

I-27 Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Stephens Central Library, San Angelo/WebEx November 10, 2022 | 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

I-27 Advisory Committee Members

Advisory Committee Member	Organization	Attendance
Judge Terri Beth Carter	Sherman County	Present
Judge Steve Floyd Proxy: Rick Bacon	Tom Green County	Present Proxy Present
Mayor Brenda Gunter	City of San Angelo	Present
Judge Terry Johnson Proxy: Andrew Avis, Public Works Director	Midland County	Not Present
Mayor Al Arreola Sr. Proxy: Michael Garcia, Assistant City Manager	City of Del Rio	Proxy Present
Mayor Ginger Nelson	City of Amarillo	Present
Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr.	Val Verde County	Present
Judge Curtis Parrish	Lubbock County	Present
Mayor Patrick Payton Proxy: Morris Williams, Deputy City Manager	City of Midland	Proxy Present
Mayor Tray Payne Proxy: Addison Barthold, Assistant	City of Lubbock	Proxy Present
Judge Wesley Ritchey	Dallam County	Present
Judge Johnny “Rowdy” Rhoades	Moore County	Not Present
Mayor Pete Saenz	City of Laredo	Not Present
Judge Nancy Tanner	Potter County	Not Present
Mayor Robert Moore	City of Big Spring	Not Present
Judge Tano E. Tijerina	Webb County	Present
Judge Kathryn Wiseman	Howard County	Present
John Osborne	Lubbock Economic Development Alliance	Present
Tracee Bentley Proxy: Debra Richmond	Permian Strategic Partnership	Proxy Present
Kevin Carter	Amarillo Economic Development Corporation	Present
Jorge Ramon	City of Del Rio	Not Present
Gerry Schwebel	IBC Bank	Not Present

Dee Vaughan	Texas Corn Producers	Present
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Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Lorena Echeverria de Misi	Krista Jeacopello
Loretta Brown	Cary Karnstadt
Jessica Butler	Mildred Litchfield
John DeWitt	Caroline Mays
Billy Dezern	Robert Ornelas
Juan Flores	Gabe Ramirez
Yvette Flores	Roberto Rodriguez, III
Claudia J. Lagos Galindo	Wesley Starnes
Humberto "Tito" Gonzales, Jr.	Trent Thomas
Elisa Greenberg	Austin Valentine
Michael Haithcock	
Cory Henrickson	

Consultant Team

Wendy Travis	Garver
Keegan Doan	Garver
Jon Hetzel	Garver
Tracy Michel	Garver
Sean Wray	Garver
Rachel Lunceford	HG Consult
Lena Camarillo	PCI
Kari Sutton	PCI

Other Attendees

Claudio Bres Garza	State of Coahuila
Blake Calvert	Texas Governor's Office
Rey Carrasco	Kimley-Horn
Lane Carter	Tom Green County
Lori Chatterley	City of Raton, New Mexico
Manuel Chavez	City of Del Rio
Jerry Conner	AZB Engineering
Cheryl DeCordova	Representative Drew Darby
Lauren Garduno	Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Duffy Hinkle	Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Cheri Huddleston	Hance Scarborough, LLP
Joe Kiely	Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Cal Klewin	Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Mert Kurtulus	CP&Y
Danny Magee	City of Eagle Pass
Bobby McDonald	Big Spring Area Community Foundation

John Medina
Milton Pax
Jeff Ramirez
Cameron Walker
Josh Worten

City of Big Spring
Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.
Permian Basin MPO
Representative Ronny Jackson

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Brenda Gunter, Mayor of San Angelo, and Vice-Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee to the I-27 Advisory Committee Meeting. She said she is thrilled with the progress so far, but the work is just getting started. Designation was key, but funding is going to be the next big challenge and it will take everyone working together to accomplish it. Mayor Gunter introduced Caroline Mays.

