



RIVER OF TRADE CORRIDOR COALITION

ROTCC SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 29TH, 2006 – DALLAS, TEXAS
MINUTES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla, Dallas, Texas 75201, Basement Level 1 (L1) Conference Center

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. ROTCC Special Meeting
Dallas City Hall Auditorium [located in the Basement Level 1 (L1) Conference Center]

I. **ROTCC Welcome and Administrative Update** - Bill Blaydes, Councilman, Dallas, Texas, and Chair, River of Trade Corridor Coalition
Councilman Bill Blaydes welcomed the meeting attendees and proposed a plan of action reaching the National Strategy challenge posed by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

A. **Unanimous approval of the Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2006 ROTCC Quarterly Meeting**

B. **Recruitment Mission update** – Greg Patton, Councilmember, Cedar Hill, Texas
Councilman Greg Patton spoke about the recruitment missions that occurred from April to June, 2006, which include trips to the following locations:
MIDLAND and ODESSA, TEXAS– April 26, 2006
WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 1-2, 2006
DAYTON and CINCINNATI, OHIO – June 5-6, 2006
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – June 5-6, 2006
TUCSON and PHOENIX, ARIZONA – June 15-16, 2006
WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 19 – 20, 2006

C. **New Member update** – Rita Joy Burks, Councilmember, Balch Springs, Texas
Councilwoman Burks announced the new Coalition members that have joined since the April 2006 Quarterly Meeting:

City of Riverside, California, Steve Adams, Councilmember
Lambton County, Ontario, James Foubister, City/County Councillor
Donald W. Allen, American Logistics Group
Scottie Ashley, President, Ashley Properties Inc.
Elizabeth Awa, President, OKIKO Medical Equipment & Supplies
Monica Bailey, Business Development Manager, KJM Associates, Inc.
Alain Bensoussan, Director, International Center for Decision and Risk Analysis
Debby Bosselman, Vice President, BOOST
Dennie Brown, CPA, Brown & Associates
Albert Brunson, Principal, Brunson Technical Associates, LLC
Roger Creery, Executive Director and **Joseph Mendiola, Chief Administrative Officer**, Laredo Development Foundation
Owen DeWitt, Marketing Director, MXGA

For more information, go to www.ROTCC.org

David Dunnigan, Executive Director, Greater Dallas Planning Council
Veletta Forsythe Lill, Board Member, Greater Dallas Planning Council
Gary Hayes, Executive Director, Pima Association of Governments/Regional Transportation Authority in Arizona
Richard Irwin, RKI Properties
Rick L. Lambert, Partner, Godwin Pappas Langley Ronquillo, LLP
Marc Pieroni, Managing Partner, Benefitcorp
Ernest H. Randall, Jr., Executive Managing Director, Vantage Companies
Stephen B. Smith, President, William Rigg Company
Paul E. Ridley, Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP
Dennis C. Ware, COO, W & R Technology, LLC
Sandra Wood, President, Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce
José Luis Iberri Martínez, General Director, Port of Guaymas, Mexico
Manuel Caloca-González, International Trade Lawyer, Monterrey, Mexico

The ROTCC Membership now totals 200.

D. **Letters of Support**

Chairman **Bill Blaydes** read letters supporting the ROTCC's efforts from several unable to attend, including: **Mayor Ruby Vera**, City of Natalia; **Mayor Jim Cavanaugh**, City of Goodyear, Arizona and Member of the Maricopa Association of Government's Regional Council; and **Mayor Eddie Francis**, Windsor, Ontario. The support received from these ROTCC members and potential members underscores the fact that the River of Trade Corridor deserves full recognition as a "Corridor of the Future."

II. **Federal Update**

A. **Congressional Caucus update** – Jim McGee, Office of U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Jim McGee reiterated the many meetings held during the Washington, D.C. trips earlier this year and meetings with current and potential Congressional Caucus members, and their offices including **Representatives Kolbe** and **Pastor** from Arizona, **Representative Pearce** from New Mexico and the office of **Representative Whitfield** from Kentucky. We expect the Caucus to continue to grow as the Coalition grows.

