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Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
Board Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.

4000 Jackson Avenue
Building 1, Lone Star Conference Room
Austin, Texas 78731

Reported by:
Steve Owen, CER/CDR-1232
Ken Owen & Associates, LP

1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL

2 TxDMV Board:

3 Charles Bacarisse, Chair

4 Tammy McRae, Vice Chair

5 Christian Alvarado

6 Stacey Gillman

7 Brett Graham

8 Mark Jones

9 Sharla Omumu

10 Darren Schlosser

11 Staff:

12 Daniel Avitia, Executive Director for TxDMV

13 Chief Miguel Rodriguez, MVCPA Board Chair

14 William Diggs, Director of the MVCPA

15 Monique Johnston, Director of the Motor Vehicle Division

16 Annette Quintero, Director of Vehicle Titles & Registration

17 Clint Thompson, Deputy Director of TxDMV

18 Corrie Thompson, Director of the Enforcement Division

19 Dorothy Spearman, Project Manager for TxDMV.

20 Eric Horn, Director of Accounting Operations with TxDMV

21 Keith Yawn, Director of Government & Strategic

22 Communications Division

23 John Ralston, Budget Director at TxDMV

24 Jason Gonzalez, Director of Internal Audit Division-TxDMV

25 Laura Moriaty, General Counsel

Carrie Fortner, Board Liaison/Management Analyst.

1 Other Speakers:

2 Laird Doran, Senior VP of Public Affairs for Friedkin
Group

3 Karen Phillips, TADA

4 Roland Luna, Deputy Executive Director for TxDMV

5 John Trillo, Beyond Engaged, EPIADA

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1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Good morning. My name
2 is Charles Bacarisse and I'm pleased to open the Board
3 meeting of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. It is
4 now 9:02 a.m. and I'm calling this Board meeting to order
5 for September 18, 2025. I want to note for the record
6 that the notice of Public meeting containing all items on
7 the agenda was filed by the Office of Secretary of State
8 on September 10, 2025. Before we begin today's meeting,
9 please place all cell phones and other communication
10 devices in silent mode. Also, as a courtesy to others,
11 please do not engage in side conversations in the meeting.
12 I'd like to welcome those who are with us for today's
13 Board meeting. Welcome. We're waiting on the family of
14 Member Prewitt. I think they are arriving so we'll have a
15 special moment with them soon. If you wish to address the
16 Board or speak on an agenda item during today's meeting,
17 please complete a speaker sheet at the registration table
18 or send an email to gco_general@txdmv.gov that's
19 gco_general@txdmv.gov. Please identify in your email the
20 specific item you're interested in commenting on, your
21 name and address, and whether you are representing anyone
22 or speaking for yourself. If your comment does not
23 pertain to a specific agenda item, we will take your
24 comment during the general public comment portion of the
25 meeting. In accordance with today's with the Department's

1 Administrative Rule, comments to the Board will be limited
2 to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer has
3 been provided at the podium. The timer light will be
4 green for the first two minutes, yellow when the speaker
5 has one minute left, and red when the speaker's time is
6 up. Individuals cannot accumulate time from other
7 speakers and comments should be pertinent to the issue
8 stated on your comment sheet. When addressing the Board,
9 please state your name and affiliation for the record.
10 There are a few things that will help make the meeting run
11 more smoothly and assist our court reporter to get an
12 accurate record. First of all, please identify yourself
13 before speaking, speak clearly and slowly, do not speak
14 over others and ask the Chair for permission to speak and
15 be sure to get recognized before speaking. I would like
16 to thank our court reporter who is transcribing this
17 meeting. Before we begin today, I would like to remind
18 all presenters and those in attendance of the rules of
19 conduct at our Board meetings. In the Department's
20 Administrative Rule, the Chair has authority to supervise
21 the conduct of these meetings and this includes the
22 authority to determine when a speaker is being disruptive
23 of the meeting or is otherwise violating the timing or
24 presentation rules that I just discussed. So with that
25 out of the way, I would like to now have a roll call of

1 the Board members. So please respond verbally when I call
2 your name. Member Alvarado, are you present?

3 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Present.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Present.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

7 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Present.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

9 MEMBER MARK JONES: Present.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Present.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu.

13 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Present.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

15 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Present.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And let the record
17 reflect that I, Charles Bacarisse is here too. So we have
18 a quorum. And moving on to Agenda Item number 2, the
19 Pledges. I would love to ask you all to stand for the
20 Pledges of Allegiance and to our state flag. Member
21 Alvarado will lead us in the U.S. Pledge and Member
22 Gillman will lead us in the Texas Pledge.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you Members
24 Alvarado and Gillman for leading us in the pledges.
25 Agenda Item 3. We want to slow down and take a little

1 time here. We want to recognize our Board Member, John
2 Prewitt. Our dear friend and fellow Board Member John
3 Prewitt peacefully passed away on Friday, July 18, 2025,
4 surrounded by his loving family, who we are blessed to
5 have with us here at today's Board meeting. Thank you all
6 for making the effort to be here. We all had the
7 privilege of serving alongside John on this Board for six
8 years. And I'll say personally, I mean it was sincerely
9 when I say it was a privilege to know him and to work with
10 him. I had to write these comments down, so I made sure I
11 got it all in. During his celebration of life recently,
12 there were so many tributes that were shared online and
13 across very, very different groups and so forth. But one
14 theme came through over and over, John had a true
15 servant's heart. He consistently placed the well being of
16 others first and he devoted himself to making a positive
17 difference through service, compassion and genuine care
18 for people. John's story began in Miami, Ohio, where he
19 was raised along, Oklahoma I'm sorry, where he was raised
20 alongside his two older sisters. He graduated from
21 Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's degree in
22 Economics, where his passion for student government and
23 public service first took root. Later, he earned his MBA
24 from the University of Texas at Austin and he began what
25 would become a distinguished 25 year career in banking.

1 He led teams in Austin, Oklahoma City, in Houston, through
2 mergers, cultural integrations and expansions, always with
3 a focus on relationships. His greatest professional joy
4 was building a longstanding and long lasting connections
5 with clients and colleagues alike. In 2010, John made the
6 leap from banking to the transportation industry, becoming
7 the President of Tideport Distributing Incorporated, a
8 hauler of specialty fuels. Under his leadership, the
9 company's revenue grew by 150%. Once again, John thrived
10 in cultivating lasting relationships, this time within the
11 trucking industry. His commitment to the profession led
12 him to serve with the Texas Trucking Association beginning
13 in 2011 and as Chairman of the Board in 2023. Mr.
14 Palasios is here today, thank you for being here. That
15 same year he was honored as TXTA's Leader of the Year, an
16 award that truly humbled him. We were fortunate that
17 Governor Abbott appointed John to the Texas DMV Board as
18 the Motor Carrier Representative in July of 2018 and he
19 reappointed him in August of 2023. John chaired the
20 Projects and Operations Committee from 2019 through his
21 last committee meeting with us here in April of 2025.
22 Bringing thoughtful leadership and steady dedication
23 always to this role. John's service extended far beyond
24 his career. For nearly 30 years he was a member of
25 Cypress Bible Church and he served in numerous ministries.

1 He was also an elected member and treasurer of the Faulkey
2 Gully Municipal Utilities District Board in Harris County
3 and since 2018 and he served on the Board of the Public
4 Power Pool which is an electrical power aggregator for 98
5 Texas municipalities. John just every time somebody
6 needed someone to serve, John's hand went up. I was
7 thankful, my wife also knew John and Kelly in their
8 younger years through church as well. But all this
9 professional and community accomplishments, John's
10 greatest joy was his family. He often spoke about the
11 blessing of his 34 year marriage to Kelly and the pride
12 that he felt watching their children Elizabeth, Melissa
13 and Ben overcome challenges and live out and live through
14 to their God given potential. And just three days before
15 his passing, John realized one of life's greatest joys
16 which was becoming a grandfather to little Abigail on July
17 15th. We will all miss John deeply. His wisdom, his
18 humor, his integrity and his heart for service. On behalf
19 of this Board, myself, the DMV staff and all Texans who
20 benefited from his passion and his dedication, we extend
21 our heartfelt prayers to John's family. Thank you for
22 sharing him with us. His legacy of service and compassion
23 will not be forgotten. And I'd be happy to open the floor
24 here to other Board members if you wish to say something.
25 Yes, Member Graham.

1 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Excuse me. I'm certainly
2 proud to have been able to call Big John a friend. I was
3 already on the board when John arrived, so had the
4 opportunity to serve with him his entire term. And thank
5 you for being here former Chairman Palacios, that we all
6 enjoyed working together a lot. We always got together
7 the evening before caught up on everything going on in our
8 Lives, children, grandchildren, talked about our faith.
9 I'll always cherish those moments. One of the many things
10 I admired about John was his devotion to the state. And
11 in his time serving on this Board, he always voted his
12 conscience. On multiple occasions we had very vigorous
13 discussions. We had a lot of back and forth. And often,
14 well not often, but sometimes we voted in different ways.
15 And as soon as the opportunity presented itself, John
16 would always get up, come over and give me a big John hug
17 and say, you know, I love you, brother. But he was voting
18 the way his heart told him to vote. And that is an
19 important character, that's just great character. To me,
20 it is the true essence of character and compassion, and
21 that's something that this world lacks enough of. So as I
22 sat thinking about this, this morning, a quote came to
23 mind that I have not thought about in many years. And so
24 many years I had to call my wife, and we had to dig
25 through a lot of Internet stuff to come up with it, but it

1 just was on my heart and I had to find it. So I'd just
2 like to read that to you. This is from Robert Louis
3 Stevenson. "The man is a success who has lived well,
4 laughed often, loved much, who has gained the respect of
5 intelligent men and the love of children, who has filled
6 his niche and accomplished his task, who leaves the world
7 better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a
8 perfect poem, or a rescued soul who never lacked
9 appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it,
10 who looked for the best in others and gave the best he
11 had." And that just is big, John. So thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, anyone else?
13 Member Schlosser.

14 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: It's hard to follow
15 Brett's, Member Graham's comments, but I just wanted to
16 say to the family that you have no idea how much he talked
17 about you, how much he doted over everything about it,
18 about y'all. And Chairman Bacarisse actually gave me an
19 observation, he noticed that John and I had A kind of a
20 special connection. We just, we had same life
21 experiences. I was also, I am also married for 34 years.
22 I also just welcomed twin grandbabies into the world just
23 eight weeks ago. And I can't follow his comments. I
24 didn't prepare anything. But I just wanted to say that he
25 will be greatly missed. I wish that life had not gotten

1 in the way of us being able to be together in a personal
2 aspect besides the Board, but I looked forward to every
3 single time I saw John. The first time I met him was at a
4 concert event that we were both invited to. And I knew
5 then I liked the guy. Big John is going to be missed.
6 I'm sorry, that's all I have to say, but I just had to say
7 something.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, anyone else?

9 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Sure.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu, please.

11 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Just some brief comments to the
12 family. We share in your loss. Mr. John Prewitt was a
13 beacon of light. There was never a time that he spoke
14 with you where he didn't first want to know how you were
15 doing and then you never not heard about his family, his
16 wife and his three kids. He loved you guys so very much
17 and we heard so much about you until we feel like we know
18 you personally. So I just want to say he was, he was such
19 a warm and kind and he had such a presence here on this
20 Board and he will be so sorely missed. I think about the
21 times in closed session where we get rowdy and he had this
22 whistle and when he whistled, we would stop in our tracks
23 and pay attention. So we definitely share in your loss
24 and thank you for sharing him with us.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

1 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Big John was always
2 professional and just like Member Graham said, sometimes
3 we didn't vote the same, but he always called to check on
4 me afterward like a big brother. And he would wrap his
5 arms around me, swallow me, and just being a good listener
6 and understanding and a great companion here at the bench.
7 And we passed many notes back and forth to each other and
8 that leads me to his humor. Oh, my goodness. I had so
9 much fun with him and he would make me laugh and we, like
10 I said, we passed notes back and forth and would just cut
11 up. We went to this concert together and it was a Stevie
12 Nicks concert and he wasn't dressed for Stevie Nicks. And
13 so he allowed me to put dripping feathers on him. And he
14 just had so much fun. And we, we laughed and loved
15 together. It was really great. And he did love his
16 family, talked about all of you. So we love serving with
17 him. Thanks for sharing him.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Any other Members? If
19 you'll indulge me for a moment, we have some presentations
20 to the family. So I'm going to step around here. I'll go
21 past Member Omumu and come out and do this, if I may.
22 Thanks. All respects. I'm good. I'm loud. I don't mean
23 oh, it needs to be on the record. Oh, goodness. Okay.
24 For the record, John is awesome. And his father in heaven
25 knows that today. He always knew it. Today we honor John

1 by presenting two Texas flags to his wife Kelly and his
2 family. The first was flown over the Texas DMV
3 headquarters on the day of John's service at Cypress Bible
4 Church, July 26, 2025. And the second was flown over this
5 Texas Capitol on July 30, 2025, which was the 7th
6 anniversary of John's initial appointment to the Texas DMV
7 board by Governor Abbott. So let me present these, if I
8 may. And we also have John's name plate in there. Yeah
9 Ben, you can carry the heavy hardware, man. Absolutely.
10 Kelly. You bet. Love y'all. I'll say this for those of
11 you who were at John's memorial service. It was really
12 amazing to me to listen to his children stand up and talk
13 about how great their father was, what a legacy, what a
14 legacy. Now, if you'll indulge me, I'd like to call the
15 roll again, if I may, of our Board. Please answer when I
16 call your name. Member Alvarado.

17 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Present.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

19 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Present.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham.

21 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Present.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones.

23 MEMBER MARK JONES: Present.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Present.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu.

2 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Present.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser.

4 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Present.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Prewitt. Member
6 Prewitt. Let the record show that on Friday, July 18,
7 2025, Member John Prewitt's service to the state of Texas
8 ended. He will be greatly missed. Let's take about a 10
9 minute break. We're in recess.

10 OFF THE RECORD

11 ON THE RECORD

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Good morning. Once
13 again, I'd like to bring the meeting back to order. What
14 a blessing it was to see the Prewitt family here today.
15 And Chairman Palacios, thank you for joining us, our
16 former chairman with us today. Thank you. I know John
17 enjoyed working with you and he mentioned that often, so.
18 Yes, sir.

19 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, if I may say.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham.

21 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: You did an incredible job. I
22 don't know how you did it, honestly, but thank you for
23 doing that and recognizing John. That was pretty
24 exceptional stuff.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. I think it

1 was very clear from the moment of his passing that this
2 Board, this Agency, wanted to do something special, to
3 recognize him because he was really an amazing guy. And,
4 you know, when you love someone, you do what you can to
5 remember them well and speak about them well to your
6 children and your grandchildren. Tell them about this
7 guy, this crazy big guy who just had a love for life. So
8 it was hard, you're right. It was a blessing. So now, as
9 we move to item 4, if we may, the Chair Reports. Sorry to
10 put you on the spot, Daniel, but I don't have a report. I
11 think we just reported out to the Lord and asked him to
12 take good care of our friend. So this is one thing I want
13 to mention, though. Yeah. Under item number 3 is that
14 before we go to 4, we have made some changes to the
15 Project and Operations Committee assignments and some
16 other assignments, due to Member Prewitt's passing. I
17 have appointed Member Darren Schlosser to serve as Chair
18 of the Projects and Operations Committee. I think Darren
19 will take that on with the passion that he takes
20 everything on. So we're fortunate to have him head that.
21 And our P and O committee members consist of Member
22 Schlosser as the chair, Members Christian Alvarado, Stacy
23 Gillman, and Tammy McRae. So I don't think the contractor
24 has any idea what they're in for now. This is going to be
25 great. This new structure provides for balance and

1 diverse membership on the Projects and Operations
2 Committee. And I think these appointments do not require
3 any action by the Board under transportation code chapter
4 1001. Am I correct?

5 LAURA MORIATY: Yes, sir, you're correct.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Thank you
7 very much. Okay. Now I have no chair report. That was
8 it. So let's move to Agenda item number 5, which is the
9 Executive Director's report. I will turn it over to Daniel
10 Avitia for 5A and 5B.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman, Members,
12 good morning and thank you for the opportunity to share a
13 few department updates with you. Agenda item number 5 can
14 be found on page 8 of your board materials. I, along with
15 Deputy Executive Director Shelly Mellott and staff from
16 the TxDMV, joined more than 1,000 attendees at the annual
17 AAMVA Conference in Phoenix this last month. The variety
18 of sessions provided a platform for staff to engage and
19 learn about ongoing national efforts and how Texas
20 processes and systems and developments compared to those
21 in other jurisdictions. Some sessions included Auto Theft
22 and Title Fraud and Auto Dealership Advancing Electronic
23 Vehicle Titling. Peer to peer roundtables were available
24 as well as we discussed law enforcement disaster response
25 and recoveries. AMBA provides great networking

1 opportunities to allow staff to discuss best practices and
2 ideas and addressing trends that we see nationwide. I
3 want to thank Director Mellott and all of those staff from
4 the DMV that attended the conference with me and
5 represented Texas extremely well. Thank you, Team.
6 Chairman, that concludes Agenda item 5. May I move on to
7 5B?

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yes, please. All right.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Thank you. Under
10 Agenda item 5B, this is our recognition of years of
11 service. Your materials can be found on page 9 of your
12 board materials. At this time Members, I'd like to
13 recognize our employees who have reached a state service
14 milestone. We recognize these employees to show our great
15 appreciation for their years of service and dedication to
16 the State of Texas. I'll begin with 20 years. Mr. Howard
17 Dixon Jr. with the Enforcement Division. Next with 25
18 years of service, Aline, I never pronounce it correctly.
19 Aucoin. Thank you, Aline. I've only known you 12 years.
20 You'd think I'd know it by now. Aline Aucoin, with the
21 Office of General Counsel, 25 years. The following folks
22 have retired from the DMV. Prepare yourself, there's a
23 lot of them. 'Tis the season for retirements. With 21
24 years of state service, Gerri Ries, Customer Relations
25 Division. 22 years of service, Karen Poff, Vehicle Title

1 and Registration Division. 23 years of service, Georgina
2 Zentner, Finance and Operations. 24 years of service,
3 Randi Quintero, Vehicle Title and Registration Division.
4 27 years of service, Claudette Otie-Watkins, Motor Carrier
5 Division. 29 years of service, John Castillo, Vehicle
6 Title and Registration Division. 30 years of service, Mr.
7 Henry Holguin, Information Technology. 33 years of
8 service, Tammy King, Vehicle Title and Registration
9 Division. 34 years of service, Margaret Barker, Human
10 Resources Division. 34 years of service, Monica
11 Hernandez, Finance and Administrative Services Division.
12 35 years of state service, Melissa Bennett, Motor Carrier
13 Division. 35 years of service, Thomas O'Connor, Finance
14 and Operations. 38 years of service, Mr. Jimmy Archer,
15 Motor Carrier Division. Chairman, I'd like to take a
16 moment to speak about the three recipients who are with us
17 today. And I'll start with Aline. Aline serves as the
18 Attorney within the Office of General Counsel Division,
19 OGC. She is the longest serving attorney in the division
20 and has been with the department since 2010. Prior to
21 that, she was with the Texas Department of Public Safety
22 for 10 years. In her time at the Texas DMV, she has
23 advised the Agency, there's a long list here, Aline. Just
24 about everything. Laws, rules, contracts, procurements,
25 ethics, legislation. And she's also served twice as the

1 Interim General Counsel. She's OGC Specialist on just
2 about everything. And we're very lucky to have Aline.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And may I just add,
4 excuse me. She really served this Board so well during a
5 period of leadership transition for the Agency. So you
6 have our enduring thanks and appreciation and respect for
7 the way in which you carried out your duties so
8 professionally and kept us out of the ditch. Thank you.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Indeed. Thank
10 you, Chairman. Next we have Ms. Monica Hernandez. Monica
11 has served as the Executive Assistant within the Finance
12 and Operations Division. During her years of state
13 service, she served in vehicle data management, customer
14 information services, and as a purchaser for both the
15 Texas Department of Transportation and the DMV. In March
16 2012, Monica joined the Finance and Operations Division,
17 where she served until August of 2025. Throughout her
18 entire career, Monica worked in this very building, 4000
19 Jackson Avenue. Along the way, Monica built long lasting
20 friendships and worked with all of us so very well.
21 Monica, congratulations on your outstanding 34 years of
22 state service. Last but not least, certainly we have Mr.
23 Jimmy Archer. Jimmy served as the division director for
24 the Motor Carrier Division since joining the department in
25 October of 2012. Jimmy guided MCD through major

1 transitions of integrating parts of the division that came
2 to the DMV from TxDOT in 2012 and business units that
3 joined in 2009 to form what was his newly expanded
4 division, the Motor Carrier Division. Jimmy has served
5 the Agency and his Division with extreme dignity, and I'm
6 so glad to have been able to call you my friend all these
7 years. So, members, let's congratulate these individuals
8 for their many years of dedicated service to the state of
9 Texas. Chairman, Members, please join me on the front of
10 the dais for a photo opportunity. Chairman, Members, that
11 concludes my executive director's report. Thank you for
12 the time this morning.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Mr. Avitia,
14 and thank you to all of those who served all of us and the
15 state and the people of Texas so well. This is
16 irreplaceable loss in a sense, and the best we can hope is
17 we can train up the next generation. So moving on to
18 Agenda item 6, Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority,
19 MVCPA update. We have, I think we have Chief Rodriguez
20 and of course William Diggs is here. Is chief with us
21 today? There he is. Good. Okay, William, please, the
22 floor is yours.

23 WILLIAM DIGGS: Thank you. Good morning, Mr.
24 Chairman, Mr. Avitia and Members. It is my pleasure to be
25 able to introduce a true Texan, a defender of the U.S.-

1 Mexico border and someone that Governor Abbott obviously
2 saw something in to put him in the position he is today.
3 With more than 25 years in law enforcement, Chief Miguel
4 Mike Rodriguez career spans service from patrol officer to
5 Police Chief with the Laredo Police Department. Rising
6 through the ranks since 1997, his roles have included
7 investigator, sergeant, lieutenant and deputy chief
8 overseeing criminal investigations and support divisions
9 before he was appointed to the chief position in Laredo in
10 2023. Governor Abbott appointed Chief Rodriguez to the
11 Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, the
12 ABTPA, in October of 2018 and became the chair of the
13 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, in March of
14 2021. It is my pleasure to introduce and give you
15 Chief Rodriguez.