Caroline Mays, TxDOT Director of Planning and Modal Program welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was great to be back in west Texas. She told members they were all involved in the tremendous work that led to very significant efforts the Committee was looking to accomplish and have accomplished. There is still work to be done. TxDOT is looking to continue the collaboration and partnership of all those involved. This is a long-term partnership and TxDOT is at the table with the Committee, hand in hand. She appreciated the opportunity to be back in west Texas and thanked Mayor Gunter.

Mildred Litchfield, Deputy Division Director, TxDOT Planning and Programming Division was introduced. She told the Committee the Division was responsible for regional, statewide, and international planning including traffic analysis and funding allocations through the Unified Transportation Program. She said she was new to the role, but had been with TxDOT for ten years, and was looking forward to supporting the I-27 Committee.

Juan Flores, TxDOT Director of Freight, International Trade, and Connectivity was introduced. He thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. He told the Committee he was the new Caroline Mays and had been in the position for about two months. He has visited various ports along the corridor and is understanding that component of Ports and Plains and the I-27 significance. The state is aggressively looking at the Corridor from not only the district level, but from our border partners to the south and to the north as we evaluate the movement of people and goods. It is an exciting time for the state. He noted that Caroline has done a great job prioritizing the modal side of the departments of transportation and working with ports, rail, and planning. He introduced Cary Karnstadt, the Project Manager for I-27 Advisory Committee and said he would be working with them as well as the Texas Border Master Plan as these projects continue.

Humberto "Tito" Gonzales, Division Director, TxDOT Transportation Planning Program was introduced. He told the Committee he was new to the role, but not new to the I-27 Advisory Committee, as he served as TPD Director and Deputy District Engineer for the Laredo District. The I-27 Corridor is very important to the Laredo District. It was very exciting when the designation was received as it is significant to not just the state, but the rest of the country. He said he is looking forward to working with everyone in this new role. It is important to strategically prioritize how to move the Corridor forward. This is a long-term commitment and relationship to work towards. There is a lot of groundwork already laid, but there is still a lot more work to do. He said he looks forward to working together with the Committee as they accomplish their goals.

Mayor Gunter had the rest of the Committee and those online introduce themselves. She noted there would be one change to the agenda, and that Debra Richmond would present the Oil and Gas Industry Presentation next.

Oil and Gas Industry Presentation

Debra Richmond, Permian Strategic Partnership provided an overview of the Permian Strategic Partnership.

She provided information about the Economic Impact Report and the Permian Basin's importance to the United States and to the world. She provided benefits to Texas and New Mexico as well as the national impact and tax revenues and royalties.

Ms. Richmond continued the presentation by discussing oil production in the United States as well as other countries, oil production by basin, and an overview of the Permian Basins' contribution to clean energy including low-carbon crude, solar, and wind power.

She closed with information about infrastructure in the Permian Basin and the TxDOT Permian Promise which commits funding to help transportation needs throughout the Permian Basin.

Nominate and Elect Chair and Introduce New Members

Cary Karnstadt began the roll call. A quorum was met for the meeting.

Next, Mayor Gunter informed the Committee that Dan Pope did not run for reelection, so nominations for a new I-27 Advisory Committee Chair would be opened.

Lubbock County Judge Curtis Parrish nominated Mayor Gunter as Chair. Amarillo Mayor Ginger Nelson seconded. No other nominations were made.

A vote for Mayor Gunter as Chair had all in favor and none in opposition. Mayor Gunter accepted the role as Chair and opened nominations for Vice-Chair.

John Osborne, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, made a motion to approve Judge Parrish as the Vice-Chair.

Tom Green County Judge Steve Floyd seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were submitted. A vote for Judge Parrish had all in favor and none in opposition. Mayor Gunter announced the new office holders are Mayor Gunter as Chair and Judge Parrish as Vice-Chair.

Next, new members to the Committee were introduced. New members included Big Spring Mayor Robert Moore, Del Rio Mayor Al Arreola Sr., Lubbock Mayor Tray Payne, and Segment Two Economic Development Representative, John Osborne.

