



RIVER OF TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION

BILL BLAYDES, CHAIR
Councilmember, Dallas, Texas

EDDIE FRANCIS
CO-CHAIR
Mayor
Windsor, Ontario

WILL LOWRANCE
CO-CHAIR
Mayor
Hillsboro, Texas

MARC MAXWELL
CO-CHAIR
City Manager
Sulphur Springs, Texas

F.G. "BUDDY" VILLINES
CO-CHAIR
County Judge/Chief Executive Officer
Pulaski County, Arkansas

River of Trade Corridor Coalition Annual Meeting Minutes August 11, 2006, 2-5pm, Irving, Texas

I. ROTCC Welcome

- A. Bill Blaydes, ROTCC Chairman and Councilman, Dallas, Texas
Councilmember Bill Blaydes greeted ROTCC members and interested parties as well as thanked Irving for hosting the River of Trade Corridor Coalition Meeting.
- B. Sam Smith, Councilman, Irving, Texas – Annual Meeting Host
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Smith thanked Councilmember Blaydes. Mayor Pro Tem Smith explained how Irving is proud to host the River of Trade Corridor Coalition Annual Meeting. Irving is excited to provide an opportunity for both the private and public sectors on national and international levels to discuss transportation issues.

II. Administrative Update

A. Approval of Minutes from June 29, 2006 ROTCC Specially Convened Meeting

The minutes from the June 29, 2006 specially convened meeting were unanimously approved.

B. New Member update – Will Lowrance, ROTCC Co-Chair and Mayor, Hillsboro, Texas

Mayor Lowrance voiced his excitement at the continued growth coupled with a burgeoning unity of support between the public and private sectors in regards to transportation and commerce related issues. Then on behalf of the Coalition, Mayor Lowrance welcomed the following new members who have joined since the specially-convened meeting in Dallas on June 29, 2006:

New Members from the Public Sector:

Councilman Patrick Echemann, City of Sidney, Ohio

Mayor Larry Nash, City of Wheatley, Arkansas

Councilmember Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood, California

Councilman Elito M. Santarina, City of Carson, California

New Members from the Private Sector:

Leslie Blakey, Coalition for America's Trade Corridors and Gateways

Stephen T. Crosson, Crosson Dannis, Inc.

Bill Elliot, Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce

Chris Hanebeck, Lead RFID Consultant for IBM

Harrell "Buddy" Hayden, Joe Foster Co.

Clinton Howard, Royal Body Care Life Sciences, Inc.
Razi Mithani, Breeze Realty
G. Philip Morley, BGP Architects
Charles Raymond, Raymon Construction
Alfred Record, American Best Transportation Inc.
Joe Snell, Tucson, Arizona Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc.
Dr. David Strutton, University of North Texas

The inclusion of the aforementioned members into the River of Trade Corridor Coalition now brings the Coalition's total membership to 227.

III. International Update

A. Mexico -- German Rivera, Sinaloa Economic Development Council / Port of Topolobampo, Mexico

German Rivera discussed the importance of the Port of Topolobampo and the need for multimodal ports. German Rivera also stressed the need of a good working relationship between the United States and Mexico.

B. China -- Ron Natinsky, Councilman, Dallas, Texas

Councilmember Ron Natinsky discussed the importance of a good relationship with China. He stressed that through trips like the one that Dallas City Councilmembers and other representatives took, relationships can be formed that can prosper trade in the future.

IV. Federal Update

A. Fred Abousleman, National Association of Regional Councils

Fred Abousleman stressed the importance of having good relationships with the cities that are the anchor points and gateways along the River of Trade Corridor. Mr. Abousleman also stressed the importance of the cities along the corridor to work together to reach the goals of the whole coalition.

B. U.S. Department of Commerce's Security and Prosperity Partnership – Andrew Rudman, Director, Office of NAFTA and Interamerican Affairs

Andrew Rudman explained the purpose and the goals of the Security and Prosperity Partnership; to insure the selling and marketing of more diverse goods and increase the quality of life. Mr. Rudman stated that the overall goal of the Partnership is to make America the best place to live, work, and do business.

C. Establishing a Green, Clean, and Safe Multimodal International Trade Corridor

1. Consideration of Resolution Supporting the EPA's Blue Skyways Collaborative-

Councilmember Blaydes asked for a vote on the EPA's Blue Skyways Collaborative and The River of Trade Corridor Coalition unanimously approved the resolution.

2. Gene Pentimonti, Maersk Inc. (via video clip).

Gene Pentimonti was pleased that he had become a member of the River of Trade Corridor Coalition. He explained how his company, Maersk Inc., is highly interested in ways to improve trade more effectively while still maintaining a clean environment.

D. Congressional Caucus update

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, gave the Congressional Caucus update. She stated that the Congressional Caucus is still growing and is very strong at the Federal level with eleven representatives from three states. There is also a need for constituents to contact federal representatives to join the caucus.

E. Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, informed ROTCC that an important goal on the ROTCC agenda is getting the whole River of Trade Corridor under the Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation. One major way of furthering this goal, stresses Ms. Sides, is a strong Congressional Caucus.

F. Multistate International Corridor Development Program

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, explained that the River of Trade Corridor is a multistate corridor and that the Coalition members as well as the caucuses need to support the multistate language in technical corrections to transportation bills such as SAFETEA-LU.

F. Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act of 2006

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, explained the Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act of 2006, which allows for a 25% tax cut for railroad companies, shipping companies, ports, trucking companies and others when they are building new tracks, grading, yards or terminals for railroads. This is an incentive for more companies involved in the transportation of trade to build rail lines.

V. **Discussion of Significant Corridor Projects / Transportation Assets / Congestion Bottlenecks / Funding Needs**

A. Pulaski County, Arkansas – Buddy Villines, County Judge

Judge Villines pointed out three projects in his area and how they are significant transportation assets and encouraged other members to do the same. It is the identifying of significant projects and transportation assets that will lead the River of Trade Corridor into a top position for the “Corridors of the Future” Competition.

B. Port of Long Beach – Mario Cordero, Harbor Commissioner (via video clip)

The Harbor Commissioner of Long Beach, Mario Cordero expressed that he was pleased to speak at the River of Trade Corridor Coalition via video clip. He explained how his Clean Air Action plan is focused on environmental issues and how he sees ROTCC as instrumental in tackling some of these very same issues.

C. Updated Inventory of Transportation Assets along the River of Trade Corridor

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, expressed the need for Coalition members to provide the Coalition with knowledge of their area's transportation assets because that is one of the qualifications to the "Corridors of the Future" competition produced via the Federal Registry.

VI. State Update

A. Legislative Caucus Update – John Addington, Bowie County, Texas Commissioner

Commissioner Addington gave the Legislative Update. He pointed out that he had contacted his local representatives and now they are both members of the ROTCC Legislative Caucus; State Senator Kevin Eltife and Representative Stephen Frost. He also explained that another new member to the Legislative Caucus was Joe Pickett from El Paso. These new additions bring the ROTCC Legislative Caucus to 23 members. Commissioner Addington also pointed out that other members should contact their representatives and inform them of the importance of both ROTCC and the Legislative Caucus. Below is a list of all the Legislative Caucus members;

Senator Kip Averitt, TX District 22
Senator John Carona (Co-Chair), TX District 16
Senator Robert Deuell, TX District 2
Senator Kevin Eltife, TX District 1
Senator Chris Harris, TX District 9
Senator Florence Shapiro, TX District 8
Senator Jeff Wentworth, TX District 25
Senator Royce West (Co-Chair), TX District 23
Representative Roberto Alonzo, TX District 104
Representative Yvonne Davis, TX District 111
Representative Dan Flynn, TX District 2
Representative Stephen Frost, TX District 1
Representative Helen Giddings, TX District 109
Representative Ryan Guillen, TX District 31
Representative Linda Harper-Brown, TX District 105
Representative Will Hartnett, TX District 114
Representative Fred Hill (Co-Chair), TX District 112
Representative Terri Hodge, TX District 100
Representative Bryan Hughes, TX District, 5
Representative Bill Keffer, TX District 107
Representative Jodie Laubenberg, TX District 89
Representative Jonathan Paton, AR District 30
Representative Joe Pickett, TX District 79

B. Texas State Representative Stephen Frost

Stephen Frost, one of ROTCC's newest Legislative Caucus members stated that he was pleased to be a ROTCC member as well as a part of the Legislative Caucus. He also said that he would contact other representatives personally and encouraged all members to do the same.

C. Trans-Texas Corridor 35 and Public Hearings update – Warren Rutherford, Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce

Warren Rutherford explained how vital it is for the ROTCC to respond to issues like TTC-35 as a Coalition and provide a united front on such issues.

VII. Upcoming ROTCC Meetings

A. November 30 - December 1, 2006 – location TBD

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, stated that the next ROTCC Quarterly Meeting would be November 30- December 1, 2006 and that ROTCC staff are finalizing the location.

B. 2007 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, stated that there is a 2007 Quarterly Meeting Schedule circulating and asked ROTCC members to notify the staff if there are any conflicts. She also pointed out that the next ROTCC Annual Meeting will be on August 11, 2007.

C. Mission to Washington, D.C.

Jean E. Sides announced that there will be a ROTCC Mission to D.C. and she stressed how vital these missions are to implementing policy and building relationships.

D. 2007 Annual Meeting following the 10th Annual Transportation Summit, August 10, 2007, Irving, Texas. (See section VII B.)

VIII. Old Business

No old business was mentioned.

IX. New Business

A. Laredo Development Foundation's 13th Annual Manufacturing Symposium --

** Please see flyer attached to ROTCC e-mail.

B. AAA Goods Movement Forum – Marianne Kim, Transportation Analyst
Marianne Kim spoke in reference to her Goods Movement Forum which will be held early next year. The goals of the Forum are to build economic welfare assets, release congestion, and focus on safety and environmental issues.

X. Adjourn

Meeting Attendees:

Fred Abousleman, Transportation
Director
National Association of Regional
Council of Governments

John Addington, County Commissioner
Bowie County

Terri A. G. Adkisson, Board Member
DART Board

Erika Akpan, Policy Analyst
Senate Committee on Transportation
and Homeland Security
Jim Albright, Director Business
Development
Texas Cartage Warehouse, Inc.

Chris An, General Manager
World Super Services Inc

Don An, Chairman
World Super Services Inc

David Atkins, CEO
Atkins International, LTD

Vivian Bacarreza Navarro, Urban
Planner, Urban Institute of Research

Jan Belcher, Assistant City Manager
City of Lancaster

Alex Bond, Program Analyst
National Association of Regional
Councils

Rita Joy Burks, Councilmember
City of Balch Springs

Linda Burns, Director
Greater Dallas Chamber

Angelica Cervantes, Policy Analyst
Senate Committee on Transportation
and Homeland

Roy Chacko, Director of Transportation
D. C. Logistics

Douglas J. Chaney, President
D. C. Logistics

Matthew Clark, Senior Policy Planner
Maricopa Association of Governments

Lauren Clayton, Chief of Staff
Texas State Senator Chris Harris

Kathy Dress, President
WH International

George Elking, Vice President,
Marketing and Sales
Slay Industries

Bill Elliott, President/CEO
Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce

Trace Enna, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Cantrell
Dallas County

Steve Filipowicz, Executive Director
Lancaster Econ Dev Corp

Stephen Frost, State Representative
Texas House of Representatives

Augustine Garcia, Director
Puerto Nuevo Office

Kathleen Garrett, District Director
Texas State Representative Will
Hartnett

Tom Giltner, Attorney at Law
Law Offices of Thomas A. Giltner

Christian Hanebeck, IBM

Jack Harper, City Manager
City of Hillsboro

Wendie Hernandez, Special Assistant to
the President Hill College

Gregory S. Hirsch, Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Addison

Jerry Hoagland, County Commissioner,
Precinct 2
Collin County

William Hooper, President
ETC Realtors, LLP

Donald C. Jensen, Transportation
Committee

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of
Commerce

Leslie Jutzi, Director of Government
Affairs & Comm. Relations
The Allen Group

Marianne Kim, Principal Transportation
Policy Analyst- Transport
AAA Auto Club of Southern California

Rick L. Lambert, Sessions Lambert
Selwyn, LLP

Wright L. Lassiter, Jr., Chancellor
Dallas County Community College
District

Will Lowrance, Mayor
City of Hillsboro

Peggy Lundy, District Director
Texas Representative Bill Keffer

Mario Maldonado, Bridge Director
City of Laredo Bridge System

Arnold Martin, President
MANCO Associates

Pauline Medrano, Councilmember,
District 2
City of Dallas

Becky Miller, Mayor
City of Carrollton

Razi Mithani, Vice President
Breeze Realty Inc.

John Monaco, Councilmember, Place 2
City of Mesquite

Hosni Nabi

Ron Natinsky, Councilmember
City of Dallas

Charles Nickerson, City Manager

City of Texarkana

Ed Oakley, Councilmember, District 3
City of Dallas

Edith Omberg, Councilmember, Place 2
City of Hillsboro

W. Gwynn and Sandra Orr
City of Hillsboro Community Action
Teams

Anne O'Ryan, Government Affairs,
Transportation Policy

AAA Texas

Craig S. Owens, City Manager
City of Rowlett

Mike Pappas, District Superintendent
Dallas County

Paul E. Ridley, Partner
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart

German Rivera, Director de Desarrollo
Regional
Consejo para el Desarrollo Economico
de Sinaloa

Angela Berry Roberson, President/
Principal Consultant
Berry Business Development Group

Andrew Rudman, Director, NAFTA and
Inter-American Affairs

Warren L. Rutherford, Chairman
Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce

Elisabeth Rutledge, Director
Public Strategies Inc.

Steve Salazar, Councilmember
City of Dallas

Paul Schlosberg, Chairman
INCA Group

Becky Sebastian, Councilmember,
Place 4

City of Rowlett

Sam C. Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Irving

Sandra Starr-Lyon, U.S. Financial &
Investment Services

Rick Stopfer, Councilmember, Place 6
City of Irving

David Strutton, Professor & Chair
Department of Marketing & Logistics
University of North Texas

Dan Swart, Director
U.S. Department of Commerce
Joe Tillotson, Mayor
City of Lancaster

Carlos Vigil, President/CEO
Seagoville Economic Development
Corporation

F. G. Buddy Villines, County Judge
Pulaski County

Bobby Waddle, Councilmember, Place 5
City of DeSoto

Rachel Wiggins, Senior Transportation
Planner
North Central Texas Council of
Governments