



RIVER OF TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION

2005/2006 ROTCC OFFICERS

	BILL BLAYDES, CHAIR Councilmember, City of Dallas, Texas		
ELIZABETH G. FLORES, CO-CHAIR Mayor City of Laredo, Texas	WILL LOWRANCE, CO-CHAIR Mayor City of Hillsboro, Texas	MARC MAXWELL, CO-CHAIR City Manager City of Sulphur Springs, Texas	F.G. "BUDDY" VILLINES, CO-CHAIR County Judge/Chief Executive Officer Pulaski County, Arkansas

RIVER OF TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006
LAREDO, TX
LA POSADA HOTEL/SUITES SAN AGUSTIN GRAND BALLROOM

Meeting Attendees:

Steve Adams	Elizabeth Flores	Peggy Lundy	Travis Pope
Orlando Ayarzaguitia	John Galo	Stanford Lynch	Juan Ramirez
Gene Belmares	Rafael Garcia	Carlos Machorro	W.W. Rowland
Mark Biersmith	Loy Garcia	Mario Maldonado	Greg Royster
Bill Blaydes	Javier Garza	Marc Maxwell	Steve Salazar
Javier Bolaños	Tom Giltner	Steve McCullough	Anthony Santich
George Cabasos	Rene Gonzalez	Shannon Menard	Christopher Scheffman
Guillermo Castano	Manuel Gonzalez	Joseph Mendiola	Jean E. Sides
Daisy Carmona	Jaime Gonzalez	John Monaco	Sam Smith
Alex Cessac	Robert Grab	Xochitl Mora	Josie Torrez
Douglas Chaney	Gary Griffith	Ron Natinsky	Jose Trevino
Rep. Henry Cuellar	Chip Harper	Charles Nickerson	Asa Trull
William Dahlstrom	Holland Harper	Ed Oakley	Carlos Velarde
Chris Davis	Patrick Hays	W.G. Orr	Ruby Vera
David Dean	Jesse Hereford	Sandra Orr	Eduardo Vidales
Larry Dovalina	Trudy Hester	Gonzalo Ortíz	Eduardo Villarreal
Alvin DuBois	Louis Hill	Craig Owens	F.G. "Buddy" Villines
Jean DuBois	Leslie Jutzi	Mike Pappas	Martin Weiss
George Elking	Beth Leonesio	Greg Patton	Don Wittschiebe
Brystol English	Yvette Limón	Daniel Patyrak	
Joseph Fierro	Blasita Lopez	Richard Perez	

ROTCC Welcome and Opening Remarks – Elizabeth Flores, Mayor, City of Laredo, ROTCC Co-Chair; Larry Dovalina, City Manager, City of Laredo; Bill Blaydes, Councilmember, City of Dallas, ROTCC Chair;

I. Administrative Update – Chairman Blaydes

A. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2005 meeting – Steve Salazar, Dallas Councilmember
 Highlights from the October 2005 Quarterly Meeting and approval of the minutes.

B. Membership Update – John Monaco, Mesquite Councilmember

New ROTCC members since the October 2005 meeting:

International Members

Ing. Mario Cadena, President, Economic Development Council of Sinaloa, Mexico
(CODESIN)

Manuel González Coral and Carlos Arturo Velarde, Industrial Corridor Development,
Jalisco, Mexico

Lic. Policarpo Infante, Mayor, The County of Ahome, Sinaloa, Mexico

Ambassador Francisco Alejo, Director, NEMEX-TEX

Mr. Rodolfo Sabonge, Director of Corporate Planning & Marketing,
The Panama Canal Authority

Dr. Francisco López, General Director, the Port of Topolobampo

U.S. Members

The Honorable John Carona, Texas State Senator

The Honorable Helen Giddings, Texas State Representative

The Honorable Bill Keffer, Texas State Representative

The Honorable Velmar Bailey, Crittenden County, Arkansas Justice of the Peace

The Honorable Jerry Hoagland, Collin County, Texas Commissioner

The Honorable Joe Jaynes, Collin County, Texas Commissioner

The Honorable Kenneth Schoen, Kaufman County, Texas Commissioner

The Honorable Cay House, City of Emory, Texas Mayor

The Honorable Wayne Middleton, City of Balch Springs, Texas Mayor

The Honorable Michael Hall, City of Balch Springs, Texas Councilmember

The Honorable Mayor Robbin Lamkin, City of Farmersville, Texas Mayor

The Honorable Rhenett Gardner, City of Hutchins, Texas Councilwoman

The Honorable Sam Smith, City of Irving, Texas Councilmember

The Honorable Alvin Dubois, City of Glenn Heights, Texas Mayor

The Honorable Josie Torrez, City of Glenn Heights, Texas Councilmember

The Honorable Greg Patton, City of Cedar Hill, Texas Councilmember

Mr. Craig Owens, City of Rowlett, City Manager

The Allen Group/Dallas Logistics Hub, represented by Leslie Jutzi

Garner Commercial, David Garner, President

Jackson Walker, LLP, William S. Dahlstrom, Attorney at Law

Little Rock Port Authority

Peggy Lundy, Inc.