16 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Thank
17 you for that introduction, William. Chairman Bacarisse
18 and Members of this Board, thank you for the opportunity
19 having me here today. I appreciate everything that you've
20 done in support of the MVCPA. It is an honor for me to be
21 here today representing MVCPA, other law enforcement
22 agencies that are grantees, and making sure that we
23 provide visibility to each and every one of you as to what
24 MVCPA is doing and what we're doing moving forward, right.
25 And so before I start with the presentation, I do want to

1 acknowledge the partnership, the strong partnership that
2 we have with DMV. The other strong partnership that we
3 have is with all the law enforcement agencies, even the
4 agencies that do not have grants, we have very strong
5 partnership with them. And this is the reason why we have
6 tremendous success. And you'll see it in our statistics
7 and the presentations that I'm going to present to you
8 today. After the presentation, we'll open up for
9 questions and see what I can answer and see what I can
10 bring back to you if I don't have the answer. So thank
11 you for having me today. We'll present to you today the
12 mission and the funding and the collaboration and the
13 training that we do in MVCPA. I know that a lot of the
14 emphasis that we've done to date and what has changed the
15 vision of the MVCPA is that now MVCPA has complete
16 engagement with all task forces. And I'm not saying
17 before we didn't, but now we have the engagement at the
18 higher echelon of every agency. Now we engage the chiefs,
19 we engage upper command so that we can make sure that the
20 money that is invested through these grants and from the
21 state of Texas public, through their tax, through their
22 fees that they put into that is invested in the right
23 place. So this is our mission statement, all Texans are
24 free from harm and loss caused by motor vehicle crime.
25 When we talk about our mission statement, we talk about

1 reducing the statistics, right. Reducing the number of
2 motor vehicle thefts, reducing the number of burglar
3 vehicles, and reducing the number of catalytic converter
4 thefts. On top of that, we also reduce the number of
5 fraudulent acts by perpetrators. What we're talking about
6 here is every time that we look at statistics, it's a
7 number. And one of the things that we've told our
8 grantees and our task forces is that it's not about only
9 reducing crime, it's about absence of crime, right and how
10 we're going to do that. And so we've engaged in several
11 strategic goals and strategic plan with some measurable
12 goals to make sure that we have that absence of crime and
13 the absence of crime when we task with that is very, very
14 focused on auto theft, very focused on burglar vehicles
15 and very focused on catalytic converter thefts. And the
16 reason we focus on burglar vehicles is because that is
17 considered a gateway crime. When you start when a 16 year
18 old or 17 year old, even a 13 year old starts burglarizing
19 vehicles, that is a gateway crime to commit harsher
20 crimes. And so when we don't address that at the local
21 level in a municipality and we let that go without any
22 consequences, we open the doors to these individuals who
23 commit bigger crimes, right. And so one of the emphasis
24 that we do commit to is that we need to make sure that we
25 address the burglary of vehicles. Even though some people

1 say it's property crime, sometimes you can just report it
2 to your insurance and that's it. Well, we have victims
3 that don't have that capability. When they burglarize
4 their vehicles, they break their windows and that window
5 is going to cost them \$1,000 to fix, right. And some of
6 these individuals don't have that kind of money. So as a
7 victim, it creates a victim and we need to make sure that
8 we correct that. And so when we're talking to the task
9 forces, we always let them know that don't forget about
10 burglary vehicles because we can stop that motion of when
11 you burglarize a vehicle and you jump into auto theft, we
12 can reduce that number. So this is some statistics that
13 we have and this is our, we have. At MVCPA we have 15
14 full time employees and I can tell you they do tremendous
15 work. Before we didn't have that amount of employees, but
16 now with the amount of grantees and the amount of work
17 that they've been tasked to do, it's been working really
18 well. We have about 103,465 motor vehicle thefts in 2024.
19 And we have 162,311 burglar motor vehicle thefts and parts
20 in 2024. Next slide, \$2.3 billion loss. The Funding
21 Mechanism, so in 1991, MVCPA was established and the
22 legislature put \$2.00 of a fee in every insurance that we
23 buy. So we jump into 2020, that went from \$2.00 to \$4.00
24 and in 2023 it was from \$4.00 to \$5.00. And that extra
25 dollar was for the catalytic converter issue that we were

1 having in 2024. We collected \$170,470,870 and out of
2 that, it was \$24 million that we sent back to MVCPA for
3 our task. For the dollar that was collected, \$29 million
4 was collected, \$24 million was sent back to MVCPA. With
5 this \$24 million that was appropriated to MVCPA, there was
6 a lot of things that had to get done so that we make sure
7 that we address the catalytic converter thefts. And I can
8 tell you that year to date, we have reduced drastically
9 the amount of catalytic converter thefts. And this is
10 because of the good work of every task force that was
11 granted these funds and was given the tools to make sure
12 that we address that for every Texan to remain safe from
13 catalytic converter thefts, but because it was hitting
14 very hard every single jurisdiction. So with this
15 collaboration that we're talking about, in 2024 we went
16 from 26 grants awarded. We went from 26 to 32 and 2025,
17 we went from 32 grants awarded for auto theft to 83 and
18 then from 31 to 122 in 2026, just in July, we added a lot
19 of jurisdictions to our map. With these jurisdictions
20 that were added, there was a lot of technology that was
21 granted. But more than anything is the vision that the
22 MVCPA had to create a Texas grid. And what I mean by that
23 is that with the technology that we're addressing now with
24 FLOG, Texas not only in municipalities, but in every
25 highway, we're going to have visibility as to where our

1 cars are going. So right now, when they steal a car in
2 Houston and it gets to the border in Laredo, we don't know
3 what path they took because we don't know what roads they
4 took. So when we seize that vehicle, it's very hard for
5 us to determine where did they pass through that, they
6 never got caught, right. They never got stopped. So now
7 with this technology, we're going to be able to see the
8 path of those suspects driving a stolen vehicle. So in
9 collaboration going back to catalytic converter theft and
10 catalytic converter mission, the collaboration was crucial
11 for us to make sure that we engaged DPS, TDLR and the
12 Texas DMV. And when we did this, we did this with a
13 committee, we engage them every time that we have a board
14 meeting, we have an SB224 committee meeting. And what we
15 do, we talk about our focus on to catalytic converter. We
16 remain committed to the mission to reduce that number.
17 And so we did that in making sure that we funded whatever
18 mechanism came out of that committee. And so I can tell
19 you that year to date again, I'll repeat it because it's a
20 great success that we reduced that number of catalytic
21 converter thefts. Training, for MVCPA when I first came
22 in, in 2012 as sergeant for auto theft, Laredo was the
23 number one city in the nation for auto theft. It was the
24 worst coming from NICB. It was the worst in 2009, 2010,
25 2011, and we couldn't get out of the number one list. It

1 was a top 10. And you can go back to NICB hotspots and
2 it's still there, right. And so what we did, we started
3 doing a lot of training. And when we, back then ABTPA did
4 not have this type of training and mechanism and structure
5 to provide the training that was needed to make sure that
6 we do our jobs the way we're supposed to. So engaging in
7 these trainings now, it is completely revamped. Every
8 time that we come in, every year, we have Auto Theft Basic
9 1 and Auto Theft Advanced. And so those trainings are
10 crucial to our operations and to be very efficient in
11 everything that we do day in and day out for our task
12 forces and to be able to put that in play from MVCPA, we
13 no longer ask, as municipalities have to look for those
14 trainings and fund those trainings from the municipality
15 to send four investigators, brand new investigators,
16 either to Fort Worth, to Houston, to San Antonio. Now
17 MVCPA does a really good job in and saying, hey, we're
18 going to have a regional training in Laredo. Everybody
19 goes there that is a shorter distance and can be able to
20 attend that training. We're going to have a training in
21 Houston. And so this created a very good structure for us
22 to have and making sure that we become more efficient in
23 what we do. Our conference, we brought back our
24 conference and the reason we did that was because one, we
25 missed it. We used to have conferences, it was very good

1 way to, to network with other agencies, to collaborate
2 into everything that we're doing, looking at trends. So
3 when we brought back the conference, we just didn't bring
4 back two or three classes. What we did, we did bring the
5 bigger classes, which is cartel involvement. Anything
6 that had to do with fraudulent trends. And so all the
7 things that we needed to engage in, we brought them to the
8 conference and we made sure that everybody attended those
9 classes by keeping track on them. And so now when we're
10 talking about the conference, we're talking about 444 law
11 enforcement officers that attended this conference. This
12 year we're forecasting that it's going to be over 600.
13 And that's huge for us because we know that 600 officers
14 were trained in the topics that were crucial for us to
15 train. Next slide, please. This is, I'm going to go into
16 some of the investigations that we've encountered that are
17 very high level. I can tell you that this is the type of
18 work that this, our officers and our task forces do. This
19 is from Mansfield Auto Theft Task Force. When they get a
20 call and when we engage this type of follow up
21 investigation, this is what we encounter, right. We talk
22 about a GMC, now we're about talking about a Ferrari. So
23 we're talking about high level organized crime. And you
24 know, every time that we're talking about, again, the
25 training is this is what the results are. Next slide.

1 Catalytic converter thefts. This is another one where
2 they engage our Potter County Auto Theft Task Force. This
3 is from McLean, Texas. They were traveling and this is
4 just a stop. And from that stop, it immediately engaged
5 the task force and we immediately were able to find all
6 this and connect it to another level of organization. And
7 so when we're talking about one person stealing a
8 catalytic converter, that's not the way this was working.
9 It was a whole organization, very structured that were
10 doing this, right. And so you see all that and we see
11 junk, right. You can go back to the slide real quick.
12 But look at the amount that it was valued at, \$535,000.
13 That's a lot of money for that. But again, we continue
14 with focus with what we're doing. Next slide. And when
15 we're talking about our continued focus, these are the
16 results, right. When we're talking 2019, 2020, we saw
17 those numbers rising, but not at the level that we saw
18 them in 2022. But the reason for that was also Covid
19 right. We saw 2019 at 76,000. But then you go up all the
20 way in 2022-2023, you see a big uphill on crime for motor
21 vehicle theft. But then you see it going down in 2024.
22 For 2025, we're already forecasting that it's going to go
23 even lower. Border security, this is something that we
24 have as a mission as well. When you look at border
25 security task forces, we've done a lot of good work to

1 stop vehicles from going into Mexico. We haven't stopped
2 them all, but we continue to focus on making sure that
3 those vehicles don't cross into Mexico. You see the
4 numbers there unrecovered and then you see the number of
5 vehicles stolen that have been cleared. Those numbers we
6 haven't seen before in the past, but we're seeing them
7 now. Next slide. Here, I want to show you how these
8 individuals operate. And so one of the things that we've
9 been having issues with and a continued trend is our GMC
10 Sierra's. The cartel focuses on GMC Sierra's. And the
11 reason they focus on that vehicle and they stop focusing
12 on Ford F150's is because Ford F150's are made of
13 aluminum. GMC Sierra's are still metal. So when we're
14 talking about metal, I'm going to show you in the next
15 couple of slides what they do to them and why they're
16 engaging this type of vehicle. And this is the way they
17 operate. These are operatives from CDN, from Cartel del
18 Noreste. They used to be the Zetas. If you go to the
19 next slide, they continue. These are four different
20 instances. And this is the way they operate. They cover
21 their faces because they know we're going to go back and
22 track them. When we're talking about the whole move onto
23 immigration and targeting criminals that are from Mexico
24 or other countries, we're thinking these are the guys that
25 we're supposed to be targeting. Well, all these

1 individuals are U.S. Citizens. And so these individuals,
2 to give you a little bit of visibility as to how the
3 cartel works, they give them rank right away because
4 they're U.S. Citizens. And the reason they give them rank
5 is because they can cross at any time into our borders.
6 They work for them, and they get paid higher pay because
7 of the fact that they're U.S. Citizens. And so here you
8 go, here we are, you know, we've arrested all four. We
9 actually identified all four because we created a
10 mechanism with U.S. Customs to make sure that we tackle a
11 problem as they're crossing back. And so we've already
12 created that mechanism. I will engage you a little bit
13 more, but it is confidential how we work in it. But we've
14 already identified all four. We have to get smarter than
15 them. So this individual, but this is the way they
16 operate. And so can we go to the next slide. I'll go
17 just real quick into this. The IACP is now engaging on
18 transnational auto theft. Now, it is a big topic in all
19 police jurisdictions. And the reason for that is because
20 it has jumped already into not only the criminal network
21 of the cartels, but also the terrorist part, right. And
22 so when we look at transnational auto theft, they're
23 monetizing everything from our vehicles that are stolen
24 here in our country and in our state. So just wanted to
25 tap into that how it is being engaged now more and is not

1 being seen as a property crime only. Next slide, please.
2 So here's the, I'm going to show you some pictures as to
3 what they do with the vehicles that are being stolen from
4 Texas. This is Tropa del Infierno for some of you that
5 don't know that is the Sicario arm of the Cartel del
6 Noreste. What they do, they pretty much put them like if
7 they're police vehicles, but they're just patrolling the
8 streets in Mexico and in Neuvo Laredo and in their area
9 that they patrol. Next slide. And this is what I'm
10 telling you when we're talking about, this is what they're
11 called monsters and they're called Monstros in Nuevo
12 Laredo. And what they do is they weld onto the vehicle
13 all that so that they can engage the military in Neuvo
14 Laredo Mexico. So the reason they like GMC's is because
15 they can weld onto them and they can create these vehicles
16 and so to counter the cartels. And you can see all this,
17 this whole were all stolen and recovered in Mexico. But
18 these are all Texas. They all had Texas plates. Next
19 slide. And this is what we're dealing with every day that
20 we're talking about cartels. This vehicle was the stolen
21 vehicle, but they also had all those firearms. And these
22 are pictures that are being sent by our partners in
23 Mexico. And every time that they get a stolen vehicle and
24 they it comes back to stolen in Texas, they engage us and
25 they let us know, like, we found the vehicle, you all need

1 to take it out of your system. But we engage in ICB
2 because it's a very different process. Some of them is
3 just, in Mexico it's just they want to keep their vehicle.
4 So we want to make sure that we do it the right way.
5 Again, several pictures as to how they operate. Next
6 slide. And so going into this. So I want to address you
7 today to make sure that, you know, you have an
8 understanding of what we do within MVCPA. MVCPA is we
9 structured it so that we can have oversight as to how
10 we're managing the funding mechanism to prevent this type
11 of crime from happening and to make sure that we prevent
12 these vehicles from going into Mexico. And so one of the
13 things that we're doing and we're pushing for is to make
14 sure that we have real time information. And we've talked
15 about this multiple times, where our biggest gap is real
16 time information. Because every time that we talk about
17 intelligence, intelligence is really good, but it's not
18 good when it's given to you a week later. And so in
19 municipalities, especially like cities like Austin,
20 Laredo, San Antonio, within the city, we need to make sure
21 that we have real time information so we can attack the
22 problem immediately. And that's how you're going to
23 create that absence of crime, right. And so when we have
24 all this Texas grid that we're creating is great, but
25 who's going to manage it, right. And so what we've been

1 talking about and we've been pushing is to make sure that
2 we provide a structure so that we can have real time
3 information. And we've already engaged, just to give you
4 some visibility, we've engaged Texas DPS, the fusion
5 center, and we've already had some conversations with them
6 to make sure that we're going to be tasking them to help
7 us provide that real time information. Because now we
8 have over 100 jurisdictions that are going to be needing
9 that information when it comes to FLOG, right. How are we
10 going to be able to see where that vehicle, what's going
11 through, where the vehicle was stolen, things like that.
12 We need to make sure that we have that real time
13 information. So what we're going to do and we're going to
14 push this as to having some analysts being funded by MVCPA
15 to push them into DPS to be able to help them provide that
16 information in real time. And the reason we're doing this
17 is because we cannot overtask our fusion center at DPS,
18 because they're already tasked with monitoring cartel,
19 monitoring terrorists, monitoring active threats to life.
20 Over that we're going to task him to also monitor this, I
21 don't think it's fair, I think we should, we have the
22 funding. I spoke to our director, we have the funding.
23 We need to push this structure so that we can provide DPS
24 with the additional help to get that real time information
25 to our jurisdictions. Especially now that we have over

1 100 jurisdictions with this technology. So moving
2 forward, I strongly believe that we can definitely go down
3 lower than 2019 numbers. It's just to remain focused.
4 And like I tell every commander from every task force,
5 sometimes we feel that we don't do enough, right. That
6 way there's no change. But then we just need to wait for
7 the numbers, right, at the end of the year to see what
8 we've done. Because if we continue to feel that there's
9 no change that's when we slow down. We cannot slow down.
10 We have to be relentless about this, right. And because of
11 the fact that it affects families, businesses, and every
12 person in this great state. We have to remain relentless.
13 So I do appreciate everything that the support that you
14 have given us, you know, having DPS staff and personnel in
15 our conferences, in our board meetings, it says a lot
16 about the commitment this Board has for public safety and
17 for our to make Texas roads safer. So I do appreciate
18 that. I want to thank each and every one of you for that
19 support. And I want to make sure that if there's anything
20 that MVCPA can bring back, if there's anything that you
21 think we could do better, please don't hesitate to tell
22 us. I think we are in that moment where we've had a
23 pivotal moment where we're going to be having some great
24 numbers reporting back to the governor. And I think
25 everybody's going to be very happy. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Chairman
2 Rodriguez. Members, any questions? Member Schlosser.
3 Okay, Member Schlosser. And then Member Graham. I'll
4 come to you. Member Gillman.

5 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Member Schlosser for the
6 record. I just want to say thank you Chief Rodriguez, for
7 coming to here and as long as Director Diggs, Major Jones
8 and Earl Pence back there with the MVCPA. As being a
9 former member of the MVCPA task force up until my
10 retirement from Houston PD recently, I can attest to the
11 fact of what's happening with their and what their
12 leadership has done to help with funding the things that
13 we need to have. It is absolutely amazing. The
14 conference they did in July was nothing short of
15 phenomenal. It was well attended, not just the training,
16 but the networking aspect of it. And I just want to say
17 thank you for your leadership and the MVCPA and keep doing
18 the good work.

19 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

21 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Yes. Thank you for your
22 report. It was very thorough. I am a car dealer in
23 Harlingen and San Benito, Texas. And I have a GMC truck
24 franchise. And yes, I was hit last year significantly.
25 And so I applaud your efforts because it's extremely

1 expensive.

2 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: It is.

3 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Also, you said if there's
4 anything you can do, I would ask that you help educate
5 dealers, not just your law office enforcement officers on
6 the ground, which, of course, that's important, but
7 dealers on their lots get hit regularly. And anything
8 that you can, we have associations in Harris county and
9 Dallas and San Antonio and the Valley. And so I would
10 encourage you, if possible, to contact the Texas
11 Automobile Dealers Association and find out when the
12 meetings are. And I'm absolutely certain you'll be
13 welcomed for any education the dealers can have of what to
14 do how we can prevent what your efforts are and how we can
15 work together. That would be appreciated.

16 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely. And if I
17 may, I, you know, we in Laredo, there is a huge lots that
18 are taken care of by the importer of GM products. And so
19 we had about two blocks of GMC Sierra's, 1500's, ATX4,
20 ATX4X, all the models, right. And so they've actually
21 went in there and put up a drone from Mexico. This is how
22 organized they are. And they took 10 GMC vehicles. We
23 were able to stop 8, but 2 were able to cross. And so
24 we're talking about putting the public in danger, right.
25 Because we engage in chases. And so when we're talking

1 about this, you know, we talking to our council and our
2 council says, how are we engaging in chases for these
3 vehicles, Chief? My response to that is because if we let
4 it happen, they're going to continue doing it. There's
5 got to be consequences, right. We cannot disengage on a
6 motor vehicle theft. Remember, we have councils that do
7 not like chases. Myself, I don't like chases. But these
8 individuals are not your 16 year old for joyride. These
9 individuals are very high level structured individuals
10 that are working for a cause and that is for money. So
11 there has to be consequences. But I agree with you, Board
12 Member Gillman. We are going to engage our car
13 dealership. I just saw that there is a conference even
14 engage them at that level and provide classes for them. I
15 think it's very important because when they did that in
16 our lot, we engaged that organization and make sure that
17 we harden all that lot and give them some tips as to how
18 to prevent them from taking those vehicles.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham.

20 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I know I, I saw or I heard you
21 say that you're definitely making improvements on
22 catalytic converter theft. Do you, do you have any data
23 on that today or I just be curious to kind of know what
24 that.

25 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: No.

1 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Okay.

2 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: But we, we. I can, I
3 can have our director send all the Board members that
4 data. We should have that.

5 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I'd just be interested to, you
6 know, significant legislative changes in the last couple
7 of sessions and, and you know, a lot of engagement on
8 that. I would like to, I would be interested to know what
9 that looks like also. Do you, is there any
10 differentiation in the data between commercial vehicles
11 and, and, and light truck automotive or is it just, you
12 know, just all kind of put in the same pot?

13 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: For catalytic
14 converters?

15 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Yes.

16 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: It's all in the same
17 pot.

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Okay. Yes. All right. Yeah,
19 that's, it's it's bad on the automotive side, it is a
20 really bad on the commercial truck side and very, very
21 expensive. So I appreciate your efforts on that. Of
22 your, your \$24 million dollar budget, what, how much of
23 that is, is grants? How much of that goes out the door in
24 the form of grants to law enforcement?

25 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Do we have that

1 number?

2 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: It doesn't have to be exact or
3 just.

4 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: It's almost all of
5 it.

6 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: The vast majority.

7 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: The vast majority.

8 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Okay. And I just worry a
9 little bit. I have no reason to worry about this other
10 than I just, you know, grant writing is grant writing. Do
11 you feel like smaller jurisdictions, departments, rural
12 departments are able to, you know, the smaller you get in
13 a department, they don't have grant writers. They don't,
14 I don't, I don't even know if in the, in your world
15 whether large departments have grant writers, although
16 they probably do. But the smaller you get, the less
17 likely that is. And I just hope that there's
18 opportunities for our smaller rural departments to have
19 access and help with grant writing.