The Congressional Caucus is currently chaired by **Congressman Ralph M. Hall of Texas, who currently serves as the Chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee.** Other Congressional Caucus members include:

- **Representative Marion Berry (Arkansas)**
- **Representative Henry Cuellar (Texas)**
- **Representative Chet Edwards (Texas)**
- **Representative Charles Gonzalez (Texas)**
- **Representative Jeb Hensarling (Texas)**
- **Representative Kenny Marchant (Texas)**
- **Representative Anne Northup (Kentucky)**
- **Representative Mike Ross (Arkansas)**
- **Representative Pete Sessions (Texas)**
- **Representative Vic Snyder (Arkansas)**

B. U.S. Department of Transportation's National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network

Chairman Blaydes introduced the topic of the National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network and stressed that the National Strategy is a blueprint for a more detailed action and that it is important for the U.S. DOT to realize that the River of Trade Corridor Coalition is already a well-established multi-state, multi-modal trade corridor.

1. Overview of the National Strategy and The Six-Point Plan

Jean E. Sides discussed highlights regarding the National Strategy released May 16, 2006. Based on conversations with Joe Guzzo, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Governmental Affairs, U.S. DOT, the National Strategy is a framework document; and the Department plans to implement the strategy within 18 months, uniting all modes in DOT; and that the Department will release more information on the Six-Point Plan in Summer 2006. The Six-Point Plan outlines and discusses relieving urban congestion through urban partnership agreements, removal of barriers to private sector investment in developing, operating and owning transportation infrastructure, promoting operational and technological improvements, establishing a "Corridors of the Future" competition, targeting major freight bottlenecks and expanding freight policy outreach, and accelerating major aviation capacity projects. During a Washington, DC mission, ROTCC delegates also met with Mr. Jim Ray, Chief Counsel, with the Federal Highway Administration, who is the chief architect of the corridors of future competition. There was a motion by **Councilman Sam Smith**, City of Irving, to enter the competition to be designated a "Corridor of the Future" and was seconded by **Grady Smithey**, Trans-Texas Corridor 35 Advisory Committee Member.

2. The River of Trade Corridor as a "Corridor of the Future" -- Identification of Bottlenecks and Funding Needs and Discussion of Solutions

Steve Adams, Councilman, Riverside, California, discussed the transportation-related congestion, delays and pollution affecting Riverside, California. Councilman Adams also discussed that motorists spend an average of five hours per day as a result of at-grade crossing delays. In California, a Task Force was assembled including private sector rail, trucking and aviation companies and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to seek solutions to these transportation challenges. "Operation Free Flow" is an initiative to expand rail service through grade separations to be funded without using tax dollars, but private investment from the transportation companies.

Augustine "Augie" Garcia, Director, Puerto Nuevo, Tucson, Arizona, discussed the Southern Arizona Inland Port concept of Puerto Nuevo and partnerships with inland commerce centers, such as Dallas, to facilitate the movement of commerce and trade. Mr. Garcia also discussed the importance in linking the north-south CANAMEX corridor with the east-west River of Trade Corridor and mentioned the necessary highway improvements in the Tucson region and the critical link between Tucson and Nogales.

Rafael Garcia, Assistant City Manager, Laredo, Texas, discussed the funding needs for infrastructure improvements and ways to optimize the interoperability of technology across transportation systems. Mr. Garcia stressed the importance of collaboration and sharing experiences among members of the corridor. The international bridge system in Laredo consists of four international bridges, one of which is 100% commercial. In 2006, the bridges handled 3.3 million truck crossings and a total of \$130 billion in merchandise in 2005.

Mike Sims, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments, spoke about the NCTCOG's proposal to maximize the use of current highway infrastructure. Mr. Sims stated that the NCTCOG alignment regarding TTC-35 would result in savings in terms of highway construction cost and infrastructure over the current proposed Cintra-Zachry alignment. Mr. Sims also spoke about the planned Tower 55 rail intersection improvements near downtown Fort Worth.

John Addington, Commissioner, Bowie County, Texas, discussed the improvement and extension projects happening near the Texas and Arkansas border along Interstates 49, 69 and 59.

Vlad Sambaiew, Chief, Economic Section, U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, addressed the group and mentioned that trade depends on real-life logistics issues and that the trade moving between the United States and Mexico is steadily increasing. He encouraged the Coalition to continue its efforts.

George Shackelford, City Manager, Texarkana, Texas, discussed the improvements along Interstate I-30 to relieve congestion including construction of new frontage roads and funding sources for the project.

Pat Hays, Mayor, North Little Rock, Arkansas, discussed the Highway 67 and Highway 167 project development to ease saturation that occurs during rush hour. Mayor Hays also mentioned how planned improvements would facilitate the ingress and egress of traffic between Highways 67 and 167 and Interstates I-30 and I-40.