RoadMasters Transportation Company, LP, Joseph Fierro, Director of Planning &
Logistics

The Rowland Group, Robert L. Grab, Vice President, Business Development

Safeguard Dental & Vision, Joe Phifer, Sr. Account Executive

Slay Industries, George Elking, Vice President, Marketing & Sales

Southport Properties, LP

Texas Cartage Warehouse, Jim Albright, Director of Business Development

Hattie Wayne Public Relations

C. Discussion of ROTCC expansion/alignment with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (rail connection)

1) Anthony Santich, Marketing Manager of the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) gave an informative presentation concerning the high volumes of container trade through the Port. Two issues addressed were increasing velocity and enhancing environmental or “green” technology. Goods movement projects, reducing emissions by increasing operations during off peak hours, and alternate marine power, such as dockside electric power, are several possible solutions that may be pursued.

2) Riverside, California Councilmember Steve Adams addressed the topic of funding transportation efforts. His presentation depicted a 4 step no-tax solution to increasing funding , jobs, air quality, and quality of living: 1) voluntary, industry supported premium to fund transportation projects; 2) use of future growth of U.S. customs revenue; 3) truck operation at night during “off peak” hours; and 4) creation of remote inland ports.

3) Shannon Menard, Manager for the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) presented a comprehensive overview of CAGTC and its efforts to bring attention to transportation issues and expanding U.S. freight and goods movement transportation. Some of these issues include the federal gas tax rate of return, examining the highway trust fund, and systems solvency.

II. International Update

A. Presentation by the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas

Jaime González, Co-Manager of Planning and Commercial Development described the future expansion of the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas, which has 2000 hectares available for expansion. These expansion efforts include new container terminals, automated access control systems, closed circuit TV’s to monitor the port, and environmental development.

B. Presentation by Hutchison Port Holdings Group

Gonzalo E. Ortíz Zamudio, General Manager from Lázaro Cárdenas Terminal Portuaria de Contenedores delineated the current reach of HPH operations and spoke on the future growth of these operations and promoting the “Mexican Land Bridge” as a means to moving trade through the NAFTA corridor. HPH handles a considerable amount of the world’s throughput of TEUs and has many operations around the world, including several operations in Mexico. Its operation in Lázaro Cárdenas is a multi-million dollar investment.

C. Panama Canal Authority Update - Ron Natinsky, Dallas Councilmember
Official membership confirmation is in progress.

III. Federal Update

A. Address by U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar

Congressman Cuellar encouraged looking at regional sources for support in attaining transportation funding and encouraged the Coalition to be a point of reference for its members and to be a coordinated voice in Washington, D.C. He also addressed gas tax rate of return policies, H.R. 3 and building efficiency in trade, and supporting NAFTA and other trade policies, such as CAFTA. Congressman Cuellar also spoke about immigration issues and suggested that the millions of dollars appropriated for protecting the border would be well spent on innovative and smart border security initiatives.

B. Martin Weiss with the Office of Interstate and Border Planning of the Federal Highway Administration provided a presentation on the chronology of FHWA that traced the progress of FHWA studies, ISTEA and Congressional High Priority Corridors, the NHS Act, TEA-21, and SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Weiss also pointed out the River of Trade Corridor designation on the new High Priority Corridor map.

C. ROTCC Mission to Washington, D.C. Update / U.S. Conference of Mayors
Mayor Patrick Hays of the City of North Little Rock gave a touching tribute to Mayor Flores and an acknowledgement of her work with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He also encouraged the Coalition to focus on the future and continue pursuing meetings and support in Washington. The last mission included meetings with almost 30 Congressional and Senatorial offices, federal administrations and departments, national transportation associations, and foreign embassies.

D. Congressional Caucus update - Ed Oakley, Dallas Councilmember
Current members of the Caucus include Henry Cuellar (TX), Chet Edwards (TX), Charles González (TX), Jeb Hensarling (TX), Kenny Marchant (TX), Pete Sessions (TX), Marion Berry (AR), Mike Ross (AR), and Vic Snyder (AR). We continue to look for even more support, and as a result, recent meetings were held in Washington with the offices of Representatives Harold Ford (TX), John Carter (TX), Lloyd Doggett (TX), and Michael McCaul (TX) that were very positive and productive. Councilmember Oakley encouraged the audience to get the support of their Members of Congress and encourage them to join.