20 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely,
21 absolutely. And one of the things that the Board decided
22 to do is to make sure that we target those smaller
23 jurisdictions because again, they're the ones who need the
24 most, right. Bigger agencies have the ability to fund a
25 lot of this technology that we're funding. And so we did

1 target a lot of the smaller jurisdictions because of that.
2 Jurisdictions like Town of Prosper, right. We never heard
3 about, you know, having that jurisdiction apply for a
4 grant. This is the first time that they applied and they
5 got the technology that they needed, right. And we're
6 focusing on jurisdictions where we talk about Houston,
7 right. And we always make a joke because all the
8 jurisdictions that are around it is like all your crime
9 comes this way, right. And so what we did, we target
10 hardened all those jurisdictions around Houston because
11 again, they do not have the funding mechanism that Houston
12 PD has that Harris County Sheriff's office have. They
13 have the money to invest in technology. Those
14 jurisdictions that were being hit because they come out of
15 Houston, they come out of Harris County, we were able to
16 fund them to make sure that we create that protection
17 around that jurisdiction. And again, we're targeting
18 smaller jurisdictions because when they're going through
19 and they're passing through, we want to make sure that
20 they have the visibility of them and whenever they get
21 hit, that they have the tools to counter that.

22 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you. And one last
23 question, if I may. I'm up on the Texas-Oklahoma border
24 helping to defend the northern frontier, as we say. And
25 there historically has been issues with lax laws in

1 Oklahoma allowing, particularly in the case of catalytic
2 converter theft, you know, we tighten it down here, but
3 then they just, they hit us in North Texas and then they
4 roll across. Has that improved? Do you need help with
5 the state of Oklahoma to tighten things down, or is that
6 where we need it to be to prevent thieves from coming to
7 Texas, stealing our stuff and then they can go to scrap
8 metal, say scrap metal facilities in Oklahoma where they
9 don't have the same set of rules to play by.

10 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And so we,
11 we've, we had some conversations about that with those
12 jurisdictions, those commanders that are up there in North
13 Texas, and we continue to, to tackle that problem the same
14 way we're tackling the problem going into Mexico, right.
15 Because we do have some catalytic converters going into
16 Mexico. So yes, engaging here, it's a little bit easier
17 because we can engage Oklahoma and we can talk to
18 Oklahoma. But we need more help, right. Because our laws
19 are stricter and theirs are not. But still the crime is
20 committed here. So we have to make sure we engage them
21 here because the ones that are going to prosecute are the
22 ones in the district attorneys in Texas. So we have to
23 make sure that we, whomever it is that's committing that
24 crime, that we make sure that we tackle that at that, at
25 that level, at that jurisdiction, not so much relying on

1 Oklahoma to do something about it. And I know that once
2 they're there, that they're going to go through and you
3 know, they're soft on that crime. But we have to make
4 sure that we tackle the problem here so that they, we
5 prevent them from coming here so that they know there's
6 consequences when they come to Texas.

7 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Sure. And if any assistance,
8 if you all need any assistance in Oklahoma, I have some
9 strong relationships there, be glad to help. Thank you.

10 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: I appreciate that.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Mr. Avitia.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman, thank
13 you. Chief Rodriguez, I just want to thank you for your
14 leadership and your partnership over the last several
15 years. I think MVCPA, under your leadership, along with
16 William and Earl, are just doing a tremendous job and it's
17 just grown by leaps and bounds over the last couple years.
18 So thank you for that. I also, Chairman, Members want to
19 recognize that we have another MVCPA Board Member here,
20 Board Member Sharon Jones, if you'll stand to be
21 recognized.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: That's Major
24 Jones. Thank you for being here Member Jones and again,
25 Chief, thank you for everything that you do.

1 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Danny.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah, I think, you know,
3 this Board's 100% behind the work and the efforts. So
4 thank you. And there's always more to do. And we're here
5 with you.

6 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Chair and
7 Members.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you.

9 CHIEF MIGUEL "MIKE" RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank
10 you, Board Members.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, that takes us to
12 Agenda item number 7, which is rule adoptions, and we've
13 got quite a few. So specifically Agenda item number 7.
14 Laura will walk us through it. And so I will hand it over
15 to you, Laura.

16 LAURA MORIATY: Good morning, Board. My name is Laura
17 Moriatty. I'm general counsel for the DMV. Today in item
18 7, you have the opportunity to adopt the Rule Review for
19 Chapter 206 of the Board's rules, which covers Management.
20 Chapter 211, which covers Criminal History Offenses and
21 Action on a License. And one little section of Chapter
22 217, that's 217.27, which covers Vehicle Registration
23 Insignia. You will recall that every four years every
24 state agency has to look at all of their rules and decide
25 if the reasons for initially adopting them continue to

1 exist, that's what the government code requires. And you
2 will also recall that two years ago the Department of
3 Motor Vehicles had zero chapters in compliance with the
4 government code. We had not reviewed any of them within
5 the last four years. We have been on a diligent path to
6 try to get all of them reviewed over the last two years.
7 And I can tell you that when we adopt the rule review of
8 Chapter 211 today, you will have reviewed all of your
9 chapters and we will be back in good path for the
10 government code. Chapter 206 is coming to you today,
11 although you have reviewed that one within the last two
12 years. Because we don't ever want to do this again and
13 we're going to try to spread them out over four years,
14 that starts with taking up 206 before it's due. So
15 chapter 206, we did not have any public comments on any of
16 this. Chapter 206 has no amendments. Chapter 211 will
17 have amendments that are coming to you in the next item.
18 And little 217.27, the Vehicle Registration Insignia, that
19 is our provision about two year initial registrations for
20 new cars. You'll recall that we had lost statutory
21 authority for that because it was linked with safety
22 inspections. And when the legislature repealed safety
23 inspections, they accidentally repealed our authority for
24 this. Last session they gave us new authority, so now we
25 are back to readopt that. Similarly in chapter 211 we had

1 the FBI tell us in a letter that they felt that our
2 statutory authority for fingerprinting was not specific
3 enough. The legislature has helped us in that area too,
4 giving us new statutory authority. So we now have
5 specific statutory authority that we hope will pass FBI
6 muster. And so we're coming back with chapter 211 because
7 we now have authority to adopt that one, too. So again,
8 we didn't receive any public comments. So staff is
9 recommending that you complete these rule reviews of
10 chapters 206, 211, and that one little section 217.27, and
11 readopt these provisions. Thank you. I'm open to
12 questions.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any questions?
14 Seeing none.

15 MEMBER MARK JONES: Can I make a motion?

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah, I'm sorry. I was
17 just not on. I see no comments, so I am now.

18 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comments.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. I'm having
20 finger issues this morning. Mr. Jones, I think you want
21 to make a motion.

22 MEMBER MARK JONES: Yes. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones.

24 MEMBER MARK JONES: Member Jones, for the record, I
25 move that the Board approve the notice of readoption of 43

1 Texas Administrative Code chapters 206, 211 and 217, as
2 well as section 217.27, as recommended by staff for
3 publication in the Texas Register. In addition, I move
4 that the Board grant the department the authority to make
5 non substantive changes to the notice of readoption as
6 recommended by the office of the Texas Secretary of State
7 for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
9 second in that motion?

10 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: So moved.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham is
12 seconding. Any further discussion Members?

13 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I do have a question, Mr.
14 Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yes. Member Omumu.

16 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Yes, I just want to confirm
17 that there. Isn't anything in Agenda item number 8 that
18 should precede the approval of the motion here in Agenda
19 item number 7.

20 LAURA MORIATY: So Agenda item 8 is just adopting the
21 Rule Review. So not the amendments and readopting the
22 provisions that are not being amended. So if you are
23 concerned about any provision being amended, it's still
24 open and you'll deal with it in your next agenda item.

25 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Okay. And I am concerned about

1 some of the chapters here being repealed before we can
2 address some of the additions that are recommended in
3 Agenda item number 8. I just want to confirm that.

4 LAURA MORIATY: Right, Agenda item number 8 is
5 separate, those are amendments to chapter 211. This only
6 readopts and, well, first affirms that the reasons for
7 initially adopting chapter 211 still exist and that we
8 have statutory authority for it. And then secondly,
9 reaffirms the areas that we are not amending. We are
10 readopting.

11 SHARLA OMUMU: Okay. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. So we have a
13 motion and a second on the floor. Is there any further
14 discussion on this particular motion Agenda item number 7?
15 Seeing none, the chair would call for the vote, please.
16 Member Alvarado.

17 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

19 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

21 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

23 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

2 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

4 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, chair Bacarisse's vote
6 aye as well. Unanimous. Thank you.

7 LAURA MORIATY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Keep going. We've got
9 another one. And this is Agenda item number 8. Laura,
10 you'll be present. Oh, no. Sorry, Monique. Sorry. I
11 didn't look up. I was reading. Sorry. Go ahead,
12 Monique.

13 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: Chairman, Members, Director
14 Avitia. Good morning. For the record, my name is Monique
15 Johnston. I'm the Director of the Motor Vehicle Division.
16 Today we're asking the Board's permission to adopt
17 revisions to Chapter 11, Criminal History Offense and
18 Action on a License in Title 43 of the Texas
19 Administrative Code. This Rule is as listed as, excuse
20 me, on your Agenda as item number 8, and the details may
21 be found beginning on page 14 of your board book. The
22 rule package adopts amendments, new sections, and repeals
23 to chapter 211 in conjunction with the rule review
24 compliance in Government Code 2001.039, which was
25 presented to the Board this morning as Agenda item number

1 7. Chapter 211 was first adopted in 2020 and was
2 significantly amended in 2022 to add fingerprinting
3 requirements. Adopting these amendments, repeals and new
4 sections will allow the department to, number one, support
5 implementation of Senate Bill 2587 and Senate Bill 1080,
6 enacted in the most recent legislative session. It
7 organizes the rules into two subchapters for consistency
8 with other chapters in the Texas Administrative Code Title
9 43. It clarifies these guidelines applied to licenses
10 issued by the Department and not registrations or
11 authorizations. It clarifies which crimes the Department
12 considers as crimes related to the duties and
13 responsibilities of license holders, including the
14 addition of certain crimes related to child trafficking
15 and crimes related to using a firearm to intimidate or
16 harm another for retail license holders. It also conforms
17 rule language or statutory changes to SB224 from the 2023
18 legislative session, which added crimes related to damage,
19 destruction and tampering of a motor vehicle during
20 removal of a catalytic converter. It also deletes
21 duplicative language found in statute, clarifies
22 fingerprinting requirements, and modernizes language,
23 improves readability. Senate Bill 2587 clarified the
24 persons from whom the Department could require finger
25 based criminal history background check. The Senate Bill

1 1080 added circumstances in which a state agency is
2 required to revoke a license upon imprisonment of the
3 license holder. The Department received no public comment
4 and MVD requests your approval to adopt these rule
5 amendments, new sections, and repeals. This concludes my
6 remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may
7 have. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Members, any
9 questions for Monique?

10 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I have a question.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Oh, yes, Member Omumu.

12 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Mr. Chairman, it appears that
13 as if some of the language from when fingerprinting came
14 to the table a couple of years ago was adjusted a bit.
15 There was a lot of conversation around the complex
16 ownership structure of franchise dealers in particular.
17 And it could include several family members who have no
18 representative authority at the dealership. It could
19 include entities that have nothing to do with the
20 operations of the dealership, holding companies, members,
21 partners, et cetera, right. Beneficiaries of trustees
22 that have absolutely no day to day duties or authority to
23 run a dealership. And also as deemed by the OE, the OE
24 requires quite a bit from dealers and day to day operators
25 and prohibits certain people from operating that may be

1 within the ownership structure from operating within the
2 dealership. So there is a concern around requesting or
3 requiring fingerprints, say for instance, of children who
4 may be beneficiaries of trustees. So the change in
5 language now is so broad that it would, you would assume
6 that now you have to have elderly children, entities and a
7 laundry list of people could be dozens, maybe even
8 hundreds of people involved in getting fingerprinted to
9 receive a GDN license or renew a license. And I just
10 don't believe that's what the agency intends in trying to
11 thwart the bad actors. And in particular franchise
12 dealers who are not really a part of, of some of the
13 infractions that we've heard about over the last few years
14 are being penalized. So how do we address that?

15 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: So if you're referring to the
16 addition of the language regarding where it specifically
17 also addresses trust beneficiaries. Excuse me, Monique
18 Johnston, for the record, this matches the statutory
19 authority that was given to us under the bill and it also,
20 it's a may. And so it allows us the authority, should
21 there be a bad actor that we see in a trust or something
22 in an ownership structure, someone who might be a bad
23 actor who's trying to hide their identity behind a trust,
24 it allows us the authority to fingerprint them and to
25 collect their fingerprints. We do not as a practice

1 require fingerprinting from everyone within a trust or
2 trust beneficiary when we see that. It allows, this just
3 gives us the authority to, if we see someone which we, we
4 have seen people who have been in a trust and then we were
5 aware of very significant criminal history and this would
6 allow us to proceed with having them fingerprinted, to be
7 able to deny them based on that criminal history or have
8 them removed so they do not have any connection to a
9 business such as a franchise dealership that could be used
10 or a regular dealership or any kind of dealership as a
11 cover for organized crime, trafficking, you know, things
12 like that, criminal activity. It also allows us, we have,
13 if a dealer has been revoked or denied a license based on
14 their criminal history or their disciplinary history for
15 severe violations, allows them not to hide behind a trust
16 to try to obtain a license under that trust and have, they
17 would have access, they could potentially have access to
18 the systems to license plates and things like that. So it
19 just gives us the authority. It does not mean that we
20 would be fingerprinting everyone in a trust, it just
21 allows us to do so. We also have an internal policy. We
22 don't require fingerprints of anyone within a trust that's
23 under 18. We haven't fingerprinted anyone under 18 at
24 this time. And so it's more of allowing during our
25 background searches if something raises a red flag, we

1 have that ability, is how we use that.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I have a question if I
3 may, Chair Bacarisse, taking what I'm hearing here and
4 really asking out of ignorance because I'm one of two
5 public members, you have all this discretionary authority
6 but where do we outline where just some of the points she
7 just made, not fingerprinting minors as a rule of
8 operation generally, you know, where do we draw the line
9 in a sense should we say if you have a criminal record,
10 you're going to be fingerprinted even though you're in a
11 trust but you're not in a direct operational connection to
12 the dealership. How are we going to spell this out so
13 that people really know where our discretion lies and
14 where we want to operate?

15 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: That's part of the background that
16 we do. Just you know, as we look there's, there's people
17 unfortunately and it is a very small group but there are
18 people who figure out ways, as we know criminals adapt and
19 they figure out ways to find their way back in because the
20 license that they may have held, where they were using it
21 to commit criminal activity or it was a front for some
22 other organized crime business, they are like, well now I
23 can just, you know, maybe do a trust and I wouldn't have,
24 you know, they can't find the people that are in it or
25 something like that.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I understand, I
2 understand their intent. What I'm suggesting is for the
3 law abiding citizens, I think we should probably put up
4 some fences or some notices where we can to say this is
5 how we intend to operate. Sunshine, you know, let's be,
6 can we do that? I mean, or is that, is that provided for
7 in all of this?

8 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: I will defer to our legal counsel.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Is that a fair question
10 to ask?

11 LAURA MORIATY: Okay, so, yes, Chairman. Laura
12 Moriatty, General Counsel, we can specify in rule if you, I
13 mean, we could add after trust beneficiary, we could say
14 over the age of 18, right. So we can add more
15 specificity. This rule was originally drafted to allow
16 the department maximum flexibility, as Monique is
17 describing, each one of these applications presents a
18 different set of facts, and we were cautious to not, you
19 know, inhibit the department's ability to identify the
20 these folks since they've popped up in odd places in
21 recent years. But certainly if the Board, any member,
22 would be interested in adding something like that, I'm
23 happy to discuss drafting a motion.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: You know, my only
25 thought is, and members who are much closer to this, can,

1 you know, amplify or not is I don't have a problem with us
2 being really, really careful about who we allow to do
3 business in the state of Texas. But I think we ought to
4 notice the bad actors along with the good, that you know,
5 if you have these issues, you will not, you will not be
6 allowed to, you know, continue in business. Why not put
7 that sign up there up front? Just as we say, you can't
8 carry a firearm into a building, you're going to violate a
9 law. Let's notice everyone and let's draw real clear
10 lines around how we're going to operate without giving up
11 too much of our ability to operate effectively. Does that
12 make sense? I think there's a balance somewhere. Maybe.
13 I don't know. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

14 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: Monique Johnston for record, if I
15 may, we do have a whole page dedicated to our criminal
16 history process and review on the website. So we can
17 certainly review that and see if there's additional
18 language we can provide. You know, so, you know, when
19 dealers are aware, if they go there and read it and say,
20 this is the process, this is what we look at. Here's.
21 Because we do have a pretty significant page. If anyone
22 reads it, you know, it's a lot of information, but we can
23 definitely look at it and see if there's additional
24 language we can provide or make it more prominent so
25 dealers are aware, you know. And they also do have the

1 opportunity, there is the criminal history evaluation
2 process before they apply for a license, they can apply
3 for an evaluation of their criminal history to see if they
4 would actually be potentially eligible or ineligible for a
5 license.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham. Sorry.
7 So, Member Gillman, I'll come to you.

8 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: So if I'm understanding you
9 correctly, I think the word, the word you used was
10 internal guidelines. Is that right where you described
11 you wanted, you want to leave this rule broad in the event
12 of or in case of, but you have internal guidelines for how
13 you operate and the course of licensing dealers. Is that
14 correct?

15 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: Yes, that is correct.

16 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: And so I'm not necessarily
17 opposed to, and thank you Member Omumu, I think you bring
18 up a great point and it is, the process is very difficult
19 today when you have family members in other states, a 92
20 year old mom who doesn't get around very well. But I
21 understand that. But I do think some, perhaps if you're
22 asking for an open slate, then I think it's fair for us to
23 have a conversation about. But what are your, what are
24 your day to day operating policies in most cases, right.
25 And that's, I don't know what that is. I'm not, I'm not

1 sure what that looks like. So I'd be interested to hear
2 more.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Member
4 Gillman.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I just wanted to support what
6 Member Omumu was trying to say and I also agree with
7 everything that she said and it would help if the rule
8 clarified the internal guidelines as she said, and clarify
9 the intent specifically to protect the good actors and the
10 law abiding and the folks trying to do it right. So I
11 would appreciate some clarifying language as well.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other
13 questions from Monique on this one or Laura? Member
14 Omumu, are we, can we, can we amend this? Do you have
15 thoughts on where you'd like to see some things, some
16 guardrails or something? Turn your, turn your mic on.

17 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Sorry, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Member Omumu for the record. I wish we could add a lot
19 more vertical verbiage to this or just revert back to what
20 we had before when we discussed this a couple of years
21 ago. I understand there's been some new activity or a new
22 bill passed around this, but we have the authority as an
23 agency to enforce and penalize bad actors outside of
24 punishing and penalizing all of the good actors. So there
25 has to be, to the point that you made earlier, just some

1 guardrails around protecting the people that are doing
2 things the right way.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I'm a big fan of
4 government sunshine and if we're going to come after
5 somebody, they need to be noticed that hey, you know, if
6 you think you're going to sneak in here and do this or do
7 that, warning you're not. But we also have to have
8 discretion in the way in which we go about enforcement, I
9 understand that. But I think that I don't know, I just
10 feel like this would be best if we could amend this in
11 some way a little bit further to maybe provide a little
12 bit more sunshine to the process. I don't know how to do
13 that specifically. Anybody want to try helping me to
14 sharpen that?

15 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a
16 motion. I'm not 100% sure that it's exactly.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Oh, yeah, public
18 comments. Sorry, hold on. Monique and everyone. Are
19 there, do we have public commenters on this?

20 LAURA MORIATY: We do, sir. We have a commenter.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: All right, let's hear
22 from them.

23 LAURA MORIATY: Sorry. Laird Doran from Gulf States
24 Toyota.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yes, sir. Mr. Doran,

1 good to see you.

2 LAIRD DORAN: Good morning. And my name is. Good
3 morning, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, Director
4 Avitia, my name is Laird Doran. I serve as the Senior
5 Vice President of Public and Legal Affairs for the
6 Friedkin Group. I'm here today on behalf of one of our
7 companies, Gulf States Toyota, which is the private
8 distributor for Toyota here in Texas. And I want to thank
9 the department and its staff for their diligent work. And
10 I want to stress that we very much support your intent of
11 protecting the integrity of the licensing process. And I
12 will, in essence, soften up my comments based upon the
13 colloquy and the dialogue back and forth between the
14 members here, because you're hitting on the very issue
15 that is of concern to us. Gulf States Toyota has seen so
16 many different types of ownership structures over the
17 years, including those that have trusts. And I will just
18 tell you, within our footprint of our five states, Texas
19 is becoming a big outlier here with this requirement that
20 you apply fingerprinting to trust beneficiaries. And so
21 that really opens this up. And you're talking about
22 guidelines, which I think we should publish those so we
23 know what the guardrails are. But you're talking about
24 potentially, you know, churches, minors, schools. I mean,
25 I have a hard time grasping that the agency would reach

1 out to the executive director of the United Way or the
2 Houston SPCA and say, we need your fingerprints. And
3 thinking back to an example that I encountered when I was
4 in private practice, this is in the Tri-State area, New
5 York, New Jersey, Connecticut. And after 9-11, there were
6 dealers' that set up trusts, and the beneficiaries were
7 the families of the victims of 9-11. Our nation lost
8 3,000 people that day. A whole generation has been added
9 to that beneficiary class. I can't imagine that the
10 agency would want to, you know, pursue a beneficiary class
11 that, you know, continues to expand like that. And you
12 bring it back to the family dealership here in Texas that
13 may have had the dealership in the family going back to
14 the 1940's, and the dealer at the time named all his or
15 her descendants. And so if the, if the dealership doesn't
16 have a track record or there's no reason to, there's no
17 violations, they're in good standing, especially if it's a
18 renewal. This seems like quite the overreach, and it does
19 make Texas an outlier, at least among the states that we
20 operate in. So in terms of recommended suggestions, we
21 think one thing to consider, and although we did not
22 formally comment on this in writing, we did raise this
23 suggestion and these concerns with the agency back in
24 February of this year. And that would be to limit the
25 fingerprinting to those that are acting in a

1 representative capacity, when you're looking at those
2 trust beneficiaries. And if you're worried about the fact
3 that, well, I don't know whether they're acting in a
4 beneficiary capacity or not, they're making a
5 representation to this agency on their application, and if
6 you have reason to believe that that representation was
7 false, well, then I think you have the authority to take
8 action. But I know my time has expired, and I just want
9 to thank you all, thank staff for their diligent work,
10 work on this rule package, but we do think that this could
11 be more narrowly tailored. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Thank you.
13 Mr. Doran, hold on just a moment.