Judge Parrish also made the Committee aware that Judge Floyd was attending his final meeting. He thanked the Judge for not only serving on this Committee, but for his efforts on the Feasibility Study and long-time support of I-27. He introduced the recently elected Judge of Tom Green County, Lane Carter, who is also a supporter of I-27.

Goals and Objectives

Lorena Echeverria de Misi, TxDOT Corridor Branch Planning Manager, introduced the goals and objectives. She told the Committee the initial presentation at the last meeting in Laredo covered draft goals and objectives that the Committee commented on. The team took the feedback from the Committee and made modifications. The team is wanting the final concurrence and the Committee's stamp of approval on the goals and objectives. The other item to cover is the development of a communication toolkit for the Committee to continue to educate and inform various targeted audiences. So those items will be discussed as well.

There are a total of five goals and objectives. Ms. Echeverria de Misi walked the Committee through the wording changes that had been made since the last meeting.

The following updates were made to the goals and objectives:

Goal 1:

Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman wanted the word "alternative" removed as the Corridor is not the alternative, it is the only means.

Mayor Gunter thought it showed that I-35 is not the only means of transport.

Mr. Osborne said it is about the efficient movement of goods but was okay with leaving "alternative."

Lauren Garduno, Ports-to-Plains Alliance, suggested the word "resilient" be included as it is being given a lot of thought throughout the country.

Mr. Osborne suggested efficient, resilient...economic opportunities.

Add "efficient, and resilient and change opportunity to opportunities.

Goal 1 Revised: Communicate the need to upgrade Ports-to-Plains Corridor to an interstate facility for the safe, secure, **efficient, and resilient** movement of goods and people, job creation, and economic opportunities.

Goal 2:

Ms. Mays noted the Feasibility Study had four pillars – agriculture, energy, international trade, and military installations.

Mr. Osborne, Judge Wiseman, and Mayor Gunter all agreed that military installations should be included.

Goal 2 Revised: Engage with the agricultural, energy, and international trade industries and *military installations* to broaden the understanding of the economic importance of completing the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to an interstate in Texas.

Goal 3:

Ms. Echeverria de Misi noted the interstate designation has been completed and TxDOT is in the process of the development of the implementation strategy that feeds into the implementation plan. So, this goal is just to note the accomplishment.

Mayor Gunter asked about including New Mexico and Colorado.

Mr. Osborne thought it would be best to keep it focused on Texas and mentioned the I-27 designation.

Ms. Mays said the corridor is designated as interstate, but there is not a number associated with it because it was not in the bill.

Mr. Osborne asked if that should be part of the goal, and Ms. Mays said yes.

No changes were made to Goal 3, but an objective of Goal 4 was included to account for the numbering as Rick Bacon, Tom Green County Commissioner suggested.

Goal 4: New objective:

Support the preparation and submittal of an interstate route number application to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Goal 5

No changes.

Committee Communication Toolkit

Ms. Echeverria de Misi continued by discussing the approved and drafted fact sheets as well as a future video. The Committee was asked for key messages they wanted to see on the video.

Mayor Gunter asked whether the video should be based on statistics or visionary.

Sherman County Judge Terri Beth Carter suggested the video include both but be concise.

Judge Wiseman wanted a visionary component as that is what catches people and would hopefully work for support and getting the project funded.

Judge Parrish suggested the stats are what tell the story, and since this is dealing with legislature, they will want facts, but his is also to get public support, so it needs to be visionary as well. He noted the video will be turned over to marketing experts who will know how to make the video look good as well as provide communication for local communities.

Mayor Gunter asked who the audience is.

Mr. Osborne responded audiences will be on all levels including local, TxDOT, and federal. They will be broadly different which is why the Committee needs various handouts.

Mr. Garduno said he had a resource of communication techniques that he could provide the Committee.

