



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

Tuesday, October 25, 2022
2:30 PM

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

Freight Advisory Committee Members

Jason Deckman—City of Temple, Chair
Ginger Watkins—Cameron Industrial
Foundation
Tiffany Melvin—NASCO

Kara Escajeda—City of Nolanville
Jared Garmon—BNSF Railway

Additional Attendees

Dominic Elizondo—KTMPPO
Connie Quinto—KTMPPO
Hope Geiger—KTMPPO
James McGill—KTMPPO
Anita Janke—KTMPPO
Elvar "JR" Leal—Temple and Central
Texas Railway

Peter LeCody—Texas Rail Advocates
Patrice Thornton—EPA
Victor Goebel—TxDOT
Stephen Kasberg—TxDOT
Jake Smith—TxDOT

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: Jason Deckman called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM. Mr. Deckman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.

3. Staff Update: Dominic Elizondo discussed the schedule for upcoming KTMPPO meetings, and the Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act, a pending Federal bill which would authorize \$755 million for States, cities, and MPOs for truck parking, and the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant, open for applications for freight and rail safety, efficiency, and reliability improvements, and due

December 1st, 2022. Additionally, Mr. Elizondo discussed KTMO's reception of the FHWA Federal Recertification review and work on the Bell County Thoroughfare Plan.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of Meeting Minutes from the April 28th and July 26th, 2022 Meetings.

Kara Escajeda made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Ginger Watkins; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Temple and Central Texas Railway submitted a request for representative Elvar "JR" Leal, Trainmaster, to replace Chris Cochran on the Committee. Mr. Leal introduced himself and

Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve Elvar "JR" Leal as a member of the FAC, seconded by Kara Escajeda; the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: Regarding EPA SmartWay Program

Patrice Thornton with the EPA provided a presentation on the EPA SmartWay Program for freight efficiency. Ms. Thornton explained that the Program helps improve supply chain sustainability by measuring, benchmarking, and improving freight efficiency. The Program works with shippers, carriers, and logistics companies, as well as SmartWay Affiliates, such as cities and industry organizations which disseminate information on the Program and how companies can measure and improve their efficiency.

Dominic Elizondo asked Ms. Thornton to discuss the technical resources available to companies that become SmartWay partners, and Ms. Thornton stated that the Program has documents that provide information such as how switching modes of shipping could affect emissions, and how using different technologies such as anti-idling or aerodynamic technology can save money on shipping and reduce emissions. Jason Deckman asked if the aggregate efficiency data for Partners would be available, and if it could be filtered down by location. Ms. Thornton responded that the aggregate data was available but could not be narrowed down.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding TxDOT Waco District Congestion Alleviation Projects Presentation.

Victor Goebel, TxDOT Waco District Transportation Planning and Development Director provided an overview of mobility projects in the KTMO region. Stephen Kasberg, TxDOT Belton Area Engineer at the TxDOT Waco District presented on Bell County area TxDOT projects that may impact freight.

Anita Janke asked how the Copperas Cove Bypass expansion would affect traffic in the Lampasas-Kempner area and Killeen. Mr. Kasberg responded that traffic would remain the same while the widening was being constructed. Ginger Watkins asked if the IH 14 expansion was part of the loop around Rogers. Mr. Kasberg responded that this project would be from IH 35 moving east from where it splits into loop 363 to Heidenheimer. Ms. Escajeda asked how long the exit to IH 35 from Connell St. will be closed, and Mr. Kasberg stated that the new ramp replacing the old one will be open sometime before the new year. Ms. Escajeda also noted it would be important to have IH 35 exit signs there. Ms. Janke noted that KTMO had begun its End the Streak campaign to reduce roadway deaths.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Texas Rail Advocates Presentation

Peter LeCody, President of the Texas Rail Advocates (TRA) provided an overview of his organization. Mr. LeCody explained that TRA was established in 2000 to facilitate Texas' economic growth and enhance the quality of life of its people by advancing the development of passenger and freight rail. TRA was instrumental in the State establishing the TxDOT Rail Division in 2009, and was a stakeholder in the Texas Rail Plan as well as the IH 35, 10, and 20 steering committees. Mr. LeCody described various grant opportunities for rail (impacting freight) available under the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), including the Grade Crossing Elimination Program, Railway-Highway Crossings formula funding, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program, Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program, and the Rural Surface Transportation Program. Mr. LeCody noted that Texas has not funded its Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund for matching funds for Federal programs, and described TRA's Fair Share for Rail effort, which provides resolutions and letters of support for cities, counties, and COGs that advocate the funding of the Improvement Fund by the State legislature.

Jason Deckman asked if Peter LeCody could send the template resolutions and letters of support to Mr. Elizondo to distribute to the Committee, and Mr. LeCody agreed. Mr. Deckman asked if the Amtrack stopped by a high centered truck was in the West Temple area, and Mr. LeCody noted that it was, and the crossing had no gates, only lights. Mr. Deckman recalled an incident 14 years ago where a truck was stuck on rail tracks and was hit by a freight train, and asked if there is any early warning system technology that can alert trains when a truck is stopped on a track. Mr. LeCody stated he did not believe there was, but all crossings should have a FRA Advisory number that truck drivers can call, and that he would bring up the issue with FRA employees he knows.


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

Ms. Escajeda noted that performance measures for freight, including looking as emissions, would be important to learn about as many are required for grants.

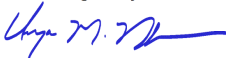
10. Discuss date, time and possible agenda items for next meeting.

The next meeting will be January 24, 2023. Mr. Deckman asked to send out the calendar invite earlier rather than later. Ms. Watkins thanked the Committee for a robust meeting.

11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:43 PM

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Jason Deckman, Chair of FAC

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Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director