14 LAIRD DORAN: Yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Mr. Avitia.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman, thank
17 you. Mr. Doran, thank you for being here today. I
18 appreciate your comments and more importantly, I
19 appreciate your partnership from Gulf States Toyota. In
20 some regards, Texas is an outlier, right. Because we're
21 one of the few states in the nation that no longer has,
22 for the most part, criminal issues within our systems
23 because of fingerprinting. So, yes, we are an outlier,
24 and that's a good thing in some regards. Other states
25 around us are trying to catch up to the things that Texas

1 did. So from the agency's perspective, we're just trying
2 to button things up. But at the same time, I hear what
3 you're saying, we don't want to be overreaching so much so
4 that it impedes business in the state of Texas.
5 Completely understand where you're at. So thank you for
6 being here.

7 LAIRD DORAN: Well, thank you. Thank you for having
8 me.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Are there other
11 commenters on this agenda item?

12 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No further public
13 commenters.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay. Member Omumu, did
15 you have something additionally that you wanted to mention
16 or say?

17 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: No, I just have a motion that I
18 would like to make Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Great. Please move
20 ahead with your motion.

21 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Okay. I move that the Board
22 approve the adoption of the proposed amendments, new
23 section and repeals in 43 Texas Administration Code
24 Chapter 211 as recommended by staff, with the exception of
25 the proposed new section 211.13B1. I move to amend

1 proposed new section 211.13B1 to read one, a person
2 applying for a new license, license amendment due to a
3 change in ownership or license renewal and in parentheses
4 those to include those who have representative
5 authoritative rights in the dealership and I move the
6 Board amend the rule Preamble for Section 211.13B1 to
7 address this amendment which reverts the fingerprint
8 requirement back to the current requirements under section
9 211.6B1. I further move that the Board direct staff to
10 publish the rule adoption in the Texas Register. In
11 addition, I move that the Board grant the Department the
12 authority to make non substantive changes to the preamble
13 in Texas recommended by the office of the Texas Secretary
14 of State for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

15 LAURA MORIATY: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Laura.

17 LAURA MORIATY: Member Omumu made the motion slightly
18 different than what we had discussed previously and I'm
19 concerned we may have a legal issue we need to discuss.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Do we need to take a
21 break?

22 LAURA MORIATY: We need to either take a break or go
23 into closed session, whichever you prefer. Quick break.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Let's take a 5 minute,
25 10 minute break. Just don't rush, but work through this.

1 It's now 10:46. We're going to just go into recess for a
2 few moments. Thank you.

3 OFF THE RECORD

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: It's now 10:52 and I am
5 calling the Board back into regular session from our brief
6 recess, if I may.

7 ON THE RECORD

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And we are still
9 considering Agenda Item 8 and Member Omumu had a amendment
10 that she was making and, and that's when we took a break.
11 So can we pick back up with Member Omumu's amendment? And
12 do you have an amendment to the amendment?

13 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Yes, sir. And before I do, I
14 just want to make another comment. Thanks, Mr. Doran, for
15 your comments that were made. You bring up a very good
16 point around, we want to make sure that the person that's
17 acting in the representative capacity of a dealership is
18 the one or are the, the folks that are fingerprinted. So I
19 believe this is covered in the, the motion that I'd like
20 to make Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Please move forward. Do
22 you, do we need to, Laura, do we need to withdraw? Does
23 the, does the motion maker need to withdraw the prior
24 motion or prior amendment?

25 LAURA MORIATY: She could either withdraw or restate,

1 whichever, whichever she prefers. We don't have a second
2 yet, so we're good.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay.

4 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Chair.
5 Member Omumu for the record. I would like to restate the
6 motion that was previously mentioned to read. I move that
7 the board approve the adoption of the proposed amendments
8 new section and repeals in 43 Texas Administrative Code
9 Chapter 211 as recommended by staff with the exception of
10 proposed new section 211.13B1. I move to amend proposed
11 new section 211.13B1 to read one, a person applying for a
12 new license, license amendment due to change in ownership
13 or license renewal and I move that the Board amend the
14 rule preamble for the proposed new section 211.13B1 to
15 address this amendment which reverts the fingerprint
16 requirement back to the current requirements under section
17 211.6B1. I further move that the Board direct staff to
18 publish the rule adoption in the Texas Register. In
19 addition, I move that the Board grant the department the
20 authority to make non substantive changes to the preamble
21 and text as recommended by office of the Texas Secretary
22 of State for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Member
24 Omumu. Do we have a second to that motion?

25 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I would like to make a

1 second.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I will second.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Can I put them both
4 down? Member Gillman. Okay, great. Thank you. And
5 Member McRae. Thank you as well. Is there any further
6 discussion on this item as amended? Member Graham.

7 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: There we go. I just want to
8 ensure in the course of all this that the language that
9 essentially made renewal as a possible new requiring a new
10 another round of fingerprinting, which I understood it
11 included, that it would eliminate on renewal the need for
12 additional fingerprinting because it sounded a little, the
13 previous version sounded like maybe it was could include
14 renewals and I may have interpreted the wrong.

15 LAURA MORIATY: Excuse me, I'm sorry. This is Laura
16 Moriatty, General Counsel. So we have a separate provision
17 that says that if you have been previous and this is in
18 the proposed rules, it says if you've been previously
19 fingerprinted, we will not require you to be re
20 fingerprinted. So if you are coming up for renewal and
21 you have been previously fingerprinted, we're still
22 getting wrap backs on you. You're good. We're not going
23 to do it again.

24 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other

1 questions on this amendment and the motion and second?
2 Seeing that I'll call the vote, please. Member Alvarado?

3 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

7 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

9 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

13 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

15 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
17 Aye as well. It's unanimous. Thank you.

18 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you Monique. We
20 now move to Agenda item 9 and I will turn it over to
21 Annette Quintero and Monique for the presentation.

22 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Hello Chairman, Members, Executive
23 Director Avitia. I am Annette Quintero, the Director of
24 Vehicle Titles and Registration. I am presenting Agenda
25 item number 9, which begins on page 45 of your board book.

1 This item is an action item for the Board to approve
2 adoption of the proposed amendments to section to sections
3 in Chapter 215 of the Texas Administrative Code. The
4 first set of changes consolidates all military related
5 licensing provisions into one new section 215.91. This
6 provides a streamlined process for military service
7 members, veterans and spouses, including provisional
8 licenses, a 10 day turnaround on applications and
9 recognition of out of state or recently held Texas
10 licenses. These changes ensure compliance with HB 5629
11 and SB 1818, both which took effect September 1, 2025.
12 The next set of revisions helps implement the legislative
13 shift away from plates staying with a vehicle. SB 1902
14 now requires that plates be removed from the vehicle and
15 either reassigned to another vehicle of the same vehicle
16 class within 10 days or destroyed. Section 215.151 amends
17 rules to allow dealers to mail or deliver license plates
18 to a buyer or to a converter for attachment when the
19 vehicle is not physically located at the dealership.
20 Section 215.152 addresses dealer allocations and security.
21 It establishes rules allowing dealers to request decreases
22 in their plate allotments. It also provides mechanisms
23 for compliance reviews if dealers lose eligibility for
24 allocations based on factors such as the dealer's license
25 being closed, canceled or revoked in a final order, the

1 Department issuing a notice due to a premise violation, a
2 denial of access, a failed compliance review, inadequate
3 renewal application submission, an owner or bonafide
4 employee present not present during posted business hours,
5 failure to keep license plates or license plates license
6 plate system secure. It also provides a dealer who has
7 been deemed ineligible to receive a quarterly
8 allocation the ability to request the Department conduct a
9 compliance review to reinstate future allocations by
10 submitting a request to the Department. The Department
11 will then conduct a compliance review within 14 days of
12 the dealer's request. The new section 215.163 clarifies
13 license plate responsibilities in auction and consignment
14 sales. It prevents Texas plates from being improperly
15 distributed out of state, ensures consistency across
16 wholesale auctions, public auctions and consignment sales
17 and reduces opportunities for fraud. This rule was
18 carefully shaped with extensive input from the Motor
19 Vehicle Industry Regulation Advisory Committee and
20 stakeholders to balance fraud prevention with operational
21 feasibility. We are also seeking to adopt non substantive
22 amendments in sections 215.133 and 215.144. These
23 revisions improve readability and ensure consistent
24 terminology across the rules. Draft rules were reviewed
25 with the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation advisory

1 committee in November 2024 and again in June of 2025.
2 Feedback from those discussions was incorporated to
3 minimize operational burdens while meeting legislative
4 intent. In summary, these rule adoptions strengthened
5 compliance with new legislative requirements, clarify
6 dealer and auction responsibilities, and reduce
7 opportunities for license plate fraud. This concludes my
8 remarks. I'm happy to answer any questions.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Members, any
10 questions for Ms. Quintero?

11 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

13 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Annette, help me to clarify
14 this 215.151. This is relating to a dealer could mail or
15 deliver a license plate to a buyer and then if I remember
16 it correctly, they need to, the buyer needs to send the
17 dealer something that is either in writing or an email,
18 something that could be kept in the record, right?

19 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Let me clarify what was there.
20 What was there is a requirement that only the dealer can
21 affix a plate to a vehicle. This is allowing the dealer
22 to mail the physical plates to either the buyer or a
23 converter so that they can then affix the plates to the
24 vehicle. It allows the dealer flexibility.

25 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Yeah, makes me nervous

1 sending plates in the mail. But the dealer can do this
2 with some sort of written authorization from the buyer,
3 correct?

4 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Yes.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: And that written
6 authorization could be in several forms, either a
7 handwritten letter or an email or and the language is
8 broad enough that it can be.

9 ANNETTE QUINTERO: It's a simple indication from the
10 buyer that the plates can be mailed.

11 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Okay. The next clarifying
12 question I have, if I may Please, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Please continue.

14 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Is with regard to, and I'm
15 using your word, operational burdens and I'm referring to,
16 and I hope it's in this section. If I'm in the wrong
17 section, please let me know. But I'm referring to
18 215.151. And this is regarding, when a licensed
19 dealership does not have the plate inventory in their
20 possession and they sell a car, if they don't have plate
21 inventory in their possession, a provisional, I mean a
22 general issue license plate or an out of state plate or a
23 provisional plate, if they don't have it in inventory for
24 whatever reason, they're a new dealer or a new location or
25 whatever reason. So they have to go down to, in order to

1 sell a car, they have to go down and purchase a 30 day
2 temporary registration plate from the tax assessor
3 collector or from a regional service center. And I
4 understand that's a temporary fix. And then after the
5 dealership gets the correct inventory, then the dealer is
6 required to submit or somehow affix that license plate,
7 that's the procedure. But what I'm asking is, is the
8 intent of the Department to, I'm concerned that the dealer
9 is going to be held out of compliance for this time period
10 waiting for inventory. I'm concerned that dealers are
11 going to be kind of in a, in a clog waiting for inventory
12 and dealers are going to be unfairly accused of being not
13 in compliance. I feel like the Department with the
14 knowledge that the dealer has requested plates, waiting on
15 plates, doing their best to go and get the 30 day
16 temporary. But I'm concerned and I want your comments to
17 this of a dealer being deemed out of compliance.

18 ANNETTE QUINTERO: I think it's best if I defer to
19 the Enforcement Division Director Corrie Thompson to speak
20 on behalf of the compliance requirements. Is that okay?

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah, absolutely. Ms.
22 Thompson, please enlighten us.

23 CORRIE THOMPSON: Good morning chairman. Vice Chair
24 McRae, Director of ETM members, Members of the Board,
25 Corrie Thompson, Director of the Enforcement Division and

1 Member Gillman, I would like to clarify that the
2 Department does have discretion when they would take
3 action on a dealer in these types of instances. So even
4 if a dealer were to be accused of a potential allegation,
5 there are numerous points in the process where the dealer
6 has an opportunity to respond and provide mitigating
7 information that would negate those allegations, which
8 would cause us to do things like dismiss our case, close
9 our case for no violation, things like that. So in this
10 instance, as long as there's proof that the dealer was
11 doing what they were able to, given the specific facts of
12 that dealer's circumstance, then even if a case were to be
13 initiated, which in most cases I would think we would
14 likely not receive a complaint in response to that. But
15 if we were to, there are opportunities for the dealer to
16 provide those types of explanations that you mentioned.

17 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Thank you. And I guess I
18 assumed agency discretion is where they may take action.
19 This is very similar to what we just were talking about.
20 I just, I don't have a motion. I just wanted to create
21 the discussion with regard to. I just don't want the
22 people trying to do it right to be caught in a gotcha
23 moment. So I will defer to other Members opinions and
24 maybe, maybe there needs to be clarification or maybe not
25 sorry.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's all right. No,
2 that's fine. I understand. Member Jones has a comment.

3 MEMBER MARK JONES: Yeah, I just. The comment that I
4 would have is being able to get the 30 day temporary tag,
5 I understand is a backup. But the feedback that I get
6 from other independent dealers who call me on Saturdays
7 and say, hey, I didn't get, I didn't get issued an out of
8 state buyers tag when I got my initial allocation. So how
9 do I sell this person a car today? Because you can't go
10 on a Saturday to the tax assessor's office or you can't go
11 to a regional center. And it's not like you walk in and
12 you have a tag in 20 minutes and you're walking out. A
13 lot of times, you know, you pull a number and maybe two
14 hours later they call your number. I mean, it takes time
15 and ties up personnel. So maybe a suggestion that I might
16 make is when we do send dealers their plates, allocations,
17 maybe every dealer should get at least two or three out of
18 state buyer tags. And I'm sure that you guys have the
19 people who are along the Louisiana border or the Oklahoma
20 border, I'm sure you're probably giving them plates. But
21 even in the interior of Texas, every now and then we do
22 have dealers that come have an opportunity to do an out of
23 state deal and we just don't have plates. I don't even
24 think that any of my dealerships got an out of state
25 plate. I'd have to look. If I got one, I got one. So

1 that's my comment.

2 ANNETTE QUINTERO: I appreciate that. Annette
3 Quintero, for the record, what we've done in this first
4 quarterly allocation, new quarterly allocation that we're
5 getting, we're doing now is we have taken into
6 consideration any additional requests that dealers have
7 provided to us for out of state plates or additional
8 provisional plates or additional general issue plates, any
9 kind of plate type that we initially either did not
10 allocate enough or did not allocate at all. We are taking
11 that into consideration as we're recalculating their
12 allocation numbers so they should receive additional
13 inventory of those plate types.

14 MEMBER MARK JONES: Okay, thank you very much, Ms.
15 Quintero.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other
17 questions? Member Gillman, do you have additional
18 questions right now or do we. I see Member Graham may
19 want to.

20 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I'll defer at the moment.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay. Member Graham.

22 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Does this have any impact?
23 Well, today, as I understand it, fleet plates are the
24 anomaly. They are not, cannot be transferred between
25 vehicles. There's either in or out.

1 ANNETTE QUINTERO: That's correct.

2 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Any changes to that in this?

3 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Annette Quintero, for the record,
4 there are no changes in this language related to fleet
5 plates vehicles.

6 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Disappointing. But thank you.

7 ANNETTE QUINTERO: It is a topic of discussion that
8 we are having to, because we are hearing that the fleet
9 vehicles is a challenge. So we are having that
10 discussion.

11 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Might we see out of that
13 discussion some, some amendments, rules coming in the near
14 future, perhaps?

15 ANNETTE QUINTERO: We are hoping to arrive at a
16 solution. If that require rule amendments, then
17 absolutely.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, thank you.
19 Members, other Members. Member Gillman, do you. You have
20 additional questions? Comment?

21 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I just would like to know,
22 should there, for clarification purposes be an amendment,
23 a motion to amend to protect the dealers that are trying
24 to do it right and that they are in compliance in this
25 procedure when, for example, in the exact example you gave

1 on a Saturday, do you think that for clarification
2 purposes there needs to be an amendment to help protect,
3 add a little sunshine, how about that? Mr. Chairman?

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I've coined a phrase.
5 Yeah.

6 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: To protect the good
7 operational procedure in this time where plate inventory
8 is essential and there can be problems and clogs just
9 along the way. I feel like maybe I should make a motion
10 to.

11 LAURA MORIATY: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah. Hold on just a
13 moment. Yeah, Laura.

14 LAURA MORIATY: So we. First of all, I don't think a
15 motion is necessary because as Ms. Thompson described, a
16 dealer who gets these temporary plates while trying to
17 comply, right is not going to be disciplined by the
18 agency. They do have to eventually issue a plate and
19 comply. So getting a temporary tag does not get you,
20 temporary tag, excuse me, a temporary permit does not get
21 you out of this altogether, right. You can't just do that
22 and then say, well, we're done here, thanks for the deal,
23 Bob. You still have to follow up, but it does show a good
24 faith effort and enforcement will see that and you will
25 not be at risk of any disciplinary action already under

1 our current rules. The other issue is if we want to do
2 anything with these sorts of license plate temporary plate
3 issues, those are in the way you use them. Those are in
4 217, which is not the chapter that you're looking at right
5 now. So we would need to take that up at another time.
6 My thought is that 217 is going to come up for rule review
7 in the coming year. And if these issues turn out, we're
8 talking all about hypotheticals because none of this has
9 come to pass really yet. No one has been disciplined, no
10 one has been investigated, no one's been complained about.
11 If any of that happens and it turns into an issue, we can
12 definitely try to address it as part of that rule review
13 with amendments at that time.

14 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: My comment back to that is
15 that this occasion where we cannot get a plate has
16 happened so frequently trying to do the right thing. And
17 even Harris county, you know, you can't go at 4 o' clock
18 and you can't get more than two at a time, they send you
19 home and say, come back tomorrow. So in just trying to do
20 the right thing, I'm worried about this gap in time and
21 dealers being labeled out of compliance. So with that
22 said, I probably need to make a motion and I'm sorry, I
23 didn't. I don't have it.

24 LAURA MORIATY: Mr. Chairman, if I may, the motion.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: One moment. Sorry, just

1 Vice Chair McRae could speak to perhaps some of what's
2 being said here.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Well, to Member Gillman's
4 comments and also to Member Jones. While the tax assessor
5 collector's offices and the regional services centers are
6 closed on the weekend, I will, I do, I work very closely
7 with my dealers to ensure that if they are having an
8 issue, they call, they text, they email and we work very
9 closely with them to try to resolve any plate issues or
10 inventory issues that they may have. And the department
11 doesn't have any real control over, they have zero control
12 over a tax assessor collector's office. And so with that
13 being said, Member Gillman, I am a willing county and I am
14 your neighbor and I am happy to work with you in resolving
15 some of those issues. And we have numerous willing
16 counties throughout the state. If it's difficult for, you
17 know, to get into your own tax assessor collector's
18 office.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's fortunate.

20 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Member McRae has a reputation
21 for being the most helpful and the most cooperative of
22 all. Thank goodness she's my neighbor, but yeah, but I
23 would still say 5 o' clock on a Wednesday night, it's
24 tough, it's tough to get some help from Harris County. So
25 anyway, I feel like just for clarification, for a little

1 sunlight to make sure dealers are not deemed not
2 compliant, I probably should write a motion.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Is there a motion on
4 this Agenda item?

5 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I would like to make a
6 motion.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I move that the Board
9 approve the adoption of the proposed amendments and new
10 sections in 43 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 215 as
11 recommended by staff for publication in the Texas
12 Register. In addition, I move that the Board grant the
13 department the authority to make non station substantive
14 changes to the preamble and text as recommended by the
15 Office of Texas Secretary of State for purposes of filing
16 in the Texas Register.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And is there a second to
18 that motion?

19 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I have a friendly amendment.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

21 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Can I add language to Member
22 McRae's motion that says dealers that are making good
23 effort are in compliance notwithstanding they have to
24 comply with every single bit of the rule?

25 LAURA MORIATY: Mr. Chairman, I would ask that that

1 we either take a break or go into closed session to talk
2 about that wording and clean it up. But also, sir, we, we
3 have public comment on this item. Meant to barge in
4 before the motion happened.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Well, no, no, I'm sorry,
6 I was, I didn't do that. Do we want to do public comment
7 before we have a motion in a second or?

8 LAURA MORIATY: Yeah, we should do public comment
9 first. It's, we have Karen Phillips from TADA.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Oh, wonderful. Karen,
11 welcome.

12 KAREN PHILLIPS: Good morning, Karen Phillips with
13 TADA. I appreciate the conversation that has been ongoing
14 with respect to these several issues having to do with
15 215.151 with respect to the language that states that the
16 proposal provides that a retail buyer may authorize a
17 dealer in writing, I would suggest that in order for
18 clarification purposes we look to see what is already in
19 transportation code having to do with what is defined as
20 an electronic signature and allow for an electronic
21 signature to satisfy the in writing provision. You have
22 definitions in 501.172 with respect to electronic as well
23 as electronic signature and as well as in 1001.103 which
24 Ms. Monique Johnston is very familiar with, you have a
25 digital signature that's provided for with respect to

1 electronic issuances of licenses. So I suggest that
2 perhaps the in writing have some kind of reference with
3 respect to the electronic signature provisions that's
4 already incorporated into the transportation code. With
5 respect to the drop shipment issues, we are very concerned
6 about the provision that says that we're to securely
7 deliver those particular plates. Some guidance unless
8 subjectivity might be in order. We also have issues on
9 drop shipments that hasn't really been taken into account
10 with respect to not only those drop shipments that are
11 sitting sent to a retail buyer or to a converter, but we
12 have out of state dealers currently who will have
13 franchise dealers to do the dealer prep and delivery and
14 request the titling and taxes and fees be remitted. Now
15 under the current provision, that particular type of
16 scenario goes away because of the fact that web dealer
17 requires the MSO to be in the selling dealer's name. In
18 this situation for drop shipments the MSO is in the out of
19 state dealer's name and so we already have tax assessor
20 collectors who are declining to allow these types of
21 transactions to go forward. As far as the red and white
22 30 day template is concerned, I'm very supportive of what
23 Director Thompson says and I very much appreciate it.
24 However, I will would suggest that we have something that
25 says that the dealer's purchase and plating of a vehicle

1 red and white temporary plate is not considered out of
2 compliance and TADA is not subjecting or suggesting that
3 the red and white plate supplants the requirement that we
4 have to plate with the general issue plate but that we are
5 not going to be considered out of compliance, that is a
6 concern. We've already had investigators who are
7 investigating us with respect to the secure requirement
8 that we keep those plates in a secure fashion. We've had
9 a lot of issues on this already and working with Director
10 Thompson on this issue as well as Executive Director
11 Avitia. So we would appreciate always to have a lot of
12 subjectivity removed so that the dealers understand what
13 it is that they're supposed to do. Happy to answer any
14 questions.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you Ms. Phillips.
16 Members any questions for Ms. Phillips?