Mr. Osborne said it will be up to the marketing team producing the video and that he trusts they will get good shots of the corridor and that it is communicable.

Fact Sheets

Ms. Echeverria de Misi continued by reviewing the three fact sheets that were drafted at the last Advisory Committee meeting. The team received feedback from the Committee and information from Dee Vaughan (Texas Corn Producers) and Debra Richmond and incorporated it into the revised fact sheets on agriculture, international trade, and energy.

Mr. Osborne said the agricultural fact sheet was very informative and liked the stats information. He noted the 2017 data may need to be updated in the next 18 months or so as new data comes out. He also wanted to see how the numbers compare to the world, especially cotton. He said the Committee could move forward with the current document and if there is additional data it could be updated as they move forward.

He also noted the map on the back of the fact sheets should be updated to include a route connecting Calgary and Edmonton through Sweet Grass. He also suggested adding military bases along the entire P2P Corridor.

International Trade Presentation

Claudia Lagos Galindo, TxDOT International Trade Branch Manager provided a presentation on Texas' Trade with the World. She highlighted the value of Texas trade as it contributed 15% of the total U.S. trade with the world. She provided data on the importance of the Texas-Mexico border and the merchandise trade since NAFTA. She also discussed trade as it relates to transportation modes, commercial vehicles, commodities, and future trade with Mexico. She then discussed the imports and exports that pass through the Corridor to and from Mexico.

Ms. Galindo provided information on nearshoring and its potential to the P2P Corridor that includes optimizing global value chains, foreign investments, travel costs and travel times, ports, and nearshoring impacts.

Based on the presentation information Mr. Osborne suggested the international trade fact sheet be revised by removing the map on the left, making the center map larger, highlighting the percentage of GDP on the map, and use the import/export map from Claudia's presentation. He

would also like to see ports shown on the back of the fact sheet (on the large map). He also wanted mention of Laredo being in the top three ports regularly.

Ms. Galindo introduced Secretary Claudio Bres Garza, Secretary of Economy, State of Coahuila. Secretary Bres presented the Mexican perspective on the P2P Corridor. He talked about the importance of the Corridor not only to Texas but to the neighboring states in Mexico. He discussed the trade and goods that enter these states and the significance of trade and nearshoring and the amount of growth that will occur.

Mr. Osborne thanked Secretary Bres Garza for watching what is happening north of the border and reciprocating south of the border. He said the investments the Mexican government is making is appreciated, and it is going to continue to improve both Mexico and Texas.

Secretary Bres said he appreciated the Committee's efforts as well. He noted that Caroline, Lorena, and Claudia along with their teams have visited the cities in Mexico and have seen what is being said about infrastructure. He is very pleased with the TxDOT team and their efforts.

Ms. Mays thanked Secretary Bres for his partnership and collaboration that he opened. She said it takes two to tango, and as they say, two to trade. It takes two to make sure the infrastructure is on both sides to facilitate trade. She said we can better address it when the trucks are crossing, and we need to understand where they are coming from. She let the Committee know that Secretary Bres is one of the best champions in Mexico for the project along with the Governor. They spent an entire morning discussing US 57 with TxDOT, which shows the level of their commitment. She thanked him for his leadership on elevating trade and trade facilitation which is infrastructure. She thanked him for spending his time with the Committee.

Secretary Bres told Ms. Mays it was the other way around, and that he was humbled by her words. She has done an amazing job. If we build it, they will come.

Final Discussion/Adjourn

The Committee briefly reviewed the Targeted Audience fact sheet and had no comments.

Mayor Gunter discussed future steps including the next meeting which she suggested to be in April.

Mr. Osborne suggested the meeting be held in Austin to have a chance to visit legislators since legislative session will be in April.

Mayor Gunter agreed that was a great idea and they will put some dates down soon.

Mr. Bacon motioned to adjourn the meeting; Judge Carter seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.