Velmar Bailey, Justice, Crittenden County, Arkansas, discussed the congestion that occurs at the intersection of I-55 and I-40 and the substantial number of vehicles, including trucks, and trains that traverse the area and the need for bridge construction to assist in relieving this congestion between the Arkansas and Tennessee borders.

James Foubister, Councillor, Lambton County, Ontario, Canada, spoke about the two blue-water bridges that connect Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario in Canada. Interstates I-69 and I-94 are the principal routes in the U.S. connecting Port Huron and Sarnia, which is the second busiest land port between Ontario and the U.S. Councillor Foubister spoke about the improvements to set up flexible multi-use lanes better able to mitigate bottlenecks that occur at peak travel times.

C. Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation

1. Discussion and Consideration of Agreement to Pursue Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation for the Entire River of Trade Corridor – Ron Natinsky, Councilman, Dallas, Texas

Ron Natinsky led the discussion regarding the significance of pursuing a Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation for the entire River of Trade Corridor. In order to strengthen the Coalition's case as it competes for a Corridor of the Future designation within the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Strategy to Reduce Congestion, it will be important to work toward a Congressional High Priority Corridor for the entire River of Trade Corridor Coalition. The River of Trade Corridor Coalition was successful in achieving a Congressional High Priority Corridor designation for a significant section of the River of Trade Corridor last year in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation, H.R. 3, SAFETEA-LU. This designation identified Interstates 30 and 40 between Dallas, Texas and Memphis, Tennessee via Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas. Congressional High Priority Corridors are defined as specifically designated highway corridors, which bear national significance as a result of their role in international trade.

There are many segments of the River of Trade Corridor that are not currently designated as Congressional High Priority Corridors. Although southern California is on a designated High Priority Corridor, they are not connected in an east-west fashion to another High Priority Corridor. It will be very important to connect the previously designated segments and achieve a designation for the entire Corridor. The Coalition voted to work toward achieving a designation for the entire Corridor starting at the eastern edge of the California state line through Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso, Midland, Odessa, and Ft. Worth, Texas to the I-35 connection in the metroplex; a northeasterly designation from Memphis to Nashville, Tennessee; through Louisville, Kentucky to Cincinnati, Ohio; and a designation from Toledo, Ohio to Detroit, Michigan. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the Coalition voted unanimously to pursue a Congressional High Priority Corridor Designation for the entire River of Trade Corridor.

D. Multistate International Corridor Development Program

1. Discussion and Consideration of Agreement to Further Pursue Opportunities for Multistate Program Language -- Mike Pappas, Superintendent, Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey

Mike Pappas reiterated the Coalition's support of the Multistate International Corridor Development Program language that would further support international trade corridor development to facilitate the movement of freight from international ports of entry and inland ports through and to the interior of the United States. State transportation departments and metropolitan planning organizations would be eligible to receive and administer funds from the program. Activities eligible for funding include multi-state highway and multi-state multimodal planning and project construction. One of the criteria for the Multistate International Corridor designation is that the corridor must be recognized as a Congressional High Priority Corridor. The ROTCC unanimously voted to pursue opportunities to support the Multistate Program Language.

- E. Collaboration Between ROTCC and the Environmental Protection Agency
 - 1. Discussion and Consideration of Agreement to Expand Collaborative Efforts with all Regional Administrators Along the River of Trade Corridor to Achieve a Green, Clean, Safe, Multimodal & International Corridor

Louis Hill, Public Policy Consultant, Dean International, Inc. gave an update of the collaboration between ROTCC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), specifically concerning the EPA's Blue Skyways Collaborative.

III. State Update

A. Legislative Caucus Update

Jean E. Sides, Senior Public Policy Consultant, Dean International, Inc. updated the meeting attendees of the River of Trade Corridor Legislative Caucus. The ROTCC enjoys the support of many state legislators in its Legislative Caucus. Members of the Caucus help address state issues on behalf of the Coalition.

In Texas, the Legislative Caucus includes: Senator Kip Averitt; Senator John Carona (Co-Chair) Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee; Senator Robert Deuell; Senator Chris Harris, a new member of the Caucus; Senator Florence Shapiro; Senator Jeff Wentworth; and Senator Royce West (Co-Chair); Representative Roberto Alonzo; Representative Yvonne Davis, new member of the Caucus; Representative Dan Flynn, new member of the Caucus; Representative Helen Giddings; Representative Ryan Guillen, new member of the Caucus; Representative Linda Harper-Brown; Representative Will Hartnett; Representative Fred Hill (Co-Chair); Representative Terri Hodge; Representative Bryan Hughes, new member of the Caucus; Representative Bill Keffer; and Representative Jodie Laubenberg.