17 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I have a procedural question
18 that maybe Member McRae can help shed light.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

20 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: With the with the MSO's.
21 I'm just not familiar with the this with MSO's not in
22 dealers names and they're being turned away at the TAC
23 office. What is the fix for that? What should be
24 happening?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I wouldn't turn that

1 away. So I'm not sure why those are being turned away.

2 KAREN PHILLIPS: According to the several dealers who
3 have been turned away.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Ms. Phillips.

5 KAREN PHILLIPS: I'm sorry.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's alright, I'm just
7 announcing Ms. Phillips.

8 KAREN PHILLIPS: As well the dealers who have been
9 performing this activity for out of state dealers they're
10 being told that the MSO has to be in the dealer's name for
11 it to go through webDEALER and because it is not in the
12 dealer's name they can't put it through webDEALER. They
13 have then asked well then can we just do over the counter
14 transaction and they've been told no, no we're not going
15 to accept over the counter transactions it's got to go
16 through webDEALER. So the only option that I see unless we
17 want this type of transaction to not be capable of being
18 done in Texas anymore is that webDEALER allow for in
19 certain instances that the MSO be for an out of state
20 franchise dealer or that the over the counter option be
21 available for the these types of transactions. So I've
22 already got dealers who have had to send back MSO's told
23 the out of state dealers I'm sorry I can't do the transfer
24 and so that, that has created some problems for those
25 dealers who have been doing this for years and years and

1 years for their counterparts in other states.

2 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I have a question, Mr.
3 Chairman,

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu, with a
5 question.

6 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: So this, this does now ring a
7 bell. I've had a couple of dealers inquire about this very
8 thing as well. So has the Agency been very specific as
9 how to handle out of state buyers with dealers and the
10 training? Because there are so many questions still
11 revolved around that and we are seeing rejections in web
12 dealer.

13 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Annette Quintero, sorry, Vehicle
14 Titles and Registration Director. Thank you. We have
15 provided extensive guidance to the counties to help with
16 deciding which transactions can be can be processed over
17 the counter or which should be allowed to be processed
18 over the counter because of the webDEALER, some of the
19 webDEALER limitations. There are very specific instances
20 where that happens and we've asked the counties to be
21 flexible in allowing dealers who are encountering issues
22 to walk their transactions over the counter. As you know,
23 that transition can be difficult back and forth from
24 deciding absolutely not or no transactions can be brought
25 or transactions can be brought in over the counter versus

1 they have to be submitted in webDEALER. But that is the
2 communication and the guidance that we have provided to
3 the counties to allow some flexibility for the dealers
4 encountering issues.

5 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Thank you, Annette. I think the
6 one thing we're not mentioning either is there is a
7 consumer at the end of all of these transactions that is
8 being gravely inconvenienced. So I feel like we have to
9 provide some sort of verbiage in this rule to address this
10 so that dealers are not penalized if they're doing the
11 right things and so that the end consumer is not punished
12 for something that they have absolutely no control over.

13 ANNETTE QUINTERO: I will defer to our general
14 counsel.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. And comments
16 are well taken Member Omumu. Vice Chair McRae, do you have
17 a comment?

18 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Yes. The Agency has sent
19 out numerous correspondence to the tax assessor collectors
20 about very specific situations that should be accepted
21 because it cannot be processed through webDEALER at this
22 time because of whatever the limitation may be. Maybe a
23 suggestion, Annette, would be to send kind of a reminder
24 to the tax assessor collectors that under these
25 circumstances right now, due to the limitation in

1 webDEALER, these specific transactions will have to be
2 processed over the counter because Sharla, I'm sorry,
3 Member Omumu is correct, there is a consumer at the end of
4 this and we all want to make sure that we're not impeding
5 business in any fashion. So maybe that would be a
6 suggestion to send out a reminder.

7 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Annette Quintero, Vehicle Titles
8 and Registration. Absolutely, I agree 100%. We can send
9 that communication out before the end of the day. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Excuse me, Member
12 Gillman.

13 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: To address my concern to, of
14 compliance with dealers that are trying to do it right and
15 the possible gaps in inventory, may I suggest a three
16 minute break?

17 LAURA MORIATY: Absolutely. Well, that's up to the
18 chair.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah. No, no, I think
20 that's a tremendous idea, Member Gillman. And we will do
21 that. It is now 11:26 and we're going to recess for some
22 period of time in order to get some better language.

23 OFF THE RECORD

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: We are back on the record
25 at 11:39.

1 ON THE RECORD

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: The DMV Board, we were at
3 the point of consideration of Agenda item 9, and I think
4 we might have some new language. And are there first of
5 all, before I go any further, are there any other public
6 commenters on this agenda?

7 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No further public comment.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. So do we.
9 Does Member Gillman, Member Gillman, do you have some
10 language? Would you like to make a motion?

11 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Yes, sir.

12 LAURA MORIATY: Member McRae's Motion is already on
13 the table. If someone could restate her friendly
14 amendment because I don't think she finished it. She
15 restate it and Member McRae could decide whether she wants
16 to accept it.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Great. Okay. Thank
18 you.

19 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To
20 support and add a friendly amendment to Member McRae's
21 Motion. I would like to amend, add a friendly amendment
22 to her motion to add that we direct staff to amend the
23 disciplinary matrix to add a mitigating factor for dealers
24 who acquire temporary permit license plates when the
25 dealer does not have general issue or out of state license

1 plates in the dealer's inventory until the dealer receives
2 a new shipment of plates from the Department with the
3 appropriate plate.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member McRae, Vice
5 Chair, do you accept that letter?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I accept her friendly
7 amendment.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, thank you.

9 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: And I'll second the motion.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And there's a second.
11 The motion has been amended and perhaps would someone like
12 to try to reread that. That motion with the friendly
13 amendment in it?

14 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Oh, no, I do not have your
15 motion.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Actually. Vice Chair
17 McRae, do you want to try to read that since you accepted
18 it?

19 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Yes, with some direction
20 from general counsel.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Okay. At the very end.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: You got it. Okay, so
24 Member Gillman, let Vice Chair McRae read this. It was
25 her motion to begin with and she's accepted your friendly.

1 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: So if you want, you can read
2 mine.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah. Can you read her
4 handwriting? She has beautiful handwriting fortunately.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Yes, she does.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Oh, it's Laura's
7 handwriting.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Laura has beautiful
9 handwriting.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: All right, please go
11 ahead.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I'll restate my motion.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Thank you. I move that
15 the Board approve the adoption of the proposed amendments
16 and new sections in 43 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter
17 215 as recommended by staff for publication in the Texas
18 Register. In addition, I move that the Board grant the
19 Department the authority to make non substantive changes
20 to the preamble and text as recommended by the Office of
21 the Texas Secretary of State for purposes of filing in the
22 Texas Register. In addition, I move that we direct staff
23 to amend the disciplinary matrix to add a mitigating
24 factor for dealers who acquire temporary permits license
25 plates when the dealer does not have the general issue or

1 out of state license plate in the dealer's inventory until
2 the dealer receives a new shipment of plates from the
3 Department with the appropriate plate.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Well stated.
5 Is there a second to this motion? I'm sorry Member Graham
6 already seconded. Yeah. Okay. So that is the friendly
7 amendment and we're good to go. Mr. Avitia.

8 LAURA MORIATY: I'm sorry, sir. Just for the record,
9 was it Member Jones who seconded or Member Graham?

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham, yeah.
11 Mr. Avitia, do you, do you have a comment?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: I do Chairman.
13 Chairman and Members, I appreciate all the dialogue that
14 we are having today this. Item 718 really turned the
15 dealer world and the TAC world and the DMV world inside
16 out and upside down. As we move through the
17 implementation and further, and move further along with
18 processes, we're going to make changes that are absolutely
19 necessary that make sense for our dealers, for our tax
20 assessor collector partners. Believe me, we want
21 transparency in all of our processes and we want to make
22 sure that this implementation, although significant and
23 big throughout the state is as painless as possible, and
24 that is our goal. The entire agency is committed to that,
25 I guarantee you. So with that said, I was wanting,

1 Chairman, if we could ask Director Luna to come up and
2 talk about, because we're talking about ordering plate or
3 getting plates from a tax assessor collector. We're
4 talking about dealers being able to secure plates because
5 they're running out of plates such as the temp plate or
6 the out of state plate. We recently turned on the self
7 service function that allows dealers to order plates and
8 that's a pretty significant thing within the inventory
9 management system. So Chairman, with your indulgence,
10 could we call Director Luna up to talk a little bit about
11 that?

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Director Luna.

13 ROLAND LUNA: Hello everyone. Roland Luna, Deputy
14 Executive Director, Texas DMV. Board Members, Executive
15 Director Avitia. As it relates to plate inventory for
16 dealers, the plate ordering functionality was enabled
17 yesterday which enables dealers to self serve as Executive
18 Director Avitia has mentioned and order plates that are
19 needed, whichever plate type that may be, whether it's out
20 of state plate, out of state plates, or general issue
21 plates, or buyer provisional plates. The efficiency that
22 that is going to help not only the DMV realize, but
23 dealers is so that they can receive those plates that are
24 needed efficiently. Previously we were using an email
25 system where dealers were emailing a plate allocations

1 box, which was not efficient. And now that we're going to
2 be leveraging technology we envision and we can predict
3 that dealers will receive those faster. We have more than
4 100 orders that have already been received, picked and
5 packed since enabling the plate ordering feature
6 yesterday. And as it relates to inventory that dealers
7 have today, if a dealer were to need a temporary
8 registration plate, they can obtain that plate from the
9 tax assessor collector's office. They can go to a
10 regional service center. And in the city of Houston we
11 have a regional service center, in Houston now we have a
12 second regional service center that will be opening soon.
13 Both of those regional service centers have an express
14 lane for dealerships so that they can resolve any business
15 that is needed from our regional service center very
16 quickly. So it's devoted to dealers and I would encourage
17 dealers to use those express lanes that have been stood up
18 for dealers. We have previously provided guidance to all
19 254 counties on how to process unique transactions. We
20 understand that there are going to be circumstances where
21 a transaction may not be able to be submitted in
22 webDEALER. We have provided guidance that Director
23 Quintero has sent out to all 254 counties and the tax
24 assessor collectors helped us draft that communication.
25 So it may be a situation where the information is not

1 making its way from the elected official or the chief
2 deputy to the clerk that is handling that transaction when
3 a dealer is trying to submit it. We will resubmit, we
4 will redistribute that communication to all tax assessor
5 collectors. Additionally, we will work with the tax
6 assessor collector community during the upcoming V.G.
7 Young conference to reiterate those points on some of
8 those unique transactions that need to be accepted over
9 the counter. And we will also look at other ways, perhaps
10 a webinar where we can reach the line staff that are
11 performing the transactions. Vice Chair McRae also made a
12 suggestion that we leverage the Listserv that is a
13 communication mechanism that tax assessor collectors use
14 to exchange information about operational components of
15 the registration and title transactions. We will
16 redistribute that communication so that it can be shared
17 internally among the tax assessors as well. But we think
18 all of these things collectively will help alleviate some
19 of the concerns that dealers are having. If you have
20 concerns about transactions that you're experiencing in a
21 particular county, please do not wait. Reach out to us
22 directly direct to Director Quintero, myself, Director
23 Avitia, any of the directors are happy to help run some
24 interference with those counties in particular to help
25 resolve any issues that you're having.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you very much.
2 Did you, Daniel, did you have something else you wanted to
3 add to that?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman, no,
5 those were the comments I had. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Oh, yeah. Member Jones.

7 MEMBER MARK JONES: Member Jones for the record. Mr.
8 Luna, I know you mentioned earlier today and just now that
9 that new feature in IMS was turned on where the dealers
10 can order their plates. Does that apply to the general
11 issue plates as well or just the special plates?

12 ROLAND LUNA: All plates that the dealer has. Yes,
13 sir.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Any other questions?
15 Yes, sir. Mr. Graham.

16 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Member Graham, I would just
17 like your opinion on. I'm sure there's still plenty of
18 bumps in the road in regards to plates getting to dealers
19 and you know, all of that process. What, in your opinion
20 today is your challenge, your greatest challenge in front
21 of you before we get to a place where everybody is in a
22 good place with plates? So I know there's still
23 frustrations out there.

24 ROLAND LUNA: Yes, sir. I think one of the biggest
25 challenges today is we don't have information for the new

1 normal. If we were able to look forward to, let's say,
2 September of next year, we would have an entire fiscal
3 year of use rate for the new plate types. We would have
4 better information concerning how those operational
5 changes have shifted the peaks and valleys of plate use
6 throughout the year. We would have a better understanding
7 of those unique transactions that the tax assessor
8 collectors are seeing in their counties. We would have a
9 year of data to help us better prepare for manufacturing
10 for distribution, for unique scenarios, for rule changes
11 that may need to be considered and we don't have an entire
12 fiscal year of data yet, which is why we have to respond
13 very quickly to some of the unique circumstances that
14 dealers are encountering. I think a year from now, once
15 we have an entire year of data we'll be better positioned
16 to understand what the new normal is.

17 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you. Has the
18 manufacturing been. I mean, I don't imagine you can have
19 just call down to Huntsville and have plates made this
20 week delivered by Friday. Has that been an impediment
21 also with there weren't enough plates and you're trying to
22 ramp up production?

23 ROLAND LUNA: No, sir, it has not been an impediment.
24 We do not have a license plate issue. We have plenty of
25 license plates. I do appreciate the legislature

1 appropriating an additional \$4 million to the Department
2 of Motor Vehicles for license plate manufacturing, giving
3 us approximately \$22 million for this fiscal year to
4 manufacture plates. Recently, Vehicle Titles and
5 Registration Director Annette Quintero and a number of
6 other directors joined me at a meeting with the Department
7 of Criminal Justice to discuss manufacturing in
8 particular. As you know, the Board approved all of the
9 new plate types. And with those plate types, as I
10 mentioned earlier, we do not have historical data on what
11 the use rate of those plate types is going to be. So what
12 we wanted to reiterate to them is how quickly can you
13 pivot from manufacturing general issue plates to out of
14 state plates. How quickly can you pivot from motorcycle
15 plates to buyer provisional plates. And they issue
16 assured us that they would be extremely responsive to the
17 needs of the agency. And that is extremely helpful for us
18 as we try to be responsive to the needs to all of the
19 dealers. So with that, we have an adequate amount of
20 supply at our distributor, Taylor Communications,
21 manufacturing is ongoing at the Department of Criminal
22 Justice. And as we need to pivot for any plate type, TDCJ
23 has assured us that that's going to be done.

24 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you.

25 ROLAND LUNA: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other
2 questions of Mr. Luna.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: May I add one comment?

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: To Member Gillman, Member
6 Jones and to our entire dealer community, I want to assure
7 you that we are going to get communication out to we have
8 in the Tax Assessor Collectors association. We have a DMV
9 liaison who is Dawn Vieth and we will get with her and as
10 well as try to get some extra communication out reminders
11 through our Listserv as Roland just stated. And because
12 we all need to collaborate, the greater the collaboration,
13 the more successful this is for our fellow constituents,
14 which is the customer. And so we want to assure you that
15 we will do all that we can to get this communication out
16 and try to get that collaboration working in all counties.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Members.
18 Any other questions on this item? Seeing none, hearing
19 none, the chair would entertain a restatement of this,
20 let's do that one more time just so we can remember what
21 we're voting on. If you don't mind, Vice Chair, reading
22 that again.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Okay. I move that the

1 Board approve the adoption of the proposed amendments and
2 new sections in 43 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 215,
3 as recommended by staff for publication in the Texas
4 Register. In addition, I move that the Board grant the
5 department the authority to make non substantive changes
6 to the preamble and text as recommended by the Office of
7 the Texas Secretary of State for purposes of filing in The
8 Texas Register. I further move that we direct staff to
9 amend the disciplinary matrix to add a mitigating factor
10 for dealers who acquire temporary permit license plates
11 when the dealer does not have the general issue or out of
12 state license plate in the dealer's inventory until the
13 dealer receives a new shipment of plates from the
14 Department with the appropriate plate.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. We do have a
16 second for this motion, so I would like to call for the
17 vote, if I may. Please give that the motion hit the
18 floor. So there we go. Okay. We have a motion from
19 Board Member McRae and it was seconded by Member Graham.
20 So is there any further discussion? Great. Let's call
21 the vote. Member Alvarado?

22 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARDO: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

24 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

1 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

3 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McCray.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

7 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

9 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
11 aye as well. It's unanimous. Thank you. So now we'll
12 move to Agenda item 10. And I will turn it over to
13 Monique once again. Thank you.

14 MONIQUE JOHNSTON: Hello again, Chairman, Members and
15 Director Avitia. For the record, I'm Monique Johnston,
16 Director of the Motor Vehicle Division. Today we are
17 asking Board's permission to adopt revisions to 221.17 in
18 Chapter 221 Salvage Vehicle Dealers in Title 43 of the
19 Texas Administrative Code. This rule item is listed on
20 your agenda as item number 10, and the details may be
21 found on page 157 of your board book. The rule package
22 would adopt amendments to 221.17 license processing for
23 military service members, spouse and veterans to implement
24 two bills from the recently concluded 89th legislative
25 session. Both bills were effective September 1, 2025.

1 House Bill 5629 amended Occupations Code 55.004 and
2 55.0041 to change the standard for how a state agency must
3 process military related applications and how an agency
4 must compare licensing requirements in other states with
5 Texas requirements when reviewing license applications for
6 military service member, military veteran, or military
7 spouse licensed in another state. House Bill 5629
8 requires military service member, military veteran or
9 military spouse to submit an application for a license.
10 The department is then required to determine if the
11 licensing request requirements in the other state are
12 similar in scope of practice and if the applicant is in
13 good standing in that state. House Bill 5629 also
14 shortens the length of time, from 30 days to 10 days for
15 the Department to either issue a license or notify the
16 applicant why a license cannot be issued. The same
17 timeline also applies to an applicant licensed in Texas
18 within a previous five years. Senate Bill 1818 also
19 amended Occupations Code 55.004 and 55.0041 and will
20 require the Department to issue a provisional license once
21 a military service member, military veteran or military
22 spouse submits a license application. House Bill 5629
23 requires the Department to adopt rules as soon as
24 practical after September 1, 2025. And Senate Bill 1818
25 requires the Department to adopt rules by December 1,

1 2025. The Department received no public comment and MVD
2 requests your approval to adopt these amendments. This
3 concludes my remarks and I am happy to answer any
4 questions for you. Thanks.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members. Any questions?
6 Ms. Johnson? Seeing none, Chair would entertain a motion
7 on Agenda item 10. Oh, is there a public comment?

8 LAURA MORIATY: There's no public comment.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay. Thank you. Thank
10 you.

11 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I'd like to make a motion, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu.

14 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I move that the Board approve
15 the adoption of the proposed amendments in 43 Texas
16 Administration Code, Chapter 221, Section 221.17 as
17 recommended by staff for publication in the Texas
18 Register. In addition, I move that the Board grant the
19 Department the authority to make non substantive changes
20 to the preamble in Texas recommended by the office of the
21 Texas Secretary of State for purposes of filing in the
22 Texas Register.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
24 second to that motion?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I'll second.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae. Thank
2 you. Are there any questions or further discussion on
3 this motion? It's on the table. No seeing none. I'll
4 call the roll, please. Member Alvarado?

5 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARDO: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

7 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

9 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

11 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

13 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

15 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

17 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
19 aye as well. Thank you. Moving to Agenda item 11. This
20 is 217 and Annette will, Ms. Quintero will walk us through
21 that.

22 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Hello. Chairman Bacarisse,
23 Members, Executive Director, Avitia. I am Annette
24 Quintero, Director of the Vehicle Titles and Registration
25 Division. I'm presenting Agenda item 11, which begins on

1 page 165 of your board book. This item is an action item
2 for the Board to approve adoption of the proposed
3 amendments to sections to sections in chapter 217 of the
4 Texas Administrative Code. These amendments are needed to
5 implement legislation, update outdated provisions and
6 remove a fee discount that is no longer necessary.
7 Section 217.27 implements Senate Bill 1729 by authorizing
8 a 24 month registration period for certain passenger cars
9 and light trucks sold or purchased by a commercial fleet
10 buyer and removes outdated references to Transportation
11 Code 548.102, which was repealed in 2023. Section 217.52
12 clarifies that the fee for restyling a multi year
13 specialty plate to an embossed plate is \$75, regardless of
14 the original plate style. Section 217.53 implements
15 Senate Bill 1902, which requires that dealers remove
16 plates from vehicles they acquire and either reassign them
17 to another vehicle of the same class within 10 days or
18 destroy them. Private sellers must remove plates when
19 transferring a vehicle with the option to transfer plates
20 to another vehicle they own or destroy them if not reused.
21 It also clarifies acceptable destruction methods and
22 ensures purchasers without plates can obtain a vehicle
23 transit permit to legally drive the vehicle home or to
24 obtain registration. Section 217.185 eliminates the \$1
25 discount for online renewals completed through Texas by

1 Texas or IVTRS. The discount was created in 2016 to
2 encourage online use, but today about 30% of renewals are
3 online without needing additional incentives. Since 2017,
4 processing costs have risen more than 34%. Eliminating
5 the discount ensures the processing and handling fees
6 remain sufficient to cover statewide costs. This change
7 is expected to generate about \$6 million annually for the
8 Department. In summary, these amendments implement
9 legislative direction, modernize outdated provisions and
10 strengthen consistency across registration, dealer plate
11 handling and processing fees. This concludes my remarks.
12 I'm happy to answer any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any questions
14 of Ms. Quintero on this Agenda item 11? Seeing none, the
15 chairman entertain a motion.