E. Multistate Corridor Designation and Clean Air Corridor Discussion – David Dean, Dean International, Inc.

The Coalition endorses Multistate Corridor language and will continue to encourage its inclusion in federal legislation because the ROTCC would potentially qualify for more funding if the multistate corridor language was available. ROTCC is also addressing air quality issues and will be pursuing a “Clean Air Corridor” Designation and we hope to work collectively with the Environmental Protection Agency to further address this concept.

IV. Regional / State Update

A. Legislative Caucus Update - Peggy Lundy, Office of Texas State Representative Bill Keffer

The current caucus includes State Senators John Carona, Bob Deuell, Florence Shapiro, and Royce West (Co-Chair) and State Representatives Roberto Alonzo, Helen Giddings, Linda Harper Brown, Fred Hill (Co-Chair), Bill Keffer, and our newest member, State Representative Terri Hodge. The Coalition encourages you to contact your State representatives to become members of the Caucus.

B. Private Sector update

1) Presentation by Asa Trull, We Pack Logistics

We Pack is an ISO certified, third party logistics company headquartered in Paris, Texas, who package and repackage items to add value. Their strategy to lower costs for consumers includes location, controlling costs, and utilizing technology. WePack advocates communication between transportation entities and the public and private sectors in order to maintain current trade flow in strategic locations along the entire length of the corridor. WePack is very supportive of the River of Trade Corridor Coalition.

2) Presentation by George Elking, Vice President, Marketing and Sales, Slay Industries

Some of the most pressing issues in the truckload and intermodal industry are driver shortage, driver capacity, unstable fuel prices, and new engine emission standards and security requirements that add to the cost of operations.

3) Alex Cessac, The Rowland Group

Rowland has 5 terminals in cities along the River of Trade Corridor which include Laredo, San Antonio, Dallas, Memphis, and Nashville in addition to three other terminals located in Houston, New Orleans, and El Paso. Their services include local and road drayage, secure drop lot facilities, computerized dispatch, and equipment storage. They are also advocates of retaining the trade route because businesses are established in their particular locale because its location along the corridor.

C. Discussion of Significant Corridor Projects / Transportation Assets

1) Rene Gonzalez, Bordertown Consulting

Mr. Gonzalez welcomed the meeting participants to Laredo to view first hand the trade flow through the City and reiterated the impressive capacity of Laredo's World Trade Bridge. He noted studies that support the fact that economic development in the Rio Grande area generates jobs and funding for states along the NAFTA Corridor.

2) Mario I. Maldonado, Jr. – Bridge Director, City of Laredo Bridge System
The City of Laredo owns all four international bridges and is the #1 inland port in the United States. The World Trade Bridge (Bridge 4) processes thousands of commercial vehicles daily and uses a weigh in motion system and an Automatic Vehicle Identification System (AVI). The World Trade Bridge is the only bridge where weight-in-motion and AVI work together. The City will soon be upgrading its battery-operated AVI readers to a sticker tag and upgrading its intermobility with the North Texas Tollway Authority and other tollroads.

3) Greg Royster, Principal Transportation Engineer, North Central Texas Council of Governments
Strategic Initiatives in DFW area: 1) Truck lane Pilot Study 2) Tower 55 Reliever Study. NCTCOG is currently waiting for results from the Tier 1 environmental impact study from TxDOT regarding the Trans Texas Corridor.

4) Buddy Villines, County Judge, Pulaski County, Arkansas update
Supports River of Trade Corridor commerce, and also supports efforts by local governments to make quality of life better for people to live in and visit the cities and counties along with corridor.

5) Sam Smith, Irving City Councilmember, discussion of the upcoming 9th Annual Transportation Summit
The 9th Annual Transportation Summit is scheduled for August 8-11, 2006 in Irving, Texas. Eight years ago this meeting attracted 100 attendees, but in 2005 there were over 1,100 attendees, including U.S. and international representatives. June 29, 2006 will be the 50th Anniversary of Eisenhower Protocol and interstate highway system and multimodal transportation. All are invited to attend and participate in this dynamic conference. It will be followed by the River of Trade Corridor Coalition Quarterly Meeting on Friday, August 11, 2006.

D. TTC-35 and TTC-69 Update – Marc Maxwell, City Manager, Sulphur Springs, Texas; Trans Texas Corridor Advisory Committee (TTCAC) Member
The TTCAC is awaiting response from the federal government regarding the TxDOT submissions of a Tier 1 environmental study that would narrow the proposed alignment of TTC-35. The TTCAC recommendation to TxDOT is to more fully educate the public on the Trans Texas Corridor.

V. Upcoming Meetings

A. Recruitment Missions

Recruitment missions are being scheduled to Nashville, Tennessee, Detroit, Michigan, Los Angeles, California, and Windsor, Ontario.

B. Upcoming 2006 ROTCC Quarterly Meetings

- April 21, 2006 – hosted by Dallas County, TX
- August 11, 2006 – Irving, TX (*following the 9th Annual Transportation Summit*)
- November 2006

VI. Adjourn