As the Coalition is growing, we expect the Legislative Caucus to grow beyond Texas. We encourage you to contact your local representatives in your state, and inform them of the Coalition's goals and efforts in order to begin Legislative Caucus's all along the route.

B. Trans-Texas Corridor 35 -- Becky Miller, Mayor, Carrollton, Texas

- 1. Public Hearings Summer 2006

Mayor Becky Miller, City of Carrollton gave a Trans-Texas Corridor 35 (TTC-35) update. The alignment of the proposed TTC-35 is important not only to ROTCC members in Texas, but also to our members in other states, because the current trade routes affect all states along the Corridor, and if they are varied or rerouted, all ROTCC states will all feel the consequences. The Coalition encourages members to attend as many of the 50+ public hearings to be held this summer on the proposed alignment. ROTCC members need to present a united front. The April 2006 proposed alignment of the TTC-35 released by TxDOT and the Texas Transportation Commission is much

better than the previously proposed alignments because the alignment begins in Laredo and more closely follows I-35 northbound. However, the importance of I-30 is not reflected in the TxDOT map. Also important, along I-35E north of Waco, the Coalition has significant concerns about the proposed alignment. The Coalition opposes it as currently shown, and rather supports a regional policy presented by the Regional Transportation Council.

The Coalition believes the regional preferred alignment will protect and enhance economic development opportunities in our region – which is so important as the region faces significant growth over the next decade.

Carrollton, along with many other cities in the North Texas region, have passed resolutions regarding the proposed alignment of TTC-35. They plan to deliver them to Governor Perry and the Texas Transportation Commission. You are encouraged to do the same! For more information, contact the consultants at Dean International, Inc.

IV. Recognition and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System

The Coalition celebrated the 50th anniversary of President Eisenhower's signing of the Interstate Highway legislation. On June 29, 1956, President Eisenhower signed the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act into law, dramatically changing the course of American transportation history. The Interstate Highway System linked Americans in the 20th Century, making all sections of our country more accessible, bringing us closer together geographically and as a people and promoted economic and social opportunities never before imagined. Where President Eisenhower once sought to connect the country with coast-to-coast highways, we now look to multimodal transportation networks, where all facets and modes of transportation intermingle to provide the most efficient infrastructure imaginable.

The ROTCC commemorated this pioneering insight with a special cake ceremony befitting the occasion. The cake, shaped as the North American Continent, showcased the River of Trade Corridor.

V. Upcoming ROTCC Annual and Quarterly Meetings

A. August 11, 2006 – Annual Meeting hosted by Irving, Texas (following the 9th Annual Transportation Summit; www.transportationsummit.com), 2 – 5 p.m., Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport -- Sam Smith, Councilman, Irving, Texas

Sam Smith, Councilman, Irving, Texas invited everyone to the 9th Annual Transportation Summit. Last year over 1,100 city, county, state and federal officials, industry leaders and others interested in transportation attended this event. This year, an even larger crowd is anticipated, with presentations from more nationally and internationally renowned transportation experts. The purpose of the Transportation Summit in Irving is to bring together decision makers, industry experts and planners to improve mobility throughout our cities, regions, states, and nation. At the Summit, August 8 – 11, 2006, participants will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System and President Eisenhower's foresight and determination to improve mobility in the United States as well as look to the future to plan for multimodal transportation needs for the next fifty years. The program will include five multimodal tracks featuring: Aviation; Surface Transportation; Rail & Sea; Public Transportation; and Governance.

The Annual ROTCC meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Summit, Friday, August 11, 2 – 5 p.m., at the Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport, Irving, Texas, 75063. Make plans to attend today!

B. December 1, 2006 (location yet to be determined)

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting Attendees:

