



**KILLEEN TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (KTMPO)
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
2:30 PM

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)
2180 North Main Street
Belton, TX 76513

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members

Jason Deckman— City of Temple, Chair
Keith Sledd—Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
Ginger Watkins—Cameron Industrial
Foundation
Tiffany Melvin —North American Strategy for
Competitiveness
Chris Cochran- Temple & Central Texas
Railway
Kara Escajeda- City of Nolanville

Other Attendees

Dominic Elizondo—CTCOG/KTMPO
Connie Quinto—CTCOG/KTMPO
Hope Geiger—CTCOG/KTMPO
James McGill-CTCOG/KTMPO
Jared Garmon-BNSF
Tamara Brown-BellTec
L.D White-Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Matt Miller-Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Jessica Navarro-City of Nolanville

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order: Jason Deckman called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Mr. Deckman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of New Committee Members

Rail company BNSF submitted a request for representative Jared Garmon, Regional Manager of Economic Development, to have membership on the Committee, and BellTec Industries also submitted a request for Tamara Brown, from their Purchasing Department, to join. Mr. Garmon and Mrs. Brown introduced themselves and a motion for approval of their membership was made by Jared Garmon, seconded by Ginger Watkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding the Nomination and Approval of Committee Vice Chair

Jason Deckman noted that he was nominated as Chair of the Committee at last meeting, and asked if there were any volunteers or nominations that other Committee members wanted to make for Vice Chair. Mr. Deckman noted that the Vice Chair should be a representative from the freight industry to

help balance out the Chair being from a municipality. Kara Escajeda nominated Ginger Watkins as Vice Chair, but Mrs. Watkins noted that she would not be part of the freight industry and that there was probably another Committee member better suited for the role. Dominic Elizondo noted that this role would be more for Committee members such as Chris Cochran, Jared Garmon, and Tamara Brown, who are from the private sector. Judge Blackburn made a motion for the approval of Jason Deckman as Chair of the Committee, seconded by Keith Sledd. Tiffany Melvin suggested that staff should reach out to people to join the Committee who they think would be a good fit for Vice Chair in the future instead of asking the Committee members who were present. Jason Deckman made a motion to table the item until a future meeting, and Ginger Watkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of Edits to Bylaws/Operating Guidelines

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of staff edits to the FAC Bylaws since last meeting, including more information on meeting operation and attendance, and officer roles. Mr. Elizondo noted that the Bylaws at last meeting were in the packet with the version updated from KTMPO staff and Jason Deckman attached as well. Updates included a requirement that members not miss three consecutive meetings or they will be removed from the Committee, addition of “identifying and evaluating existing freight capabilities/needs and gaps/ policies, projects, and partnerships in the KTMPO region and regions impacted by it” under the Responsibilities section, limit of 20 members, expansion of eligible entities, a nomination process for new members, an Ex-Oficio members section, frequency and operation of meeting information, and officer roles section. Jason Deckman noted that it was important that the Bylaws included regions impacted by freight in our KTMPO region. Kara Escajeda asked if quorum required members to be in person, and Mr. Elizondo noted that Committee members can attend virtually and have their cameras on to count towards quorum. Mr. Elizondo also noted Ginger Watkins’ issue with the term “products” under FAC Responsibilities, and said it may refer to plans, recommendations to the KTMPO Policy Board, and grant applications, then asked the Committee if the term should remain. Matt Miller said that “product” could also include presentations such as the one over the TCAT tool that the Committee was to hear. Chris Cochran made a motion to approve the Bylaws, seconded by Kara Escajeda. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion Item: Regarding the North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)

Tiffany Melvin, President of NASCO, provided an overview of her organization. Mrs. Melvin said NASCO was working with USDOT and TxDOT on a Freight Advanced Traveler Information Pilot Program, and was one of the stakeholders for the outreach. Several of the companies participating in the program were along I-35 in the KTMPO region. NASCO originally was an I-35 corridor coalition working on trucking and capacity issues before expanding across the continent working on supply chain logistics and closing the skilled workers gap. NASCO shares information among its members, including governments, freight companies, EDCs, corridor coalitions, and more to ensure they have a role to play in decisions that impact them. Mrs. Melvin finished by stating that she will be a part of the FAC to serve as a resource for issues with congestion and inform the committee on NASCO’s programs. Jason Deckman asked Mrs. Melvin what the market is indicating for demand for an intermodal freight facility in our region. Mrs. Melvin responded by saying she does not see why not given the region’s proximity to I-35 corridor and being in the Texas Triangle. Mrs. Melvin was asked if TX21 or Gulf Coast Strategic Alliance were part of NASCO’s network, and she responded that they did work with them in the past.

