

These are the minutes of the special meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission held on March 9, 2021, held by telephone conference call. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chairman Bugg with the following commissioners present:

Texas Transportation Commission:

J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.	Chairman
Laura Ryan	Commissioner
Alvin New	Commissioner
Robert C. Vaughn	Commissioner

Administrative Staff:

Marc Williams, Deputy Executive Director
Jeff Graham, General Counsel
Robin Carter, Commission 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 3:37 p.m. on February 26, 2021, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as “The Open Meetings Act.”

ITEM 1. Meeting Guidelines

General Counsel Jeff Graham provided guidance and instruction for the meeting. The public was invited to watch and listen to the meeting through the Texas Department of Transportation website, www.txdot.gov. In addition, for those members of the public who wanted to make a comment on an agenda item or comment during the open comment period of the meeting a toll free number was provided on the agenda and the callers were assisted by operators on the call.

ITEM 2. Administrative Appointment

Consider appointing a person to act as the Executive Director for department activities involving the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (MO)

This item was presented by General Counsel Jeff Graham. Commissioner Ryan made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner New, and the commission approved the following minute order by a vote of 4 - 0.

115977
ADM

On January 27, 2021, James Bass, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation (department), informed the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) of his plans to retire as executive director at the end of May 2021.

On January 27, 2021, the board of directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) approved James Bass as the executive director of CTRMA effective on his retirement from employment with the State of Texas.

The commission finds that in order to prevent a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, in the department’s dealings with CTRMA during the period in which Mr. Bass will continue to serve as the department’s executive director, it is necessary to appoint an employee of the department to act as the department’s executive director in all activities of the department related to CTRMA.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that Marc D. Williams, Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation, is appointed as Acting

Executive Director for all executive director duties and functions related to the department's activities involving the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. This appointment and delegation of authority is limited to those duties and functions and terminates on the date that Executive Director Bass's successor begins employment as executive director, unless terminated earlier by order of the commission.

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 citizen traffic safety advocate Lance Hamm of Vision Zero South Texas concerning the 85th percentile for speed zones; and from private citizen Zenobia Joseph concerning previous funding comments and un-safe, mid-block crossings on Lamar Blvd. in Austin (Loop 275 and FM 734).

ITEM 3. Executive Session Pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 551

a. Section 551.071 - Consultation with and advice from legal counsel regarding any item on this agenda, pending or contemplated litigation, or other legal matters.

b. Section 551.074 - Deliberate on the election and compensation of an interim executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.

c. Section 551.074 - Deliberate on the search for a new executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The commission recessed to executive session at 1:16 p.m. and returned from executive session at 2:53 p.m.

Commissioner Ryan motioned adjournment and Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. The commission voted 4 - 0 to adjourn. The special meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

APPROVED by the Texas Transportation Commission on April 29, 2021:



J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., 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 special meeting on March 9, 2021, by telephone conference call.



Robin Carter, Commission Chief Clerk
Texas Department of Transportation