16 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I have a motion, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham.

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I move the Board approve the
19 adoption of the proposed amendments in 43 Texas
20 Administrative Code 217 as recommended by staff for
21 publication in the Texas Register. In addition, I move
22 that the Board grant the department the authority to make
23 non substantive changes to the preamble and Texas
24 recommended by the Office of the Texas Secretary of State
25 for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Is there a second?

2 MEMBER MARK JONES: I'll second.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones, is that to
4 you?

5 MEMBER MARK JONES: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, great. Is there
7 any public comment on this agenda item?

8 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comment.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. So, any
10 further conversation members on this? On this motion
11 seeing none, we'll call for the vote. Please. Member
12 Alvarado?

13 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

15 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

17 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

19 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

23 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

25 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
2 aye as well. It's unanimous. Thank you. Okay. We move
3 to Agenda item 12 at this point. And that would be Clint
4 Thompson with us this morning. Mr. Thompson, please.

5 CLINT THOMPSON: Good afternoon now. Clint Thompson,
6 Deputy Director of the Motor Carrier Division and
7 currently have the privilege of serving as the Interim
8 Division Director. Chairman, Members, Executive Director
9 thank y'all. Agenda items 12 starts on page 195. This is
10 a action item to adopt new chapter 220 to implement Senate
11 Bill 2807 from last legislative session. Also, there's we
12 are seeking an extended effective date for February 27th
13 of 2026. Senate Bill 2807 is effective September 1st, and
14 it now requires an authorization from the Department for a
15 person to operate one or more automated vehicles to
16 transport property or passengers in furtherance of a
17 commercial enterprise. Automated vehicles for these
18 purposes are considered level four or level five. And
19 what that means is basically these vehicles can operate
20 themselves without the need for a human driver. The bill
21 itself specifies the requirements that folks are required
22 to apply for an authorization, both the information and
23 the documents that must be submitted to us. It
24 establishes a time period for changes that are required
25 for 30 days if there are changes to those documents and

1 the rules themselves merely specify the process for that
2 information to be submitted electronically. This is going
3 to be done through the current motor carrier credentialing
4 system, which is in the process of a rewrite and we are
5 incorporating the automated vehicle functionality in with
6 the expected implementation date of late April of 2026.
7 The bill does provide enforcement authority which will be
8 covered in the next Agenda item until chapter 224. These
9 were proposed at the July Board meeting comment period was
10 July 25th through August 25th. We had nine timely
11 comments. One of them was from an individual, two were
12 from municipalities and the rest were from the automated
13 vehicle community. The individual wanted to tax and test
14 these vehicles. The municipalities wanted varying degrees
15 of regulation which is not permitted under the statute.
16 And so the other comments of varying degree, either wholly
17 supported or generally supported these adoption of these
18 amendments. I do want to point out that again, the
19 comments that were provided were outside the purview of
20 the rulemaking authority for the Department. We did make
21 one change though, in response to City of Austin comments
22 relative to what constitutes a material change. We
23 specified in the rule that even one vehicle added to the
24 fleet does constitute a material change. So I wanted to
25 make sure that that was a change that y'all saw from the

1 proposal. Again, the Department's required to adopt rules
2 by December 1st, as is DPS. This does not go into effect
3 until 90 days after the effective date of our rules or
4 DPS's, whichever later. That's the reason for the
5 recommended effective date of February 27th, that 90 days
6 would be May 28th of 2026. That gives us time to finish
7 programming, but then also implements this as quickly as
8 possible. That's my prepared remarks I'm glad to answer
9 any questions Y' all may have members.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Any questions for Mr.
11 Thompson on this? Member Graham.

12 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: So, in essence, right now, as
13 written as by the legislature, this is like one tiny, itty
14 bitty little baby step of beginning the process. We
15 don't, as I understand it, we don't have any statutory
16 authority to require reporting on incidents, safety
17 incidents, crashes, nor, I mean, if there, if here's a,
18 here's a better question for you, if we're licensing these
19 autonomous companies, but we're really not statutorily
20 authorized to gather much in the way of other details,
21 then do we even have any authority? Should we revoke to
22 revoke? I mean, what would we revoke on if we don't, I
23 mean, I don't know, I'm just sort of trying to get my head
24 around the, the whole thing.

25 CLINT THOMPSON: Appreciate the question. So today

1 the landscape is automated vehicles exist. There is no
2 regulatory structure today. Neither state agencies nor
3 political subdivisions of the state can regulate these.
4 And so they're out there today, they're operating. This
5 is a step forward in creating that framework for
6 regulation. They're required to now, again, level four,
7 level five autonomous vehicles operating under the
8 provisions, basically commerce, property or passengers,
9 they are required to have that authorization now, once the
10 90 days elapses from the effective date of our rule. What
11 that does is we're able to identify those. There is an
12 enforcement mechanism within the bill that gives the
13 department authority to revoke, cancel or suspend an
14 authorization that would prevent them from further
15 operation. There is no reporting mechanism that is
16 required of the bill, nor do we have anything in the rule,
17 obviously, since there's no statutory authority for that.
18 But again, much like our dealer cases and motor carrier
19 cases, if someone reports to us, then we investigate and
20 determine does this meet the criteria that rises to the
21 level of taking action based on the framework.

22 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Okay, so a little bit of meat on
23 the bone, not much.

24 CLINT THOMPSON: It's a step forward from where we're
25 at today.

1 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Understood. Okay, thank you,

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members any other
3 questions? Member Gillman.

4 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Clint, I my prepared comments
5 were that I was going to be very concerned with these
6 companies adding and deleting cars to their fleet and
7 having 30 days to do it. And that makes my head spin.
8 And so you did just clarify, and I didn't know this, even
9 one vehicle is considered a change.

10 CLINT THOMPSON: Correct.

11 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: When do we have to, and it
12 has to be noted. Do we have, do we, the DMV, have to be
13 notified immediately?

14 CLINT THOMPSON:: No, ma'am. So because it
15 constitutes a material change it falls into that 30 day
16 clause. Statute allows them 30 days to provide us with
17 any material changes to the required information that's
18 submitted at the time of application. And so what this
19 rule is saying is providing clarification even one vehicle
20 added to the fleet constitutes of material change,
21 therefore they must report to us. But they have 30 days
22 according to the statute.

23 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: It is concerning to me
24 because when dealers sell a car at the moment, the vehicle
25 is, puts a plate on it and a human drives off, we have to

1 we are supposed to notify the department immediately for
2 law enforcement and accountability who's driving what car.
3 I think it is in the best interest of this great state of
4 Texas to amend and make changes to that, that they don't
5 have 30 days to update the Department. It should be, I
6 feel like it should be immediate, just like we are
7 required to do. And hopefully the fleet departments will
8 do this right now because it's healthy and responsible and
9 hopefully we can amend things in the future.

10 CLINT THOMPSON: Appreciate that. I'll just say,
11 like any statutory change, we're going to evaluate this,
12 this is new, obviously, with autonomous vehicles, if
13 there's operational concerns, if there becomes safety
14 concerns, that's something the Department will take a look
15 at and see if there's any necessary action moving forward.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Mr. Thompson, do I
17 understand that this 30 day marker is actually in the law?

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Yes, sir, that is correct.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: We do not have a chance
20 to?

21 CLINT THOMPSON: It would require a statutory change
22 in that subsequent session.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, great. Just to
24 Clarify. Thank you, Mr. Jones.

25 MEMBER MARK JONES: Mr. Thompson, I have a question

1 to piggyback on what Stacey just said. When we sell a
2 car, we have to put the plate on the car and we have to
3 put all that information into webDEALER. When a new
4 autonomous vehicle's brought out by one of these companies
5 and put on the street, how are they getting their plates
6 and why can't, why would they not be held to the same
7 standard as if they're going to put a Texas license plate,
8 general purpose?

9 CLINT THOMPSON: Yeah, I appreciate the question and
10 let me make the distinction. So these vehicles are no
11 different from any other vehicle from a title and
12 registration perspective, from an insurance perspective,
13 from following the law. There is no distinction between
14 my pickup and automated vehicle. They are required to be
15 titled and registered in accordance with the laws of the
16 state. They're required to have insurance per that
17 vehicle and the operation of the vehicle, if they're a
18 motor carrier. They have to have insurance sufficient for
19 a motor carrier. And so there is no distinction there.
20 They will have license plates on them, they will be
21 identified in the registration title system. You'll be
22 able to see those. This is authorization to operate. And
23 so the distinction is it is a unique number that is issued
24 to them as an automated vehicle company that will identify
25 their fleet. And so they have operating authority from a

1 title and registration perspective from day one to operate
2 on public roads, that's no different than any other
3 vehicle. This will give them 30 days to tell us that the
4 vehicle's in the fleet and going to be operating as an
5 automated vehicle is the distinction.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's beyond our
7 purview today. All right. Any other questions for Mr.
8 Thompson?

9 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, go ahead, Ms.
11 Gillman.

12 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Thank you. I. In my board
13 briefing, I went over this extensively with General
14 Counsel. What the DMV's role is and what is not. You
15 know, what is TxDOT's role, what is DPS's role in finding
16 these vehicles safe or unsafe to drive alongside them on
17 our Texas roads. And because plates it would seem
18 reasonable for us as a DMV to recommend for in the future
19 for lawmakers to consider some sort of sticker or
20 autonomous vehicle plate to indicate to the public and
21 other drivers that this vehicle is operating as an AV.
22 And while the bill does not currently make such a
23 requirement, it may be appropriate to consider as a
24 revision to the law at a later date a plate that says AV
25 or autonomous driver or driverless.

1 CLINT THOMPSON: Appreciate that.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Great. Thank you.

3 Members, any other comments? Seeing none, the chair would
4 entertain a motion on Agenda item 12. I want to have a
5 motion.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I'll move.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I move that the Board
9 approve the adoption of proposed new 43 Texas
10 Administrative Code Chapter 220 as recommended by staff
11 for publication in the Texas Register. In addition, I
12 move that the Board grant the Department the authority to
13 make non substantive changes to the preamble and text as
14 recommended by the Office of the Texas Secretary of State
15 for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And is there a second to
17 that motion?

18 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I'll second.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu. Thank
20 you. Any further discussion on this Motion and Amendment?
21 And second, seeing none, I will call for the vote please.
22 Member Alvarado?

23 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

25 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

2 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

4 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

8 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

10 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
12 aye as well. It's unanimous.

13 CLINT THOMPSON: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.
15 Item number 13 on our agenda. We're going to turn it over
16 to Corrie Thompson and let her walk us through this.

17 CORRIE THOMPSON: Yes, good afternoon now Chairman,
18 Vice Chair McRae, Executive Director of Avitia, Members of
19 the Board, Corrie Thompson, Director of the Enforcement
20 Division with the back end of the implementation of the
21 legislation in support of Senate Bill 2807 that you just
22 heard regarding Chapter 220, I'm presenting Agenda item
23 13, which begins on page 237 of your board books. And
24 before you now is a recommendation to approve the adoption
25 of proposed amendments and new sections in Texas

1 Administrative Code Chapter 224, which is our chapter on
2 Adjudicative Practice and Procedure. The adopted
3 revisions are going to, as I said, implement SB 2807 from
4 the 89th regular legislation session, which became
5 effective on September 1. The amendments are to
6 Subchapter J of Chapter 545 of the Texas Administrative
7 Code regarding the operation of automated motor vehicles.
8 And as stated in the last agenda item, those amendments
9 include requirements for a person to receive and maintain
10 authorization from the Department to operate an automated
11 motor vehicle in order to transport property or persons in
12 furtherance of a commercial enterprise on a highway or
13 street in Texas without a human driver. The rules here
14 set out the processes and requirements regarding the
15 administrative handling of these matters, namely 545.456,
16 which is the process and the requirements for when that
17 authorization holder fails to update documents submitted
18 to the Department. Now, that can result in suspension,
19 revocation or cancellation of that authorization. And
20 then there's also spelled out in these rules a process for
21 that being reinstated. And in section 545.459, it calls
22 for rules that speak to the process for when the
23 Department determines that an automated motor vehicle is
24 not in a safe operational condition and the condition and
25 operation of the vehicle then endangers the public. So

1 that's when the Enforcement Division would get involved
2 whenever there's a determination that the operation,
3 continued operation of the vehicle is endangering the
4 public in some way. So the rules are detailing the
5 process for then revocation, suspension or cancellation of
6 that authorization, as well as the imposition of a
7 restriction on the operation of the automated motor
8 vehicle and then the reinstatement thereof. So we have
9 the ability to fully cancel, revoke or suspend that
10 authorization or impose a restriction on the operation.
11 So that could mean a number of things. So this is a new
12 provision, we will work out what that looks like as these
13 come before us as a department. That could look like a
14 restriction on the operation of one particular vehicle in
15 the fleet. It could be something about restricting the
16 movement or the operational design domain that these
17 vehicles can travel within. As you'll see when they roll
18 out, they'll start within a certain area where they
19 operate and then expand that based on successful
20 operations in that area. So it could look like a number
21 of things if the Department goes with the authority to
22 impose a restriction on that operation. There are steps
23 outlined in rule that the authorization holder can take if
24 the Department does suspend, revoke or cancel that
25 authorization, or if we do impose a restriction on the

1 operation. So they can then request the Department
2 review, much like our regular administrative process and
3 at various points in time throughout that notification
4 process, these authorization holders will come back to the
5 Department, offer information to support what changes they
6 have made or what they've done to ensure the safe
7 operation of these vehicles on Texas roads. And if the
8 Department is satisfied with that, the authorization can
9 then be returned to the operator of the vehicles. There's
10 also a process where these entities can request a hearing
11 at SOAH if they are aggrieved by an action and the
12 Department has issued a final determination where we have
13 not elected to reinstate the authorization. So the
14 revisions are going to spell out when the Motor Carrier
15 Division Director is the authority for final order
16 issuance when SOAH, when an action has gone to SOAH and it
17 has not resulted in a proposal for decision after a
18 Hearing on the Merit. So if that happens, those decisions
19 would come back before the Board for a final order. If it
20 gets dismissed from SOAH for any other reason based on a
21 default or a settlement, it's coming off some other way,
22 then those decisions will be finalized by the Motor
23 Carrier Division Director. We are also providing
24 procedures regarding special public meetings which can be
25 held at the Motor Carrier Division's request in the

1 matters of public interest. If we believe that a special
2 hearing is required outside of the original process. We
3 have additional revisions that are also going to serve as
4 cleanup to rule text and address processes and
5 requirements for when exactly the Motor Carrier Division
6 Director is that final order authority in those cases
7 versus the Board being final authority. And it will be
8 noted that while the rules must be adopted by December 1st
9 of 2025, people do not have to, as stated in the last
10 agenda item, actually comply with those provisions
11 regarding authorization for automated motor vehicles until
12 the 90th day after the effective date of the rules. So
13 we're anticipating that our programming in support of 2807
14 will be complete by mid April. So we're looking at an
15 effective date of the rules with the end of February
16 giving these entities until the end of May to have to be
17 compliant. That will give them time if they are already
18 operating in Texas to put their information into our
19 systems, obtain that authorization and be compliant on the
20 effective date at the end of May. The Department did
21 receive public comments in response to the rules. Largely
22 they are reflective of the same comments that were covered
23 in chapter 220. There were two specific comments that
24 pertain directly to chapter 224 from the city of Austin,
25 wherein they asked if local municipalities could be

1 directly involved in the complaint process concerning
2 whether these authorizations should be canceled,
3 suspended, revoked, or restrictions should be imposed on
4 the operation of these vehicles. And the Department is
5 not making any changes as those determinations will be
6 made during the regular course of the legal process where
7 we're gathering facts surrounding that specific situation.
8 There would be instances where the department could
9 potentially involve a local municipality per se, if they
10 were the complainant. We needed them to provide testimony
11 or documentation in support of the allegation concerning
12 the endangerment of the public. But again, for those
13 reasons, the Department did not make any changes in
14 support of those comments that were received. There's
15 also no significant financial impact associated with these
16 proposals. And if we adopt these revisions and the new
17 sections during the meeting, we anticipate publication in
18 the October 3rd Division of the issue of the Register.
19 And at this time, I have no additional items to cover for
20 this Agenda item. And I would ask the Board to approve a
21 publication of the adoption in the Texas Register.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
23 Are there any questions for Ms. Thompson on this Agenda
24 item 13?

25 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I have a question.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Chairman Gillman.

2 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I see that you have
3 authorization to suspend, revoke or cancel. How quickly
4 do you have that ability?

5 CORRIE THOMPSON: So we built into the rule of
6 flexibility for the Department. Corrie Thompson, Director
7 of the Enforcement Division. So there's an initial point
8 at which the Department is to issue a notice of intent to
9 take this action. And we do not have any specific time
10 frame outlined there. It could be a quicker timeline
11 based on the specific facts and circumstances. I hate to
12 give this as an example, but if a death has occurred as
13 compared to an injury to a person, that might give the
14 Department a shorter notice of intent for that entity to
15 respond to the Department and provide information to
16 satisfy us that we should not revoke, suspend or cancel
17 that authorization. So it will be very fact dependent.

18 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Okay. I'm not sure I
19 understood. You said if there is a death, how quickly can
20 you suspend, revoke, cancel? And what I heard you say is
21 you have to issue a notice of intent.

22 CORRIE THOMPSON: We have to issue a notice of intent
23 letting the entity know what our plan is with regard to
24 the revocation, suspension or cancellation, they can
25 provide information in support of that. If we are not

1 satisfied that that meets the coming back to where we're
2 not endangering the public, then we will issue a final
3 determination at which point that would become effective.
4 They then have the ability to go to SOAH.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Okay, wait, wait, wait. Does
6 that mean, because I know that that comes next. Does that
7 mean. And it does get confusing because I think DPS may
8 have the ability to take vehicles off the road
9 immediately. I'm just asking what's DMV's authority and
10 it sounds like no, we don't have the authority to take
11 them off the road immediately, we have to do give notice,
12 then they can do a hearing and then this can go on and on
13 and on. Is that?

14 CORRIE THOMPSON: It would not actually go I would say
15 on for an extended period of time like you're familiar
16 with, with the regular administrative process. So if
17 something were to be docketed at SOAH here, if the
18 Department was not satisfied that continued operations of
19 the vehicle would no longer endanger the public, we would
20 then docket the case at the State Office of Administrative
21 Hearings and there it's a maximum of 60 days. If SOAH
22 does not hold a hearing within 60 days under these
23 provisions, the authorization must be reinstated pursuant
24 to the statute.

25 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: It seems a concern to me that

1 in, in these cases that, that we can't act a little
2 faster. Is that in order to change that, what do you what
3 has to happen.

4 CORRIE THOMPSON: So General Counsel can correct me
5 if I'm wrong. Corrie Thompson for the Enforcement
6 Division. There is no provision outlined in the statute
7 other than what I stated regarding the condition being
8 found in a way that would endanger the public based on
9 their continued unsafe operations. There is no additional
10 provision within the statute that calls for an expedited
11 beyond the 60 day SOAH Hearing or other exigent
12 circumstances that would require the Department to take
13 any sort of immediate action at this time.

14 LAURA MORIATY: Mr. Chairman, if I may for just a
15 moment.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Laura.

17 LAURA MORIATY: Member Gillman the process for an
18 unsafe vehicle, we get to immediately revoke them after we
19 send them notice. So there's no, they don't have to go
20 through the hearing first. If we revoke them as soon as
21 we give them notice, then they have a lot of opportunities
22 to show us that they are actually safe and to come back
23 and as Ms. Thompson was saying, that can happen.

24 CORRIE THOMPSON: They can get it back at numerous
25 times throughout the process. If the Department is

1 satisfied that they are no longer going to continue to
2 endanger the public.

3 LAURA MORIATY: But immediately they can be revoked
4 and they stay revoked throughout the hearing.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Okay.

6 LAURA MORIATY: So it should be pretty fast. As
7 Corrie points out, we have to give the them notice so it
8 won't be instant, but it will be pretty fast.

9 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: That sounds good.

10 CORRIE THOMPSON: Yes. Also important to note,
11 Corrie Thompson, Director of the Enforcement Division.
12 The statute does point back to a serious bodily injury
13 pursuant to the penal code in 1.07, which does point
14 specifically to a death, which is why I mentioned that, or
15 that the continued operation could potentially result in a
16 death. So it is a high standard, but if the Department
17 receives received indication of either of those instances,
18 then it would allow us the opportunity to take those
19 actions and issue those notices.

20 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: One last question. When you
21 do suspend, revoke or cancel authorization of a motor
22 vehicle, does that mean you request the license plate
23 back, what do you do?

24 CORRIE THOMPSON: So because. Corrie Thompson,
25 Director of the Enforcement Division, because this speaks

1 specifically to the authorization, as was stated in the
2 process agenda item. So there's registration initially of
3 these vehicles and whether or not the Department, you
4 know, has those vehicles at the registration system
5 separately, that authorizes them to just operate on the
6 road as autonomous vehicles, just like your vehicle
7 registration today. Then if that vehicle wants to operate
8 as a motor carrier, they want to operate as a motor
9 carrier, not autonomous. There is a separate process
10 coming through our motor carrier division which would go
11 through our motor carrier credentialing system to obtain
12 authorization to operate as a motor carrier operating
13 authority to drive on the Texas roads in that fashion.
14 And then additionally, if you want to then operate as an
15 autonomous commercial vehicle or a robo taxi under this
16 new statutory language, then that is an additional
17 authorization. So the Department's authority here extends
18 to taking that authorization away. Now, as you mentioned
19 DPS earlier, there are separate regulations outside of
20 this Department regarding things like, well, we'll go back
21 to DPS and unsatisfactory safety ratings. Those are also
22 referrals that Department of Public Safety can send under
23 us over here for us to revoke Texas Operating Authority.
24 That will come up and actually in a later agenda item for
25 me as well. And so it does actually fall in line with

1 these provisions so that if there was a separate DPS
2 action on that, it could end up impacting a carrier over
3 here pursuant to the autonomous vehicle authorization as
4 it relates to the ability to take that authorization away.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other
7 questions? Laura, Any public commenters on this agenda
8 item?

