

These are the minutes of the special meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission held on March 24, 2021, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.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:

James Bass, 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 11:26 a.m. on March 16, 2021, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as “The Open Meetings Act.”

ITEM 1. Meeting Guidelines

Executive Director James Bass 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. Discussion Item

Texas Clear Lanes (Presentation)

This discussion was led by Project Planning and Development Director Brian Barth. Joining Director Barth were Austin District Engineer Tucker Ferguson and Tim Lomax from Texas Transportation Institute. The commission asked questions and discussed the topic. The commission also heard remarks from Houston citizens Catherine Sofamore, Claire Hopper, Kristina Ronneber, George Barrow, Michael Moritz, Erin Erickson, and Harrison Humphreys of Air Alliance Houston, all concerning opposition to the I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project. Additional comments were received from private citizen Bennett Finesilver of San Antonio concerning US 281/Bulverde Road.

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 Dr. Abdul Alie Mohammed, in favor of the I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project, and from Edis Paronti, concerning opposition to the I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project.

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.

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

The commission recessed to executive session at 11:43 a.m. and returned from executive session at 2:09 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 2:09 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 24, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

Robin Carter, Commission Chief Clerk
Texas Department of Transportation