**Steve Adams, Councilmember
City of Riverside, California**

**John Addington, County Commissioner,
Precinct 2
Bowie County, Texas**

**Jim Albright, Director of Business
Development
Texas Cartage Warehouse Inc.**

**Lisa Alonzo,
Azteca Enterprises, Inc.**

**Velmar Bailey, Justice of the Peace,
District 9
Crittenden County, Arkansas**

**James Basham, Code Enforcement
Officer
City of Emory, Texas**

**Jan Belcher, Assistant City Manager
City of Lancaster, Texas**

**Al Brunson, Principal
Brunson Technical Associates, LLC**

**Rita Burks, Councilmember
City of Balch Springs, Texas**

**Dorothy Burton, Councilmember
City of Duncanville, Texas**

**Chris Davis, Community
Relations/Economic Development
Dallas County, Texas**

**Vicki Davis, Administrative Assistant
PCT 3
Kaufman County, Texas**

**Aaron Day, Legislative Liaison,
Governmental Relations
City of Fort Worth, Texas**

**Steve Filipowicz, Executive Director
Lancaster Economic Development
Corporation**

**James Foubister, City/County
Councillor
County of Lambton, Ontario, Canada**

**Hector Garcia, Council Member
City of Laredo, Texas**

**Rafael Garcia, Assistant City Manager
City of Laredo, Texas**

**Augie Garcia, Director,
Puerto Nuevo Office
Tucson, Arizona**

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

**David Green, Mayor
City of Duncanville, Texas**

**Gary Griffith, Councilmember
City of Dallas, Texas**

**Josée Hanlon, Owner
Quixtar**

**Chip Harper, Principal
We Pack Logistics**

**Janie Havel, North Texas
Representative
Office of the Governor**

**Patrick Hays, Mayor
City of North Little Rock, Arkansas**

**William Hooper, President
ETC Realtors, LLP**

**Don Jensen, Transportation Committee
Greater Irving Chamber of Commerce**

**Heather Lepaska, Management
Development Associate
City of Dallas, Texas**

**Paul Lovier, Chairman of the Board
NEXTEX**

**Peggy Lundy, District Director
Texas Representative Bill Keffer**

**Mario Maldonado, Bridge Director
City of Laredo, Texas**

**Jake Marks
Trammell Crow Company**

**Jim McGee, Regional Director
U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison**

**Joseph Mendiola, Chief Administrative
Officer
Laredo Development Foundation**

**Becky Miller, Mayor
City of Carrollton, Texas**

**Ron Natinsky, Councilmember
City of Dallas, Texas**

**Michael Olivas
Basecom Inc.**

**Pete Oppel, Executive Director
Dallas Northeast Chamber of Commerce**

**Gwynn Orr, Chair of the Rail Planning
Committee Hillsboro
City of Hillsboro, Texas**

**Craig Owens, City Manager
City of Rowlett, Texas**

**Mike Pappas, District Superintendent
Dallas County, Texas**

**Greg Patton, Councilmember
City of Cedar Hill, Texas**

**Margo Posey, President
DFW Minority Business Council**

**Annette Ratliff, District Legislative Aide
State Senator John Carona**

**Natalie Raulston, District Assistant
U.S. Congressman Ralph M. Hall**

**Alfred Record, President
American Best Transportation Inc.**

**Johnny Rendon, Councilmember
City of Laredo, Texas**

**Paul Ridley, Partner
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson
Graham, LLP**

**Warren Rutherford, Executive Vice
President
Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce/
Methodist Health System**

**Vlad Sambaiew, Chief of the Economic
Section
U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico**

**Becky Sebastian, Councilmember,
Place 4
City of Rowlett, Texas**

**Sid Sexton, Councilmember, Place 1
City of Seagoville, Texas**

**George Shackelford, City Manager
City of Texarkana, Texas**

**Henry Shelton, Principal Partner
Pinnacle Global Transport Services**

**Mike Sims, Principal Transportation
Planner
North Central Texas Council of
Governments**

**Marvin Singleton, Managing Director
Public Stategies, Inc.**

**Sam Smith, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Irving, Texas**

**Grady Smithey, Committee Member
TTC-35 Advisory Committee**

**Carol Strain-Burk, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Lancaster, Texas**

**Chris Thomas
ATP International**

**Todd Thompson, Project Manager
TXU Electric Delivery**

**Betty Tippit, Administrative Assistant
Pct. 2
Kaufman County, Texas**

**Carlos Vigil, President/CEO
Seagoville Economic Development
Corporation**

**Bobby Waddle, Mayor Pro Tem
City of DeSoto, Texas**

**John Ward, Treasurer
West Dallas Chamber of Commerce**

**Daren Watkins, Economic
Development/Special Events
City of Mesquite, Texas**

**Ken Weaver, Councilmember
City of Duncanville, Texas**

**Sarah Wehland, Chief of Staff
Representative Helen Giddings**

**Denny Wheat, City Manager
City of Seagoville, Texas**

**Sam Young, Comissioner
Franklin County, Texas**

**Karl Zavitkovsky, Director of Economic
Development
City of Dallas, Texas**