9 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comment.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay. The chairman
11 entertain a motion.

12 MEMBER MARK JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a
13 motion.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Mr. Jones.

15 MEMBER MARK JONES: I move that the Board approve
16 the adoption of proposed amendments and new sections in 43
17 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 224, as recommended by
18 staff for publication in the Texas Register. In addition,
19 I move that the Board grant the Department the authority
20 to make non substantive changes to the preamble and text
21 as recommended by the Office of the Texas Secretary of
22 State for purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
24 second on this motion?

25 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Alvarado. Thank
2 you. Any further discussion? Seeing none, I will call
3 for the vote. Please. Member Alvarado?

4 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

6 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

8 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

10 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

14 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

16 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And I, Chair Bacarisse
18 vote aye as well. It's unanimous. Thank you, Ms.
19 Thompson. Appreciate that. We now move to Agenda item
20 14, which is chapter 224. And Corrie, you're going to
21 walk us through this one as well.

22 CORRIE THOMPSON: So still me, Corrie Thompson,
23 Director of the Enforcement Division, back with Agenda
24 item 14, which begins on page 309 of your board books.
25 Now before user recommendation to adopt proposed

1 amendments to chapter 224.116, 224.124 and to adopt new
2 section 224.121 again in our chapter regarding
3 Adjudicative Practice and Procedure, all in support of the
4 implementation of House Bill 1672, which implemented
5 Transportation Code 643.2526 and became effective May 24,
6 2025. This item is also going to ask for authorization to
7 publish notice that the emergency version of these
8 revisions to chapter 224 are withdrawn on the effective
9 date of the regular version of these revisions. Those
10 emergency rules were imposed so that we could immediately
11 begin acting on the language of the statute with regard to
12 these actions. So under House Bill 1670, which amended
13 transportation Code, the Department is required to adopt
14 rules and create requirements and procedures for
15 revocation and suspension of a motor carrier's
16 registration, also placement of a motor carrier on
17 probation if their registration is suspended, and the
18 motor carrier appeal process in order to lift that
19 revocation, suspension or probation. If the
20 Transportation Code Chapter 643 applies to a motor carrier
21 in this situation, they have to be registered with the
22 Department in order to transport either persons or cargo
23 over a road or a highway in Texas. And so the
24 registration here, as I said previously, is the operating
25 authority different from the regular vehicle registration,

1 the ability to travel on Texas highways as a motor
2 carrier. So these revisions state that upon request by
3 Department of Public Safety, the Department will revoke
4 the motor carrier's registration if either the Federal
5 Motor Carrier Safety Administration or DPS has issued an
6 order stating that the motor carrier has an unsatisfactory
7 safety rating. So this new language is actually changing
8 the order of operations in which we handle these cases.
9 The Department has longstanding, received referrals from
10 the Department of Public Safety indicating that a carrier
11 may have an unsatisfactory safety rating. Prior to the
12 implementation of House Bill 1670, 1672, the department
13 would go through due process, send notice, provide an
14 opportunity to respond. Before we got to the point at
15 which we revoked the carrier's registration, this law
16 flips the pattern and sees us now receiving the referral
17 immediately revoking the carrier's registration and then
18 going through the due process requirements pursuant to the
19 law. Under the new revisions, the rules now state that
20 the Department is also not going to automatically receive
21 that carrier's revocation on a pill. If they do end up
22 resolving the unsatisfactory rating status with the
23 Department of Public Safety, and then they're no longer
24 subject to that order, they would have to then come back
25 to the Department to get registered once again. There is

1 no significant financial impact associated with this. We
2 published these proposals for public comment in the July
3 25 issue of the Texas Register and that comment period
4 closed on August 25th without us receiving any public
5 comment. So there are no changes from this version of the
6 rules, from the proposal. And if we adopt these revisions
7 during this meeting, staff anticipates publication of this
8 adoption in the October 3rd version of the Texas Register
9 with an effective date of October 9th. And at this time,
10 if there are no questions, I would ask that the Board
11 adopt the amendments to 224.116, 224.124 and to adopt new
12 section 224.121.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
14 Members, are there any questions? Laura, any public
15 comment?

16 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comment.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: The Chair would
18 entertain a motion.

19 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I have a motion.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

21 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I move the Board approve the
22 adoption of the proposed amendments in new section in 43
23 Texas Administrative Code 224 as recommended by staff for
24 publication in the Texas Register. I also move the Board
25 approve the withdrawal of the emergency version of the

1 amendments in the new section in chapter 224 as
2 recommended by staff for publication in the Texas
3 Register. In addition, I move that the Board grant the
4 Department the authority to make non substantive changes
5 to the preamble in the text as recommended by the office
6 of the Texas Secretary of State for the purpose of filing
7 in the Texas Register.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
9 second in that motion?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: I will second.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae. Thank
12 you. All right. Any further discussion on this motion?
13 Seeing none the chair will call the vote. Please. Member
14 Alvarado?

15 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

17 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

19 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

21 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

23 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

25 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

2 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
4 aye as well. Thank you. Great. And we have another one.
5 Agenda item 15. Corrie's going to walk us through that
6 one as well, please, you have the floor.

7 CORRIE THOMPSON: Welcome back. Yes. Agenda item
8 15. Now, Corrie Thompson, Director of the Enforcement
9 Division. This item will begin on page 324 of your board
10 book. It's the last one with me on the adoptions as well,
11 I believe. Now before you is a recommendation to approve
12 the adoption of amendments to Texas Administrative Code
13 224.58 in support of the implementation of Senate Bill
14 1902 from the 89th regular legislative session, which
15 calls for rule adoption by October 1, 2025. House Bill
16 718 from the 88th regular legislative session replaced the
17 temporary tag database held by the Department with the
18 license plates database and amended Transportation Code
19 503.0633F to allow the Department to deny access to the
20 license plate database if a dealer now acts fraudulently.
21 Senate Bill 1902 further amends 503.0633F to allow the
22 department to deny access to the license plate database if
23 a dealer had previously been denied access to the
24 temporary tag database. So this rule is bridging the gap
25 for dealers that were previously denied access to temp tag

1 database. Now they can no longer get plates in the
2 license plate database as well if their license is still
3 remaining active. The denial is effective when the
4 Department is sending notice by electronic means as well
5 as by certified mail. The dealer does then have an
6 opportunity to request a hearing on the action taken by
7 the Department. There was no significant impact
8 associated with this implementation, and the Department
9 also received no public comments during the comment
10 period, which ended on August 25th. If the Board is to
11 adopt the new sections and repeals during this meeting, we
12 anticipate publication once again in the October 3rd
13 version of the Texas Register with an effective date of
14 October 9th. And if there are no questions, I would ask
15 that the Board approve the adoption of these amendments to
16 224.58.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
18 Any questions, members, on this item? No. Any public
19 comments, Laura?

20 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comments.

21 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: The Chairman have a motion?

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah. The chair would
23 entertain it.

24 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I move the Board approve the
25 adoption of proposed amendments in 43 Texas Administrative

1 Code 224, Section 224.58 as recommended by staff for
2 publication in the Texas Register. In addition to move
3 the Board grant the Department the authority makes non
4 substantive changes to the preamble in Texas recommended
5 by the Office of the Texas Secretary of State for purposes
6 of filing in the Texas Register.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
8 second in that motion?

9 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I'll second.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman. Okay,
11 thank you. Great. We have a motion and a second, is
12 there any further discussion on this item? Seeing none,
13 the Chair will call the vote. Member Alvarado?

14 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

16 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

20 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

24 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

1 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse, vote
3 aye. Okay, thank you. We now move to Agenda Item 16 and
4 Annette Quintero is back to walk us through this one. Ms.
5 Quintero.

6 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Good afternoon. Chairman
7 Bacarisse, Members, Executive Director, Avitia. I'm
8 Annette Quintero, Director of Vehicle Titles and
9 Registration Division. I'm presenting Agenda item number
10 16, which begins on page 330 of your board book. This is
11 an action item for the Board to approve publication of the
12 rule proposal in the Texas Register for public comment.
13 First, we're seeking to repeal and replace 217.10. The
14 current rule language is duplicative of statute and caused
15 some confusion. We are proposing a new version for
16 clarity. The new 217.10 makes clear what constitutes
17 evidence of a department title refusal or revocation under
18 Transportation Code 501.051 for purposes of determining
19 eligibility for a hearing by a tax assessor collector
20 under transportation code 501.052. Specifically, an
21 official record of refusal is defined as a written notice
22 from the Department and a revoked title is identified by a
23 revocation remark in our registration and title system.
24 Importantly, the new rule also specifies that a
25 determination of ineligibility for a bonded title under

1 501.053 is not considered a refusal and therefore is not
2 subject to appeal by a tax assessor collector. 217.41
3 addresses disabled plates and placards. These amendments
4 implement Senate Bill 2001, which created Transportation
5 Code 504.2025 to recognize peace officers with
6 disabilities. Under this rule, peace officers with
7 disabilities are now formally included as a disabled
8 persons as disabled persons for purposes of obtaining
9 license plates and placards. The amendments also clean up
10 citations and references, and they clarify that both
11 disabled veterans and disabled peace officers have the
12 option to receive general issue license plates at no cost
13 rather than being limited to a disabled design plate. We
14 are also proposing a new 217.87 dealing with metal
15 recyclers who acquire vehicles without a title. This rule
16 implements House Bill 5436, which establishes a process
17 under the Transportation Code 501.098. 217.87 requires
18 metal recyclers submit a form to the Department to verify
19 whether a vehicle has been reported stolen or is subject
20 to a lien. The Department will provide notice of any
21 stolen status within 48 hours and report to the National
22 Motor Vehicle Title Information System. If a record
23 exists in our registration and title system, the
24 Department will mark the vehicle as dismantled, scrapped
25 or destroyed and cancel the title. The rule also provides

1 a clear path for reinstatement. A lien holder or last
2 registered owner may have the title reinstated by
3 presenting identification and the receipt from the metal
4 recycler returning the vehicle. Finally, metal recyclers
5 must maintain records on the Department issued form.
6 These may be kept on paper or electronically and must be
7 available for inspection by law enforcement or Department
8 staff. Altogether, these provisions protect lien holders,
9 support law enforcement and ensure metal recyclers have a
10 consistent process to follow. If approved, the proposed
11 rule will be published for public comment in the Texas
12 Register. The comment period will remain open until
13 November 3, 2025. This concludes my remarks, I'm happy to
14 answer any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you Ms. Quintero.
16 Members any questions on this item from Ms. Quintero.
17 Member Jones.

18 MEMBER MARK JONES: Just to clarify Ms. Quintero on
19 the 217.87 if a vehicle goes to a recycler and it still
20 shows to have a lien, there's I'm assuming this is in
21 regards to somebody doesn't have a title for the car?

22 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Yes.

23 MEMBER MARK JONES: So a consumer takes a car to a
24 recycler says I don't have a title. They're required by
25 law to validate whether or not there's a lien still on the

1 title. And is there a time frame? Is it like if the lien
2 is more than 10 years old they don't have to do that, or
3 is it if they have a lien regardless of the age of the
4 lien, the lienholder has to be notified before they can
5 dismantle the car?

6 ANNETTE QUINTERO: The metal recycler is if the metal
7 recycler is seeking to dismantle or destroy a motor
8 vehicle, they do not have a title for they must follow
9 this new process established by 5436. So they bring us
10 the information related to the vehicle. We will do a
11 stolen check. We will also do a lien holder check and
12 then notify the metal recycler whether or not it passes
13 the stolen check and or if it does not have a lien. If it
14 does have a lien, then it cannot be dismantled. And then
15 the metal recycler has to reach out to the lienholder to
16 clarify the lien situation.

17 MEMBER MARK JONES: Yeah. So they have to verify
18 with the lienholder whether or not the lien holder still
19 has a security and interest in the car?

20 ANNETTE QUINTERO: Correct.

21 MEMBER MARK JONES: Okay. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any other
23 questions to Ms. Quintero on this item? Seeing none, the
24 Chair would entertain a motion. Oh, wait. Sorry. Do we
25 have any public comment?

1 LAURA MORIATY: No, sir. No public comment.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Now, the Chair would
3 entertain a motion.

4 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
5 motion.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham.

7 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I move that the Board approve
8 the proposed amendments repealed section and new section
9 in 43 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 217 is recommended
10 by staff for publication in the Texas Register. In
11 addition, I move that the Board grant the Department the
12 authority to make non substantive changes to the preamble
13 in Texas recommended by the Office of the Texas Secretary
14 of State for the purposes of filing in the Texas Register.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Is there a
16 second in this motion?

17 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I will second, Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu. Thank
19 you. Any further discussion, Members, on this Agenda item
20 16, see none call for the vote. Member Alvarado?

21 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARDO: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

23 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

25 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

2 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

6 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

8 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
10 aye as well. So that is unanimous. And we move to Agenda
11 item 17. Thank you, Ms. Quintero. Agenda item 17, we are
12 now in Briefing and Action Items section. This is project
13 and operations update. And so Ms. Spearman is here to
14 give us some good news, interesting news. So all that
15 hopefully is good. Floor is yours.

16 DOROTHY SPEARMAN: Thank you. Good afternoon, Members
17 of the Board and Director Avitia. For the record, my name
18 is Dorothy Spearman and I'm the Project Manager for the
19 Camp Hubbard Renewal Project. I'm pleased to be here
20 today to give you some updates on the progress. In April,
21 Flintco Construction transitioned from demolition of the
22 three interior buildings into the underground site
23 preparation activities. Flintco reported 75% of the
24 demolition materials were diverted from landfill into
25 recycling and reuse programs. Excuse me. Next slide.

1 The underground site utilities and concrete pier
2 installation continued through mid summer. Minor delays
3 were encountered at this stage due to underground
4 unforeseen conditions. However, the overall project
5 schedule was not impacted. The concrete slab course
6 kicked off in July followed by the concrete columns and
7 shoring for the second level can be seen in the photo.
8 Next slide. The first section of the second floor
9 concrete slab was poured on Tuesday. Flintco will begin
10 framing the walls on the first floor as the structure
11 continues to be constructed above. Currently, the
12 concrete structure is 25% complete and the anticipated
13 completion for the entire concrete structure is in mid
14 December. In the image you can see in the background,
15 building 2, behind the scaffolding and screening walls on
16 the north and east, north and west cell walls. The window
17 replacements are complete on the exterior and the exterior
18 facade repairs are wrapping up with a fresh coat of paint.
19 Next month the crews will move around to the south sides
20 and the west sides to continue the process. Next slide.
21 Moving to the south side of building 2, we can see that a
22 defunct one story addition was removed to make way for a
23 brighter and wider lobby entrance. Next slide. Inside
24 this new lobby will connect the south parking lots to the
25 new building. The ceiling installation is in progress

1 here. Sorry, these are the old slides. Yeah, sorry, the
2 ones I sent you. Okay, that's fine. Let's see. So the
3 new lobby will connect the south parking lot to the new
4 building. Upstairs on the third and fourth levels, the
5 floor ceiling and millwork are being flashed out on the
6 office in these office spaces and they will be ready for
7 the new furniture installation in December. And barring
8 any unforeseen conditions, the IT and MVCPA divisions will
9 have a new home at the start of the new year. Okay, next
10 slide please. Okay, so some project budget updates, so
11 everything is on target. At the end of August, 14% of the
12 budget had been expended. Overall, 87% of the budget
13 funds are encumbered with a planned commitments around 6%
14 and the contingency reserves remain around 7%. Some
15 upcoming milestones. The next slide please. There we go.
16 We're anticipating completion of the building to exterior
17 renovations around Valentine's Day. And the structure top
18 out for the new building should be wrapping up around the
19 same time. The building will be dried in with exterior
20 walls, windows and skins starting in early spring. And
21 the final building completion is still anticipated for
22 fall of 2026 with the final phases of completion of
23 demolition and site work in fall of 2027. That concludes
24 my prepared remarks. Do you have any questions?

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Members, any questions?

1 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I have a question.

2 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman.

3 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Why are you putting furniture
4 in the building?

5 DOROTHY SPEARMAN: In building 2, the renovation
6 building. We have renovation.

7 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: The renovation building, not
8 the new.

9 DOROTHY SPEARMAN: Correct, yes.

10 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Okay, thanks.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah, that would be a
12 little ahead of things, wouldn't it.

13 DOROTHY SPEARMAN: I know.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Any other questions,
15 Members?

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Seeing none. Thank you.

17 DOROTHY SPEARMAN: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thanks for the update.
19 Mr. Horn will give us an Accounts Receivable update.

20 ERIC HORN: Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Board
21 Members, Executive Director Avitia. For the record, my
22 name is Eric Horn, I'm the Director of Accounting
23 Operations with TxDMV. Today I'm briefing you on the
24 progress of our Accounts Receivable System project.
25 Materials that support my briefing can be found in your

1 ebook on page 354. I last briefed this Board in April of
2 this year in which I outlined the infrastructure
3 challenges we have experienced with this implementation
4 which have caused delays to our timeline. I'm happy to
5 report to you today that those issues have been resolved
6 and we have made great progress with this project since
7 then. On July 14th we had our first production release of
8 our new AR system, Business Central, which was a complete
9 success. This release, which we refer to as Release A,
10 included the Cash Journal module, which is used to record
11 payments sent via mail to TxDMV's headquarters so that we
12 can prepare deposit documents for entry into our
13 accounting systems CAPPS and USAS. The new module
14 replaced our Legacy Revenue Logging System, or RLS, and
15 its deposit subsystem, both of which were developed and
16 implemented by TxDOT in 2005. This module is critical and
17 sets the foundation for future releases as it established
18 the ability to apply payments to outstanding customer
19 balances while also depositing the funds received all
20 within a single system. This is just one of the many
21 improvements and efficiencies gained through this release.
22 A few additional highlights include we now have daily
23 batch jobs in place to automate the delivery of deposit
24 documents to the state treasury, eliminating manual
25 entries into our accounting systems and ensuring

1 synchronization of data across all systems. We have
2 deposit document files that have now been enhanced to
3 include additional USAS coding elements and other
4 indicative information and fields that interface into
5 CAPPS which were previously underutilized or non existent
6 with RLS. These additional details improve finance
7 staff's ability to research and reconcile systems more
8 effectively. We also consolidated the product code logic
9 with our new system, taking two different logic in RLS and
10 consolidating it into a single profile code structure in
11 Business Central. We now have improved line of sight to
12 revenue from salvage title applications through this
13 enhanced profile code logic supporting weekly reports that
14 we provide to VTR management. We now also have the
15 ability to make corrections to posted documents, then
16 deposits and transmittals, a feature that was not possible
17 with RLS. Lastly, we archived all the historical data
18 from RLS and uploaded that and made it available to query
19 within our new system, so we have a complete history of
20 deposit information. Metrics and data analysis
21 capabilities are also modernized in Business Central with
22 ad hoc querying, filtering and even pivot table
23 functionality built directly into the system to go along
24 with our standard reports. Because this is a Microsoft
25 product, we have the same data analysis capabilities that

1 we have with Microsoft Excel, but directly in the system,
2 a feature I absolutely enjoy. Within the first nine weeks
3 of Release A finance staff have identified the following
4 insights that were not easily available within the RLS
5 data. On average we are processing around 1,100 payments
6 through our cash room each week. Now we have the ability
7 to drill down and find out what payment implements those
8 are whether it's check or money orders. And yes, we have
9 received 35 instances of cash in the mail here that we
10 have deposited into our system. We now have the ability
11 to see our revenue percentage splits by our appropriated
12 funds so we can see exactly where our revenue goes after
13 we deposit it. Much more streamlined. We can see the
14 volume and dollars by division and program area. So we
15 now can see our biggest internal customer, Motor Carrier
16 Division and the revenue that they bring into our Agency.
17 We see also not only revenue deposited to TxDMV. We can
18 see very clearly that because of the revenue splits we
19 have, seven other state agencies have received revenue
20 through our new AR system. Lastly, approximately 9,600
21 salvage title applications have been processed within the
22 first nine weeks of this AR system. Again, Release A has
23 been a great success. I want to thank everyone involved
24 in making that happen, but we are not done. Staff at this
25 very moment are heavily involved with user acceptance

1 testing scenarios for our next release, Release B, which
2 we anticipate deploying to production in the second
3 quarter of this fiscal year. This release will add
4 significant amount of outstanding customer data from
5 existing systems and allow us to retire additional
6 systems, three robust access databases and eight very
7 complex Excel workbooks have currently and historically
8 been used to track receivable balances and to invoice
9 customers. All activities within Business Central will be
10 tracked and create an audit trail which will help us
11 identify the root cause of any errors that may occur
12 within manual data entry. All invoices will be generated
13 directly within the new system with standardized
14 formatting and aging and escalation logic tied to each
15 program area and fee type, and these invoices will be
16 automatically sent out to customers via email. We will
17 also now have direct line of sight to all outstanding
18 receivable balances within a single system. We will have
19 the ability to run a variety of different reports like I
20 mentioned by program areas, fee types, collection
21 activities. That's going to include that standardized
22 aging logic and automated delivery of those escalated
23 invoices. We will also have dashboards available on our
24 homepage that can provide visual insights and can be
25 drilled down into for additional analysis. We're very

1 excited about Release B coming in the next few months.
2 Our final release, Release C, is currently planned for the
3 fourth quarter of this year and will incorporate a fully
4 functional Master Data Management or MDM application.
5 It's going to synchronize all billing and collection
6 activities for existing systems elicensing and the Motor
7 Carrier Credentialing System or MCCS with our new AR
8 system. These two systems handle more than just financial
9 activities for customers, so they are not in scope for us
10 to retire them. Instead, we are going to establish data
11 pipelines for these systems that will eliminate the need
12 for duplicate and repetitive manual work by my staff to
13 ensure that all systems again are in balance. As staff
14 enter balances due in these source systems, the MDM
15 application will gather that information and send it to
16 our AR system Business Central to create a new receivable
17 balance and issue an invoice to the customer. As payments
18 are then received and applied in those source systems
19 again, the MDM application will go grab that information
20 and pass it to our AR system to liquidate those
21 outstanding balances. This release is dependent on the
22 completion of our MCCS rewrite project that is currently
23 in progress and plan to be completed in the third quarter
24 of this fiscal year. This project has proven to be very
25 complex and has provided many challenges for us. I want

1 to again thank everyone that's been involved, from my own
2 staff to staff across all different divisions and program
3 areas here at the Agency as well as our vendor. They've
4 been very resilient and we are all very motivated to get
5 this project completed. This concludes my remarks and I'm
6 available for any questions you may have.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Mr. Horn.
8 Any questions, Members for Mr. Horn? I think it's great.
9 Yeah, good, good steps. Great improvement. Thank you.

