

## Texas Transportation Commission Minutes

### Introduction

These are the minutes of the regular meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) held on August 26, 2026, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Acting Chairman W. Alvin New with the following present:

#### **Texas Transportation Commission**

W. Alvin New, Acting Chairman

Robert C. Vaughn, Commissioner

Alejandro "Alex" Meade III, Commissioner

Steven D. Alvis, Commissioner

Pat Gordon, Commissioner

#### **Administrative Staff**

Marc D. Williams, P.E., Executive Director

Jeff Graham, General Counsel

Amanda Brown, Commission Chief Clerk

A public notice of this meeting containing all items on the proposed agenda was filed in the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 3:45 p.m. on August 18, 2026, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as "The Open Meetings Act."

### Agenda

#### **Item 1. Safety Briefing**

Executive Director Marc D. Williams, P.E., directed the Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building safety video be shown on the screens in the Ric Williamson Hearing Room.

**Item 2. Opening Comments from Commissioners and Executive Director**

The commissioners and executive director made opening remarks.

**Item 3. Approval of Minutes**

Consider the approval of the July 30, 2026, regular meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission

Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steven D. Alvis. The commission approved the minutes of the July 30, 2026, regular meeting by a vote of 5-0.

**Item 4. Acknowledgements of Service**

- a.** Recognize by resolution Chief of Staff Mary Anne Griss, for more than 33 years of service to the department.

This resolution was presented by Executive Director Marc D. Williams, P.E. Ms. Griss thanked the commission and the department. The commissioners thanked Ms. Griss and made additional remarks.

- b.** Recognize by resolution Bryan District Engineer Chad Bohne, P.E., for more than 32 years of service to the department.

This resolution was presented by District Operations Senior Director Eric Lykins, P.E. Mr. Bohne thanked the commission and the department. The commissioners thanked Mr. Bohne and made additional remarks.

- c.** Recognize by resolution Brownwood District Engineer Greg Cedillo, P.E., for more than 27 years of service to the department.

This resolution was presented by District Operations Senior Director Eric Lykins, P.E. Mr. Cedillo thanked the commission and the department. The commissioners thanked Mr. Cedillo and made additional remarks.

**Item 5. Contracts**

Consider the award or rejection of contracts for highway construction and maintenance, and construction and rehabilitation of buildings

**a. Highway Improvements and Other Transportation Facilities**

This item was presented by Construction Division Director Duane S. Milligan, P.E. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn, and the commission approved Minute Order 117252 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117252 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**b. Routine Maintenance**

This item was presented by Construction Division Director Duane S. Milligan, P.E. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Pat Gordon, and the commission approved Minute Order 117253 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117253 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**c. Construction and Rehabilitation of Buildings**

This item was presented by Support Services Division Director Brian Sweat, R.A. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117254 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117254 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 6. Legislative Appropriations Request**

Consider the adoption of the department's fiscal year (FY) 2028-2029 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) (Presentation) (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Financial Management Division Director Amanda Landry Hutchins, CPA. The commission heard comments from Port of Houston State Government Affairs Director Amy Rister and Texas Ports Association President Larry Kelley. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steven D. Alvis, and the commission approved Minute Order 117255 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117255 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 7. Unified Transportation Program**

Consider the approval of the 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) (Presentation) (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Transportation Planning and Programming Division Director Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Jr., P.E., M.B.A. The commission heard comments from State Senator Cesar Blanco Policy Analyst Nathan Sanchez; San Antonio Assistant City Manager John Peterek; Waller County Commissioner Justin Beckendorff; Houston-Galveston Area Council Executive Director Ron Papsdorf; Waller County Judge Trey Duhon; Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia; Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones; Baytown Mayor Charles R. Johnson; Brazoria County Commissioner Stacy

Adams; Fort Bend County Commissioner Chief of Staff Andrew Van Chau; La Porte City Councilmember Chuck Engelken; Waller County Commissioner Kendrick D. Jones; Economic Alliance Houston Port Region President Chad Burke; North Houston Association President Marlisa Briggs; Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amy Skicki; Toyota Director Lori McMahon; Toyota Economic Development Director Deborah Carter; El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego; El Paso Chamber of Commerce Secretary Jorge Ojeda; El Paso Chamber of Commerce CEO Ricardo Mora; and El Paso Metropolitan Organization Executive Director Eduardo Calvo. Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steven D. Alvis, and the commission approved Minute Order 117256 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117256 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

The commission recessed for a break at 12:14 p.m. and reconvened from break at 12:23 p.m.

**Item 8. Advisory Committees**

**a. Aviation Advisory Committee**

Consider the appointment of members to the Aviation Advisory Committee (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Planning and Modal Programs Senior Director Caroline Mays, AICP. Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117257 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117257 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

Consider the appointment of members to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Planning and Modal Programs Senior Director Caroline Mays, AICP. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steven D. Alvis, and the commission approved Minute Order 117258 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117258 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**c. Port Authority Advisory Committee**

Consider the appointment of members to the Port Authority Advisory Committee (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Planning and Modal Programs Senior Director Caroline Mays, AICP. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117259 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117259 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 9. Aviation (Presentation)****a. Aviation Capital Improvement Program**

Consider approval of the Aviation Capital Improvement Program (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Aviation Division Director Dan Harmon. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117260 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117260 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**b. Routine Airport Maintenance Program**

Consider approval of the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Aviation Division Director Dan Harmon. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117261 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117261 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**c. Various Counties**

Consider the award of federal non-primary entitlement grant funding, federal apportionment grant funding, Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) grant funding, and state grant funding for airport improvement projects at various locations (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Aviation Division Director Dan Harmon. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn, and the commission approved Minute Order 117262 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117262 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 10. Fiscal Year 2027 Audit Plan**

Consider the approval of the Internal Audit Plan for FY 2027 and determine whether adequate resources have been dedicated to the Internal Audit Program (Presentation) (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Chief Audit and Compliance Officer Parsons Townsend. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Order 117263 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117263 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 11. Maritime**

**Calhoun County** - Consider approval of the transfer of unused funds from a Seaport Connectivity Program project, approved by the commission on August 21, 2025 by Minute Order 117005 to finance another state highway improvement project (Minute Order)

This item was presented by Maritime Operations and Administration Section Director Khristen Staas. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Steven D. Alvis, and the commission approved Minute Order 117264 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117264 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 12. State Infrastructure Bank**

**Various Counties** - Consider approval of applications for State Infrastructure Bank loans from various applicants (Presentation) (Minute Order)

This item was presented by State Infrastructure Bank Program Manager Dallas Teston. Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn, and the commission approved Minute Order 117265 by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117265 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 13. Eminent Domain Proceedings**

**Various Counties** - Consider the authorization of the filing of condemnation proceedings to acquire real property by eminent domain for non-controlled and controlled access highways

This item was presented by Right of Way Division Director Kyle Madsen, J.D. Commissioner Pat Gordon made a motion in accordance with §2206.053(e) of the Texas Government Code for the Texas Department of Transportation's use of eminent domain to acquire certain properties described in the minute order therein. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and Minute Order 117266 was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Minute Order 117266 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 14. Routine Minute Orders and Reports**

This item was presented by Executive Director Marc D. Williams, P.E. Commissioner Steven D. Alvis made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade, and the commission approved Minute Orders 117267-117281 by a vote of 5-0.

**a. Donations to the Department**

**Various Counties** - Consider the acknowledgment of donations with a value of \$500 or more, including donations of money, materials, services, or real property, that are made to the Texas Department of Transportation (department) for the purpose of assisting the department in carrying out its functions and duties or for improving access to or from a highway on the state highway system

Minute Order 117267 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**b. Real Estate Dispositions**

- (1) Cooke County** - Farm to Market Road (FM) 373 - Consider the sale of right of way to an abutting landowner (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117268 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

- (2) Hidalgo County** - United States Highway 281 - Consider the rescission of Minute Order 117019, dated August 21, 2025, authorizing the sale of right of way to the successful bidder (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117269 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

- (3) Hill County** - FM 934 - Consider the sale of right of way to an abutting landowner (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117270 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

- (4) McLennan County** - Interstate Highway (I) 35 - Consider the sale of right of way to an abutting landowner (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117271 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

- (5) Tarrant County** - FM 1938 - Consider easement releases to the underlying fee owner (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117272 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**c. Reports**

**(1) Compliance Division Report**

The written report was provided to the commission.

**(2) Quarterly Investment Report**

Quarterly Investment Report for all of the funds invested at the direction of the commission (Report)

The written report was provided to the commission.

**d. Finance**

**(1) Annual Budget**

Consider the adoption of the FY 2027 department budget (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117273 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**(2) Dallas and Denton Counties**

Consider the approval of the I-35E Managed Lanes Project annual budget (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117274 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**(3) Grimes and Montgomery Counties**

Consider the approval of the State Highway 249 System (system) annual budget (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117275 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**(4) Travis and Williamson Counties**

Consider the approval of the Central Texas Turnpike System annual budget (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117276 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**e. Toll Operations**

**I-635 East Express Lanes** - Consider the operating parameters for the I-635 East Express Lanes in Dallas County (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117277 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**f. Land Acquisition**

**Hockley County** - Consider the grant of authority to the department to acquire real property for facilities (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117278 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**g. Highway Designation**

**Wise County** - In Wise County, consider the removal of a segment of Business United States Highway (BU) 380-F from the state highway system and the redesignation of a segment of BU 380-F to follow FM 51 (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117279 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**h. Transportation Planning**

**Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Toll Facilities - Various**

**Counties** - Consider concurrence with the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' funding of construction and other project development costs of projects to be advanced through the use of payments received from the regional toll projects, in accordance with their respective project agreements (Minute Order)

Minute Order 117280 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**i. Speed Zones**

**Various Counties** - Consider the establishment or alteration of regulatory and construction speed zones on various sections of highways in the state

Minute Order 117281 is on file with the commission chief clerk.

**Item 15. Executive Session Pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 551 §551.071** - Consultation with and advice from legal counsel regarding any item on this agenda, pending or contemplated litigation, or other legal matters

The commission did not meet in executive session.

**Open Comment Period**

At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Texas Transportation 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 Texas Department of Transportation. No action will be taken. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of one minute, thirty seconds. Speakers must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.

The commission heard comments from Grayson County Commissioner Josh Marr on funding projects for Grayson County; Eagle Pass City Engineer Eduardo Soto spoke about the city of Eagle Pass transportation and infrastructure needs; City of Brownsville Transportation Director Joel Garza thanked the commission for their support; Highway 36A Coalition Vice Chair Donna Adams spoke about the Greater Houston and Highway 36A Coalition; and TAG Houston Executive Director Christina Cabral spoke about Houston and Gulf Coast unity. The commission received no further comments.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Alejandro "Alex" Meade motioned adjournment and Commissioner Steven D. Alvis seconded the motion. The commission voted 5-0 to adjourn. The regular meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approved by the Texas Transportation Commission on September 24, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Alvin New". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. Alvin New, Acting Chairman

Texas Transportation Commission

**Certification of Minutes**

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 regular meeting on August 26, 2026, in Austin, Texas.



Amanda Brown, Commission Chief Clerk  
Texas Department of Transportation