to implement the changes required by HB 3297 and Senate Bill (SB) 2102. HB 3297 eliminates non-commercial safety inspections effective January 1, 2025, and SB 2102 extends the initial registration and inspection period for rental vehicles by one year (three years instead of two). This rulemaking and State Implementation Plan revision process is expected to take much of calendar year 2024 with an expected proposal on June 12, 2024, and adoption in November 2024.

David Serrins also added that TCEQ staff continue work on analyzer software updates to implement changes required by both bills (HB 3297 and SB 2102) as well as HB 3014 and HB 2195. HB 3014 exempts fully electric vehicles from safety inspection requirements relating to the emissions and exhaust systems and related components. HB 2195 adds a check for a wrong,

fictitious, altered, or obscured license plate to the vehicle safety inspection sequence. These software updates are expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2024.

Anthony Moffa asked that since the safety inspections are going way, will a person be notified of vehicle recall reports. Edgar Gilmore answered that the history of the vehicle is in the system, but if the vehicle does not receive an inspection, they will lose the ability to get the recall information. Anthony Moffa mentioned that the vehicle recall reports can also be found through the manufacture.

5. Old Business

Anthony Moffa requested a status update on the committee member vacancies, including the potential appointment of a co-chair. Chris Sims responded that Chief Mueller is currently reviewing and working through the process to have a co-chair appointed. Currently, there are no other applications in the queue.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

No discussion or possible recommendations were mentioned.

7. Public Comments

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were presented at this time. Please provide any future agenda items to Anthony Moffa or a committee member.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Anthony Moffa adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.