10 ERIC HORN: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. That is
12 Agenda Item B, so now we're moving to Agenda item 18,
13 which is Legislative and Public Affairs update with our
14 man Keith Yawn, who has survived special after special
15 after special. So glad you're here. Floor is yours.

16 KEITH YAWN: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, Director
17 Avitia. Good afternoon. Keith Yawn, Director of
18 Government and Strategic Communications. Agenda item 18
19 is a Legislative and Public Affairs update on recent
20 legislative activity. As the Chairman just mentioned, at
21 the beginning of this month the Legislature completed
22 their second called special session. As with the first
23 called special session, none of the charges and policy
24 items under debate involved motor vehicle programs or
25 operations and policies by the Department. So we have now

1 accomplished two special sessions in a row without adding
2 any additional legislation to our implementation list. So
3 that leaves us with the 39 implementation items from
4 passed during the 89th regular legislative session. You
5 have a report, two page report on your dais supplemental
6 to your board book that lists the groupings of status
7 updates for those 39 bills, starting with nine bills that
8 have been completed to date. And I just, I want to point
9 out that, you know, given the fact that we did have one
10 very large overhang from the 88th regular session that we
11 were still in the process of implementing with House Bill
12 718, that took a lot of resources and time from the
13 Department to complete. This is a big accomplishment that
14 we were sitting here now with nine of these bills already
15 completed, starting to implement the legislation from the
16 89th. In addition to those nine bills, we have an
17 additional six that will be completed by the beginning of
18 October, several of which y'all have assisted with today
19 by the passage of the adopted rules that will complete
20 those activities. That leaves 12 bills that have been
21 identified for completion by the end of this calendar
22 year. I will note that a number of those are tied to
23 programming that is necessary and a system and release
24 later in the year. I will note, my apologies, that I did
25 not get this report fully updated before it was printed.

1 But those bills on the first page that are identified with
2 the target implementation date of November 1st have been
3 reassigned at this point based on new information to
4 December of this year. There are, as you've been
5 discussing earlier today, a number of bills, seven that
6 have also been identified for completion during the next
7 calendar year in calendar 2026. The largest of those and
8 the one I'll point out is Senate Bill 2807. You've heard
9 twice today about the timeline on that, but this is
10 something that we have been struggling with publicly to
11 explain to people in both the media and from for public
12 awareness, so I will repeat again the timeline on that.
13 With the rules that you adopted today and the effective
14 date of 2-27-2026 and the planned implementation of
15 programming by the Motor Carrier Division necessary for
16 that implementation by the end of April of next year. And
17 assuming similar timelines are in play at the Department
18 of Public Safety, this bill will be fully complete and
19 enforceable by the end of May, May 28th of next year to be
20 precise. Also note, since there was a large discussion on
21 that bill about some concerns raised with it. It was a
22 heavily negotiated bill as bills of that size and
23 complexity always are. But all of the parties involved
24 throughout the process as it was discussed, acknowledged
25 that as a brand new program for the state in a new and

1 developing industry that there is likely to be cleanup and
2 additional revisions to that bill moving forward in future
3 sessions. And so we have heard the comments made here
4 today. We will, as we move into next year and start
5 preparing for the 90th legislative session and preparing
6 board recommendations for you to review and look at. We
7 will look at including those in those and see what else
8 comes of the final implementation and what the realities
9 of the new regulation show may additionally be needed for
10 cleanup or clarification in that legislation as well.
11 Finally, I want to point out that there are five bills
12 that do not yet show an implementation target date on your
13 report. That is because these bills require external
14 activity, either direction that we must receive from other
15 state agencies or action that must be taken by other
16 external parties in a couple of cases by the federal
17 government to pass laws are to approve parts of
18 legislation that the Texas legislature passed. So we are
19 still awaiting further information on those extra external
20 activities. And once we have that or that further
21 direction, we'll be able to fill in this and the programs
22 will be able to identify what it will then take to fully
23 implement them and what that timeline looks like. So that
24 completes my briefing. Be happy to answer any questions.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Great. Members, any

1 questions for Ms. Yawn?

2 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: What's the definition of a
3 miniature vehicle?

4 KEITH YAWN: A tiny vehicle. These are vehicles from
5 generally from outside the country that are just they're
6 very small. There's really no other way to say that.
7 They're between the size of a golf cart and a regular
8 vehicle that you're used to. They're used very often in
9 other countries because of space considerations and they
10 are imported in by people generally for use in this
11 country.

12 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: And their miniature.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Any other questions for
14 Mr. Yawn? Keith, I want to again thank you and your team
15 for great work in this last session. There was a lot
16 going on as always and you all are quite professional and
17 represent this Agency well in the pink building. So thank
18 you.

19 KEITH YAWN: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, now we are going
21 to Agenda item 19 and that's Finance and Audit with Mr.
22 Ralston. Good afternoon John, the floor is yours.

23 JOHN RALSTON: Good afternoon Chairman Bacarisse,
24 Board Members and Executive Director Avitia. For the
25 record, my name is John Ralston and I'm the Budget and

1 Forecasting Director for the Finance and Operations
2 Division. In your board materials starting on page 356 is
3 item 19A and this is our FY25 financial report. This
4 report provides our first look at the financial
5 information for the period from September 1, 2024 through
6 August 31, 2025, which represents our entire FY2025. This
7 report contains information on actual revenues as well as
8 the budgeted and actual expenditures for the fiscal year.
9 It also includes a standalone report for the TxDMV Fund 10
10 and information on selected statistics that may have an
11 impact on our revenues. The key highlights from the
12 report that I bring to your attention starting with
13 revenues, TxDMV collected \$2.3 billion in revenue in all
14 funds as of August 31, 2025 and that represents an 8.3%
15 increase in collections made over the prior year. The
16 increase in revenue is attributable to growth in all of
17 our categories, registration transactions, title
18 transactions, motor carrier permitting, motor vehicle
19 business licenses and processing handling fees. All
20 categories had growth. In narrowing our focus within the
21 all funds total, our TxDMV Fund 10 Revenue collections
22 total \$198.9 million for FY2025 and this amount is a 5.8%
23 increase over the prior year. TxDMV Fund 10 is the fund
24 that covers all TxDMV operations except for Motor Vehicle
25 Crime Prevention Authority and the financing proceeds for

1 the Camp Hubbard Renewal Construction Project. On the
2 expenditure side, total expenditures as of August 31, 2025
3 were \$243.4 million for all funds of the total \$208
4 million is within the TxDMV Fund 10 with the remaining
5 expenditures funded by the General Revenue Fund for Motor
6 Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority and by the Camp Hubbard
7 Renewal Project Fund for expenditures related to the Camp
8 Hubbard Construction Project. Our major expenditure
9 categories, again as in prior years, are in payroll,
10 postage, license plate production and charges for the data
11 center services. In the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
12 Authority Program, the majority of their expenditures are
13 for the grant awards. FY25 was notable for expenditure
14 activity for multiple new initiatives these included
15 activities related to the implementation of House Bill 718
16 for metal plates and expenditures for the Camp Hubbard
17 Renewal Construction Project and activities in MVCPA
18 related to the implementation of SB224 for Catalytic
19 Converter Theft Prevention Program. Overall, though there
20 were no major surprises or issues in FY2025, we continue
21 to maintain a strong financial position and we look
22 forward to what will be accomplished in FY2026. This
23 concludes my formal remarks and I'm happy to answer any
24 questions.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you Mr. Ralston.

1 Members, any questions? Outstanding work. Thank you
2 John, appreciate it. Now I believe we will hear from and
3 Jason Gonzalez who will give us a little update on what's
4 going on in your world. Internal Audit. Welcome.

5 JASON GONZALEZ: Good afternoon. Good afternoon,
6 Chairman Bacarisse, Board Members and Executive Director,
7 Avitia. For the record, my name is Jason Gonzalez,
8 Director of the Internal Audit Division. I'll be
9 providing an update on internal and external audit
10 engagements. A brief summary of the engagements can be
11 found on page 370 of your board materials. So internal
12 audit has two ongoing audit projects. The IT governance
13 project is currently in the fieldwork phase. That audit
14 should be completed by the end of October 2025. We're
15 also going through peer review, so the age old question of
16 who audits the auditors, this is the answer to that. We're
17 undergoing a peer review being performed by the Director
18 of Internal Audit at the Higher Education Board. He's
19 being assisted by a senior auditor from the Texas
20 Education Agency. We anticipate being completed in
21 November of 2025. Our external engagements, the
22 Comptroller recently completed a statewide desk audit on
23 the state's charge card rebate program that was called the
24 State's Commercial Charge Card Rebate Program Audit. The
25 audit found the department paid invoices within an average

1 of 19 days and paid a total of \$8.27 in late payment fees
2 during FY 2024, so good job, Finance. All right. The
3 Comptroller also recently completed the Controls Over
4 Expenditure Processing Audit which was a desk audit of the
5 state's controls over payment processing. The audit found
6 that the Department had employees who had some segregation
7 of duties issues such as being able to edit and post
8 payment within our payment systems. It should be noted
9 here that we made those corrective actions based on FY
10 2023 data. So there was some overlap. So when they did
11 the new audit, they're looking at FY 2024. But when they
12 were, there's some overlap so the corrections couldn't be
13 seen, so the next time we go through this, it should be
14 corrected. The correction of actions were made, it's just
15 not reflected. All right. Finally, internal audit is
16 requesting the approval of the fiscal year. I'm sorry,
17 did anyone have any questions on the earlier engagements?
18 Okay. Finally, Internal Audit is requesting approval of
19 the fiscal year 2026 audit plan. The audit plan can be
20 found on page 373 of your board materials. Internal Audit
21 is proposing audit and advisory projects developed through
22 our completed annual risk assessment. Internal Audit will
23 also be completing required activities and value added
24 services. Finally, Internal Audit. We've also proposed
25 some alternative engagements as time permits. So if we

1 need to add on to the audit plan, we can. And if our risk
2 environment changes at all, we can make some adjustments.
3 That's all I have. Sorry, I tried to condense everything,
4 so my notes.

5 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's fine. Thank you.

6 JASON GONZALEZ: Yeah, thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Including Agenda item
8 19C, we do have to improve the Internal Audit Plan. So,
9 Members, any questions of Mr. Gonzalez, on what he briefed
10 us on first? Sharla.

11 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I'm sorry, I don't have a
12 question.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay. All right, if
14 not, then.

15 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I have a motion. Yeah.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham, you've
17 been doing good work on this issue with Jason.

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: So Jason's been doing really
19 good work and I've been watching him. And his team and
20 his full team full 100% team.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Please proceed.

22 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I
23 move that the Board approve the fiscal year 2026 Internal
24 Audit Plan as recommended by staff.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And is there a second to

1 that?

2 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: I will second, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu, okay good.

4 All right. Any further discussion on this item? Seeing

5 none, the Chair will call for a vote, please. Member

6 Alvarado?

7 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Gillman?

9 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

11 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

13 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Vice Chair McRae?

15 VICE CHAIRMAN TAMMY McRAE: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

17 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: And turning the page,

19 Members Schlosser.

20 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
22 aye as well. It's unanimous. Jason, thank you and your
23 team.

24 JASON GONZALEZ: Thank you. Appreciate it.

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Before we go to Closed

1 Session, I know we have a gentleman who has waited very
2 patiently to address our Board. So please do come forward
3 at this time and give us your name and tell us what we're
4 going to hear about. Laura, are there any other public
5 comments?

6 LAURA MORIATY: No, just John Trillo from Beyond
7 Engaged and EPIADA.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Okay, fantastic. Great,
9 thanks for being patient with us.

10 JOHN TRILLO: Good afternoon, Chairman, Members of
11 the Board. Director Avitia. My name is John Trillo. I
12 own a digital marketing agency, an AI agency in El Paso,
13 Texas. I work with many auto dealerships in the area and
14 I'm also in charge of marketing for the El Paso
15 Independent Automobile Dealership Association. And so
16 being in this role has given me a front row seat to see
17 all the challenges that dealers are facing regarding metal
18 plates and webDEALER post House Bill 718. And here's the
19 reality, most of the questions that dealers are having,
20 the answers are already somewhere in the trainings that
21 you guys have provided for them. But it could just be
22 difficult for them to quickly get an answer. So what that
23 means is they end up calling in for support and your staff
24 is spending just us valuable time repeating what's already
25 been documented. And so what I want to share with you

1 guys today is a way to improve the way users are accessing
2 the support across the DMV website. The way we can do
3 this is through an AI support agent designed to leverage
4 all of your existing knowledge based assets like PDF
5 guides, video trainings, Q & A sessions, and website
6 content, in general. It allows dealers to ask their
7 questions in plain language and receive an immediate,
8 accurate answer without having to dig through hours of
9 training. It also supports Spanish, so Hispanic dealers
10 who may struggle with English based trainings are going to
11 get the same immediate answer each time. And so a
12 traditional chatbot like the one that you guys currently
13 have on your website, is essentially like a decision tree
14 disguised as a conversation. It gives you options, but if
15 one of your problems doesn't fit one of those options, it
16 basically, you know, doesn't give you an answer, it breaks
17 down. So it creates gaps in customer support. An AI
18 support agent is different than a chatbot. Instead of
19 taking you down a predefined path, you're simply going to
20 ask it a question and it's going to respond by searching
21 all of the training documents that you guys have provided.
22 And once it finds you the correct answer, it's going to
23 include it with the source right below it. The AI agent
24 is going to adapt to the user's question, as opposed to
25 the user having to adapt their question to get an answer

1 from the bot. So, for example, a dealer might ask on a
2 repossession who should be listed as a seller on the VTN.
3 Today, the answer does exist in your knowledge base. You
4 know, it's buried in a Q & A session from August 26, which
5 might be difficult and time consuming for a dealer to
6 locate right away. But with this tool, the dealer will
7 just ask the same question and the agent would give them
8 the correct answer with the source of where it found it,
9 all in a few seconds. So another key feature is that the
10 agent just keeps getting smarter. We can update its
11 knowledge base with new Q&A's, FAQ's, or, you know, new
12 house bills that come out in the future. And from now on,
13 every single time somebody asks something, it's going to
14 give you that new answer each time. So aside from it
15 being useful for dealers and users in general on the DMV
16 website, internally, it could also serve as a useful guide
17 for the TxDMV employees. Because when a dealer calls in,
18 they don't have to reference their memory or notes. They
19 could just simply ask the bot and they're always going to
20 keep getting the consistent answer, which is useful to
21 maintain consistency across a large workforce. You know,
22 that's something I've seen, like a lot of dealers tell me
23 how they call one time and they get one answer. They call
24 a different time, they get a different answer. So this
25 ensures that everybody gets the same thing every time. So

1 we've already built a working prototype called Webdealer
2 pro. You guys can access it absolutely free
3 @webdealerpro.com and so that version includes only the
4 knowledge base as far as like webDEALER and anything
5 related to metal plates. But we can definitely expand it
6 to be a full AI support agent for the entire website. I'd
7 be honored to demonstrate you guys how working together,
8 we can reduce a bunch of repetitive calls, increase the
9 consistency in the answers that you guys are giving your
10 dealers and help them stay compliant, you know, with, with
11 the DMV, post House Bill 718 and any other bills that come
12 out in the future. Thank you. That concludes it, if you
13 guys have any questions, I'm open.

14 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you very much.
15 Any questions, Members?

16 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: I have one comment.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones.

18 MEMBER MARK JONES: I just wanted to comment that I
19 met John out in El Paso and the number of, of Hispanic
20 dealers that he's been able to help out there, they're not
21 always real comfortable for whatever reason coming to the
22 TxDMV website, but because they've talked to John and he's
23 worked with them, just kudos. I think you've really
24 helped the dealer community with what you've done. And
25 I'd like to see maybe this could be expanded to help all

1 the dealers in Texas, not just El Paso.

2 JOHN TRILLO: Thank you, Mr. Jones, I appreciate it.

3 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you, Member
4 Gillman.

5 MEMBER STACEY GILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
6 just upgraded our DMS system for our dealerships. It's a
7 big, massive upgrade from gobs of paper to paperless. And
8 it's a huge change for us and our employees. And our DMS
9 system just introduced this exact same thing for our
10 employees. And we are so excited about it. And so
11 instead of calling 1-800 or submitting an email with a
12 question, we just ask the AI system because you're exactly
13 right, the rules are there. But getting an answer quickly
14 is just so valuable. So congratulations. This is, this
15 is very helpful. So it's available on webdealerpro.com.

16 JOHN TRILLO: Yes, ma'am. Yeah, you can go in there
17 and try it out. I actually made a new version of it. I
18 updated, I know you guys came up with some new E plate
19 trainings recently, like some video training. So I added
20 them in there. And then I also added what's called, like,
21 a judge. So it, like, it. It basically judges the answer
22 that the AI bot got based on what it's referencing. And
23 so it's like another. It's like another layer of making
24 sure that it's giving you the right answer. And if for
25 some reason it doesn't give you the right answer and it

1 doesn't give you enough information, it'll go on the Texas
2 DMV website and it'll scrape it all, get the correct
3 information, and then feed it over to you. But the way we
4 can really take this to the next level is by using, like,
5 the internal knowledge that you guys have, which I don't
6 have access to. You know, like, I know you guys have,
7 like, weekly Q & A trainings. So imagine if each training
8 you guys have, we keep adding it onto the bot and it just
9 becomes exponentially smarter. Like every single thing
10 that you guys have said at one point, as far as support,
11 it'll be able to, it'll be accessible within a few
12 seconds.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That's great. Thank
14 you. Members, any other questions? Thanks.

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman, if I
16 may.

17 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yeah. Mr. Avitia, thank
18 you.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: Chairman John,
20 thank you for being here with us today and providing this
21 information. It seems really exciting. I would ask that
22 you meet with our Chief Information Officer, Wendy Barron,
23 who is sitting here with us today if you haven't already,
24 so that she can guide you through the DIR Department of
25 Information Resources process and how to become a vendor

1 for the state of Texas, that would be very helpful for
2 your venture. I tune in from El Paso, so I hope the next
3 time our paths cross, you have some Chico's Tacos with
4 you, that would make me very happy.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIEL AVITIA: But again, thank
6 you for being here and I appreciate the information John,
7 we do appreciate it.

8 JOHN TRILLO: Thank you guys for your time.

9 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Thank you. Okay, Agenda
10 item 20, Closed Session. Oh, there are no more public
11 commenters, right? They've all passed.

12 LAURA MORIATY: Sir. No more public comments.

13 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: We'll now take up Agenda
14 item number 20. We're going to go into closed session.
15 It is now 1:21 in the afternoon, and on September 18,
16 2025, we'll go into closed session under Texas Government
17 Code Section 551.071, 551.074, 551.076, 551.0761 and
18 551.089. For those of you who still are in the audience.
19 I anticipated being in this closed session for
20 approximately one and a half hours. We will reconvene an
21 open session after that. With that, we are recessed from
22 the public meeting and we're going to close session.

23 OFF THE RECORD

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: It is 2:48 pm.

25 ON THE RECORD

1 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: The DMV Board is now
2 back in session. No action was taken during the closed
3 session. We'll now take up Agenda item 21, which is the
4 performance evaluation of the executive director. Laura,
5 are there any public comments on 21?

6 LAURA MORIATY: My mic is gone, sir, but there are no
7 public comments.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Beautiful. Okay.
9 Fabulous. Fabulous. I'll entertain a motion regarding
10 Agenda item 21, which is in case you're interested.

11 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I'll make a motion.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Performance evaluation
13 of the executive director, including any modifications to
14 compensation.

15 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion.

16 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Yes. Member Graham.

17 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: I move that the Board approve
18 the evaluation of the Executive Director Mr. Daniel
19 Avitia, from our closed session.

20 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Is there a second? I'll
21 second it. Member Schlosser, okay, great. Thank you.
22 Any further discussion?

23 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Do we have to do a roll
24 coming back cause we lost 2?

25 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I'll now call for the

1 vote. Any Board Members, when I call your name, please
2 state your vote for the record. Member Alvarado?

3 MEMBER CHRISTIAN ALVARADO: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Graham?

5 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Jones?

7 MEMBER MARK JONES: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Omumu?

9 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Member Schlosser?

11 MEMBER DARREN SCHLOSSER: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: I, Chair Bacarisse vote
13 aye as well. Okay, it's unanimous.

14 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: Thank you, Daniel.

15 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: That is that item.

16 Thank you, Daniel. Unless there's any further business, I
17 would entertain a motion to adjourn.

18 MEMBER BRETT GRAHAM: So moved.

19 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Graham. Second.

20 MEMBER SHARLA OMUMU: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Omumu. All in favor,
22 aye.

23 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN CHARLES BACARISSE: Opposed, nay. This
25 Board Meeting is adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Board Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2025

9:00 a.m.

4000 Jackson Avenue

Building 1, Lone Star Conference Room

Austin, Texas 78731

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Steve Owen, Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Texas, hereby certify to the following:

I certify that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties or attorneys in the action in which this proceeding was taken, and further that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Certified to me this 29th of September 2025

Steve Owen, CER-1232; CDR-1232
Notary Commission No. 10000679
Commission Expires: 10/28/2026
Firm Registration No. 115
Ken Owen & Associates, LP
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3 I, Steve Owen, legal transcriptionist, do hereby
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10 verbatim record to the best of my ability.

11 I further certify that I am not neither attorney
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13 the action; further, that I am not a relative or employee
14 of any attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor
15 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this
16 matter.

17 In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand
18 this 29th of September 2025.

19
20
21 _____
22 Steve Owen

23 Legal Transcriber
24
25

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