6. Discussion Item: Regarding the Texas Truck Congestion Analysis Tool (TCAT)

L.D White, a research specialist at Texas A&M's Transportation Institute (TTI) provided an overview of their new Texas Truck Congestion Analysis Tool (TCAT). TCAT is a tool that is to be used for public transportation planning purposes. It has a large dataset updated every year through TTI and TxDOT's Texas 100 Most Congested Roadways effort , and can be used for regional/geographical analysis of bottlenecks and visualizing TxDOT Unified Transportation Program (UTP) projects and freight infrastructure. Data runs from 2016-2020 for over 241,000 road segments across the State, covering delay times, congestion cost, and travel time index among others. Custom corridors can be created on TCAT, and road segments can be saved and tracked over time. Data can be collected by regions, such as counties, TxDOT Districts, and MPOs. Data can be charted by the user, as well as visualized on a 3D map. Future planned updates will be quarterly truck mobility reports, crash risk analysis, and truck origin-destination analysis. Jason Deckman noted that the monitored roadways looks at main lane congestion rather than frontage roads, though sometimes those are where the congestion is found. Mr. White responded that the congestion data may be there for frontage roads, just not on the monitored roadways. He also stated that when data is collected on an annual basis it may affect identification of congestion on these types of areas. Jason Deckman stated that TxDOT has been sharing data more over the past few years which has lent itself to assisting local municipalities in applying for funds and developing projects. Matt Miller asked if there was anyone in the private sector on the committee who had any similar tools, and Jason Deckman added that it could be a way to augment TxDOT's tools and vice versa by filling each other's gaps in data collection and analysis.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding Freight Needs, Issues, and Problem Areas

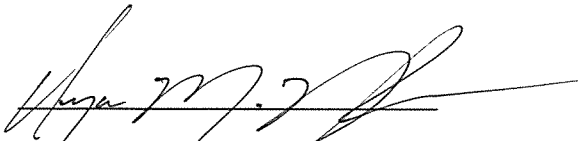
Kara Escajeda asked what resulted from the KTMPO Truck Parking Study that was presented on at last meeting, and then stated that bridge heights in the region are commonly mislabeled. Matt Miller stated that Mr. White showed him a graphic which was a truck parking dataset indicating how many trucks were parking in each location. Mr. White said that this dataset is being worked on and will be released in the future. Kara Escajeda said that Nolanville had a special study looking at how city ordinances impact independent truck owners with parking. Jason Deckman asked James McGill when the KTMPO Truck Parking Study was completed, and he replied that it was two years ago. He asked that Dominic Elizondo send it out to the committee. Mr. Deckman said that the data for actual truck parking locations would be what is collected by data tools, but it would be more difficult to track illegal parking by trucks. He asked if the freight industry members of the FAC had any issues with their trucks not having enough access to parking, and Tamara Brown said that BellTec uses FedEx rather than in house shipping, and that they may employ their own truckers in a few years as they are in a large growth stage. Mr. Deckman suggested looking at anecdotal evidence from drivers they use to see if there is a trend in certain issues with freight movement. Mrs. Escajeda recalled that there was a parking study which resulted in TxDOT and maybe the railroad adopting a policy where if cities wanted to use the right of way for parking facilities there was an expedited process for it, but the Committee was not familiar with it. Mr. White said that TxDOT is trying to avoid privacy issues with tracking exactly what locations truckers are parking in, so they are looking at if the truck parking is authorized or unauthorized, shoulder or truck parking, ramps or parking spots, etc. Keith Sledd said that Copperas Cove was reengaging a study that was done three years ago on creating a multimodal joint use facility on the west side of Fort

Hood near the current railhead that would be similar to the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport. They will redo the study as it did not look at containers, only exporting and importing products in and out of Central Texas.

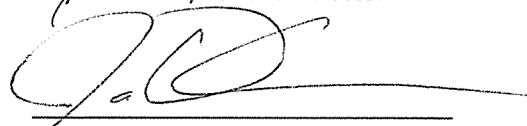
10. Discuss date, time and possible agenda items for next meeting.

Dominic Elizondo asked if the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2:30 PM would work for everyone for FAC meetings moving forward. The Committee agreed it would work. Mr. Deckman said that if there are any issues, agenda items, or topics the Committee would like to discuss in the future, they should bring it to the FAC. Matt Miller asked if staff had reached out to Austin Region Manufacturing Association, to which Mr. Elizondo said they had not, but asked Mr. Miller to send him contact information for it.

11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM



Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director



Jason Deckman, Chair of FAC