



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 Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2005
Little Rock, AR
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
10:30 am – 2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees:

Francisco Alejo	Rene Gonzalez	Dexter Pearson
Velmar L. Bailey	Robert Grab	Greg Royster
Scott Bennett	Patrick Hays	Steve Salazar
Bill Blaydes	Ada Hollingsworth	Jean E. Sides
Gene Bryan	Terri Hollingsworth	Sam Smith
Douglas Chaney	Joe Jaynes	F. G. "Buddy" Villines
Jim Dailey	Sherry King	Frank Vozel
David Dean	Stan Lynch	Sarah Wehland
Wilandra Dean	Jim McKenzie	Murry Witcher
Maurine Dickey	Mike Pappas	Vincent Yao
Brystol English	Danny Patyrak	

ROTCC Welcome and Opening Statements

I. Administrative Update — Chairman Blaydes

A. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2005 meeting

The meeting attendees unanimously approved the minutes from the August meeting.

B. Membership update

New ROTCC members since the August 2005 meeting are:

Councilmember Michael Hall, City of Balch Springs
Mayor Cay House, City of Emory
Councilmember Rhenett Gardner, City of Hutchins
Louise Mercurio, Division of Planning and Development,
City of Memphis, Tennessee and Shelby County, Tennessee
County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland, Collin County
County Commissioner Joe Jaynes, Collin County
Douglas Chaney, President, DC Logistics, Inc.

For further information, please contact:
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County Commissioner Kenneth Schoen, Kaufman County
Carlos Machorro, Marketing Head,
LC Terminal Portuaria de Contenedores (Hutchinson Port Holdings)
Juan Paratore, Director, Port of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico
Victor Monraz, Director, Port of Lázaro Cárdenas Customs Office
Ray Miles, President, Rajko Associates
George Elking, Vice President, Marketing & Sales, Slay Industries
County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe, Travis County

- C. Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey presented the report on the successful mission to Austin and San Antonio on September 29-30, 2005.

As a result, Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe is a new member of the River of Trade Corridor Coalition.

- D. Discussion of the updated logo

The Coalition voted unanimously to officially approve the new logo designed by Dean International, Inc. (see logo on first page of these minutes).

- E. Discussion of website development

The Coalition was updated on the website development for the ROTCC. Initially it will be included as a section of the Dallas NAFTA Trade Corridor website.

II. International Update

- A. Update on Mission to Mexico

Dallas Councilmember Steve Salazar provided an insightful report on the ROTCC mission to Mexico City and the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico on October 5-7, 2005.

The delegation had a successful meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza and visited the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas. As a result, the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas became the first international member of the ROTCC. In addition, the Customs Office at the Port and the Hutchinson Port Holdings representative at the Port also joined the ROTCC.

- B. Presentation by Ambassador Francisco Alejo, NEMEX-TEX

Ambassador Francisco Alejo, leader of the NEMEX-TEX organization, provided a terrific presentation about his Coalition's efforts to further develop relations between Mexico, Texas, and the River of Trade Corridor Coalition. We look forward to working closely with the Ambassador to enhance the River of Trade Corridor!

- C. Discussion of Coalition Expansion to Canada

The Coalition engaged in a discussion of expansion options to Detroit, Michigan and Canada. The options include following existing interstates to Detroit, MI and Windsor, Ontario via Nashville, TN, Louisville, KY, Cincinnati, OH and Toledo, OH or along the proposed I-69 corridor encompassing Henderson, KY, Indianapolis, IN and

Lansing, MI. The Coalition agreed on a strategy that includes expansion along the existing trade route, as well as efforts to coordinate with the I-69 Alliance.

III. Regional/State Update

A. Legislative Caucus Update

The River of Trade Corridor Legislative Caucus is growing! Texas State Senator Bob Deuell is the newest member of the Caucus joining Texas State Senators Royce West and John Corona and Texas State Representatives Linda Harper Brown, Fred Hill and Bill Keffer. We need your help with expanding the Coalition – please contact your state and federal elected officials and encourage them to join the River of Trade Corridor Congressional and Legislative Caucuses!

B. Significant Corridor Projects/Transportation Assets

Metropolitan Planning Organization officials from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas provided great updates on regional planning along the Corridor. Thanks to Jim McKenzie, Metroplan, Gene Bryan, Memphis/Shelby County MPO, and Greg Royster, North Central Texas Council of Governments for their participation! In addition, ROTCC members from along the Corridor provided updates, so that the Coalition would have a "big-picture" idea of development and planning throughout the Corridor, including Councilmember Sam Smith, Irving, Texas, Justice Velmar Bailey, Crittendon County, Arkansas, and Douglas Chaney, President of DC Logistics in Hutchins, Texas.

IV. Federal Update

A. Congressional Caucus Update

The Congressional Caucus now includes 10 members, Representative Henry Cuellar (TX), Representative Chet Edwards (TX), Representative Charlie Gonzalez (TX), Representative Ralph Hall (TX), Representative Jeb Hensarling (TX), Representative Kenny Marchant (TX), Representative Pete Sessions (TX), Representative Marion Berry (AR), Representative Mike Ross (AR), and Representative Vic Snyder (AR), and will continue to grow as the ROTCC expands to Detroit.

B. Discussion of H.R. 3, SAFETEA-LU

Coalition members voted to pursue language in the Transportation Technical Corrections bill to H.R. 3, to be considered in early 2006, that would designate the River of Trade Corridor as a "Multistate International Corridor," thus eligible for increased federal funding.

In addition, the ROTCC has decided to work toward attaining a "Clean Air Corridor" status from the federal government. This will allow for federal recognition for our entire corridor for adhering to clean air standards.

VI. Upcoming Meetings – ROTCC Chairman Bill Blaydes

A. Mission to Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario Planning is in the works.

B. 2006 ROTCC Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Proposed Quarterly Meetings include:

Thursday-Friday, April 27-28, 2006

Thursday-Friday, June 22-23, 2006

August 11, 2006 (9th Annual Multimodal Transportation Summit)

Thursday-Friday, October 19-20, 2006

C. Missions to Washington, D.C. (in conjunction with US Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities) in early 2006

D. Quarterly Meeting in Laredo, Texas, Thursday & Friday, February 2-3, 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The next meeting of the River of Trade Corridor Coalition will be held in Laredo, Texas on Thursday and Friday, February 2-3, 2006. Rene Gonzalez, Laredo Development Foundation, extended the invitation to the Coalition on behalf of Mayor Flores at the October meeting in Arkansas. Laredo is planning to "roll out the red carpet" for the ROTCC, so plan to join us for a great meeting in Laredo on February 2-3, 2006.

VII. Old Business

Eisenhower Protocol Update

After the ROTCC passed the Eisenhower Protocol in August 2005, many additional cities, counties, and transportation-focused entities have passed the protocol as well. The Protocol reflects the need for efficient planning of transportation policy at the national level. Language included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, calls for the development of a "National Surface Transportation Policy Study Commission" that shall conduct a complete and comprehensive investigation of the current condition and future needs of the surface transportation system. We want to make sure that committee knows we support a strong multimodal transportation policy.

Supporters of the Protocol pledge to promote public multimodal transportation investment to ensure the safety, efficiency and economic welfare of all Americans. It highlights the need for creative and innovative solutions to carry the United States during the next half-century and beyond.

We want you to be the next to pledge your support for the Eisenhower Protocol!

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment